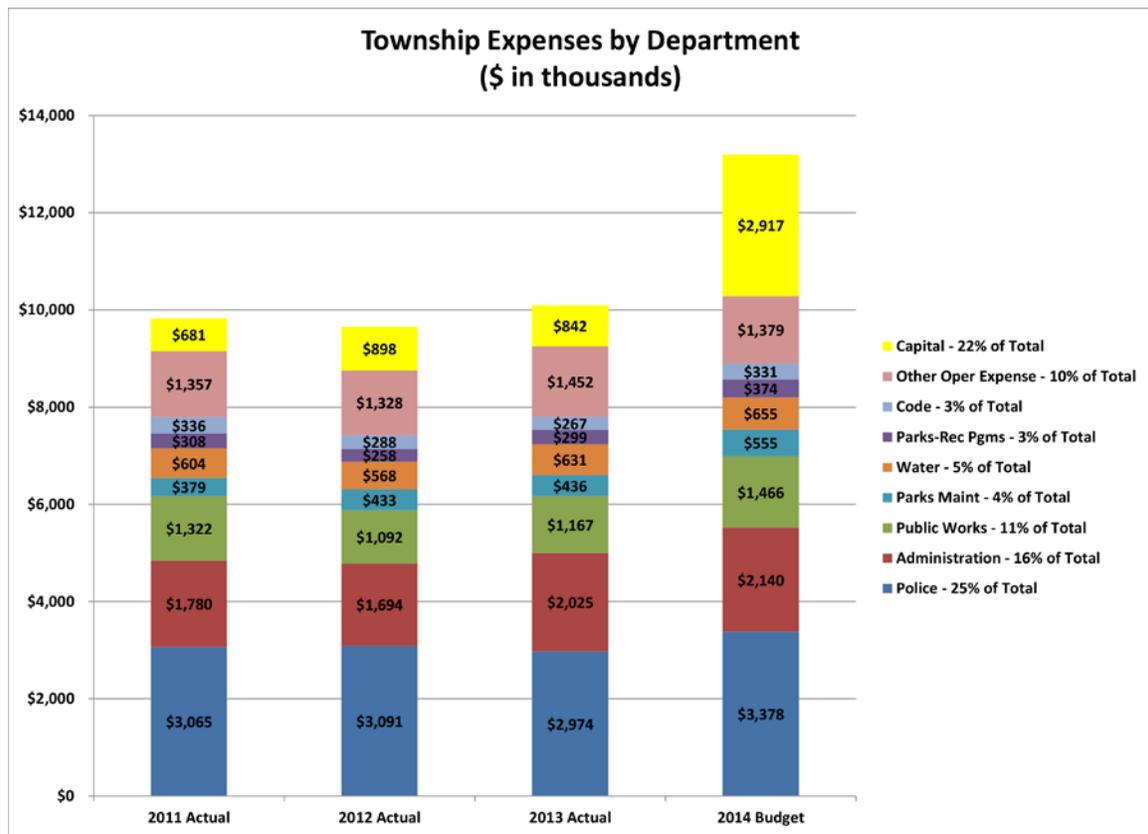


# An Overview of Township Spending

by Lee Schwarz, Ways and Means

Let's discuss how revenue is used to make Doylestown Township a community you can be proud to call home.

The chart below breaks down how the township spends our money by department along with capital and other expenses. The legend on the right identifies each color coded category along with the percent of the budget that it consumes.



Wages and benefits account for nearly half of township spending. Communities everywhere need to beware of rising health care and pension costs.

Before you get alarmed about the huge jump in the yellow block for capital spending, let's review some history and the details.

Since 2008, many capital projects were pushed out from year to year until funding stabilized and confidence grew that it would continue.

Last year, infrastructure deserved a fresh look. All known projects both delayed and future were included in the 2014 budget review process. This action became the basis for

a new capital spending system that now helps track all projects and smoothes out the artificial peaks.

It also highlighted how successful township staff has become at winning grants to offset the cost of many projects such as traffic signal upgrades, bike and hike trails and park improvements. Projects partially funded by grants account for nearly half of the total capital spending.

More than half of the other operating expense category in the rose colored block goes to debt service for the park loan which will be retired in 2017. Money for fire companies, fire relief, ambulance and leases for our township vehicles make up the rest.

You will appreciate knowing that expenses for Parks-Rec programs offered throughout the year are usually covered by fees charged to people who use them.

Overall, the township returns great value for the services we expect as a community. But don't take my word for it. Become familiar with how your local government runs and how your tax money is spent.