

PROPERTY TAX BILL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What goes in to my Property Tax Bill?

Your Property Tax Bill supports the operations of Bergen County, the Pascack Valley Regional High School, the Hillsdale School District, and the Borough of Hillsdale. Each of these entities account for the following percentages of your total Property Tax Bill:

Bergen County	-	10%
Hillsdale School District	-	46%
Pascack Valley Regional HS	-	24%
Borough of Hillsdale	-	20%

Did my taxes go up in 2024?

The Final 2024 Tax Bill for the “average” Hillsdale home assessed at \$476,250 is \$14,640. This is an increase of \$460.54 or 3.0% over 2023. Each of these entities accounted for the following amounts to the increase:

Bergen County	-	\$ 54.17
Hillsdale School District	-	\$ 253.86
Pascack Valley Regional HS	-	\$ 43.66
Borough of Hillsdale	-	\$ 98.90

Why is my 3rd quarter bill so much higher than my 2nd quarter bill?

Each year the Tax Levy is not finalized until July. The tax bills for the 1st and 2nd quarters are based upon last years Tax Levy. IF there is NO increase in the Tax Levy, then all 4 bills would be the same. When there is an increase in the Tax Levy from year to year, 100% of the increase must be billed in just the final 2 quarters of the year, making those bills artificially higher than if the increase were spread out over all 4 tax billing cycles.

How are my Municipal Tax dollars spent?

The Borough provides the following services to our residents:

- ❖ PUBLIC SAFETY; Hillsdale Police Department, Hillsdale Fire Department and Hillsdale First Aid Squad.
- ❖ PUBLIC WORKS; Road Maintenance, Parks & Playgrounds, Snow Removal, Sanitation & Sewer.
- ❖ PUBLIC LIBRARY
- ❖ COMMUNITY SERVICES; Recreation Programs, Senior Citizen Services, Public Events & Programs, Public Assistance and Affordable Housing.
- ❖ Administration and Health Services.

Are there other sources of funds used to pay for Municipal services?

Property Taxes represent about 70% of the revenues that the Borough uses to support the annual budget. In addition to taxes, the Borough receives grants and State Aid that amount to another 10% of the anticipated revenues each year. An additional 10% comes from various Fees, Permits and Licenses that the Borough collects such as pet licenses, liquor licenses, construction fees and permits, parking permits and Cell Tower leases to name a few. The final 10% comes from various reserves that the Borough maintains as a means of minimizing the impact that budget increases have on the tax levy each year.

What is the Boroughs budget for 2024?

The full year budget for 2024 is \$19,294,063.

How is the budget created?

The process begins in September with each department head putting together a monetary request for the upcoming year based upon contractual costs, inflation, new service requirements, efficiencies gained and shared service costs. The Borough Administrator and the CFO review the proposed budgets with each department head and make changes and adjustments which are then presented to the Finance Committee for their review. A final recommendation is then presented to the governing body for review, consideration, adjustments and finally adoption after a public hearing.

Where are the biggest increases in the budget?

Below are the major items driving the non-capital increase in costs in the 2024 budget:

- ❖ PUBLIC SAFETY; (2) additional officers and full year of Per Diem First Aid account for \$200k of the year over year increase.
- ❖ PUBLIC WORKS; Incremental DPW headcount, multiple promotions and increases to the Solid Waste contract account for \$252k
- ❖ INSURANCE; Workers Comp up \$15k, Liability is up \$45k and Health Insurance is up \$192k.

The remaining department budgets are down a combined \$29k.

GRANTS are down \$236k. As additional Grants are received during the year, they will be added to the budget.

CAPITAL is up \$2.4M. This year's budget will fully fund the 2024 Capital Plan as well as establish the Field Improvement Reserve committed to in the 2021 budget.