

Polk Township

Monroe County
Pennsylvania

2024 Budget



"A Sesquicentennial Community"

Founded in 1840s: Brief history of Polk

By Amy Leiser, Executive Director
Monroe County Historical Association

Polk Township

Polk Township is located in the western portion of Monroe County and was formed on September 26, 1846, when it was removed from a portion of Chestnuthill Township. The newly-formed township was named for James K. Polk, the 11th president of the United States. Polk served one term as president from 1845-1849, and was seated in office when the township was formed.

It is believed that the first European settler in Polk Township was Philip Shupp who built a small log structure home around 1750. Most of the earliest European settlers in present-day Polk Township were of German ancestry and included Conrad Dotter, Conrad Dreisbach, William Kresge, John Kunkle and John Serfass. The land is very fertile, attracting many farmers to this portion of Monroe County.

Roughly one hundred years prior to the creation of Polk Township, early settlers faced an uncertain life. Native peoples inhabited the land, and tensions between European settlers and Indians escalated during the French and Indian War (1756-1763).

Due to this tension, Benjamin Franklin ordered forts to be built to protect the European colonists; Fort Norris was located in present-day Polk Township. While the structure no longer stands, it is believed the fort was located behind where the Polk Elementary school along Route 209 stands today. Fort Norris was named for Isaac Norris who was the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly. The fort was commanded by Captain Weatherhold.

Frederick Hoeth and his family were Moravians who settled on 700 acres of land along the Pohopoco Creek in 1750. Five years later, in 1755, Hoeth and his family members were either captured or murdered following an Indian raid on his house. In 1760, the Moravians, a Protestant religious sect from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, established two mission settlements in Monroe County; one of those missions was located in Polk Township. The Moravians named this mission, "Wechquetank" and its purpose was to convert native people to Christianity. Because of the ever-growing hostilities between the farmers and the Indians, Wechquetank was abandoned in 1763 after only three years.

The first school was built circa 1830 in Kresgeville on land that had been donated by Nicholas Hawk. In 1855, Edward Hawk discovered a deposit of slate in Polk Township. He excavated a quarry to mine the slate and sold the slate to area schools, so students had tablets on which to write their lessons.

The earliest road through Polk Township was the State Route, now Route 209, and the first church was St. Timothy Evangelical Church, which was built in 1866. The largest village in Polk Township was Kresgeville. Within the town limits in 1880, there were stores, hotels, two gristmills, four blacksmith shops, a shoemaker, a saddle shop, and a furniture shop. In 1940, the population was 1, 005. By 2010, 7,874 people resided in Polk Township.

The villages of Polk Township:

- Dotters Corners
- Jonas
- Kresgeville

Elected

Polk Township Supervisors:

Brian K. Ahner – Chairman

Michael D. Hurley – Vice-Chairman

Carl S. Heckman – Supervisor

Tax Collector: Polk Township, Monroe County, Pleasant Valley School District

Angela Schwartz

Auditors:

Candy Burger

Dennis McMahon

Trenton Schaffer

Appointed Officials

Solicitor:

Attorney James V. Fareri

Engineer:

Russell Kresge Jr., PE, PLS

SEO:

Jonathan Shupp

Appointed Boards

Planning Commission

Parks & Recreation

Veteran's Memorial

Zoning Hearing Board

Nuisance Hearing Board

AG Security

Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals

Departments

Township Secretary:

Rebecca Tippett

Zoning Officer:

Tracy Herman

Treasurer:

Pam Thompson

DPW

Brian K. Ahner

Blaine Borger

Harold Touni Jr.

William C. Tippett

David Novajovsky

Troy Meckes

Thomas Longyhore Jr.

Derrick Burger

Polk Township Summary (All Funds)

COA	Description	Actual 2020	Budgeted 2020	Actual 2021	Budgeted 2021	Actual 2022	Budgeted 2022	YTD DEC. 2023	Budgeted 2023	Budget 2024
REVENUES										
301	CASH	3,188,855	1,782,875	4,075,206	1,826,137	4,523,152	2,755,191	3,547,800	3,121,324	3,133,122
321	TAXES	1,269,273	1,081,960	1,520,306	1,063,500	1,577,026	1,298,103	1,353,521	1,335,400	1,466,357
331	LICENSES & PERMITS	2,412	1,000	1,327	2,000	1,764	200	600	100	600
341	FINES & FORFEITS	2,978	2,000	10,021	2,000	5,151	4,000	6,297	4,000	6,300
351	INTEREST EARNINGS	22,378	25,000	15,963	26,000	59,914	15,000	116,616	30,000	100,000
361	INTERGOVERNMENTAL SVCS	688,601	680,572	988,472	579,236	1,032,357	530,519	470,263	713,556	644,495
389	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	284,726	170,000	320,707	210,000	284,961	250,000	239,083	250,000	250,000
391	MISC. REVENUE	144,220	2,000	155,032	2,000	68,128	18,000	1,389	0	0
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	71,577	0	56,284	0	0	270,945	4,574	0	0
	TOTAL REVENUES	2,486,165	1,962,532	3,068,112	1,884,736	3,029,301	2,386,767	2,192,343	2,333,056	2,467,752
	TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	5,675,020	3,745,407	7,143,318	3,710,873	7,552,453	5,141,958	5,740,143	5,454,380	5,600,874
EXPENDITURES										
400	LEGISLATIVE GOVERNING BODY	374,235	350,000	288,703	350,000	317,354	483,950	238,895	900,000	637,720
410	PUBLIC SAFETY	205,555	195,000	299,758	195,000	282,159	376,781	316,767	400,000	400,000
426	SANITATION	154,860	300,000	141,788	300,000	164,621	400,000	180,036	400,000	400,000
430	PUBLIC WORKS - ROADS	980,364	1,400,000	953,118	1,200,000	1,189,314	1,375,000	766,132	1,605,000	1,786,157
446	STORM WATER CONTROL	11,200	0	94,908	0	0	0	0	0	0
451	CULTURE & RECREATION	21,213	100,000	26,702	100,000	41,510	100,000	21,519	100,000	100,000
460	CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT	100	0	200	0	0	2,000	750	150,000	0
480	MISC EXPEND ^(ins & Employee Benefits)	432,850	500,000	461,019	500,000	661,901	650,000	456,415	675,000	700,000
491	OTHER FINANCING USES	8,147	0	461	0	0	270,945	0	0	0
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,188,524	2,845,000	2,266,657	2,645,000	2,656,859	3,658,676	1,980,514	4,230,000	4,023,877
	UNAPPRO FUND EQUITY	297,641	900,407	801,455	1,065,873	372,442	1,483,282	3,759,629	1,224,380	1,576,997

Polk Township State Liquid Fuels Fund

Established and restricted under Act 655 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, revenues for this fund are derived from the State gasoline tax. This fund is restricted in use for the maintenance, repair and construction of roads, street, and bridges for which the township is responsible.

		Budget	2024
COA	Description		
	PRIOR YEAR BALANCE	\$	257,018
REVENUES			
341	INTEREST EARNINGS		
351	INTERGOVERNMENTAL SVCS	\$	331,149
TOTAL REVENUES		\$	331,149
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION		\$	588,167
EXPENDITURES			
430	PUBLIC WORKS - ROADS	\$	486,157
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$	486,157
REVENUE/DEFICIT		\$	102,010
TOTAL APPRO & UNAPPR		\$	588,167

**Polk Township 2024 Budget
Schedule C - Taxes**

	REAL PROPERTY		
	Current Year's Levy - Gross	\$	346,620
	Less Uncollectable 7%	\$	(24,263)
301.10	Current Year's Levy - Net	\$	322,357
301.20	Prior Year's Levy - Net	\$	2,000
301.30	Delinquent Levy - Net	\$	15,000
301.40	Interim Levy - Net	\$	2,000
	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY	\$	341,357
310.10	Real Estate Transfer Tax	\$	200,000
310.20	Earned Income Tax	\$	925,000
	TOTAL LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT	\$	1,125,000
	TOTAL TAXES	\$	1,466,357