



# Borough of Perkasio



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NEWS FROM COUNCIL

SUMMER 2012

## Council Adopts Master Plan for Electric Utility

News

In June of this year, the Borough Council, by unanimous vote, adopted its first power supply master plan. The plan is a guideline for determining how future power purchases will be made. The borough will be looking at a diversified portfolio of electric products (contracts) rather than rely only on one supplier in the future. The contracts going forward will also be staggered among different companies and for different lengths of time.

There was no need to determine how much to purchase, since the electric suppliers only billed based on actual usage (similar to your water bill). After deregulation of electric rates hit Pennsylvania, the old methods of purchasing

power were no longer cost effective. The Borough found out in 2008, when electric prices were skyrocketing, that the 5 year contract had too many variables and the suppliers now wanted to know in advance how much power was going to be needed. Buying



The model is to meet the long term power needs of the Borough by securing 40% of energy at least 4 years in advance, 35% of needs 2 to 4 years in advance, and the remaining 25% of needs 1 to 2 years in advance.

future power with only months of advance warning is no longer a good strategy, since the markets have become so volatile.

In past years, the Borough purchased electricity with a five year contract that included everything from the actual energy and capacity to the transmission, distribution, and ancillary service costs.

With the current extended contract set to expire at the end of 2015, and with current market prices

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**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Borough Council:

1st Monday at 7 p.m.

Borough Council:

3rd Monday at 7 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board:

4th Monday at 7:30 p.m.

PRA:

1st Mon. & 3rd Tues. at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission:

4th Wed. at 7 p.m.

Park & Recreation Board

2nd Monday at 7 p.m.

PWTA:

4th Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Please check  
www.perkasieborough.org for  
updates to schedule.

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## 2013 Public Budget Meetings Scheduled

Preparations for the 2013 budget have already begun at Borough Hall. The Council Finance Committee will be holding special public meetings to review and discuss the projected revenues and expenditures. There will be opportunities for public comment during the meetings, and attendance and participation from the public is welcome. All meetings will be held at Borough Hall, 620 W. Chestnut Street.

- September 29, 2012 First Public Finance Committee Meeting (9:00 am to Noon)
- October 20, 2012 Second Public Finance Committee Meeting (9:00 am to Noon)
- October 29, 2012 Optional Third Finance Committee Meeting (6:00 pm to 9:00 pm)

The targeted date for the Borough Council to consider approval of the preliminary budget is November 19<sup>th</sup>. If approved by Council, it will be advertised for a minimum of 10 days. The final budget would then go in front of Council for approval at the December 17<sup>th</sup> public Borough Council meeting.

## Summer Fun in Perkasio!

Looking for things to do during the long days of summer? Here are a few favorites:

1. Do you swim at the Menlo Aquatics Center? New "resident" membership categories make membership even more affordable!
2. Buy discount amusement park tickets and save money! Visit Borough Hall today—not only do you save money on your favorite day trip location, but with each ticket sold, Perkasio Borough Parks and Recreation earns 50¢ or more toward local parks and recreation projects.
3. Shop for local items and fresh produce at the Perkasio Farmer's Market! Every Saturday from 9 am to 1pm.
4. Everybody Swims! Free swim lessons for kids entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Next session is 8/20—8/24. Call the pool for details.
5. Flick N' Float—Movies @ Menlo! The competition pool is open to float in & watch the movie. 8/5 & 8/12
6. Hold your child's birthday party @ the Historical Society's Carrousel in Menlo Park! Contact Ginny Shaffer at (267) 221-7110.
7. Enjoy story time, family programs and trivia contests at the Samuel Pierce Branch Library!
8. Take a trip with Mary Bachman Tours! The next trip will be held on 9/1 to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and includes a tour of the new Barnes' Foundation. Call (215)343-0547 for information.

## Streambank Stabilization & Waterway Health

As many residents who enjoy Lenape Park know, the Borough successfully completed a streambank stabilization project near the twin bridges in the park last winter. Approximately 500 ft. of streambank was repaired with natural, "bioengineering" methods. The erosion along the streambank is not limited to Perkasio Borough, and as noted in a July 2, 2012 press release from PADEP, the following tips were offered when conducting stream activities:

- ⇒ Do not mow or cut trees and shrubs along a stream's edge. This can potentially lead to streambank erosion. Leaving a buffer along the edge of a stream or wetland is an effective way to increase a streambank's stability, reduce streambank erosion, increase wildlife habitat and provide a pollutant filtering area for surface water that drains through the buffer.
- ⇒ If a project is being planned in a stream channel or floodway, work should not be conducted without the required permits within the channel or 50 ft. from the top of the streambank. A stream's floodway is typically 50 ft. from the top of each streambank unless a detailed FEMA flood study determines that the floodway is smaller or larger than 50 ft. (Permitting information can be found at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) or by calling PADEP at 484-250-5970, or you can check with the Borough office. Residents and landowners are encouraged to check with PADEP to determine if a permit is required prior to doing any work along a stream or in a low lying area.)

Also, residents are encouraged to do their part to help with the health of the waterways by following these tips as well as not dumping yard or construction waste into the streams. Items that are natural, i.e. grass clippings, sticks, broken concrete, should not be deposited in or along the streambanks, as they actually can contribute to degradation of the waterway. Yard waste should be disposed of at appropriate facilities.

Pitching in by following these simple guidelines will help maintain the health of the waterways in Perkasio.

## Electric Utility

*(Continued from page 1)*

relatively low, the Borough believes at this time that wholesale rates should drop beginning in 2016. If so, the savings will be passed on to the customers in the form of a retail rate reduction.

In the past year, several types of contracts were investigated. But, in an attempt to be as frugal as possible, all proposals except one were rejected for various reasons including either price or risk. Borough Council looked at solar energy, wind farms, methane gas turbines from landfills, buying into a share of a natural gas powered turbine, and what is known as a “market-based” product (which is more of a paper transaction) to buy electric from a supplier without being specific as to its origin.

The Borough has also been diligent in looking at other ways to cut electric costs. In 2008, the Borough installed LED traffic light bulbs saving the Borough \$8,000 annually. In 2011, the staff began a program to begin replacing all of the street lights throughout the Borough with LED street lights. To date the Electric Department has replaced 92 fixtures saving the Borough \$3,500 annually.

In 2011, the Electric Department changed the light fixtures in the Public Works and Electric buildings to more efficient fluorescent light fixtures saving the Borough \$500 annually. The Borough Hall, Police Station, and Menlo Aquatic Center were all built after the year 2000 and have energy efficient fluorescent light fixtures that still meet today’s standards for energy efficiency. In the future, the Borough will be looking to replace or upgrade heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at some of the Borough’s facilities to further reduce energy consumption.

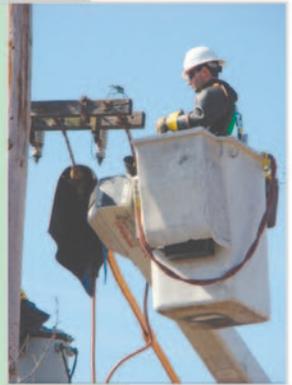
The electric rates at this time are not as competitive as neighboring municipalities or public utilities. The Borough’s goal has always been to keep the rates at or below the rates of PECO and PPL. The Borough believes that will begin to happen soon, and new rates are expected to be in place by 2016, which will once again make rates competitive. It is also very important to note that even with the rates as high as they are currently, 25% of all of the revenues collected from electric bills (after overhead and energy purchases) are used for Borough operations including all major capital purchases such as road paving, vehicle and equipment purchases, and the debt service (\$577,495 annually; construction of the new Menlo Aquatics Center \$258,623, Borough Hall Renovation \$221,160, Police Station Renovation \$97,712) and a major portion of the Borough’s general fund.

Without this supplemental income, real estate taxes alone would not cover the costs of Borough operations. The Borough’s real estate tax revenue totals to less than \$400,000 a year, and Earned Income Tax revenue is around \$1 million. Together, those two revenue sources do not come in high enough to cover the Police Budget (\$2.8 million) or the entire General Fund expenses that total to \$4.9 million. The remainder is covered by the Electric Fund revenues.

Our new power supply master plan is expected to help the Borough reduce future costs by planning well in advance and allowing the Borough to average the purchase costs to avoid high market rates in years to come.



Left: The Perkasio Borough Electric Department maintains all of the electric infrastructure, including the Borough’s substation, 1,082 poles and 10.2 lineal miles of wire. Preventative maintenance, including tree trimming and the timely replacement of aging infrastructure, helps keep the lights on in town.





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# Residents

## New Constituent Outreach Committee

Earlier this summer, Borough Council approved the creation of a new Council committee, the Constituent Outreach Committee. Councilmembers Steve Pizzollo (Ward 1), Justin Stottlar (Ward 2), and Jim Ryder (Ward 3) were appointed to the Committee by Borough Council. The first meeting was held on July 10<sup>th</sup>. **The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 pm at Borough Hall.**

Topics discussed at the first meeting included the Menlo Aquatics Center, the electric utility security deposit policy, the Borough's skate park, the Town Watch program, and the 2013 budget. The Constituent Outreach Committee meetings provide participants with the opportunity to engage in dialogue with Council members directly.

**Mission Statement:**  
*"The mission of the Outreach Committee is to ensure that each and every Perkasio Borough resident and business has the opportunity to share their ideas, questions and potential Borough improvements directly with Borough Council representatives in a friendly, casual discussion."*

## Perkasio Residents Recycle!

Did you know that in 2011 Perkasio Borough residents diverted 35% of their waste from the landfills by recycling? That's right... more than one out of every three pounds of waste generated by our residents was recycled and used again! When you add in the hundreds of tons of leaves, branches, and yard waste collected, that percentage exceeds 50%!

Here in Perkasio, the Pay-As-You-Throw program allows residents to save money—and the environment—by throwing out less and recycling more. The extensive list of products accepted curbside and at the Borough's Recycling Center is the key to the Borough's success. Items include paper, cardboard, plastics no. 1 thru 5 and 7, glass (all colors), aluminum cans, steel cans, yard waste, bundled branches, leaves, Christmas trees, and white goods.

For more information on preparing your refuse and recyclables for collection, collection dates, and program rules & regulations, visit the Borough's website at [www.perkasioborough.org](http://www.perkasioborough.org).