

Harrisville Borough Residents -

As your Borough Council, we value the trust you have placed in us to manage the Borough's finances and budget responsibly. We understand that recent discussions around the 5-mil tax increase for the 2024 tax year have raised important questions and concerns. Therefore, we want to be sure everyone knows the facts and understands the decisions we have made to handle Borough finances responsibly and to be accountable to our taxpayers.

In late 2023, Council voted for a 5-mil increase in the tax rate for 2024 after careful consideration of the projected budget and financial needs of the Borough. However, it was discovered a few months later that the process for enacting an ordinance to increase the tax rate was not followed correctly. Therefore, that tax increase should not have gone into effect. However, the tax bills had already been sent out, and it was too late to change the tax rate for 2024.

Since then, Council has consulted with our solicitor and other experts in Pennsylvania laws governing Boroughs to find a way to rectify this error without costing taxpayers even more money. The solution that was adopted by Council vote in early 2025 was to lower the tax rate by 2.5-mils in 2026 and in 2027, and then return in 2028 to the original rate intended in 2024 as the new baseline. This will make every taxpayer whole for the overcharge in taxes in 2024 without incurring any additional expenses.

There are some circumstances that will require special handling to ensure that taxpayers are treated equitably. If you sell your property before 2028, please bring copies of your 2023 and 2024 Real Estate Tax Statements received from the Tax Collector to the Borough office, and a refund will be issued for the difference in taxes owed. Similarly, if a homeowner passes away and the property is sold, please provide a death certificate along with the tax statements, and a refund will be issued to the family to reflect the tax adjustment.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this situation and its resolution, please contact the Borough office or attend upcoming Borough Council meetings. We are here to listen and are committed to keeping you informed about Borough affairs. Transparency and accountability are core principles that we are committed to follow, as always.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Harrisville Borough. Together we will continue to keep Harrisville a strong, resilient community with a bright future.

Kathy Bray, Council President