2016 Budget Highlights

Solebury’s new annual budget requires no increase in property taxes to maintain the current level of services provided to the community, and it also allows for a moderate increase in the Township’s reserve funds, Township Manager Dennis Carney reported.

One quarter mil’s worth of savings generated by the refinancing of some of the Township’s bonds helped make this possible, he said.

The total property tax allocation for 2016 is shown in the table.

Police Dept.

As a result of staffing changes due to retirements, the 2016 Police Dept. budget is approximately $25,000 less than the 2015 budget.

The 2016 budget reflects salaries specified in a new three-year collective bargaining agreement that was negotiated between Solebury and the department in the fall and will be in effect through December 31, 2018.

The Police Dept. budget sets capital funds aside each year for the scheduled replacement of vehicles and other law enforcement equipment.

Under this annual schedule, the Township will replace the two oldest police vehicles with new ones covered by extended warranties ($80,000).

Other planned purchases include the replacement of outdated laptops and other computers, as well as a new server ($22,500).

Parks & Recreation Dept.

This year the Parks & Recreation Dept. will manage the design of a new link in the Solebury Trail, which is being funded with nearly $1.7 million in grants, plus $225,000 in local matching funds that were set aside in 2015.

The linkage involves completing a portion of the Solebury Trail that heads south from Canal Park along River Road, then connecting it with the existing segment that begins at Eagle Fire Co., runs along the New Hope-Solebury School District fields, and ends at River Road.

Construction is projected for 2017.

The department will also continue working on a master plan for Aquetong Spring Park in the

2016 Property Tax Allocation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>7.625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Fund</td>
<td>1.750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>0.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>12.560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.310</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued on page 6)

It’s Tax Season

EIT/LST Filing Reminder

Solebury residents file and pay the 1% Earned Income Tax (EIT) and the $52 Local Services Tax (LST) through the Bucks County-wide tax collection firm, Keystone Collections Group.

The 1% EIT is assessed by Solebury Township (0.5%) and the New Hope-Solebury School District (0.5%) on the earned income of Solebury residents, as well as on that of individuals who live outside the Township but work in Solebury.

Earned income and net profits from all sources for a specific calendar year that total less than $5,000 are exempt from the EIT.

E-filing of both taxes is available on the Keystone website.

For more information on all matters related to the EIT or LST, contact Keystone:

www.keystonecollects.com
724-978-0300

2010 Taxes and Earlier

Any returns that remain to be filed or paid for 2010 and earlier are to be submitted to former Township EIT collector H.A. Berkheimer:

www.hab-inc.com

What’s Inside?

- Township Calendar ................... 2
- 2016 Winter Festival Highlights .......................... 3
- Ensuring Good Water Quality .................... 4-5
- Guidelines for Burning Yard Waste .................. 6
- Township Directory ................. 7
- Parks and Recreation Events .... 7
Dear Taxpayer:

Through the Solebury Messenger, the Township gives you, the taxpayer, firsthand information about Township matters. In these pages, you will read about what is being done to preserve and improve the quality of life as you know it, as well as how your hard-earned tax dollars are being spent.

The Solebury Messenger is created by Kay Hayes and Marie Collins, of School Window Publications; the newsletter celebrated its 20-year anniversary with the publication of the Nov. 2015 issue.

This bimonthly periodical is primarily ad-sponsored—a method which allows the Township to provide taxpayers with six professional newsletters each year for a fraction of the actual cost. To place an advertisement supporting this periodical, contact Kay (609-397-8483 or ads.schoolwindow@gmail.com).

If you live in the Township, but are not currently receiving a copy of the Solebury Messenger through the mail, please contact Kay so that she can add your name and address to our mailing list.

Other correspondence should be directed to the appropriate Township official. For more information, see the Township directory on page 7.

Kay and Marie

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A NOTE TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Publication of advertisements in the Solebury Messenger does not represent endorsement by the Township or its officers of any products, services, businesses, or ideas mentioned. Also, no political advertisements will be accepted.

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Township Calendar

Calendar information is subject to last-minute changes. Confirm all dates and times with the Township office. All meetings are held at Solebury Township Hall.

January

1/4 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
1/4 Board of Supervisors, Reorganization, 7 pm
1/11 Planning Commission, 7 pm
1/12 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
1/19 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
1/21 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
1/21 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

February

2/1 Historical Architectural Review Board, 7 pm
2/2 Board of Supervisors, 7 pm
2/8 Planning Commission, 7 pm
2/9 Environmental Advisory Council, 7 pm
2/18 Land Preservation Committee, 7 pm
2/25 Parks & Recreation Board, 7 pm

Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!
Visit: SoleburyTwp.org
Click “Solebury Email Alerts” and enter your email address.
Winter Festival Concert: An Evening with the Taylors

On the Web: winterfestival.net

An Evening with the Taylors is the headliner of the 2016 Winter Festival Concert!

Brother and sister Livingston and Kate Taylor are sure to delight fans with their wide range of musical genres (folk, pop, gospel, jazz), upbeat storytelling, touching ballads, and top-40s hits.

The siblings were born into a musical family that includes brothers Alex, James, and Hugh. Livingston recorded his first record at 18 and continues to create original, well-crafted, and introspective songs that earn him listeners worldwide.

Kate signed her first record deal at 19. She has roots in rockabilly and pop, and is known to perform with classic Appalachian styling.

--- LIVINGSTON TAYLOR ---

--- KATE TAYLOR ---

2016 Winter Festival Highlights — Jan. 23 to 31

FIRE AND ICE BALL
Sat., Jan. 23, 7-11 PM
Cornerstone Event Center (Eagle Firehouse)
 TICKETS: $25 (advance)

TASTE OF WINTER FEST
Thurs., Jan. 28, 7-9 PM
Riverside Ballroom, Inn at Lambertville Station
Presented by The Lambertville Station
A savory evening of fine food and beverages from great local restaurants.
 TICKETS: $45

WINTER FESTIVAL CONCERT
An Evening with the Taylors
Livingston Taylor & His Sister Kate Taylor
Fri., Jan. 29, 8 PM, Steven J. Buck Theater,
New Hope-Solebury High School
Presented by
First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown
 TICKETS: $40/$45/$95 (advance/door/VIP)
VIP at Taste of the World: “Meet and greet” the artists, light fare, and ride to concert.

TRIBUTE: JOHN LARSEN
Sat., Jan. 30, 6-10 PM
Cornerstone Event Center (Eagle Firehouse)
Presented by New Hope Parks & Recreation
 Food, cocktails, laughs, and memories.
 TICKETS: $75

MUSIC & THEATER PERFORMANCES
Sat., Jan. 23, 10 AM-3 PM, St. John’s School
A full schedule of family-friendly events!
 Featuring the SHR PTSO Café in basement.
 TICKETS: FREE!

WINTER FESTIVAL PARADE
Sat., Jan. 30, Noon to 1 PM
(Snow date: Sat., Jan 30, Noon to 1 PM)
Bridge Street, New Hope & Lambertville

BEEF ‘N BREW
Sat., Jan. 30, 1-4 PM, Triumph Brewing Co.
Presented by Lambertville-New Hope Rotary
Hot roast beef sandwiches & Triumph brews.
 TICKETS: $40

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sun., Jan. 31, 8-11 AM
NH-S High School (Middle School Cafeteria)
Presented by the NH-S Girls Soccer Team
(With children’s activities hosted by Solebury Parks & Recreation in the gym.)
 TICKETS: All You Can Eat!
$7 Adults / $5 Seniors / $3.50 Children 3-12

19th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF
Sun., Jan. 31, 1-4 PM
Triumph Brewing Company, Union Square
Presented by Triumph Brewing Company
Chili prepared by area restaurants, with award-winning Triumph beers.
 $50 Adults / $45 Under 21 or No Alcohol (includes commemorative pint glass)

PURCHASE TICKETS, DISCOVER MORE NEW EVENTS, AND GET EVENT DETAILS AT: WINTERFESTIVAL.NET

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609-397-8483
ads.schoolwindow@gmail.com
Living in Solebury, you most likely obtain your water from a well. When was the last time you tested it? Even if you don’t drink it, you likely still come in contact with it when bathing and washing food. As a homeowner, you want a good comfort level regarding the quality of this water.

Well water quality can cause two kinds of concerns: **Health** concerns relate to the potential for a person to get sick either quickly from pathogens (e.g., coliform bacteria) or gradually from toxins (e.g., arsenic).

**Physical** concerns do not make you sick, but can be unpleasant, such as odor, color, hardness, and corrosiveness. Such problems can be simple (e.g., cloudy water) or complicated (e.g., water that dissolves plumbing).

Even water that looks and tastes fine could make you sick. Pathogens (e.g., bacteria and viruses), chemicals from human activities (e.g., pesticides, solvents, fuels), naturally occurring chemicals (e.g., arsenic), and other contaminants can all come in contact with your water a variety of ways.

Follow the steps below to inspect your well and to consider which tests to order.

1. Find out where your well is located (if it was constructed before 1976, it may be buried).
2. Check the well cap and casing connection:
   - Is the casing sticking high enough out of the ground to avoid being inundated during a flood?
   - Is the cap secure and ideally the newer type that prevents insects and mice from entering?
3. Survey the area within 100 feet of the well:
   - Do you see any septic drain fields, streams, or standing water?
   - Any of these could increase the potential for pathogen contamination. You can address them by improving conditions at the well and/or continually disinfecting your well water as a preventive measure.
4. If you’re testing the raw water in your well for the first time, plan to order tests for the presence of fecal and total coliform bacteria at least once in the wet period of March and once in the dry period of September. (After that, you might test once a year or so unless something unique occurs, like a flood.)
   - The Bucks County Dept. of Health (215-345-3336) performs water testing.
   - You must properly collect and transport the water sample since “false positives” for total coliform are common even when collected by a lab.
5. Look upslope of your well for about 500 feet:
   - Do you see any gas stations, farms, repair shops, or other potential sources of chemical contamination?
   - If your well is close to your house and your house was built before 1990, it is possible that termiticide was injected around the house and thus near the well.
   - Do you or your upslope neighbor spray pesticides on your lawn?
   - Fertilizers (lawn, farm, and septic system effluent) break down to create nitrate, which can be a health concern. If you are concerned about pesticides, consider testing your water for chlorinated and organophosphorus pesticides.
6. Determine which naturally occurring toxic contaminants to test for:
   - Arsenic has been found at unacceptable levels in some areas.
   - Radon may be a concern when it leaves the water during a shower and is inhaled.

Testing offers a wide and potentially expensive array of parameters to consider. The most comprehensive test for the parameters required of public drinking water wells is the “New Source Sampling Requirements for Ground Water Sources,” which covers nearly every concern but is costly. You can fine tune your water test to the most likely concerns for your area. The Bucks County Dept. of Health requires a suite of tests for new wells that includes total coliform, 21 regulated volatile organic chemicals, arsenic, nitrates, pH, iron, manganese, total dissolved solids, and chlorides. Always have your tests performed by local qualified laboratories. Avoid low-priced, out-of-state, mail-in lab tests. Many local labs will come out and sample your well properly for a minimal fee.

7. Identify any physical concerns:
   - Odors may come from chemicals in the aquifer, such as sulfur (sulfates and sulfides), or from specialized bacteria living in your well.
   - Color often results from the presence of iron or manganese metals.
   - Hardness results from limestone-like minerals in the water, which reduce the ability of soap to work and can clog piping, especially hot water coils.
   - Corrosiveness generally results from a deficiency of minerals, which causes the water to dissolve metal plumbing, ultimately leaving leaks in fixtures and piping.

8. If you have questions or concerns about water sampling, testing, or test findings, contact the water resources specialists at Penn State Extension: http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/contact

See the next issue of the Solebury Messenger for Part 2: Treating Your Well Water, which examines ways to cost effectively treat well water to obtain the highest quality. The Township would like to thank resident and environmental hydrogeologist Philip Getty for sharing his expertise with residents by way of this two-part series.
Budget Highlights (continued from page 1)

new year ($80,000).

The Parks & Recreation Dept. operating budget is offset by Summer Adventure Camp revenues as well as fundraising activities run by volunteers.

All sports programs are self-funding, with all expenses covered by the respective organization’s registration fees. In addition, local soccer and baseball organizations each contribute $6,000 per year toward Township expenses and pay for field maintenance out of their own funds. The football organization is charged an annual maintenance fee based on field usage.

According to Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice, community volunteers and local partnerships contribute to the department’s success. Critical partners include NH-S School District, which provides facilities for Solebury’s Summer Adventure Camp; Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival, which helps support several local organizations in addition to Solebury Parks and Recreation; and individual sports organizations.

Thanks to its partners and volunteers, the Parks & Recreation Dept. is able to provide residents with free programs throughout the year, such as AED/CPR certification and Halloween Safety Awareness.

Public Works Dept.

Construction will continue on the new Public Works facility this year at an estimated cost of $2.4 million, funded by loans. The 2015-2016 estimated total project cost, which includes architecture, engineering and construction, is about $3.1 million. The new facility is being constructed on two lots next to the Township Building.

Public Works Director Dennis Carney—also the Township Manager—recently updated the Public Works department’s Road Maintenance Program for 2016, which lays out a five-year maintenance plan for Township infrastructure.

In keeping with that plan, this year a total of $200,000 will be used for milling, paving, overlay, and tar-and-chip treatments of local roads, and $80,000 will be used to complete both planned bridge repairs and needed repairs identified during bridge inspections.

A $40,000 increase in state highway aid, combined with highway aid fund amounts saved from previous years, will fund the purchase of a new pickup truck for the department, as well as the joint purchase with Buckingham Township of an asphalt paver, at a total combined Township cost $130,000.

In addition the department has budgeted $50,000 for vehicle lifts for the Public Works building, a tree-and-brush-chipper upgrade, and a tire balancer.

Other

The Township Manager noted that the Land Preservation Fund will support ongoing stream restoration work at Aquetong Spring Park in 2016 ($100,000).

The Natural Resources Fund will support several smaller items, including $5,000 for a deer count, $4,000 for ongoing state-mandated (Act 537) sanitary sewage studies, and $20,000 for a stormwater study.

In addition, the fund will finance ongoing tree planting ($35,000) and the Township’s membership in the Audubon Bird Town program ($500).

Solebury will maintain its annual contribution to the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad at $17,000 this year, and will keep its contribution to Central Bucks Ambulance level at $83,000.

The Township will also support other local nonprofits at 2015 levels, including the Bucks County SPCA ($2,000), Central Bucks Senior Citizens ($500), and Phillips Mill Community Association ($375).

View the 2016 Budget Online

The 2016 budget is available on the Township website.

Visit SoleburyTwp.org, click the Resources menu, and choose Documents & Forms. The budget is in the Finance folder.

The next issue of the Solebury Messenger will mail on Mar. 5.

Deadline for advertisers is Feb. 14.

Safety First: Guidelines for Burning Yard Waste

Before burning yard waste on your property, please review the Township guidelines for open burning to minimize fire hazards and limit air pollution.

The two-page document is available on SoleburyTwp.org. Find it using the steps below (or, if you are viewing the newsletter on the website, just click here). Directions:

1. Rest your cursor on the Government tab and select Township Administration: Ordinances.
2. Locate “Burning Guidelines, Approved 2012-01” and click the green arrow.
3. Click the download button to open the file.
4. Read the file on screen, print it, or download it. To download, move your cursor across the bottom of the document to reveal the PDF toolbar and click the download icon (last icon on right).

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SoleburyTwp.org

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For other matters, call: 215-297-5656

Township Manager Dennis H. Carney:
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

Asst. Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer/Asst. Z.O.
Gretchen Rice: grice@soleburytwp.org

HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary
Christine Terranova: cterranova@soleburytwp.org

Admin. Asst., LPC Administrator, Planning Commission
Administrator Jean Weiss: jweiss@soleburytwp.org

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:
soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org

Right-To-Know Officer, Administrative Records
Asst. Twp. Manager Gretchen K. Rice
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

Right-To-Know Officer, Police Records
Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie: police@soleburypd.org

Zoning Officer/Building Code Official
Matthew Wojaczyk: mwojaczyk@soleburytwp.org

Unsure where to direct your question?
Email: soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org
The appropriate individual will respond.

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Parks & Recreation Dept.

Upcoming Events

Winter Festival

January 23 - 31, 2016
On the Web: http://www.winterfestival.net

Baseball and lacrosse online registration has started.
Go to the respective website listed below,
and click on the registration link.

To keep abreast of local sports news, visit these websites:
soleburytwp.org (Parks & Recreation tab)
www.soleburybaseball.org (baseball)
www.soleburybasketball.org (basketball)
www.nhsfcc.com (football)
www.soleburylacrosse.com (lacrosse)
www.soleburyfootball.com (soccer)
www.soleburywrestling.com (wrestling)

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