

REFUSE FEE

2026

History of Fee

- Originally enacted in 1983, \$40 per dwelling unit
- Multiple increases throughout the years, last increase to current \$150 in 2002
- Waived since 2015

How/when was it voted on to reinstate?

- Every year since 2015, council voted to waive the fee at the December budget approval meeting
- In December of 2025, no motion was made to waive the fee therefore reinstating the fee for 2026

Why in 2026?

- **For the last 4-5 years, the borough has sustained a million dollar deficit**
- 2023 through 2025 capped on millage-unable to raise real estate tax
- Relied on proceeds from Sewer Authority sales to cover expenses
- Re-assessment did not allow municipalities to increase real estate tax, had to remain income neutral for 2026
- Sewer Authority proceeds balance is now \$1.5 million

Anticipate \$700,000 in revenue

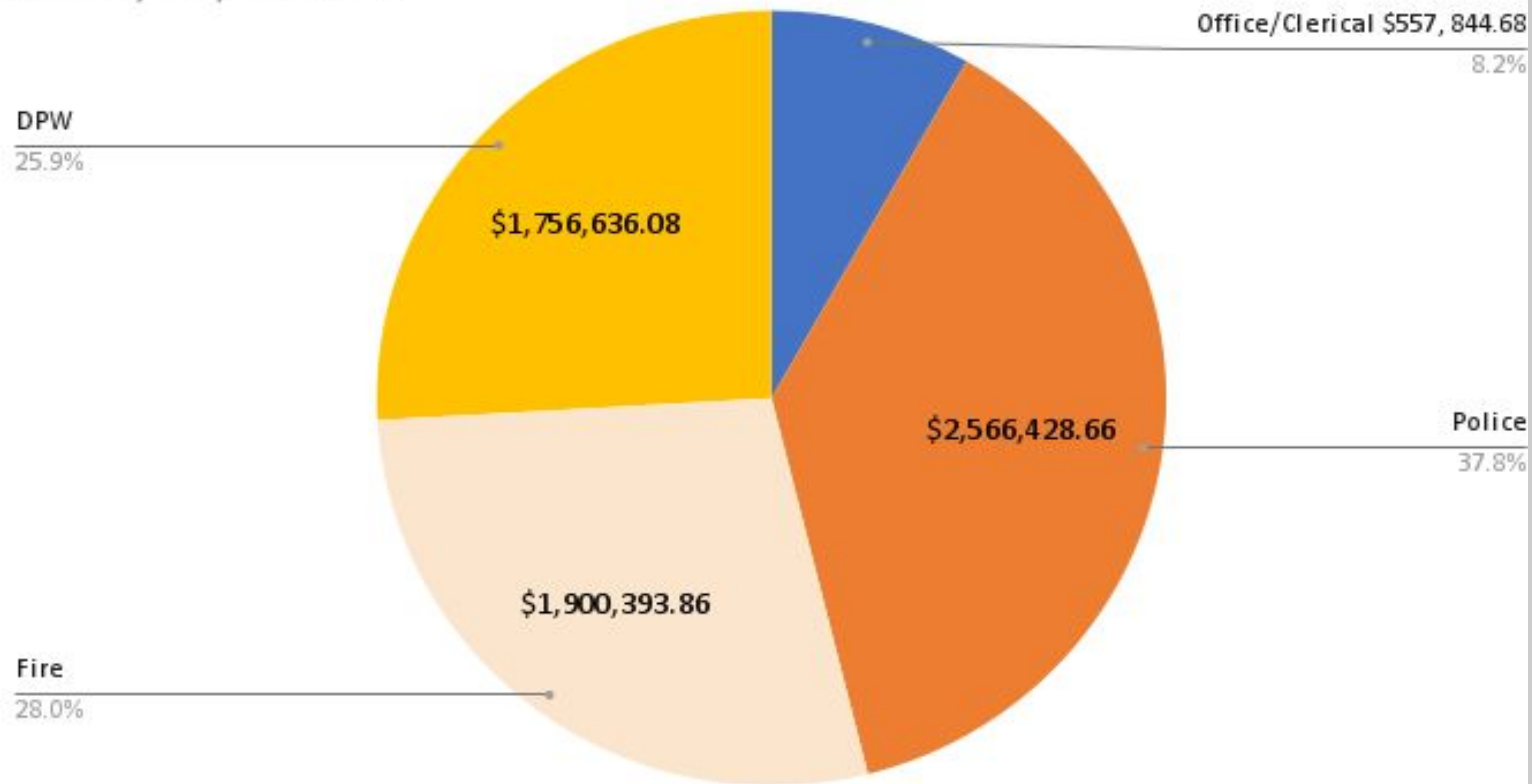
But we don't pay landfill fees!

- Correct, the borough does not pay fees to dump at the landfill, nor has it since at least the 1990's. That has not changed
- However, transporting from curbs to landfill does incur significant costs including:
 - Labor
 - Vehicles
 - Fuel
 - Maintenance
 - Increased Workers Compensation costs
- Recycling Fees

Aren't Costs built into Real Estate Taxes?

- To a point yes, but overall borough operations costs well exceed real estate tax income
- An estimated \$4.5 million is collected annually in real estate tax
 - Salaries for all departments exceed \$4.5 a year and rising which does not include benefits

Cost by Department



Who does it apply?

- Residential-Single family homes and up to 2 unit apartments (per unit)
 - If you received a bill for the incorrect amount of units due to vacancy, contact the office, complete and affidavit of vacancy and your bill will be corrected
- Commercial properties are responsible to contract with a private hauler
 - Commercial properties include 3 apartment units or more, hotels, motels, restaurants, bars etc.
- This applies to Recycling Services as well

Commercial Properties

If you are a commercial property and received a bill(s) contact the borough immediately. Once a private hauler is confirmed, your bill will be removed from the database.

Is it only for July-December?

- No, it is for all of 2026. Bills were delayed because no database for properties existed. It took until July to combine the county real estate tax file and the borough's rental registration files
- There has been some discussion to include the fee as a line item with the real estate tax bill for 2027 but it is discussion only at this time
- Regardless of when the bill is sent, it will be for the entire year of 2027

Since 2022

- Took ownership and secured funding to replace the Bunker Hill Bridge
- Stormwater Improvement in Swinick Development
- Flooring Replacement and other DCC updates including new HVAC unit
- Replacement of Fire Department Ramp
- Funding secured for the repairs of Keystone Industrial Park Road (will be completed in 2027)
- Funding secured for 3 new police vehicles
- Funding secured for Pickleball Courts
- Demolished blighted buildings
- Refurbished Fire Truck
- Pocket Park (no taxpayer funds used)

Paving Completed 2022-Present

- Multiple blocks of Chestnut St.
- Multiple blocks of Electric St.
- All of Barnhart Street
- Portion of Tiffany Drive/Mt. Margaret Drive
- All of Whitetail Drive
- Portion of E. Pine St.
- Portion of Marion St.
- 1500 & 1600 Block of N. Webster Ave.
- 1500 Block of Jefferson Ave.
- 1500 Block of Madison Ave.
- Shoemaker St.
- Mill St.(Wheeler to Burke)
- Jefferson Ave. (behind St. Joe's)
- W. Drinker St. (N. Webster to Corners)
- 1500 Monroe Ave.
- Prospect St. (Millennium to E. Drinker)
- Electric St. (Jefferson to Quincy)
- Allen St.
- 600 Block of Ward St.
- West Grove St. (Monroe-S. Blakely)

Questions?

Please go to the podium for questions

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