



Borough of Baldwin

Michael Stelmasczyk, President

Michael Ducker

Kevin Fischer

David Depretis, Mayor

John Conley, Vice President

John Ferris

Francis Scott

John M. Barrett, Borough Manager

PRESS RELEASE

May 20, 2015

BOROUGH OF BALDWIN LAUNCHES INTERACTIVE FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY WEBSITE

The Borough of Baldwin, a community of nearly 20,000 in the South Hills of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has launched a new financial transparency platform powered by OpenGov.com. The new tool empowers residents, Borough employees, and Borough Council with instant access to the Borough's financial information. The dynamic, interactive platform makes it easier for everyone to explore how taxpayer money is collected and spent. The site can be accessed at: www.baldwinboroughpa.opengov.com.

At the beginning of 2015, Borough Council and Administration adopted an updated set of financial policies and procedures. This included specifying the Borough's financial goals, which include working to improve financial information for decision makers at all levels, maintaining an atmosphere of openness and transparency, and being fully accountable to the public for the Borough's fiscal activities. The creation and launch of an OpenGov platform moves the Borough towards achieving those goals, as Baldwin is now at the forefront of utilizing new technology for improved transparency and communications with the citizen we serve.

The site displays the current year's budget, along with four years of revenue and expenditure history. This is an interactive data visualization tool, letting the user change the chart type or filter to match their preferences and interests. The financial data can be viewed by month or year, and will continue to be updated going forward. Users can now explore long-term trends or easily drill down into specific revenues and expenditures, providing answers to frequently asked questions, such as, "what are the main sources of revenue?" and "how much did the Police Department spend in 2014?"

"Through OpenGov, the Borough of Baldwin is able to share financial information with the public in a straight forward and illustrative manner. The bar graphs and other charts provide visual answers to inquires about how the Borough is putting tax dollars to use. It also will supply Borough Council with additional financial information that can greatly assist with the decision-making process," said Borough Manager John Barrett.

"By making its financial data easily accessible in an intuitive, digital format, the Borough of Baldwin is demonstrating its commitment to efficient, data-driven and transparent government," commented Zac Bookman, CEO and co-founder of OpenGov.

Beyond sharing information with the public, the Borough of Baldwin can also use OpenGov internally to create custom reports, manage operations to budget, and keep administrators informed. With today's launch, Baldwin joins a growing list of nearly 300 leading cities, counties, state agencies, school systems, and special districts across the country that leverage OpenGov technology.