

**PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2025 BUDGET
TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD
Thursday, May 23, 2024
GoToMeeting**

The Public Hearing commenced at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were:

Brandon Paulin, Mayor
Ron Sitoula, Vice Mayor
Cassandra Grumbine, Councilwoman
Ryan Hicks, Town Manager
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk
Ginger Foster, Finance Officer

NUMBER OF CITIZENS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: 0

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive feedback/comments from Town residents on the FY 2025 Budget. The Town Manager gave the presentation of the FY 2025 Budget with his message and introduction of the numbers. The General Fund revenue is \$2,292,344. The General Fund expenditure is \$2,292,344. Town Manager Hicks reviewed the revenues and expenditures for the Trash Fund, Water/Wastewater, Parks Fund and Pavilion.

Objectives include, expanding the Washington Gas footprint in Town, broadband infrastructure upgrade, Verizon FiOS internet installed throughout Town, repair/replace our aging infrastructure, repairs to WWTP, lift station on Dogwood and Mattawoman Woods, and repair/replace well 3 and 4. Set fees for water, sewer and trash at levels needed to sustain and improve the level of services provided and be fiscally sound operations, there is no increase to these charges this year. Balance revenues and spending, allocate costs among the various funds, look into the future, and prepare for major capital projects in the years ahead such as WWTP repairs and upgrades, new wells, improvements to Town facilities, Pavilion, Senior Center, and the Town Hall. Increase police presence in Town. Additional money for extra duty town patrols. Additional officers and expand camera program. Provide citizens of the Town will well trained/educated employees. Upgrade aging equipment at Public Works and WWTP, new dump truck, backhoe, and gator. Address stormwater issues throughout Town by adding a stormwater Ordinance which will include a yearly fee.

To summarize the budget, property tax rate increases by \$0.04 per \$100 of assessed value to \$0.34 per \$100 of asses value. Water/sewer base rate remains the same for residential/multiple residential at \$75 and for commercial at \$217. Water/sewer usage rate remains the same at \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons. Trash rates remain the same for residential/multiple residential at \$90, commercial at \$100, and dumpsters at \$500. Bulk trash increases from \$50 to \$75 per flatbed truckload. Capital contribution fee remains the same at \$9,685. Boardwalk on the Potomac Phase Two, Boys & Girls Club, and Storm Water project on East Poplar and Sixth Street are some of the projects currently being worked on. The Town has been implementing grand funded projects with funds awarded in recent years. The Town has also successfully sought additional grant funds for projects to be carried out over the next couple of years. We have received funding from MDE, MEA, SHA, MHAA, EPA, DHCD, DNR, and MDOT for water/wastewater, parks, roads, Recreational Trails, Bikeways, and Heritage for trail projects in the Town. The Town also received State Bond Bills for purchase of the old PNC building and the monies are also to be used to help renovate said building. The Town has been upgrading public facilities, as well as infrastructure improvements, as part of a movement to encourage private development. The Town

has purchased the Henderson property for possible future development along the Potomac River. Upgrade equipment, natural gas, footprint, and expand our Broadband with Verizon Fios. Increase police presence and expand camera program.

The budget ordinance 05-01-24 was introduced. The budget ordinance will be adopted during the June 3, 2024, Town meeting. *(The draft Ordinance is available for review on the Town's website)*

Mayor Paulin made a motion to open the floor for public comment. Councilwoman Grumbine seconds the motion. Motion carried. Town Clerk Brady reported that no public comments were received prior to this evening's meeting.

There being no public comment Mayor Paulin made a motion to close the floor to public comment. Councilwoman Grumbine seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Paulin encouraged anyone prior to the Town meeting to let the Council know how they feel about the proposed budget.

Mayor Paulin made a motion to close the public hearing. Vice Mayor Sitoula seconds the motion. Mayor Paulin closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 7:11pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Brady". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Andrea Brady
Town Clerk