



NEWS

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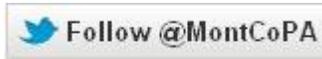
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 22, 2015

Montco Adopts Balanced, “Fiscally Responsible Budget” That Addresses County Infrastructure Needs

Norristown, PA (December 22, 2015) – The Montgomery County Commissioners adopted a \$389.7 million balanced budget on December 17 that includes a fund balance at the recommended levels, a full payment to the county pension fund, and a capital budget that invests primarily in existing county infrastructure including parks, trails, roads, bridges, and county buildings. The budget is nearly \$30 million less than the 2012 operating budget that the current administration inherited from the previous administration.

The budget does include a modest tax increase of 9.8 percent that amounts to \$52 a year or \$1.00 a week for the average homeowner. The tax increase, the first passed by this administration in four years, was necessitated due to \$10 million in new costs in 2016. These costs include a \$3.2 million increase in prison health care costs; \$1 million in an arbitration award to prison correctional officers; increased voter services costs due to a presidential election year; increased public safety technology costs and increased lab fees for the district attorney’s office to deal with the heroin epidemic

Some \$2.6 million in increased debt service costs also figured into the tax increase. The increased debt service costs were due to increased SWAP costs from 2007 issuances, costs associated with the failed Logan Square investment in 2010; municipal interest costs for the radio purchase program, and new debt on the repair of roads, bridges, and other county infrastructure.

The capital budget passed last week includes total capital expenditures in 2016 of over \$76 million, with net County costs of \$49.3 million. The budget:

- Maintains the focus of investing in County infrastructure, with over 90 percent of proposed expenditures relating to existing County assets.

- Invests over \$20 million to repair structurally deficient bridges.
- Includes over \$15 million through 2020 to fund the Open Space, Park and Trail Expansion Program.
- Invests in the maintenance and upgrade of existing Trail and Open Space amenities.
- Includes funding for the first stages of the repair of the County Complex.
- Invests in key IT infrastructure and programs.
- Continues the upgrade of the County fleet.
- Fulfills County investment in SEPTA capital projects.
- Continues capital initiative to support the Community College Campus.

For a full review of the budget, go to this website: <http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=93>.