

2011 Budget and Taxes

Council held a Budget Workshop on October 27th to review 2009/2010 actual data and to plan budgets for next year. At the November 10th Council meeting we voted to approve and advertise the 2011 budget. Our operating budget will increase only modestly and our tax rate (millage) will need to go up 3 mils (to 16 mils total) to cover the dam debt. Last year we spent some reserves to avoid a tax increase; we will do the same this year (deplete 'cash' reserves further), but use the cash to begin paying down some of the principal on the debt (line of credit). This keeps the \$ liquid, but also leverages them to offset interest expense; like you, the Borough pays more interest on \$ borrowed than we get on cash sitting in an account.

I urge you to support this budget and modest tax increase, or at least ask enough questions to understand why Council feels it is the best of the options.

New Look on the Web Site

It wasn't intended, and it wasn't pretty or pleasant, but the Borough web-site has undergone a bit of a face-lift on the surface, and an organ transplant/bypass surgery below it... It started with a server error that crashed the site. The recovery took a day, but our hosting service (GoDaddy) was annoyed because our 'outdated' software made their job harder. They scolded me into an update (15 versions in total) that was far, far worse. But enough whining...

Things you may notice... A significant performance boost in most modules. A smoother, simpler appearance. Some modules (Event Calendar, for example) have a new look and feel. All in all, it wasn't worth it, but there wasn't a choice... The latest software **does** bring more new capabilities which will be explored ... but later... I've had enough for a while... Let us know if you see anything peculiar going on...

Dam Valve

I mentioned last time that the **upstream** valve was removed and raised to the surface for rework and adjustment. The **downstream** valve (which is working fine and keeping the Lake full) should allow for maintenance on the main, upstream, valve.

The valve will now be checked by the valve designers (not themselves divers...) so they can determine what is wrong, causing the leakage. The latest plan, which still seems to me should work, is to have the valve manufacturer mate the valve (flat and stiff) to a new 'flange' (stiff and flat), and then have that flange be in turn mated to the existing (apparently irregular) 'thimble' using a suitably flexible material (possibly an epoxy).

The latest wrinkle is that DEP wants this done ASAP out of fear the downstream valve (exposed) will freeze and possibly be damaged by a winterfreeze. We are trying to do the best thing, quickly, and not have the time constraint drive another sub-optimal decision/solution. A lot of people are working hard to get this amicably resolved. Thanks will be bestowed upon all once all the work is done... Councilman Cornez's blog [<http://www.paulindianlake.blogspot.com>] typically has all the late-breaking details on this dam work.

Police Security Watch - Reminder

Some residents ask the Police to periodically check on their property while they are gone for long periods (such as 'snow-birds' during the winter). I was asked to continue to remind everyone that there

is a form you can fill out for this and we have put it on the web site for your convenience under
Borough->INFO->Permits and Applications:

<http://indianlakepa.us/dotnetnuke/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=FFIгнаU7SIM%3d&tabid=57&mid=382>

Happy Thanksgiving!!

I thank you for your time.

Bob H.

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