

## **2017 BUDGET – OVERVIEW**

On March 1, 2017 Mayor Wilkie and the Township Council introduced the 2017 budget, and scheduled the public hearing and adoption for 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2016.

The 2017 budget that Mayor Wilkie presented to Township Council maintains all municipal services and does not increase the local purpose tax (LPT). By keeping the local purpose tax flat in 2017 at .439, the Mayor and Township Council continue to do everything possible to keep the local purpose tax from increasing. In fact, the local purpose tax has not increased in 5 years. It has remained at .439 since 2013. Mayor Wilkie and the Township Council work closely together to improve and expand services wherever possible throughout the community.

The Road Improvement Program for 2017 is significant and continues the township's commitment to improving roadways in the community. The 2017 Road Program will go out to bid in the very near future and we anticipate awarding a contract in May or June. A full listing of all of the streets covered under the 2017 Road Program can be found on the municipal website.

In addition to the 2017 Road Program, Florence Township will finally be able to repave Hornberger Avenue (from Delaware Avenue to Parish Lane) by this summer. This project is partially funded through a state grant, and last year the state stopped all municipalities from paving any roads that included state grant funding. Now that the restriction has been lifted, Florence Township can proceed to complete the paving work this year. In addition, the Mayor and Township Council secured a second state grant to repave Hornberger Avenue, from Parish Lane to approximately 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This second phase of the road work will be bid later this spring so that work can be completed in 2017.

Our 2017 budget also includes funding to hire 2 to 3 new police officers for the Florence Township Police Department. The Mayor and Council previously authorized the purchase and funding of body cameras, and the police department has received a grant from the State of New Jersey to help defray part of the equipment costs. The entire police department will begin using body cameras in the coming months.

As part of the ongoing efforts to work on properties that need to be revitalized to improve quality of life for our residents, Florence Township has hired a full-time code enforcement official and is currently in the process of implementing an absentee landlord registration requirement. At the end of this year or in early 2018, the township will also be adopting legislation that requires banks and holding companies to register and better maintain vacant properties. Funds collected from the landlord registration and vacant property registration will be used to address property maintenance issues in the township. These two initiatives are essential to dealing with properties that are not being maintained.

Mayor Wilkie, Township Council, Planning Board, Economic Development Committee and our professional staff continue to work hard to expand business opportunities and job creation in the township. Balancing out economic growth is a challenge, but by expanding the commercial landscape we are able to continue to offer new initiatives and services that are beneficial to the community. These efforts have helped Florence Township stabilize its local purpose tax and to do a sizeable road program every year for our residents. In addition, as part of our preservation efforts, the township acquired 11.5 acres of vacant property on Florence-Columbus Road (across from Birch Hollow development) that will be maintained as open space or some form of passive recreation use for years to come.

On-line registration for municipal recreation programs is now fully expanded for all recreation programs. The Recreation Coordinator, Marty Eckert is actively working to bring back a Summer Park Program this summer. Further, the Mayor and Council have directed the administrative staff to apply for funding under Burlington County's Recreational Grant Program. The funding would be used to install much needed parking along the Riverside Avenue Park in the Village of Roebling, extend a paved trail segment in Veterans Park, repave decades old walking trails in H. Kenneth Wilkie Park, install temporary portable restrooms in several of the local parks, and plant many new trees in municipal parks. The county grant program is a tremendous initiative by the Freeholders that helps townships all throughout the county.

The Assistant Administrator, Tom Sahol is working with the volunteer members of the Shade Tree Commission on a new tree planting project for Oak Street, Woodlawn Avenue and for the front of businesses along Broad Street. The staff is also working with several community groups and corporate sponsorship to relocate and upgrade the basketball courts in the Woodlawn Avenue Park (near Richardson Street). As part of our community-wide efforts, Councilman Sandusky has been working with a small committee of residents and staff on a positive re-use for the former Marconi Lodge site located at the corner of West Third Street and Foundry Street. Councilman Sandusky, local volunteers and volunteers from Comcast Cable will be constructing a community garden this year on the Marconi Lodge property.

This year, the Mayor and Council will be holding the Florence Township Patriotic Celebration on Saturday, July 8, 2017. The Recreation Coordinator, Marty Eckert will be posting information about the day-long event and fireworks as we get closer to July 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Patriotic Celebration brings the community together for a day of excitement, family enjoyment and patriotic appreciation for the men and women who unselfishly serve our country.

Lastly, Florence Township has many events all through 2017 that explore that depths of our wonderful community. A few of the events are:

Roebling Museum Car Show	April 29
Walter Kotch Memorial	May 12 at noon
Relay for Life	May 13
Community Carnival	June 15 -18
Farmer's Market	Starts June 22 (every Thursday afternoon)
National Night Out	August 1
Florence Historical Society Open House	Fall 2017 – Date TBD
Fire Department Open House	October 13 – 6 pm to 8 pm

These are just some of the events planned for this year. **A full listing and schedule of community events are on the municipal website.** As additional events become known, we include them on the website also.

Below are charts and graphs done by the CFO, Sandy Blacker that give an overview of the 2017 budget. If there are any questions about the budget prior to the public hearing on April 7, 2017, residents are welcome to contact the Township Administrator, Richard Brook at (609) 499-2525.

## 2017 BUDGET – OVERVIEW

<b><u>2016 Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>2017 Total Appropriation</u></b>	
<b><u>w/o Reserve</u></b>	<b><u>w/o Reserve</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
\$ 11,561,856	\$ 11,043,410	(\$ 518,446)

<b><u>2016 Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>2017 Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>Final</u></b>
<b><u>w/Reserve</u></b>	<b><u>w/Reserve</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
\$ 12,189,856	\$ 11,615,410	(\$ 574,446)

### **Amount to be Raised by Taxation**

<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
\$ 5,476,446	\$ 5,480,411	\$ 3,965

### **Local Purpose Tax**

	<b><u>Average Assessment</u></b>	<b><u>LPT Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Local Purpose Tax</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
2013	\$ 227,410	.439	\$ 998	(\$ 8.00)
2014	\$ 224,411	.439	\$ 985	(\$ 13.00)
2015	\$ 221,014	.439	\$ 970	(\$ 15.00)
2016	\$ 218,712	.439	\$ 960	(\$ 10.00)
2017	\$ 218,853	.439	\$ 961	\$ 1.00

TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2017 Budget	2016 Budget
1. Surplus	\$1,800,000.00	\$1,416,600.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	4,034,999.00	5,378,545.66
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	300,000.00	390,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	5,480,411.00	5,476,446.00
b) Addition to Local District School Tax	0.00	0.00
Total Amt to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	5,480,411.00	5,476,446.00
Total General Revenues	\$11,615,410.00	\$12,661,591.66
Summary of Appropriations	2017 Budget	2016 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	\$5,310,344.00	\$5,087,478.00
Other Expenses	3,788,666.71	3,804,919.58
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	1,074,739.29	913,689.08
3. Capital Improvements	36,000.00	425,000.00
4. Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)	833,660.00	1,802,505.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	572,000.00	628,000.00
Total General Appropriations	\$11,615,410.00	\$12,661,591.66
Total Number of Employees	102	101

2017 Dedicated Water & Sewer Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2017 Budget	2016 Budget
1. Surplus	\$567,959.00	\$354,036.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	5,140,000.00	5,280,000.00
3. Capital Surplus	0.00	0.00
4. Deficit (General Budget)	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	\$5,707,959.00	\$5,634,036.00
Summary of Appropriations	2017 Budget	2016 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	\$1,358,113.00	\$1,303,548.00
Other Expenses	2,496,235.00	2,464,060.00
2. Capital Improvements	150,000.00	120,000.00
3. Debt Service	1,467,780.00	1,526,225.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	235,831.00	220,203.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)	0.00	0.00
Total Appropriations	5,707,959.00	5,634,036.00
Total Number of Employees	14	13

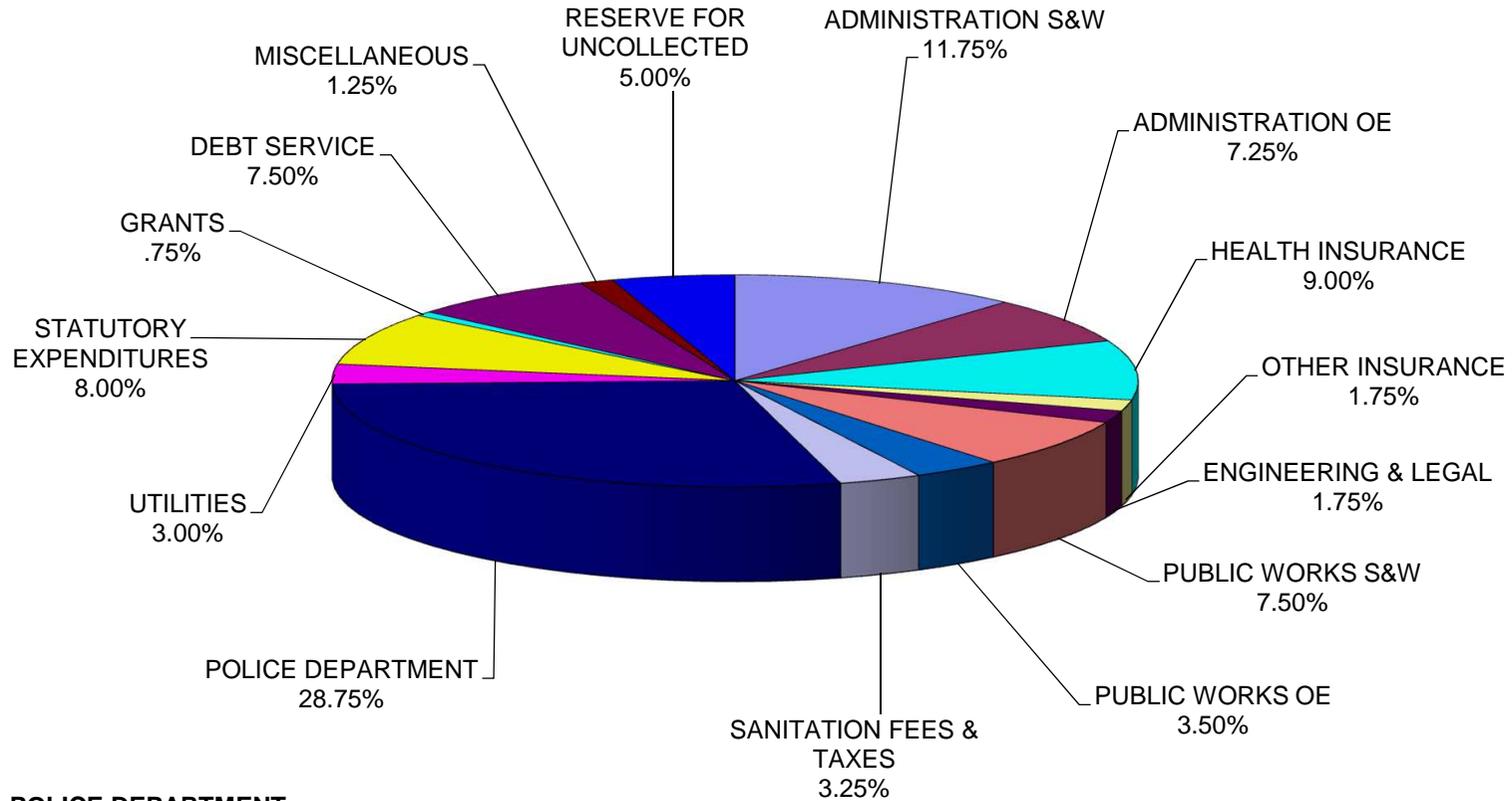
Balance of Outstanding Debt		General	Water & Sewer Utility
Interest		481,340	471,185
Principal		12,976,076	5,482,000
Outstanding Balance		\$13,457,416	\$5,953,185

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Township Council of the Township of Florence, County of Burlington on March 1, 2017.

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Municipal Building, on April 5, 2017, at 8:00 o'clock p.m. at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2017 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the budget are available in the office of the Township Clerk at the Municipal Building, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey (609) 499-2525 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

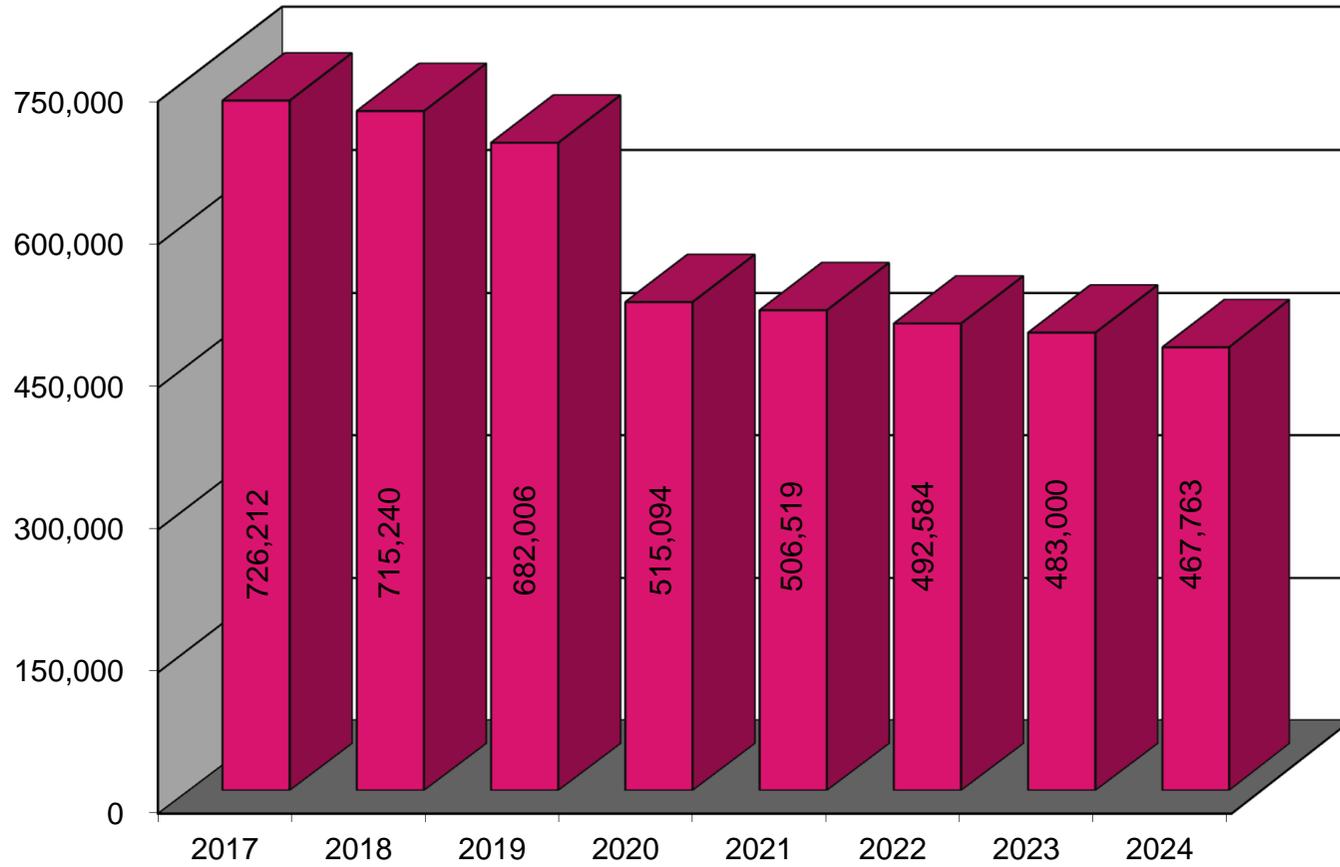
## 2017 CURRENT FUND BUDGET



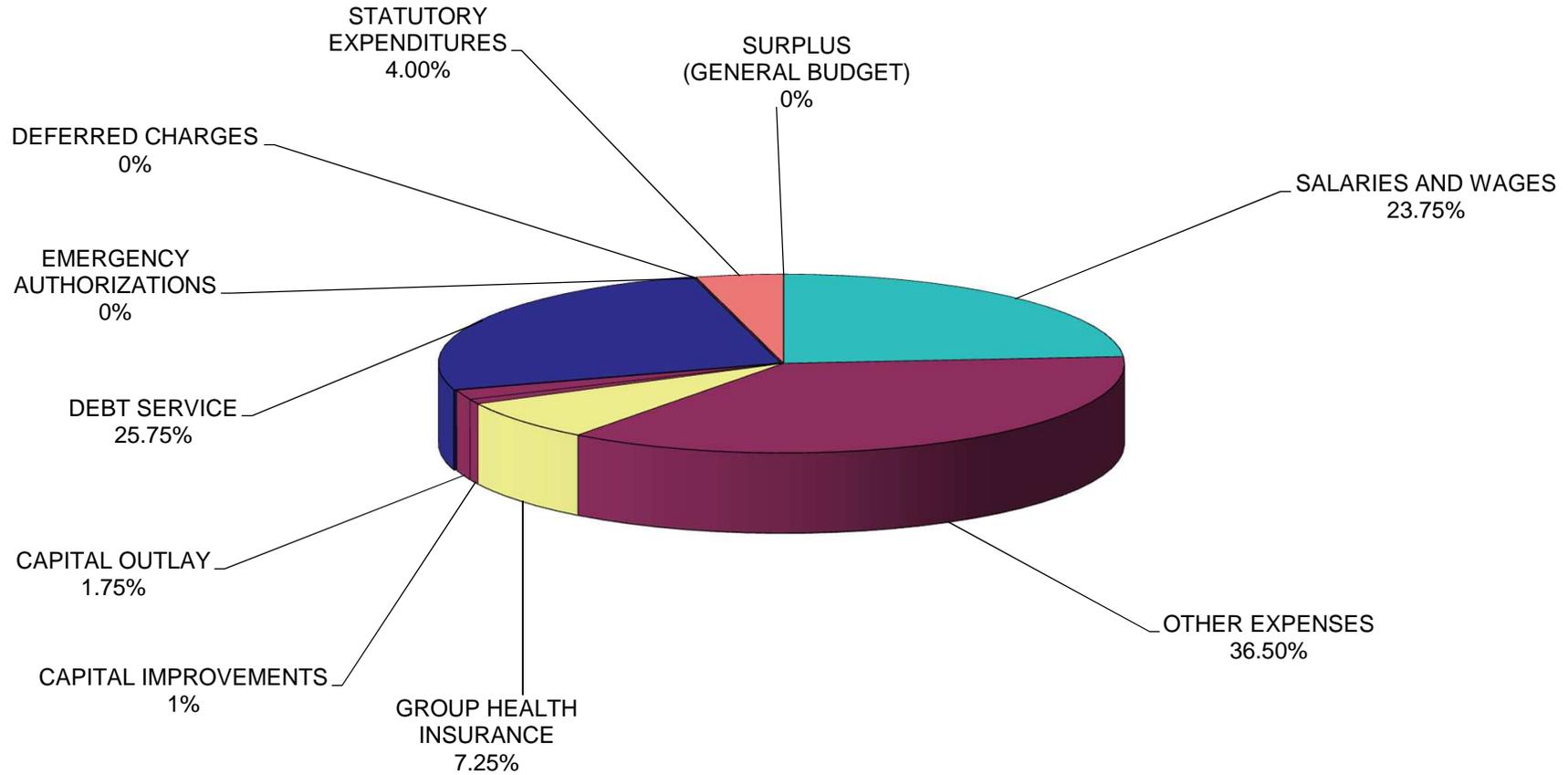
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Salaries**                    26.50%  
**Other Expenses**            2.25%

**TOTAL 2017 BUDGET**  
**11,615,410**

## Current Debt Service



# 2017 WATER & SEWER BUDGET



**TOTAL 2017 BUDGET**  
**\$5,707,959**

### Water & Sewer Utility Debt Service

