Silver Spring Township 2027 Budget Letter

Dear Silver Spring Township Residents, November 13, 2026

The Board of Supervisors and Township staff have completed a four-month process to prepare the proposed 2027 Budget. The proposed budget includes an increase in the real estate millage rate, along with the elimination of the stormwater fee and the per capita tax.

The budget will be presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the Township Office. The Budget will be posted after the November 18th Board meeting.

Fee and tax eliminations

Effective January 1, 2027, the Township will eliminate the following:

- **Stormwater fees** for all residential and commercial properties. The Township completed the requirements of its five-year MS4 permit in 2023 and continues to meet all PA DEP requirements each year. Future stormwater projects will still be funded so that our infrastructure remains at DEP standards. Fees billed through December 31, 2026, remain due, and accounts with an unpaid balance will be referred to collections.
- **The $10 per capita tax** currently levied on each household resident age 18 and older.

What your tax dollars support

The Township's share of your property tax pays for services residents use every day, including:

- Police protection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with 25 officers serving the Township
- Fire and ambulance service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Snow and ice removal on 100 miles of Township roads
- Road maintenance, paving, and traffic signal maintenance
- Stormwater system inspection and repair to keep neighborhoods from flooding
- Parks, trails, and recreation programs
- Code enforcement, including permits and inspections that protect property values

Why the 2027 Budget is increasing

The Township's everyday costs are rising faster than our revenue. Revenue sources such as the real estate tax, realty transfer tax, earned income tax (EIT), and permit fees pay for the staff and equipment that keep the Township safe and provide the necessary services for the community.

The proposed 2027 Budget is approximately 17% higher than the 2026 Budget with a shortfall of about $1.5 million in the General Fund, and a $2 million gap in future Capital projects. Due to these short falls, Township will increase the millage rate.

For over 20 years, growth in the Township's tax base covered increases in our operating costs. In recent years, however, expenses have exceeded revenue, and we face a difficult decision: raising real estate taxes.

Examples of rising expenses include:

- Diesel fuel, up 50%, and gasoline, up 16%
- Health insurance, the Township's second-largest expense, up 16.7%
- Road salt, up 16%
- Aggregate and blacktop for road projects, up 12%
- Third-party agreements, including IT services, auditing services, and utilities
- Public safety, including fire, police, and EMS services

Silver Spring has not increased its real estate tax rate since 2006. The Township did add a fire tax in 2014 to ensure our volunteer fire departments have the resources to protect residents 24/7.

Proposed millage rate adjustment

As mentioned, expenses outpaced revenue in 2026, and our five-year projections show significant capital needs ahead. To meet them, the Board proposes adjusting the millage rate from $1.3045 mills to $2.3555 mills. This rate would still fall in the mid-range of Cumberland County municipalities; see the Copy of TaxRateSch.xls

This adjustment will give the Township the operating revenue it needs to continue providing everyday services and to fund the following upcoming capital projects:

- Woods Drive
- State Road
- Traffic signal upgrades
- Public Works Building, Phase 1
- Police vehicles and equipment
- Public Works vehicles and equipment
- Roadway improvements
- Stormwater infrastructure
- Parks and trail connection projects

We encourage residents to attend the November 18 meeting, where the proposed budget will be discussed in detail and public comment is welcome.

Thank you,

Silver Spring Township Board of Supervisors