

2017

ANNUAL REPORT + 2018 Forecast



Heath Talhelm, Town Council President and Walter Bietsch, Mayor at the Utility Departments' addition under construction.

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Trash • Stormwater • Natural Gas • Police • Emergency Services
Land Use • Recreation • Public Works • Community Development

Borough Manager

Chambersburg Becoming a Twenty-First Century Municipality

By Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager/Dir. Of Utilities



Chambersburg's Borough organization is adapting into becoming a Twenty-First Century Municipality. Our municipal government is a leader among Pennsylvania boroughs, townships and cities. Our finances are strong, our mission is clear, and we provide more services, more programs, more successfully, than any other municipality in Pennsylvania. This is no small chore.

Our Twenty-First Century Municipality looks and feels different than the Chambersburg of the last century. Our demographics continue to change. Our services continue to expand. Our economic development objectives are more complex. We are adapting our plans and our strategic planning activities to the new reality offered by the twenty-first century. In 2018 and 2019, we will see the most aggressive update of strategic objectives in Chambersburg's history. We are becoming a major participant in State and Federal policymaking. People in Harrisburg and Washington have heard of Chambersburg and they ask our insight on a variety of important issues.

As a Twenty-First Century Municipality, Chambersburg will be an organization dedicated to public services. We are in the process of developing transportation systems, which will change the way traffic moves through and past our community. We are dedicated to quality of life programs, such as rental housing licensing and youth activities like no other community in our area. We have become a major leader in municipal utilities; not only in electric and gas, but a leader in addressing Federal storm sewer system mandates. We are a leader in using electric and gas for economic development and job creation. We are a groundbreaking municipality doing more than any other municipality in our region.

Our citizens should be proud that Chambersburg is such a unique town.

As a Twenty-First Century Municipality, Chambersburg has an outstanding workforce of women and men. We take a team approach to delivery of vital community services. We take pride in their knowledge and experience. We have a team of specialists and use our unique knowledge and experience for the benefit of our town, its citizens and businesses. This internal knowledge base provides us the ability to move swiftly to address all types of challenges. We use technology including digital mapping, wireless communications, remote cameras, and workgroup data exchange, to excel in time periods unheard of in municipal government. In the twenty-first century, we need to know that the next generation of municipal leaders will be ready to inherit this organization. We work towards succession planning and employment outreach to train tomorrow's leadership.

Our citizens should be proud that Chambersburg has such an outstanding workforce.

As a Twenty-First Century Municipality, Chambersburg is fully transparent. We believe in sharing information, both small and large. We now post a record of every public meeting, every resolution, ordinance, local law, business contract, competitive bid result, and professional services agreement on the Internet. Any citizen, so inclined, can read voluminous documents related to our finances, our decision making, and our business relationships without leaving their home. We are dedicated to transparency and open government.

Our citizens should be engaged, involved, participating, and proud of the Borough's unique access.

As a Twenty-First Century Municipality, Chambersburg supports citizen engagement and public input. We believe in gathering as many diverse opinions in the public forum as possible. We have town hall meetings, committee meetings, websites with submit boxes for comments, and the names and contact information for every public official freely shared. We post proposals on the Internet. We hold neighborhood forums. We send more reminders and notices in the mail than any other community. We want a well informed and vocal public. Our leaders are community organizers and seek the input of the community. Any citizen, so inclined, can participate in the local government process. We are dedicated to making government as participatory as possible.



As a Twenty-First Century Municipality, Chambersburg supports regionalization. Chambersburg is the urbanized core of a suburban/rural county. We work with our neighbors on sanitary and storm sewer, and water projects. We work with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on regional transportation planning and the Council of Governments (COG) on joint projects. The Borough Manager provides peer support to the managers in other communities. We want to see our public safety services help support the quality of life in the surrounding townships. We want to see our new Aquatic Center be the model for recreation amenities in the region. We are dedicated to working together with our neighbors, whether it is fixing a water pipe or planning for the future of Franklin County.

Chambersburg citizens help our neighbors, lend a hand, lend an idea, and this is admirable.

In conclusion, there are steps that Chambersburg must take to be a Twenty-First Century Municipality. They include updating our Comprehensive Plan and integrating our other long term planning documents into a new Comprehensive Plan. We must reexamine our Subdivision and Land Development and Zoning codes and turn it into an implementable plan that not only focuses on the priorities, but will allow action to start during the planning process. We need to develop and grow the next generation of leaders. We need to reach across municipal boundaries and work cooperatively.

I believe that local government must find ways to explore new ways to be an outstanding model municipality. We have always prided ourselves on being a business-like municipal government and using entrepreneurial methods from our utility operations to encourage private investment and private economic growth in Chambersburg and the surrounding region.

I want to see our downtown blossom with private investment, real estate redevelopment, more stores, more offices, more places to live; all as a result of making Chambersburg a safe, clean, green, and healthy place to live and work. I embrace the growing diversity of our community and the economic and cultural excitement that this can bring to our hometown.

I know that these aspects are all interrelated. That the fiscal stability of our municipal government is directly related to the macroeconomic factors that influence the local economy; that the local economy is directly related to our entrepreneurial methods of managing local government; that our utility operations encourage private investment and private economic growth; that our downtown will blossom with private investment; and that we will continue to explore ways to expand this success in a regional way.

Chambersburg remains a unique community both in the complexity of our impact on our local economy as well as the size of our municipal government. No other local government plays as significant a role in the macroeconomic factors that influence the local economy as Chambersburg Borough. This is because our utility departments drive the cost of

operating for local businesses and other government units throughout the Borough and also the regional area. It is not always appreciated, but our sound fiscal management not only frees our citizens from the burden of high utility rates, but also frees our local employers to hire more workers and our local institutions, such as the Chambersburg Area School District and Chambersburg Hospital, to control their cost of operations and their need for revenues.

I am often shocked when others decide to locate or build facilities outside of Chambersburg Borough. I think they are missing much in the calculation. Not only do we provide outstanding and professional police and fire services to protect homes, business, schools, and medical facilities, but we also have the lowest composite utility rates in Pennsylvania. Further, we are both the water supplier and sanitary sewer receiver of much of the regional flow. However, in a purely economic comparison, placing a facility inside Chambersburg is likely to provide better, more reliable, and more cost effective municipal services than anywhere else in Pennsylvania. We do not do a good enough job delivering this message.

In 2017, Chambersburg began moving past our three big infrastructure projects (the \$40 million reconstruction of the J. Hase Mowrey Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, the construction of a \$9.75 million utility addition on City Hall, and the construction of a \$7.5 million Aquatic Center at Memorial Park). We are intending to focus on three goals to realize our objective in becoming a Twenty-First Century Municipality:

Begin the multi-year process of updating the Borough's Comprehensive Plan

Over the course of 2007 and 2008, the Borough of Chambersburg led a comprehensive planning process that resulted in the November 2008 adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) was developed through a collaborative planning process that integrated technical analysis with community input. The Comp Plan provides a vision for the future with a planning horizon of 20 years addressing community enhancement and development/redevelopment opportunities within the Borough.

The Plan was developed using information, analysis and conclusions from research of current Borough programs, services and policies, existing conditions, analysis of build-out and summary of community input. The Comp Plan builds upon current Borough plans and policies in effect in 2008, including but not limited to the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan, Pennsylvania's Keystone Principles & Criteria for Growth, Investment & Resource Conservation and Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requirements.

The Comp Plan includes elements such as:

- an explanation of plan purpose, methods and planning process;
- summary of community input;
- description of community development policy with plan goals and objectives;
- identification of Special Planning Districts;

- a Downtown Revitalization Plan;
- overview of the Borough's Elm Street Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy;
- a Future Land Use Plan;
- a Future Transportation Plan;
- Community Facilities, Services and Utilities Plan;
- a Housing Plan;
- an Economic Development Strategy; and
- Implementation Plan

Beginning in 2018, and lasting into 2019, this 2007-2008 Comp Plan will need to be updated.

According to Denny Puko, from the PA DCED Governor's Center for Local Government Services, creating a new Comp Plan must follow the basic guidelines of the State Law, the Municipalities Planning Code; but, within that code, there exists flexibility to develop a creative comprehensive examination of the municipality. The Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) is the enabling law that gives local governments the powers and procedures for planning, zoning, subdivision and land development. It also enables local governments to create planning commissions, departments and hire staff. The MPC is not a comprehensive plan template.

According to Michael Chandler in his analysis "Preparing an Implementable Comprehensive Plan", community planning is a part of a continuum of community action, not a snapshot in time. An "implementable comprehensive plan" is a plan for innovation and action to better the community. This is the type

of plan that I am recommending Council explore in 2018.

Michael Chandler is a planning consultant based in Richmond, Virginia. He is a former Professor and Community Planning Extension Specialist at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, and co-founder of the Virginia Institute for Planning Commissioners. Chandler has for many years conducted planning commissioner training programs across the country, and is a frequent speaker at planning workshops.

According to Mr. Chandler "The ten questions that follow should help ensure that when your commission develops -- or updates -- the comprehensive plan, you end up with an implementable plan that will improve the quality of life enjoyed by residents of your town, city, or county."

1. Is the plan realistic?
2. Is the plan comprehensive? ...
3. Is the plan specific? ...
4. Is the plan linked with related functions? ...
5. Does the plan link public and private interests? ...
6. Is the plan citizen-focused? ...
7. Is the plan understandable? ...
8. Is the plan problem- and solution-specific? ...
9. Is the plan change-specific? ...
10. Is the plan current? ...

The goal is to develop this plan that provides action and results for our community.

Planning is part of a continuum

- Problems
- Needs
- Opportunities

- Problems getting solved
- Needs being met
- Opportunities pursued

Comprehensive Plan

Community is dissatisfied, restless, concerned for the future

Community is taking action, moving in new directions, making improvements, achieving its vision

Using Citizen Engagement and Public Outreach to Involve the Community in the Planning Process

The goal is to nurture a new Comp Plan with public policy sufficiently specific to be tied to governmental action. A comprehensive plan is a roadmap to policy-making and actions to be taken upon completion of the planning process.

According to Richard Burby in "Making Plans that Matter, Citizen Involvement and Government Action", "... stakeholder advocacy is the critical factor in moving ideas forward from proposals made in plans to actual actions undertaken by governments." Citizen engagement is not just a buzz word, but a process to insure that our Comp Plan does not end up sitting on a shelf. Burby said "With broad participation in plan making, planners develop stronger plans, reduce the potential for latent groups who oppose proposed policies to unexpectedly emerge at the last moment, and increase the potential for achieving some degree of consensus among affected interests."

Our framework, like many other communities, will include copious citizen outreach. Each planning objective will commence by asking the community questions that all can answer like, "**What do you want to see in your neighborhood?**"

The Borough will develop ideas and concepts from grassroots engagement with residents, social organizations, neighborhood groups and local businesses. The Borough will ask the community the broader policy questions, compile public input on current conditions and desired goals; then, develop ideas and solutions. The ideas and solutions will first be developed by the community at large, rather than Town Council, its advisory boards, and Borough staff. Some previous questions asked or feedback sought includes, but are not limited to:

1. What uses do you want in your neighborhood?
2. How would you use public resources to improve community transportation?
3. What types of business should be located in each area?
4. How would we solve the problems you identify in our community?
5. What are the factors that you would be willing to see government change?

We need to focus on relevant, real community issues. An assessment of community issues should scope beyond the "conventional formula". We should get participation, not survey the community for generation of information/data that is not particularly relevant.

We need to use neighborhood meetings, social media, and interactive digital polling, to access community feelings on these issues.

Incorporating Other New and Existing Plans into an Overall Action Plan for Our Community

The Borough of Chambersburg has been exploring a series

of other plans, which are either completed or in development, which can be rolled together into a new comprehensive planning process. These plans include, but are not limited to:

- Downtown master planning
- Elm Street neighborhood strategic planning
- Long range transportation planning
- Curb and Sidewalk Master Plan/Map
- Official Map of Future Transportation Needs
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Retail Recruitment and Retention Plan
- Side Street and Alley Development Plan
- Storefront Protection Plan
- Housing Rehabilitation Plan
- Recreation Master Plan
- Smart City Initiatives and Complete Streets Policies

Some of these documents exist and others need to be created or updated to be current. The goal would be to create an implementable Comprehensive Plan that addresses the goals of each of these planning efforts.

The Borough should explore whether we can incorporate the principles of New Urbanism into our downtown: No buildings less than two inhabitable floors, no residential uses on first floor unless townhouse single family residential use, require stoops and steps (and ADA), require street wall, no parking lots or yards allowed on street side unless behind barrier (i.e. fence, hedge, etc), require public creek access, etc.

The Borough needs to explore three areas that are controversial as a part of this process:

- A. Historic preservation and the limitation on uses of private property to protect their history
- B. Creating a downtown improvement district and limiting the use of downtown buildings and forcing downtown property owners to pay for downtown improvements
- C. Setting community aesthetic standards in certain neighborhoods and forcing private property owners to obtain permission before an Architectural Review Board before making alterations that impact neighborhood aesthetics



These issues limit property owners in favor of community standards with which they may not always agree. They cause extra costs but also raise property values.

Public Outreach in the Elm Street Neighborhood

In 2015, Downtown Chambersburg Inc. (DCI) completed their updated Downtown Master Plan. This document was completed with a generous grant from the Borough of Chambersburg and several other donations from area corporations and organizations. The DCI plan will become the basis for DCI to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for certification of the downtown as a part of the Keystone Communities program. Town Council needs to support this effort with in-kind participation in the program.

In 2017, it is envisioned that the Elm Street neighborhood and our community partner, Building Our Pride in Chambersburg (BOPIC), will undertake a similar process to update the Elm Street Neighborhood Plan.

Inspired by the widespread, positive impact of the Pennsylvania Main Street program, which is a state wide program focusing on the central business core of neighbors, the Commonwealth developed a similar, integrated approach to revitalization of Pennsylvania's older residential areas bordering Main Streets and central business districts called the Elm Street program.

Chambersburg has historically been one of the most successful Main Street program and Elm Street program participating communities. Hundreds of thousands of dollars has been passed through the Borough and expended by our community partners (Downtown Chambersburg Inc. for the Main Street program and Building Our Pride in Chambersburg for the Elm Street program) for projects throughout the community.

The Pennsylvania Keystone Communities program is the current amalgamation of the Main Street and Elm Street programs.

BOPIC will complete an Elm Street Neighborhood Plan with a generous grant from the Borough of Chambersburg. The BOPIC plan will become the basis to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for certification of the Elm Street neighborhood as a part of the Keystone Communities program. Town Council needs to support this effort with in-kind participation in the program. The hardest challenge for both DCI and BOPIC will be after certification when both must develop a model of sustainability that demonstrates that they can administer their programs without Borough financial support.

Exploring Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements & Healthy Communities Design Initiative

In 2017, the Borough of Chambersburg completed the Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan. The plan recommended the creation of new master plan for all future sidewalk installations, pedestrian street-crossing safety enhancements, development of a network of bicycle routes

to include extension of the existing Rail Trail and connections between the network and existing public areas such as parks, downtown, community centers, government facilities and streams, and creation of a public education campaign designed to encourage walking and bicycling as alternative modes of transit, and at the same time, making those activities safer. The plan recommended:

- Expanding the Rail Trail
- Creating bicycle friendly connections to places of interest and commerce, for example Memorial Park, to Downtown and Third Ward to Norland Avenue
- Review current policies on sidewalk use for bicycles
- Look for opportunities for bicycle/pedestrian "shared use" when expanding or re-configuring sidewalks or adding bicycle lanes to existing streets
- Developing bicycle friendly areas in existing recreation facilities
- A bicycle self-guided tour of Chambersburg
- Bicycle furniture, public drinking fountains, and/or bicycle rental resources

This plan addresses factors as they relate to pedestrian and bicycle travel and recreation within the Borough as well as considers opportunities for connection to the surrounding region. The plan also considers Complete Streets Policy adoption that result in a comprehensive and integrated network of transportation with connections to recreation facilities that are safe and convenient for people of all ages and abilities traveling by all modes including pedestrians and bicycles.

Local Complete Streets Policy shall provide:

- Reference to a Complete Streets Policy as part of the goals in the Comprehensive Plan, Neighborhood Plans, Transportation Plan and other plans and implementation strategies.
- Smart Growth land use policies that encourage bicycling, pedestrian and transit trips.
- Bicycling and walking facilities incorporated into all new development, redevelopment and transportation projects unless exceptional circumstances exist.
- Sidewalks, shared use paths, street crossings (including over and under-crossings), pedestrian signals, signs, street furniture, transit stops and facilities, and all connecting pathways shall be designed, constructed, operated and maintained so that all pedestrians, including people with disabilities, can travel safely and independently along, within and across corridors.
- Safe routes for children to and from school.
- Better access to employment and educational opportunities in all neighborhoods regardless of income or ethnicity as equitable transportation solutions.
- Facilities designed to the best currently available standards and guidelines to provide:
 - Vehicular speeds and congestion compatible with the character of the neighborhood.
 - Usability and safety of well-maintained on/off-street bicycling/pedestrian facilities.

- A well interconnected street network.
- Intersection design addressing safety and convenience for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Quality, safe and convenient bike parking options at destinations community-wide.
- Departmental policies, staff training program, policy checklist and compliance procedures/performance measures.
- Education and public awareness program for the traveling public, bicyclists and pedestrians.

National studies indicate that the way we design, build and retrofit our neighborhoods affects our physical and mental health. Decision-makers must consider options that promote walkability, bikeability and livability such as:

- Provide adequate public facilities such as parks, bike trails, recreation centers and outdoor plazas that give people a place to be active and encouraging outdoor physical activity.
- Finding creative ways to address health issues through the design and retrofit of neighborhoods and streets.
- Improve the health of vulnerable populations and access to health care.
- Ensure that sidewalks and streets are in good repair and streets are safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Offer more healthy and affordable food choices readily available and accessible to all neighborhoods.
- Assure land use policies support issues of healthy retail, farmers markets, urban agriculture, restaurants and transportation.
- Incorporate crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) standards into ordinances and design standards where appropriate to create an environment that promotes safety. Feeling safe in your surroundings plays an important role in mental and physical health.
- Establish a Good Neighbor guide that provides strategies for becoming a good neighbor to other residents and adjacent businesses as well as becoming a partner to local government.
- Create a welcoming and friendly environment through social events, citizen engagement and leadership skills.
- Promote environmental stewardship and protection with residents, businesses, developers and government.
- Adopt a complete streets policy and amend ordinances and design standards to require public and private investment comply with this policy.
- Create corridors that provide safety, accessibility and mobility for multiple forms of transportation.

The next step in this process is to appoint a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee and set about ranking and exploring these initiatives, the funding opportunities and the priorities for the community.



A Sustainable PA Community Certification for Chambersburg

In 2014, the Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML), with whom the Borough of Chambersburg is a member, began the Sustainable PA Community Certification Program. The certification acknowledges the steps taken by municipalities to achieve sustainability. It is designed to provide further reinforcement—and the inspiration (and funds) to go even bigger. That recognition goes a long way: Pennsylvania municipalities that are distinguished in applying sustainable policies in order to advance community prosperity while reducing carbon footprint get kudos, support and even grant money to expand programs. The program also serves as a mechanism for sharing best practices for creating a more sustainable Pennsylvania.

In 2016, the Borough formed a partnership with the Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability. The Center's vision is to become a nationally recognized interdisciplinary center that leverages the expertise of faculty, staff, and students to promote sustainable land use, economic development, and communities at local, regional, and global scales. The evaluation is based on 130 criteria in the following nine categories:

- Governance and Community Engagement
- Healthy Communities
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Education
- Energy Use, Conservation and Green Building
- Environmental Stewardship
- Housing
- Land Use and Transportation
- Local Economy

The Sustainable PA Certification is broken down into five categories: platinum, gold, silver, bronze and associate, which are meted out according to points earned based on criteria met at a specific point in time when submitted for review or updated. Previously, the certification was only available to the southwest region of the state, but in 2014, the program was expanded to include all municipalities across Pennsylvania through a partnership between Sustainable Pittsburgh and PML.



In 2017, the Borough of Chambersburg was recognized at the Gold level of certification for meeting the program's rigorous performance criteria which tracks 131 policies and practices that define a sustainable community.

"We are delighted to see the Borough of Chambersburg distinguished among local governments that are leading the way in applying sustainability to both their operations and management as well as within the community," said Anne McCollum, Director of Training and Development, Pennsylvania Municipal League.

In 2018, the Borough of Chambersburg will begin to implement policy and program changes to be consistent with the goals of the Sustainable PA Community Certification Program.

Expanding Post-Construction Stormwater Management to Prevent Pollution in Our Streams

2018 will mark the fourth year of existence of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) utility; one of the first such municipal utilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Our storm sewer utility allows Chambersburg to better manage stormwater by creating a designated fund for stormwater management, Federal mandates and system upgrades. The storm sewer utility provides personnel to be responsible for compliance with the MS4 Permit's "Minimum Control Measures". Secondly, beyond MS4 Permit administration, there are other important program components that our utility offers. Like a water or sewer utility, a storm sewer utility generates revenue through user fees that will eventually be based on the amount of stormwater generated on a property; which is determined by an impervious surface calculation.

The last thing we need in Franklin County is three, four, or five separate storm sewer utilities. We do not need to have as many storm sewer utilities as we currently have water systems or sanitary sewer systems. We need to encourage intermunicipal cooperation. In 2018, the Borough will begin working with

Hamilton Township to migrate this program beyond the borders of the Borough of Chambersburg.

In 2018, we will encourage other MS4 Boroughs and Townships to partner with Chambersburg in the same way.

These services include: public education and outreach on stormwater impacts, illicit discharge detection and elimination, post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment, pollution prevention and good housekeeping, development of storm sewer system maintenance needs and establishment of capital improvement plans, and monitoring and modeling of stormwater system flows to the local creeks

Moving into an Expanded City Hall

In July and September 2013, the Borough of Chambersburg Water Department took ownership of the properties adjacent to City Hall, 220 E Queen Street and 216 E Queen Street respectively. The acquisitions were for the purposes of planning for a potential Utility Departments' addition to City Hall.

In 2014, SGS Architects Engineers, Inc. of Carlisle Pennsylvania performed a Needs Analysis where they evaluated City Hall and the Police Annex for future office space needs of the Borough. That Needs Analysis was presented to Town Council in December 2014. The conclusion of the Needs Analysis was that the Borough utility departments, and more importantly the utility support departments, were clearly out of space in City Hall.

The first part of City Hall, the clock tower, was built in 1830 and survived the Burning of Chambersburg. A series of additions expanded the clock tower by adding pieces onto the building. In modern times, a major renovation was done in 1957, when much of the north part of City Hall was constructed or reconstructed. Then, in 1971, the Police Department and Council Chambers addition was added to the 1957 structure. That addition was 46 years ago. Since then, other than regular maintenance and updating the windows, the building has remained unchanged. Since 1970, the population of the Borough has increased 19% and technology including surveillance cameras, high speed data lines, servers, and many more employees has been stuffed in every nook and cranny of the facility. In addition, the building is definitely not up to modern standards of building codes or light, ventilation or safety standards. Especially wrong is that our employees of the Chambersburg Police Department are crammed into the basement of City Hall's 1971 addition near the boiler room.

In 2015, a Building Committee of Town Council was formed who met and talked about City Hall and other potential sites or concepts for utility department office space needs. At the conclusion of that discussion, it was recommended by staff that Town Council proceed with the design of a Utility Departments Addition to City Hall for the Queen Street side of this building. Any talk of renovating the existing old building would be placed on the back burner while a modern addition was placed on the east side of the existing building and interconnected. That modern addition would take pressure off renovating the existing complex old building.

In the summer of 2015, the lot on the east of City Hall was cleared of the houses and their foundations.

SGS Architects Engineers, Inc. of Carlisle presented a project scope to develop a design for the efficient usage of this adjacent property. On June 8, 2015, Town Council approved undertaking the design stage to evaluate the utility departments of the Borough in terms of public access, safety, office needs, technology, parking, etc. The SGS team met and worked with the Building Committee of Town Council to insure that their vision for the addition is being met. Every detail was discussed at these meetings.

On November 23, 2015, the SGS team presented their recommended vision for a Utility Departments Addition for City Hall. Deliverables for the project included the full design of the addition, layout and construction cost estimate of \$9.25 million. The new addition doubles the size of City Hall.

The bids for the project were opened by SGS on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. There were five bidders, and the bids were evaluated for compliance, and construction was awarded in early 2017 to ECI Construction of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. It is anticipated that total construction cost of the project will be \$9.725 million, including furnishings and a security system, which were not included in the construction bids.

Construction began in March 2017. It is anticipated the building will be completed by August 2018. We anticipate a move-in date of approximately October 1, 2018. This will be a major milestone in the history of our community. A time capsule is being assembled to mark the occasion and will be placed inside the lobby of the new addition to be opened in 100 years.

There is no doubt that building a Utility Departments' Addition for City Hall is expensive. However, if managed properly, this project, which focuses on utility uses, should cause no increase in taxes at all. Further, while it is never a guarantee, financing a building project at today's low interest rates should provide a new facility that will last the Borough at least 50 years (think back to the 1971 decision to build the Police Department and Council Chambers addition) and will be paid back by the utility departments through a mortgage on the building over a twenty-five year time frame.

This is a very significant construction project for the Borough; the first such decision in half a century. However, by living with and working in this building, and seeing the explosive growth of the utility departments and their support departments (i.e. finance, information systems, and personnel), it has become clear that this is both the most cost effective strategy and the least cost option for the Borough.

The Upcoming Grand Opening of the Chambersburg Aquatic Center

The old Municipal Pool was located at 1 Memorial Drive off of Stouffer Avenue, inside the Chambersburg Memorial Park grounds. In early 2017, the pool structure was completely demolished to make way for the new Chambersburg Aquatic Center.

A 2009 pool consultant evaluation had been done by Wade &



Associates. At the conclusion of that evaluation, Town Council elected to do only minor additional fixes to the facility to extend its useful life. The general feeling was that despite excellent preventative maintenance, the facility is both reaching the end of that useful life as well as no longer meeting the desired market for municipal facilities. Unfortunately, the fiscal realities of operating a municipal pool facility impacted the final decision of Town Council with respect to how to proceed at the time.

In 2015, Town Council authorized the Recreation Department to hire an aquatic engineering and design firm with sufficient knowledge and experience to assist our staff with evaluation of our existing municipal pool complex. The consultant selected, the team of MKSD architects and Councilman-Hunsaker aquatics, identified issues of technical, health, safety, and mechanical in nature, propose conceptual solutions including a variety of choices and alternatives and worked with the Town Council in preparing for a public debate on the cost-benefit of the various alternatives, which would extend the useful life of this important community asset for generations.

The old Municipal Pool was no normal pool either. Unlike a backyard pool, the old pool was a vast system of concrete and pipes as large as any big-city pool in Philadelphia or New York City.

On January 25, 2016, MKSD and Councilman-Hunsaker presented an Aquatics Feasibility Study and three alternate action plans for the renovation or replacement of the Pool in 2017 or 2018. The Study presented project goals, a feasibility process, an audit of existing conditions and options for consideration. The consultants discussed both physical obsolescence (i.e. aging facility – codes and standards) as well as functional obsolescence (i.e. definition of aquatics – user expectations of a modern pool facility). The consultants gave Council three choices: repair the existing pool facility for \$2.89 million, renovate and improve the existing pool facility for \$6.3 million or replace the entire facility with a modern family aquatic facility for \$6.9 million. The consultants reviewed the three options and on February 22, 2016, Council selected a replacement of the entire pool facility.

On March 14, 2016, Town Council decided to move ahead with borrowing enough money through a dedicated recreation bond issue to pay for the upgrade of the pool, as well as a dozen

other recreation related infrastructure projects. It was decided that the Borough would borrow \$9.75 million and that Council would levy a dedicated Recreation Bond Tax, beginning in 2018, to retire that debt. It was understood that this would be the source of the \$6.9 million to \$7.5 million needed to build a new aquatic facility and get it operational. With many other "soft" costs and changes, the project is now anticipated to cost about \$7.75 million. Council understands that this is a very expensive undertaking.

On September 19, 2016, Town Council approved the recreation bond sale for \$9.75 million. In this budget, beginning in 2018, a Borough-wide assessment of 3 mil of property tax will be



needed to retire this debt. The proceeds of this sale are sitting in a dedicated account. On January 25, 2017, the Borough hired Lobar Construction to be the project contractor. Local resident, John Boozer, is the Construction Manager.

The 2018 Budget includes the completion of the new facility, the hiring of staff, and the opening. It is our hope



<p>SPRAYGROUND 1,215 square feet (bather load 48 – 60) Interactive play equipment</p>	<p>ACTIVITY POOL 5,497 square feet (bather load 458) Zero depth entry Interactive play feature Lazy river</p>
<p>TOT POOL 715 square feet (bather load 59) ADA ramp entry Interactive play equipment Tot slide</p>	<p>LAP POOL 7,085 square feet (bather load 515) Six (6) 7' wide lap lanes Three (3) water slides Waterwalk crossing activity ADA ramp Interactive play equipment</p>
<p>Total bather load = 1,080 – 1,092 persons</p>	

that the new Chambersburg Aquatic Center will open on Memorial Day 2018.

In 2017, after much discussion, Town Council decided, once and for all, the new facility will be called the Chambersburg Aquatic Center at Memorial Park. In addition, a fee schedule was approved for the 2018 season. Borough residents will see no increase in the cost to attend the pool; which has not risen since 2014. Out-of-Borough guests will see a modest increase in attendance fees.

The Mayor

2017 Review and 2018 Forecast

By Mayor Walt Bietsch



The year 2017 brought numerous changes to the Office of Mayor and the Chambersburg Police Department. Former Mayor Darren Brown resigned from office in October to pursue a career in the United States Air Force. Borough council voted to appoint me as interim Mayor, to fill out Brown's remaining term of office. I was elected in November to the office of Mayor and subsequently sworn in as the elected Mayor on January 2nd 2018. As a former member of the Chambersburg Police Department, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to continue my service to our community.

Due to the retirements of a number of senior supervisory officers, the department experienced the promotions of 7 officers to its supervisory ranks for the first time in the department's history. The department also created the position of Lieutenant, which was filled through the promotion process.

Under the leadership of Chief Camacho, the department continues to evolve and professionally thrive. The department

continues to operate using a community policing model that emphasizes an outreach to our community. This process has provided us with the opportunity to develop an even stronger relationship with the residents whom we serve. Also, the department conducted the first Citizens Police Academy in 2017, which was well attended and well received. The academy provided participants with an inside look at the some of the department's operations. The citizens' academy training also exposed the participants to some of the types of situations that officers experience during the course of their duties.

As we move into 2018, we will make every effort to insure that our officers continue to be well trained and well equipped, in order to provide the highest level of service possible. We are very proud of our 200 years of dedicated police service to the Borough of Chambersburg.

Council President

Message from the Council President

By Heath Talhelm



In January of 2018, I became president of Chambersburg Borough Council by receiving the support of the majority of my fellow Council Members. I appreciate their confidence in me, as I do the continued support of the residents of the Fifth Ward, who I have been proud to represent for the past 12-plus years. As I said on the night I became President, I will do my best to work with everyone, whether they voted for me or not.

This is an important year in Chambersburg's history, and it is exciting to be part of a progressive borough government that looks forward while also respecting its past.

My goals include:

- Continuing to offer reliable utility services at an economical cost and expanding services where feasible
- Partnering with other municipalities on projects of mutual interest
- Completing borough projects to benefit our community

Expanding services

The Borough of Chambersburg supplies more utility services than any other municipality in Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg has the lowest composite utility rates in Pennsylvania, a key reason why businesses are attracted to our community. The strong work ethic of our residents is another.

Borough Council recently endorsed a plan to expand gas service in our community, where it is feasible, which will benefit residents and businesses alike. Natural gas is safe and green energy and it is much less expensive than other alternatives.

Borough Council also agreed to expand the fire department in 2018, through an agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1813. The Borough will hire qualified part-time firefighters this year to work on Chambersburg's two ambulances as well as supplementing fire suppression operations. This will add productivity to our department while controlling costs. Ideally, the Borough might add a third ambulance to our services by 2019, with the additional ambulance revenue offsetting the cost of adding personnel to the department. We see this as a win-win for the community, but we will proceed cautiously so that the addition of part-time firefighters does not result in a tax increase.

Municipal partnerships

Chambersburg is willing to work with other municipalities in Franklin County for the mutual benefit of all. There is no better example of such cooperation than the 2017 completion of the largest public works project in Chambersburg history,

the \$39 million upgrade to the wastewater treatment facility that also serves our municipal partners (Guilford Township, Guilford Township Authority, Greene Township, Greene Township Municipal Authority, Hamilton Township and Hamilton Township Municipal Authority). To meet more stringent nutrient discharge limits, and the growth in the region, it was in the public interest to join together to expand the wastewater plants capabilities.

Such cooperation could be expanded to include not only other utilities but also health inspections, as the Borough of Chambersburg will do in Waynesboro beginning in 2018. Fire inspections at businesses in surrounding townships could be another area of cooperation. Some fires could be prevented if the expertise of our firefighters is used to spot hazards. We believe our firefighters could provide a valuable service to improve community safety.

Completing projects

A much-needed expansion of Chambersburg Borough Hall will be completed this year, giving employees the space they need to serve the growing community. Our town's center of government, located at 100 S. Second St., was last expanded nearly 50 years ago! This addition will house our utility departments and is being paid for with utility revenue rather than tax dollars. Considering we are currently using parts of a building built in 1830, this modern facility will be a tremendous asset to better serve our utility customers. When utility department employees move into the new addition, the space they formerly occupied will be used by the police department, also currently working in cramped headquarters.

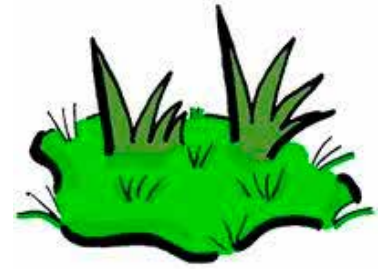
Another much-anticipated opening is the new Chambersburg Aquatic Center, scheduled to open on Memorial Day weekend in 2018. The pool and associated amenities will become a regional attraction, providing much enjoyment to swimmers for generations to come. I can't wait to see the many smiles on the faces of children at the aquatic center, which is replacing a pool built in 1969-70 in the 37-acre Chambersburg Memorial Park off of Stouffer Avenue and McKinley Street.

The recreation bond that is financing the construction of the pool and other water attractions also will provide money for upgrading playground equipment at parks throughout the Borough over the next several years. The recreation bond, and funds procured from other sources, will enable the development of Nicholson Square Park in Chambersburg's north end. This park has been in the planning stages since the 1990s, with a park master plan created in 2007.

With money from the recreation bond, a \$50,000 donation from the Nicholson Square Homeowners Association and a

continued on page 31

PLEASE KEEP GRASS CLIPPINGS OUT OF STORM DRAINS



The Borough of Chambersburg asks that residents and business owners keep grass clippings on your property and off of the sidewalk, curb and street. Local law (Chapter 109) prohibits any grass clippings to be placed into a public street or alley along the curb line in such a manner that the clippings cover, or could cover, a storm drain or enter the storm sewer system. Dumping or hosing of grass clippings into a storm drain or the storm sewer system is also prohibited. Grass clippings can clog storm drains and the storm sewer system, which may result in street flooding. Grass clippings can also harm the Conococheague Creek and Falling Spring Creek, where the Borough storm sewer system empties.

PROHIBITED



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Keep all grass clippings on your property; off of the curb and sidewalk and out of the street.
- Compost grass clippings on your property away from storm drains, wetlands and streams.
- Grass clippings can be bagged and placed at the curbside or other designated area for collection by the Borough Sanitation Department on your regularly scheduled weekly trash collection day. Please note, the number of trash receptacles or bags – including those with grass clippings – collected from any one household unit per week is limited to three unless accompanied by a tag purchased from the Borough for each receptacle or bag over three.
- If you see a storm drain that is clogged and can clear it without placing yourself in danger, please remove the grass clippings or other debris. If you cannot, or do not want to, clear the storm drain, please contact the Borough Customer Service Center at 717-263-4111 or servicecenter@chambersburgpa.gov.

Borough of Chambersburg

If you would like to learn more about the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), please visit the Borough website at www.chambersburgpa.org, click on the Documents link and then scroll down to the Storm Sewer section. Or contact Andrew Stottlemeyer, Storm Sewer System Manager at 717-709-2289 or astottlemeyer@chambersburgpa.gov.

Police Department

Chambersburg Police Department 2017 and 2018

By Ron Camacho, Chief of Police

Departmental changes in the operational and administrative division have led to improvements resulting in an increase in effectiveness and efficiency during 2017. The department reached multiple goals and objectives over the last year. The officers, supervisors, and staff of the department have adapted to this positive growth and have embraced the new culture of mentorship and leadership that is now the standard within the department.

On October 30th, for the first time in the department's history, seven promotions were made at one time. This included the creation of the Lieutenant position, a new supervisory position to assist the Chief of Police with the growing administrative needs of the department. Officers McGhee, Sleichter, and Jakubic were promoted to Corporal. Corporals Armstrong, Bietsch, and Good were promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Morrisette was promoted to Lieutenant. While making so many promotions at one time can be a challenge all those promoted have made a smooth transition into their new positions. We look forward to their continued development as leaders and managers in 2018.

Community policing programs have grown exponentially in 2017, and the department's officers have incorporated this philosophy and belief into their daily work activities. The amount of community policing events attended by the officers has tripled since 2016. One of the most successful community policing programs held in 2017 was the Chambersburg Police Departments Inaugural Citizens Police Academy. The Citizens Police Academy invited twenty-two community members, including two Borough Councilmen, to learn about the inner workings of the department. The attendees also learned about current law enforcement trends and issues including use of force scenarios, technological advances in policing, and how the department is currently combating the opioid epidemic. The Citizens Police Academy was a success and another class will be held in the summer of 2018. As a continued service to the community, the department still offers courses on Active Shooter Mitigation, Situational Awareness, and Security Surveys to schools, businesses, and governmental agencies. This program, which can be tailored made for any organization requesting it, has been well received by the attendees.

The department's use of technology to augment its operational capabilities will continue in 2018. The use of License Plate Readers (LPR's) and the downtown camera system have greatly improved the department's ability to quickly identify suspects, which contributes to an improve arrests and more case closures. The department ordered two additional LPR's in 2017 and will look to expand the downtown camera system in 2018. In addition to the LPR's and downtown cameras, the department's social media platform, Crime Watch, contributes greatly to officers successful investigations. Crime Watch is an



Active Shooter Drill at the Chambersburg Hospital

excellent way to pass on information on recently committed crimes, community security alerts, and to solicit help from the public. Citizen contact with the police is at an all-time high due to Crime Watch. This program shows how invested the citizens of Chambersburg are in helping the police department keep the Borough a relatively secure place to reside in.



Fixed License Plate Reading Cameras



Downtown Camera

The department saw four retirements in 2017: Sergeants John Clawson and Matt Cody, Detective Will Frisby, and PFC Craig Leisher. To fill in the staffing gaps the department hired three officers: Matthew Wade, Daniel Signore, and Jesse Eaton. Wade and Signore graduated from HACC's police academy starting in June. Jesses Eaton will start in the academy in January 2018, with a projected graduation date in late June. We also had two officers on military deployments. Corporal Ben Sleichter deployed to the Middle East during the first half of 2017, and Officer Cole Baker deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in May of 2017 for a yearlong assignment.

The topic that most concerns the citizens that speak to me are traffic related problems. To combat some of the issues, specifically those related to tractor trailers, the department sent one officer to the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) course in 2017. Another officer is scheduled to attend the course in 2018. 2018 will also see an increase in truck inspections, which will ensure the companies and their drivers, are adhering to Federal and State standards. To combat neighborhood traffic related issues, in 2018, the department will have a dedicated traffic enforcement officer on each shift.

The Police Department regularly participates in the monthly

Parking, Traffic, and Street Lights Committee meetings where these troublesome issues and solutions are discussed.

I am extremely pleased with all of the hard work the officers, detectives, and supervisors have done in 2017. I am also proud to be leading an organization that has a great relationship with the community it serves. I am committed to making the Chambersburg Police Department one of the best law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania, and continuing to provide excellent police services to all persons who live, work, or visit the Borough of Chambersburg

Emergency Services Department

Chambersburg Welcomes a New Fire Chief, New Apparatus, and a 24/7 Second Ambulance

By ES Chief Dustin Ulrich



On January 8, 2018, Town Council accepted the resignation of former Emergency Services Chief Butch Leonhard, who retired after leading the Borough Fire Department.

"During Butch's time as Fire Chief, the department had seen advancements, new fire apparatus, significant staff changes, training upgrades, and outstanding performance" said Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill. "Chambersburg is unique, as we have a combination volunteer and career fire service, one of the only Boroughs in Pennsylvania to have as many paid firefighters."

On January 8, 2018, Town Council saw Assistant Chief Dustin Ulrich take the reins as Interim Chief. After careful consideration, it was determined that Dustin was clearly the best candidate and the most prepared to take over for Chief Leonhard and lead the Chambersburg Emergency Services Department.

The Chambersburg Emergency Services Department consists of the Fire Department, the Basic Life Saving EMS services, and fire code inspection services. Currently, there are 24 full-time career firefighter slots, who are also emergency medical technicians and code officers.

They are led by a Borough ES Chief and Assistant Chief. There is also one volunteer fire chief. The Borough also has volunteers and part-time paid firefighters.

"Dustin Ulrich will be an outstanding Fire Chief," added Council President Health Talhelm. "He was impressive as Assistant Chief and has an outstanding fire services background. He was clearly the best candidate for Chambersburg. He will serve this community with distinction."

A local fire services professional, Dustin graduated from Chambersburg Area Senior High School in 1999. He has a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science from Waldorf College in

Iowa and is working on his Masters in Business Administration currently. In 2007, he earned an Associate's degree from Colorado Technical University in Homeland Security.

In 2017, emergency medical responses were still on the rise with a 2017 estimate of 4,268 calls, and EMS staffing issues persist, which hopefully will be addressed by the addition of part-time personnel. In 2018, Town Council approved sufficient resources for a second ambulance to serve fire and EMS protection to area residents on the south end as much as possible.



With respect to the fire services, the CFD offers many services that enhance fire safety in the Borough of Chambersburg, e.g. a triennial inspection/permit program; annual fire inspections to day care centers, health care businesses, and institutional or industrial facilities for State or Department of Health compliance; staff, fire safety training and evacuation drills. In 2017, the Department's apparatus was equipped with Glucometers to check the blood sugar

of patients suffering from diabetic related issues.

The State Fire Commissioner's Office allocated four grants totaling \$48,324.04 that provided a Hurst hydraulic rescue spreader; a Hurst rescue hydraulic cutter; training room upgrades to include a new projector and screen, sound system, and two 43" training monitors; and turnout gear coats, pants, hoods, gloves, helmets, and boots.

This year, Tower 1, an Arrow XT Pierce 95' Mid-Mount Platform, was purchased to replace Truck 1, a 1998 E-One Hurricane 95' Rear Mount. Also in 2017, Borough Council approved

the purchase of a new Pierce Enforcer Pumper to replace Engine 1-3, a 1996 Luverne Spartan Pumper.



Beginning in 2018, the Department will be comprised of four shifts versus our previous three shifts, continue to train, implement new programs, and drive to bolster volunteer ranks. The shift changes required the hiring of additional

personnel and the promotion of FF Randall Pryor to the rank of Captain of the newly formed "D" Shift. The three new Firefighter/EMTs, Drew Nunemacher "A" Shift, Samuel Nehf, "B" Shift, and Robert Barrett "C" Shift graduated from HACC Fire Academy on November 17, 2017.

Overall, 2017 was a very productive year, and CFD remains resourceful in pursuit of other avenues of funding to achieve the Department's goals. The Chambersburg Fire Department will strive to meet the fiscal and operational challenges in 2018 and work with local fire departments, municipalities, and Franklin County to welcome regionalization of Fire/EMS services and fire code inspections in hopes of providing the best possible community service to area residents.

Recreation Department

2018 Will See New Aquatic Center and Other Rec Improvements

By Julie Redding, Recreation Department

Twitter: [@ChambersburgRec](https://twitter.com/ChambersburgRec)



For the Recreation Department, 2017 demonstrated a year of construction and planning for significant renovations and improvements the Borough will enjoy in 2018. Last April, pool facility construction commenced and celebrated the birth of an AQUATIC EXPERIENCE that Chambersburg residents, alongside visitors from near and far, will enjoy for decades to come!

Working with Lobar Construction, Vincent Pools, other sub-contractors, and our own Borough utility departments / personnel, the project moved expeditiously through many of the preliminary excavation and renovation phases of the project. Prior to plunging into the New Year, crews finalized the excavating the last pool, the Leisure Pool. All of these aquatic structures (Splash Pad, Tot Pool, Activity and Leisure Pool) have been set with shotcrete, with the exception of the Leisure Pool (Zero-entry Splashground / Lazy River); however, completion of this phase is anticipated for early 2018. The entire project remains on schedule to open Memorial Day weekend, 2018.

In concert with constructing and preparing for the grand opening of the Chambersburg Aquatic Center, staff began preliminary design work with the landscape architectural firm, YSM, to initiate the process of replacing playground units in most Borough playground parks. Using money inclusive of the Recreation Bond sold in 2016, the following parks will receive new playground units in 2018: Fourth Street Park, Henninger Park, Memorial Park, Mike Waters Park, Orchard Court Park, and Reservoir Hill Park. Although the Department had hoped to have already begun playground construction in the Nicholson Square neighborhood, phase one of this two-phase project will also launch in 2018.

Although many of the projects initiated in 2017 will realize completion in 2018, there were a few accomplished and deserving of attention. These include the following:

- Insulated and installed protective cages around windows in Gym 1.
- Installed a new customer service window at the Recreation Office.
- Constructed new bathroom and updated the façade of the existing storage building at Mike Waters Park.
- Through donations provided by the Elm Street Project, purchased and installed a new shade structure located beside the Splash Pad at Mike Waters Park.
- Supported numerous volunteers who created a new, advanced Jump Track at the Chambersburg Bike Park.

In addition to the construction and planning projects, completed in 2017 and on-going, the Recreation Department served over 10,000 people through programs, leagues, and events, and over 60,000 people through its various facility rentals. Taking pride in offering quality recreation designed to enhance the health and well-being of toddlers through seniors, the Department offers something FUN for everyone. If you haven't already, plan to participate in 2018! To view a listing of seasonal programs, park locations, facility rental options, and Aquatic Center construction updates, visit www.chambersburgpa.gov/rec_dep.

Electric

A Unique Chambersburg Tradition Award Winning Municipal Electric System

By Ron Pezon, PE, CEM, CSDP, CDSM

The Borough's municipal electric utility has been diligently serving the expanding energy needs of our community for approximately 124 years; operating around the clock, logging some of the best reliability available and at prices competing with the lowest cost electric utilities in the Country.

Sometimes it appears that today's Chambersburg Electric Department operates much like the small town commercial electric utilities of yesteryear, but in other ways, Chambersburg is able to enjoy the vast benefits of today's competitive wholesale power purchasing marketplace to find inexpensive power supply for our homes and businesses. The Borough's operating model uses a legacy or traditional utility infrastructure consisting of generation, transmission, substation, distribution systems, meters and services. This is unique as deregulation has forced commercial, for-profit utilities, to no longer maintain this "vertically integrated" organization model. As a municipal non-profit community utility, we can still maintain this classic organization, which if managed well, is able to deliver the best of power reliability and prices to our end-users.

Our Mission: "The Chambersburg Electric Department with character, competence, and collaboration will provide to our customers valuable energy products and services that are safe, reliable, and competitively priced. The Electric Department will produce economic and other benefits to the Borough, its citizens, its customers, and employees, while operating in a professional and courteous manner within a structure of local accountability and local control."

The continuous improvement philosophy implemented in the Borough over the past several decades has begun to pay "dividends" in upgraded equipment, well trained experienced personnel, and knowledge of customer needs. Not only do the Borough residents notice the high quality of its electric services, but so did our national professional association.

Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)

The American Public Power Association, an organization serving over 2,000 public electric utilities like Chambersburg recognized Chambersburg Electric for the fourth time in 2017.

RP3 stands for Reliable Public Power Provider. The American Public Power Association instituted the RP3 Program to recognize public power entities that have achieved high levels of operational safety, personnel development, system development, and electric system reliability. The Chambersburg Electric Department has achieved this high-level of performance with APPA's RP3 recognition since 2009.



Accomplishments 2017

Consistent with our mission and that recognition, the Department made some fairly significant improvements to the "Park of the Valiant" and various other electric supply systems during the past year.



New Ramp from 2nd Street to the "Park of the Valiant" honoring Electric Department.

That Park with the fountain on North 2nd Street near the original power plant site commemorates the day in 1904 the public and media rose up to defend ownership of the municipally owned electric system including its first generator. The old entrance to the park was a set of deteriorating steps. The entrance was upgraded to a nice gentle ramp, suitable now for opening up the park facility to all Borough residents.

Further, as an example of continual infrastructure upgrades, Chambersburg replaced three old transmission circuit breakers that were nearing the end of their useful lives. We attempt to replace critical components before they are overloaded, malfunction, or fail. If not replaced, system electrical devices can sometimes fail in service catastrophically causing possibly numerous extended customer power outages.

In function, these large circuit breakers work just like the circuit breakers in your home or business; these are just way-larger! See the new Grant Street Substation circuit breaker below.

The department finished extending a new 12 kV distribution feeder to connect the Commerce Street Substation to a feeder that comes from the Cree Substation (Walker Road area). In 2018, the Commerce Street feeder cable will pick up the residential and business services presently connected to the old 4 kV circuit in that area. There will be weeks of many small short-duration local outages planned around the Broad Street area while the transformers and electric



New Grant Street Substation Circuit Breaker

service drops are transferred over. After all of the services are transferred, there will be a subsequent somewhat longer outage to finally swap all the customers from the old line to the new upgraded line. The strategy of replacing old and obsolete equipment before it fails significantly reduces outage frequencies and durations. The old over head wires will be removed, making a more reliable and nicer looking streetscape in that neighborhood.

The Department is ultimately working to connect each of the Boroughs seven electric substation outputs for added system load transferability and reliability. This distribution system design and operating practice allows the line crews to isolate a problem and restore power to the largest number of customers possible in most cases in the shortest amount of time. In some of the more severe outage cases then, we can switch many customers to the "good sections" of line from another substation while we figure out how to repair the damaged facilities, and then subsequently repair them. This planning and operating practice limits the number of customers affected and reduces outage time experiences to a minimum. Our practice is called "restore and repair" using these pre-purposed multiple substations, feeders, and field installed switch-points.

An example of that safe and successful practice is shown below, where line crew members (L-R) Chuck, Keith, Rob, and line worker leader Rich have finished up an emergency repair on a switch damaged from a vehicle hit on Lincoln Way East.



Line Crews Recap Repairs Made to a Damaged Overhead Switch

Overall reliability can be significantly improved using the restore and repair concept switch points, and transfer capabilities. In larger electric utility systems these switching facilities and operating practices are

often too expensive to implement. Chambersburg, with its compact system design is well-suited for this "best of class" system development and operating practice.

With all the spending on the system over the years you would think rates would have to climb accordingly. Well, not so in Chambersburg, at least due to the system improvement costs alone.

Rates

In recent history, we did see power purchase costs, and therefore rates, similarly climb into the lower double digits per kWh. Residential rates rose to about 12.6 cents per kWh at its worst time in recent history. From that high point in 2010 as a reminder, rates were forecasted to rise even further, but over the subsequent five years, staff consistently lowered costs

while Borough Council consistently lowered overall electric rates in the following way, with a long term plan in mind:

The long term plan devised, and through favorable state legislation on power bidding around that time was changed from

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Rate Reduction</u>
2010	June	7.5%
	October	7.5%
2013	May	5%
	November	5%
2014	November	3.7%

the usual one-supplier concept to purchasing multiple power supplies from various power suppliers and over different term lengths. This new practice was the beginning of lowering and smoothing out for Borough residents the volatility of electric rates as seen in the markets from time to time.

The change in overall rates, from where the rates were proposed to go in 2010 as compared to where they actually went was a net reduction from that plan of about 30% over the subsequent 5-year period. The rate schedules were all lowered further in 2013 and finally in 2014 as a direct result of the new portfolio power purchasing strategy adopted by council on May 14, 2012. The new multiple source and block portfolio approach approved by Council was responsible for significantly lowering then, and stabilizing power supply costs over the past three years.

Expanding the Power Supply Portfolio:

Unlike the now widespread investor-owned electric utilities of today, Chambersburg, using its locally owned and operated system keeps most of the benefits of municipal management within the Borough and for the exclusive benefit of its residents.

Instead of each business and citizen having to wisely select their own power supply arrangement (or worse yet, let the big utility decide what they think is best for you), your local power supply team shops the wholesale electric marketplace to get you the best least cost electricity on your behalf. We pool all the needs of the citizens and businesses in Chambersburg and **WeShop4U** as a power "pool"; up to twice per year for the Borough's 11,400 or so retail customers, the power supply team goes shopping for bulk power deals. Also, the Borough, through its power generation is able to bring back home some of the outside or "market" derived financial benefits to its customers in the form of stable rates and power quality.

In 2017 and through 2023, the Borough will enjoy more than 18 different power supply agreements. The Borough also owns about 30 MW of dual-fueled (Natural Gas/Fuel Oil) reciprocating engine generation capability at two power plant locations that is sold to the regional transmission operator called "PJM" (Pennsylvania, Jersey, Maryland Interconnection). These generation assets, along with the power purchases from the Landfill Gas to power generators help offset the sometimes very

high cost electricity in summer and winter. The power purchasing team regularly considers options to fill in the un-procured vacancies in the portfolio plan to stabilize power prices well into the future.

Continuing the Borough's renewable, sustainable energy objectives (that make sense) in 2017 the power purchase team began evaluating some small scale "community" solar electric generation projects. The power purchasing team will evaluate these and other technologies as they come along however none will be implemented without first performing rigorous financial evaluations with positive results and second, bringing the proposals to Council for community discussion and possible approval based on merits and long term viability.

How does Chambersburg's Overall Rate Compare?

Nebraska is the only state in the union that generates electricity for its consumers entirely from public power entities similar but bigger than Chambersburg. According to the official Nebraska government website ("Annual Average Electricity Price Comparison by State"), as of 2015, Washington State was ranked first as lowest customer cost per kWh (a standard unit of electricity cost and measurement) at 7.41 cents per kWh. Nebraska, the whole state itself, being fully public power, was ranked 15th in the U.S. at 9.04 cents per kWh. Chambersburg if it were to be compared in this study would just inch ahead of Illinois to be ranked 16th at an overall 9.12 cents per kWh in 2015 (Illinois was listed as 16th at 9.28 cents per kWh). Overall rates in Pennsylvania ranked 31st in the U.S. coming in at 10.41 cents per kWh according to the study or about 14% higher on average than Chambersburg in that year. The national average cost per kWh in 2015 was right around Pennsylvania at 10.42 cents per kWh. The states ranked in the study with the highest cost per kWh were Alaska and Hawaii at 17.94 and 26.17 cents per kWh respectively.

Chambersburg has not changed electric rates since November of 2014. This was accomplished even while replacing and upgrading aging infrastructure during that time and to this day. Whereas, simply reading the news, we know that many surrounding Pennsylvania utilities have already or will raise their rates since this study was conducted in 2015 and with infrastructure upgrades often as the most common reason.

Electric rates in the Borough did rise for a time as we saw too in the outside world. Due to Town Council's strategic actions since 2010 however, Chambersburg's rates have come down to what is now below that of **all** surrounding investor-owned utilities. As a result of the new portfolio approach, the Borough's electric rates have settled in well below that of the state average for both overall electric rates and the typical (1,000 kWh/month) residential bill.

Renewable Energy and Sustainability

In 2017, due to its broad variety of accomplishments, the Borough was recognized as a Sustainable Pennsylvania Community by the Pennsylvania Municipal League in partnership with Sustainable Pittsburgh.

The Federal EPA award-winning Landfill Methane Outreach Program "Project of the Year 2013" Landfill gas to energy plant is nearing its halfway point in the initial ten year agreement. The Borough is looking at time-extension possibilities and various other viable expansion pricing structures in the coming years, including an Energy Power Partner's (EPP) owned small community solar power generating station with its power to also come back into Chambersburg on the Express Generator Feeder (EGF) or "extension cord" as the term was coined back in the day. The New York Power Authority hydro-electric power, landfill gas plant purchases, roof top solar, and new renewable power contracts are helping the Borough achieve a sustained estimated 16% renewable energy contribution toward is overall annual energy use.

Borough-Owned Generation Assets:

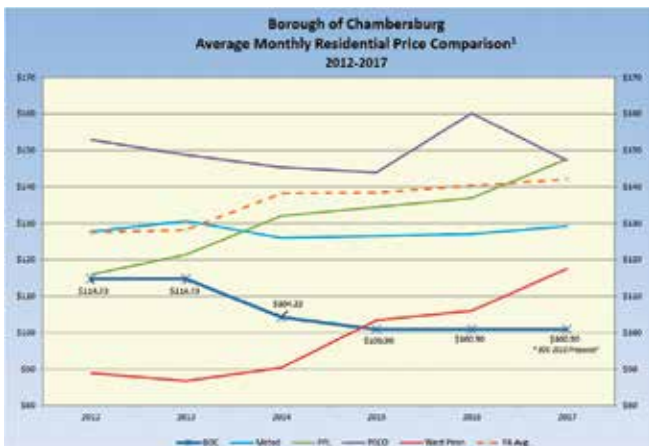
Chambersburg buys all of its power "wholesale" through the energy "portfolio" and re-sells it through the internal transmission and distribution systems to its retail customers. The department sells all of the power "generated" to the PJM bringing home its financial benefits to directly help lower the overall annual power supply costs. To maintain such high electricity delivery reliability and favorable long term financials, the Electric De-



Replacing CO Panel at Orchard Park Generating Station

partment must routinely conduct maintenance on facilities and sometimes perform significant repair and/or upgrade projects.

Both of the Borough-owned Falling Spring and the Orchard Park Generating Stations were professionally tested for emissions compliance and subsequently passed the state's approved interim permitting standard stack tests in 2017. Maintenance of emission systems for compliance sometimes means that the very large carbon monoxide (CO) emission reducing



Average Residential Customer Monthly Bill Comparison Using 1,000 kWh/Month

panels need to be cleaned or replaced as shown hanging from the crane.

The Borough operates its generation assets according to strict Federal and State environmental regulations. In 2017, the power supply team performed routine and preventative maintenance on many of the generators and auxiliary equipment to ensure quick start ups and dependable and safe plant operations.



**Jerry Howe,
Power Supply
Supv. Inspects CO
Catalyst Change-
Out**

The department finished the relay and protection portion of the upgrade project at the Falling Spring Generating Station, Grant Street Substation critical to decommissioning an outdoor set of metal clad switchgear built in the early 1970's, and which is considered by many evaluators to be at the end of its useful life. The decommissioning project required replacing generator protection relays and will yet require moving the generator #5 and #6 power outputs over to another newer set of indoor switchgear at the Grant Street Substation allowing continued reliable generation sales to the PJM.

Substation Improvements and Feeder Ties

We continue to upgrade area substations, feeders, and transformers to serve the growing electricity needs of the community. The electric load is growing as a result of the good economic climate in this area that we have been experiencing over the past at least 5 years. Chambersburg's distribution systems are typically being built out in a way modeled after the best reliable systems.

In a sense, with the reliability achievements of late, the whole of Chambersburg on average would be considered a "Premium Power Park" by any state or national standard. Our infrastructure is just that good.

The Borough has a long term plan to upgrade substation transformers to meet the growing load and building out substation ties through existing and new feeder ties such that load can be



Pulling in New Conductor along Broad Street

transferred from one substation to another. The load transfer capability allows the line crews to "restore and repair". This means that they can transfer most customers to another distribution feeder restoring their power after isolating the problem, then repairing the problem section of line.

The department also focuses on the worst performing circuits to reduce momentary outages as well as the extended outages from aged distribution facilities.

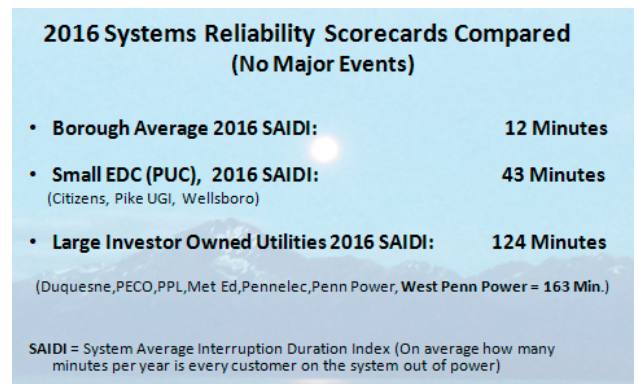
2018 Reliability:

Chambersburg has long strived to be one of the best electric system's for deliverability and reliability. The department systematically maintains and replaces obsolete equipment, attempting to replace or repair devices prior to them failing in service. It takes less time to replace equipment in a planned and organized way than it does to make repairs under emergency conditions. Usually, the "predictive" approach is more effective in keeping reliability up and costs down as compared to waiting for things to fail, sometimes catastrophically, and while in service.

The Electric Department and its customers continue to enjoy among the highest reliability statistics in the nation due to maintaining and upgrading/replacing aged infrastructure whenever possible prior to equipment failures.

There are several measurements for "reliability" in the electric utility industry. The main two measurements that we use are the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). Outages over 5 minutes are counted in the statistics for the duration index and momentary interruptions (those 5 minutes or less) are counted in the frequency index. We all know what extended outages are. Momentary interruptions are those annoying outages required to clear a major fault/short circuit on the system, when power is restored right away, but unfortunately it makes some older clocks without battery back-up "blink", needing to be reset.

You can see in the chart below that Chambersburg stacks up well against all Pennsylvania utilities, big and small. Neighboring West Penn Power logged, according to the PA PUC 2016 Reliability Report, that on average every customer on their system was out of power for 163 minutes each during that year. Every customer served by the Borough in 2016 was out of power for an overall average of 12 minutes each.



Highway and Sanitation

Our Goal is Continued High Levels of Service to Our Citizens

*By David Finch, Assistant Borough Manager/Public Works Director
Public Works and Sanitation Departments*

In 2017, the Public Works and Sanitation Departments continued to give the same high quality service that has always been provided to our citizens. We continually try to incorporate new technologies and strategies to better address the needs of a growing and vibrant community.

The Public Works Department is sometimes referred to as the "Highway Department", but I've always felt that this was a misnomer. In reality, our employees do any and all kinds of construction and maintenance work that sometimes isn't very closely related to the roads. Under the immediate supervision of Roadmaster Elwood Sord, we fix potholes, plow snow from the streets, and arrange for street line painting; but we can just as easily be tasked with selecting and putting up the Borough Christmas Tree, moving furniture, maintaining the Borough fountains, and cleaning up unkempt properties. I've half-jokingly suggested renaming the Department "The Swiss Army Knife Department" because it can be used to fix almost any problem that might arise.

The Highway Department works hand-in-glove with other departments, frequently assisting the utilities and other departments with various construction projects as needed. No better example of this is the Sanitation Department, as the Highway Department provides personnel to assist Sanitation with numerous clean-up tasks, such as street sweeping, Christmas Tree collection, and providing help with both the Bulky-Item and Electronic waste Collection events which occur in the Summer and Fall of each year.

The main job of the Sanitation Department is, of course, the collection of refuse, which is conducted under the daily direction of Operations Supervisor Chad Ebersole. This includes the highly complex job of Recycling, which was vastly expanded two years ago by a cooperative agreement with Waste Management. Even though Waste Management now provides this as a paid service to our citizens, Borough staff is still charged with monitoring Waste Management to make sure that they provide the high level of service that our citizens require. Thus it was that when Waste Management announced in 2017 that they were going to cancel the collection of glass in our community, Borough staff jumped into action to fight for the rights of the citizens to insure that Waste Management continued to pick up this material as was agreed to in the contract.

As mentioned, we continually look for new and innovative ways to increase our efficiency. This year, we gained the ability to electronically monitor the positions of both our snow plows and our garbage trucks, making it much less likely that a street will be skipped during our operations. In future years, as resources become available, we hope to purchase new equipment that will improve the crack-sealing of roads, hopefully arresting the decay of a road and therefore saving money by delaying how often roads have to be repaved.

In conclusion, the task for 2018 will remain the same as it has been in previous years: provide a safe and clean environment for our citizens to live their lives. We look forward to working to provide an even better level of service in the years to come.

Finance

New Software, New Offices, and Managing Finances in 2018

By Jason Cohen, Finance Director

In 2017, the Borough's Finance Department was involved in facilitating numerous Department-specific and Borough-wide projects, including planning for and the issuance of General Obligation debt in 2017, for the construction of the Utility Addition to Town Hall, which began in 2017, and is anticipated to be completed in 2018. Additionally, the Finance Department, working closely with the IT Department and the Borough Manager's office, has continued to lay the groundwork for the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning software package, by conducting numerous site visits to municipalities making use of the software packages of the top two candidates, as a part of an extensive discovery process, intended to identify the software package and provider that best addresses the Borough's increasingly-complex needs. The intent of such implementation is to increase communication and produc-

tivity amongst the Borough's multiple departments, thereby leading to a more efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Implementation is planned to begin in 2018, and last through late 2019 or early 2020.

Since 2015, the Finance Department continues to work directly with the Borough's investment advisors - Sterling Advisors, with \$44 million under management, in order to realize an average yield of 1.40%, with an average maturity of only 2.79 years, and an estimated annual income of \$616,440. These increased returns should further lessen the burden on the Borough's tax and operating revenues for the funding of operations.

For the third consecutive year, the Finance Department also administered the Borough's Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) solic-



itation campaign, in which tax exempt agencies that pay no property tax, yet still receive the benefit of municipal police and fire services, were requested to contribute towards those services, in lieu of taxes. The campaign raised \$39,235 to be used towards those services, which the Borough would not have otherwise received. This represents an increase of 27% over PILOT's received in 2016, as a result of this initiative.

We want to specifically thank those tax exempt organizations that donate to municipal police and fire services, and encourage all our land owners, regardless of exemption to consider this in their next budget review.

The Finance Department also continued to administer the Borough's collections process, instituted in 2015, which resulted in the collection of 39% of delinquent debt identified as collectible by January 2017, as of 7/31/2017, and YTD collections of delinquent debt exceeding \$299,000. This process has significantly mitigated the number of outstanding invoices being placed into third-party collections, and the Borough is keeping pace with the expected performance of third-party collection agencies by collecting 84.12% of debt within sixty days of delinquency.

While collections remain an unfortunate part of operating municipal utilities, most customers realize that as a non-profit government entity, if one customer does not pay their due, the balance of the citizens of the town will, in the end, be forced to absorb their costs. We operate our utilities like a pool, we are all in the pool, and there is no profit, or extra resources to forgive any of us from paying our fair share of costs.

Finally, the Finance Department, again, proudly received recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association, via the award of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2016.

In 2018, the Finance Department has some very exciting new things happening:

Moving Administrative Services into the new Utility Departments Addition of City Hall; we are looking forward to new offices for utility finance and accounting as well as personnel, information technology, and a new front counter (and drive-thru window) to allow customers to pay their bills. We anticipate occupancy by the end of 2018.

New Borough-wide enterprise resource software. We are looking forward to ending years of research and procurement by beginning the process of installing new software, which will eventually change the entire operations of the Borough; impacting every department and all utility customers. Currently, Chambersburg uses a custom written software package, not compatible with current operating systems, and unable to be expanded upon since its inception in around 1997. Our IT Department has been wonderful working with this software over the years, but it was determined several years ago, that a more robust and up to date commercial package was in Chambersburg's best interest.

This was no small task given the complexity of our Borough government. There are almost no software packages available that

can run all the financial and management operations of a municipality as well as complex utility operations. As you know, Chambersburg is one of only approximately 60 towns out of 10,000 in the U.S. to own and operate a natural gas, electric, and electric generation utility. Some of those towns, like us, are so large, they can afford in-house programming teams to write and manage software. Some are so small that they can undertake operations with little or no software.

The 2018 Budget contemplates adding a similar position to the Downtown Custodian/Maintenance Worker to help at the new Chambersburg Aquatic Center at Memorial Park. All building and grounds maintenance is coordinated by the Finance Department. This new employee will assist in maintaining the Aquatic Center and adjoining facilities in Memorial Park. They will do light maintenance on buildings, picnic tables and other operating amenities within the Aquatic Center and adjoining facilities. For example, they will sweep, mop, and power wash or clean public areas around the Aquatic Center and in the bathhouse. They will be responsible for trash collection in the facility. They will be responsible for landscape maintenance and grass mowing. In addition, they will learn how to backwash the pool filter system, clean the pool filters, test pool water chemicals, balance chemicals, and maintain and service the water features according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Finally, we are very excited to play a financial or back office role in the opening of the new Aquatic Center. We are ready to be involved in all the financial management of this new facility run by the Recreation Department.

Fire Tax Fund

Beginning in 2018, with the end date of the Richard Kasher arbitration decision and replacement with a new labor pact, the Borough will no longer refer to this tax as the Richard Kasher Fire Tax.

Beginning in 2013, Town Council decided to **begin the levy of a separate fire tax**. This decision was unavoidable given the Town Council's failure to convince an arbitrator to reduce benefits, increase employee contributions to benefits, or prevent annual wage increases awarded these employees. The budget now includes **both a police tax and a fire tax**.

Prior to 2018, as the fire tax was used only for equipment and vehicles for the Emergency Services Department, it had no direct impact on the General Fund. Proceeds from the fire tax were given to the Motor Equipment Fund; the motor pool of the Borough, which is a separate fund. However, in the Motor Equipment Fund, all those proceeds are be used for the motorized equipment fleet; fire apparatus and ambulances. In turn, this action allowed a rebate on its contribution to support fire apparatus and ambulances; representing an indirect benefit for the General Fund. Beginning in 2018, an additional 0.5 mils (for a total of 3 mils) are being levied in order to assist with the funding of Emergency Services Department salaries, which does represent a direct benefit to the General Fund.

The Fire Tax Fund will be the pass through account for the Fire Tax and the Ambulance Tax; and, be managed by the Finance

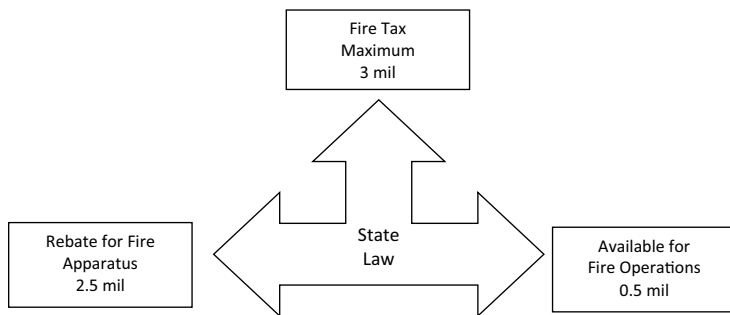
Department.

Recreation Bond Tax Fund

Beginning in 2018, Town Council decided to **begin the levy of a separate recreation tax**. This decision was tied to the sale of the Recreation Bond that occurred in 2016. Town Council's decision to fund replacement of the Memorial Park Pool, as well as a package of other Recreation Department improvements, necessitates the levying of a new tax of 3 mil, beginning in 2018.

In the 2017 Budget, the fund was created and the first debt service payment was due. The proceeds to pay this first payment came from a transfer from the Recreation Department in lieu of swimming pool operations. This was only the case for 2017. Beginning in 2018, the tax will provide the resources to pay future debt service payments.

The Recreation Bond Tax Fund will be the pass through account for the Fire Tax and the Ambulance Tax; and, be managed by the Finance Department.



Taxes

The Borough of Chambersburg did not raise real estate taxes between 2007 and 2013; then there was an increase in 2014 and a second increase in 2016. Therefore, there have been only 2 real estate tax increases in the last 11 years. Chambersburg did not raise the real estate tax in 2017. Taxes were raised by others such as Franklin County or the Chambersburg Area School District. In 2014 and 2016, the Borough raised taxes but only to fund police and fire services. Beginning a decade ago, and through 2017, there is a constant theme in our finances: real estate tax increases were rare and only dedicated to fund police and fire services.

Borough Real Estate Tax Increases (Historical)		Increases
2007	11 years ago	No
2008	10 years ago	No
2009	9 years ago	No
2010	8 years ago	No
2011	7 years ago	No
2012	6 years ago	No
2013	5 years ago	No
2014	4 years ago	Yes
2015	3 years ago	No
2016	2 years ago	Yes
2017	Last year's budget	No
2018	This year's budget	Yes

"Good debt is investment debt that creates value," says Eric Gelb, CEO of Gateway Financial Advisors and author of "Getting Started in Asset Allocation."

Paying a tax for a bond issue, as was decided by Town Council, is not the same as paying a tax for the operation of the Borough. For example, it is a similar difference to opening a mortgage to buy a house or fix the roof in contrast to using a credit card to pay the telephone bill. Debt should only be used to add asset value. Whether citizens agree with the Town Council or their decision to not hold a referendum in 2016, the basic fact remains, the Recreation Bond Tax, the new tax starting in 2018, is not to pay for any Recreation Department operations. It will pay off, over twenty-five years, the debt to build the new Chambersburg Aquatic Center at Memorial Park and other playground and park improvements. Debt to increase asset value is a smart use of debt, is common in business and industry, and is actually a recommended practice. This new tax and its approval of Council is a decision that was made in 2016.

In 2016, the Borough Manager and consultant Kevin Post of Councilman-Hunsacker Aquatics discussed a variety of options for the design of the new Aquatic Center and the financing of the proposed 2016 Recreation Bond. At the Town Council meeting on February 22, 2016, Laura Kurtz from Eckert Seamans and Financial Advisor John Frey from PFM advised Town Council that a voter referendum, under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, would be non-binding; but ultimately it was Council's decision whether to move forward with a bond issue. On May 23, 2016, Town Council authorized the 2016 Recreation Bond sale and approved the new Recreation Bond Tax to begin in 2018.

In the 2018 budget, the Town Council approved an increase in the Fire Tax for use by the Fire Department and its Ambulance operations; and an increase in the Police Tax.

All the real estate taxes collected within the Borough are used exclusively for the Police Department and to support the operations of the Chambersburg Emergency Services Department; none of this revenue is used to support any other department or operation. As of 2018, we will still only use real estate taxes to support Police, Fire, Ambulance and the debt services associated with the pool and park 2016 Recreation Bond. No real estate taxes are used for highways, streets, code enforcement, parks, or any other employees such as the Borough Manager, or any other operation or utility of the Borough other than public safety.

Of course, there are other types of taxes other than real estate taxes. However, they are set by the State, cannot be adjusted, and are currently at the maximum allowed by State law. We use the other taxes of the Borough (such as Earned Income Tax and Deed Transfer Tax) to pay for the Highway Department operations and the Recreation Department operations. The Sanitation Department is a separate utility (not unlike the Electric, Gas, Water, or Sewer Departments) and they keep the streets clean, free of leaves, and well swept. Highway construction projects are done with Highway Aid grant money (a grant from the State created by the sale of Liquid Fuels) and whatever money is left over from the previous fiscal year. Our Highway Aid grant only pays for construction on Borough owned streets and not much of that at all. Keeping up with all highway maintenance on Borough streets without a dedicated funding source has always been very

challenging. Street repair is extremely expensive and Highway Aid is very small.

In 2018, the Borough will use accumulated balances from 2017 to have a street maintenance program, but once again not enough money to either keep up with the growing needs or to address any of the Borough-owned alleys. Alleys are not getting addressed at all and Council has been urged to take action. Further, staff is recommending a comprehensive plan be developed to address the serious condition of back alleys.

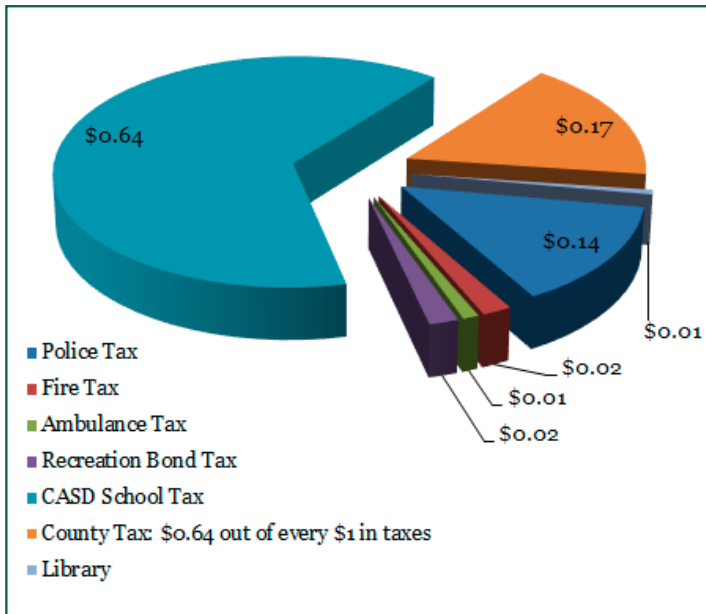
The Borough of Chambersburg receives no sales taxes, liquor taxes, business taxes, or other local taxes and they are not an option under State law. In 2015, the State proposed an increase in the hotel taxes across the State; for tourism, with a prohibition on using them by any local town for anything else. The truth is we have very little revenue, very few opportunities to increase revenue and a lot of responsibilities.

It is often said that Town Council has a toolbox with one tool inside (real estate taxes) and it is a dull and poorly honed tool; but that is the only tool given to them by the laws of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Only 19¢ of every \$1 paid in real estate taxes will go to the Borough of Chambersburg. The balance, 81¢ will go to support the school district, the county, and the library. In fact 64¢ of every dollar goes to the Chambersburg Area School District.

In Chambersburg, our citizens pay no dedicated Recreation Tax, no dedicated Highway Tax, and no real estate taxes at all to support any of the Borough's operations, utilities, or utility support departments other than police and fire/ambulance. Our taxes are very limited, yet misinformation is abundant on this topic. Until 2014, 100% of the real estate taxes collected by the Borough of Chambersburg were used exclusively to support the Chambersburg Police Department. In 2014, a small share was added to support the Chambersburg Emergency Services Department. This includes ambulance operations.

The budget and tax rates for the Chambersburg Area School District are set by the independently elected School Board and not the Borough. The Borough has no say in these issues.



The budget and tax rates for Franklin County & the Library are set by the independently elected County Commissioners and not the Borough. The Borough has no say in these issues.

Further, almost all the employees of the Borough and most of the equipment of the Borough is owned and operated by our utility departments (Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer and Sanitation Departments) and our utility support departments (engineering, motor equipment, and administrative services). Your taxes do not support any utility operations, personnel or equipment. Further, as the budget document reveals, the Borough's utility rates are very reasonable.

Unless you own property inside the Borough, or have a job inside the Borough, you pay the Borough no taxes. Further, if you just have a job in the Borough you pay only \$1 per week to the Borough and nothing else. In fact, almost no township residents contribute any tax money to the Borough. For example, the Sales Tax collected at stores inside the Borough all goes to support others, not the Borough.

The other state mandated taxes are set by law and are not changed year-to-year. They include the Local Services Tax, which is a \$1 per week tax on workers inside the Borough; the Earned Income and Wage Tax, which is a set tax on wages earned by those who live inside the Borough; and the Deed Transfer Tax, which is a set tax when property inside the Borough is sold or transferred.

Together, along with fees and fines, these categories make up the only revenues of the Borough. Also, the Electric Department and the Gas Department make a Payment in Lieu of Gross Receipts Taxes (PILOTs) to the General Fund. If these two departments were private corporations, they would pay taxes to the Commonwealth. As such, they are tax exempt. So instead, they pay their taxes to support your General Fund (police, fire, ambulance, highway, and recreation) activities.

Finally, the only other revenue received by the General Fund is grants. In most years, the Borough receives very little grant money. However, in 2016, the Borough was lucky to be have an accumulated surplus of Highway Aid grant money (a grant from the State created by the sale of Liquid Fuels) available for street paving.

The Borough utilities sell a considerable amount of utility services in the new Norland Avenue neighborhood, increasing the size of the Borough's independent utility accounts. However, these developments generate very little additional taxes to support the Borough. Most of the revenue they create is in the form of Sales Tax and in Pennsylvania, local municipalities receive no Sales Tax share. The State allows us no other type of tax. We prohibited from collecting local sales tax, liquor tax, hotel tax, business tax, amusement tax, or any other tax.

Further, the sale of alcohol generally provides almost zero income to the host municipality. These developments have been very good for our community and create low unemployment, but they do not generate income proportional to the responsibilities they create for police, fire and traffic.

In addition, many types of properties are exempt under State law from paying real estate taxes. Those exempted properties include

schools, colleges, churches, charities, and other government agencies. So, while these property owners add to the economic vitality of our community, they do not necessarily contribute any money to support police or fire services. However, some of these agencies (Chambersburg Hospital is a good example) make a voluntary contribution in support of the Borough's public safety services regardless of their tax exempt status. We encourage all tax exempt property owners to donate to the police and fire services every year.

State law prohibits the levy of taxes as a fee on persons (called per capita taxes) so we cannot invoice directly for police and fire services. Instead, the law allows us only to use property as the sole means to determine how much tax to collect. So, if you rent your property, your landlord will pay the real estate tax and it will be reflected in the rent you pay. There is no other system allowed. The Ambulance Club is not a tax or fee; rather, it is more like a service. You provide us a gift and in exchange, we accept assignment from your health insurance company if you need to use the Borough ambulance service.

Although the police and fire are paid for by Borough non-exempt real estate owners, they do respond to police and fire calls in the townships. State law requires that emergency services respond to all dispatches for health and safety. The Borough's emergency services will always support our township neighbors regardless of money issues. We also enjoy the support of the various volunteer fire companies from the townships and the Pennsylvania State Police. Mutual aid is a very important principle in public safety.

But, can the Borough afford police officers and fire fighters when the money to pay for them can only come from such a small group of taxpayers? Unfortunately, the statewide system is broken. We can envision nothing but painful tax increases in the future to pay for growing police and fire expenses.

The local townships do not have police departments. They rely on the Pennsylvania State Police. They do not have township employee fire departments. They rely on the generosity of volunteer firefighters. All of the Borough's local real estate taxes go for these functions. And while we might wish to not have paid police and fire departments, unfortunately we cannot go back.

Therefore, under the authority of state statutes, the Borough levies the following taxes:

Real Estate Property Tax - Determined by Town Council, and collected by the Borough's elected Tax Collector. Real Estate Property Tax is based on assessment values as established by Franklin County. The current assessed value of real estate in Franklin County is 100% of (1961) Market Value. Town Council annually enacts a Mil Rate to determine the Borough's portion of Real Estate Tax assessed to each parcel within the Borough. One mil is equal to 1/1000 of a dollar, or 0.001% of the assessed value. For example, if your property's assessed value equals \$20,000.00, one mil equates to \$20.00 in taxes.

Total assessed value of taxable real estate inside the Borough for 2018 is estimated to be \$202,214,800; up very slightly. Therefore, the cash value of 1 mil would equal \$202,215. However, when factoring in our average collection rate for any given year, we should expect that same mil to yield \$188,060. This difference is a result of the average amount of taxes remitted on time, annually, versus the total that is levied.

So for budget purposes, 1 mil is equal to approximately \$202,000 in cash. As explained, if you assume the standard percentage of tax payers will fail to pay their taxes, 1 mil would equal \$188,000 in cash. If you assume some old outstanding tax liens from previous years may pay their debts in 2018, 1 mil might equal \$202,849 in cash. In 2017, due to old tax liens from previous years, the Borough anticipates earning \$204,114 in cash per 1 mil. The value of a mil is therefore not precise.

Earned Income and Net Profits Tax - Determined by Town Council, and collected by the Franklin County Area Tax Bureau. The Borough's current Earned Income & Net Profits Tax Rate is one half of one percent, or 0.5%, assessed against all earned income and net profits of the residents of the Borough. Typically this tax is withheld and submitted by the employer. However, if it is not withheld and submitted on a resident's behalf, the resident is required to remit quarterly payments to the Franklin County Area Tax Bureau office, located at 443 Stanley Avenue, Chambersburg, PA 17201. (717) 263-5141 www.fcatb.org

Local Services Tax (LST) - Determined by Town Council, and collected by the Franklin County Area Tax Bureau. The LST is assessed to all individuals working in the Borough, earning over \$12,000.00 annually. The purpose of the LST is to assist with funding for the Borough's emergency services that are available to individuals who spend their work day in the Borough. The LST is withheld and submitted by the employer, at a uniform rate per pay period, over the course of the calendar year. For more information regarding the Earned Income & Net Profits Tax and/or Local Services Tax (LST), please contact the Franklin County Area Tax Bureau directly: 443 Stanley Avenue, Chambersburg, PA 17201, (717) 263-5141, www.fcatb.org

Police Tax Rate	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mil	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	23	23	24
Fire Tax Rate	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.0
Ambulance Tax	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5
Recreation Bond Tax	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.0
Borough Taxes	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mil	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	23.5	23.5	25.5	25.5	30.5

Chambersburg Borough real estate taxes have risen 52.5% in 11 years
Or about 4.7% per year

Chambersburg Borough Green Yard Waste Cards Now Available for 2018

The Borough has a new and improved system for the recycling of green yard waste and other items, in keeping with State and Federal laws. These rules are strictly enforced.

The Borough's green yard waste recycling center will reopen W Commerce Street, just off N Franklin Street, in Hamilton Township on April 3, 2018. The old site, at the Borough Farm, off Hollywell Avenue, is no longer available to the public. The site will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and residents must buy a pre-paid Green Yard Waste Card at City Hall before using the site. Contractors, landscapers, and landlords will be invoiced for their waste and they should open an account at City Hall during regular business hours.



GREEN YARD WASTE DROP OFF RULES:

ELIGIBLE GREEN YARD WASTE: Acorns, Bark, Branches, Brush, Bushes, Flowers, Foliage, Kindling, Knots, Leaves, Fall Tree Leaves, Limbs, Plants, Roots/Rootballs, Sawdust, Shrubs, Twigs, Wood chips

NO TREE TRUNKS – NO LOGS
DO NOT DUMP LARGE PIECES OF WOOD

The Borough will not receive tree trunks that exceed the size and weight limits below:

No individual item may weigh more than 30 lbs

No individual item may be longer in length than 6 feet

No individual item may have a diameter in excess of 6 inches

Organic material may need to be chopped or chipped prior to delivery to the site to meet these requirements

In general, logs and trunks must be cut down in order to meet size/weight limits

NO GRASS CLIPPINGS

The Borough will not accept grass at our facility. Grass may be considered trash or composted. Per Pennsylvania DEP, grass can be recycled on your property. Grass can be mulched and left on your lawn to help it grow or deposited in a backyard compost heap. Grass overwhelms our yard waste program.

Grass might be placed in trash bags or cans and left out with your municipal solid waste for collection and disposal.

FALL LEAVES COLLECTED CURBSIDE

The Borough will continue to collect fall leaves at both our Green Waste Facility and when we collect fall leaves curbside at your house. We encourage you to let the Borough collect and recycle fall leaves through our separate collection program.

Property owners should sweep and rake fall leaves loose to the curb line/wind row for on street collection by the Borough. Leaves do not need to be placed in bags; they should be left loose for collection. If you want to bag leaves, please use Kraft style paper bags, which are available through home improvement retailers.

NO PLASTIC BAGS DO NOT DUMP PLASTIC BAGS

The Borough cannot receive any plastic bags as the plastic is not recycled by our program. Eligible waste should be dropped at the facility either loose or in Kraft style paper bags, which are available through home improvement retailers. Waste in plastic bags will be rejected.

NO TRASH OR CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS DO NOT DUMP CONSTRUCTION WOOD

Beams, block, brick, concrete, construction wood, decking, dirt, dowels, grime, gypsum, metal, nails/tacks/fasteners, pallets, paneling, plastic, plywood, shale, shingles, siding, soil and stone are all ineligible waste.

Contact David Finch, Assistant Borough Manager with questions: (717) 660-2702 or dfinch@chambersburgpa.gov

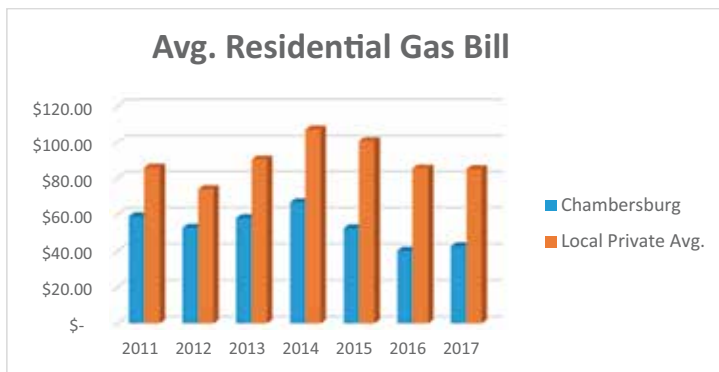
Safety And Low Prices Indicate Another Successful Year For The Chambersburg Gas Department

By John Leary



Safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly natural gas is a clean and reliable energy source for Borough customers. The Chambersburg Gas Department is proud to deliver that gas to benefit Borough residents and businesses. Chambersburg is the only Borough in Pennsylvania to operate a local non-profit community gas utility for the benefit of our community. In 2017, our department provided \$10 million in annual benefits to the Borough. This includes total annual savings of \$6 million in gas bills, \$1.5 million to fund shared Borough operations (which includes sharing Borough resources like personnel, finance, information technology, as well as a payment in lieu of taxes to help the balance of Borough operations), and \$2.5 million injected into the local economy. More importantly, no gas system in Pennsylvania is safer than Chambersburg. It is the Borough's plan, however, to not just rest on these accomplishments, but to further improve what we do for Chambersburg and the local economy.

Chambersburg residents' gas prices are currently 50% lower than local private gas companies, in fact the lowest in Pennsylvania. An average residential customer has paid \$42.50 per month for the past twelve months vs. \$85.00 at average local private utility rates as approved by the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (for a customer using the same amount of gas as the average Chambersburg customer). Borough gas



costs about ¼ the price per BTU as heating oil or electric. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to provide retail gas sales beyond the Borough boundaries.

The safety of Chambersburg gas and Chambersburg employees is our top priority. To that end, the Gas Department has strong programs in leak detection, corrosion prevention, public education, and employee training.

There have been zero reportable gas safety incidents in Chambersburg in the past 30 years, and we believe that no system is safer in Pennsylvania. The PA Public Utilities Commission Gas Safety Division conducted three gas safety inspections of Chambersburg's system in 2017, with no violations found. That being said, safety requires a culture of detail and an attitude of vigilance. The Borough not only needs to keep the infrastructure in top working order, but we need employees committed to safety.

The Chambersburg Gas Department is proud to be a winner of the 2017 American Public Gas Association Safety Award in recognition of our safety efforts and safety record. This is the fourth straight year Chambersburg has been presented this award.

Additionally, the Chambersburg Gas Department is proud to assist the Chambersburg Fire Department with the purchasing of Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors for customers' protection from this dangerous odorless gas that can be a byproduct of malfunctioning heating systems. We have been sponsoring this program for the past four years, and have purchased over 1,000 CO detectors for Borough homes. We intend to continue these purchases indefinitely.





The System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) award was developed by the American Public Gas Association (APGA) to recognize outstanding public gas systems in the US, with excellence measured in four areas; System

Integrity, System Improvement, Employee Safety and Workforce Development.

In 2017, Chambersburg was awarded SOAR at the Gold level – the highest possible level. There are approximately 1,000 Public Gas Systems in the US. Only 26 systems have earned SOAR Awards, with just four at the Gold level.



Chambersburg Borough Manager and Director of Utilities, Jeffrey Stonehill, accepted the award from APGA

To benefit more residents, the Gas Department offers a highly successful Gas Conversion Financing Program. To date, we have over 400 homes participating with a total value of \$1.75 million in 0%

interest loans. The Borough of Chambersburg's Main Street Energy Efficiency Financing Program is an on-bill financing program designed to improve energy efficiency for customers by providing low-cost financing to residential homeowners for the purchase and installation of high efficiency natural gas appliances to replace non-gas units.

Funds are available for residential homeowners where natural gas service is available for the purchase and installation of natural gas ENERGY STAR residential appliances – natural gas furnaces, natural gas tank-less water heaters, and certain tank water heaters.

In large part due to the success of the loan program, the Borough received our third Marketing Excellence Award from the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia for outstanding customer growth.

Structure & Requirements of Loan for Chambersburg program:

- Maximum loan amount - \$5,000
- Maximum loan term – 60 months
- Loans will carry a 0% interest rate
- Each loan will carry a \$3.00 per month administrative fee
- Loans require 24 month good utility bill payment history

- Loan repayments will be added to customer's monthly utility bill

The Borough has also begun offering loans up to \$10,000 to assist small commercial businesses achieve energy cost savings by converting to gas.

Looking forward to 2018, the Gas Department anticipates our customers will see gas prices similar to those in 2017. No gas rate increase is planned for 2018. We anticipate adding 100 more gas customers in 2018, with half being through the loan program.

We also anticipate another busy year of older cast iron (CI) gas main replacement. This will include the replacement of CI mains on Lincoln Way West, South Fifth Street, and E. Liberty Street. Additionally, we anticipate continuing to look at ways to expand the gas system to new areas of the Borough to benefit more residents.

Customer Service Center

In addition to being the home base for the Gas Department, the Borough Warehouse and Customer Service Center fall under the management responsibility of the Gas Department. The Warehouse is working to eliminate holding excess inventory in stock. Having too much inventory on hand is a drain on finances, and leads to waste from inventory becoming obsolete or damaged prior to use. We are also working to modernize our inventory system.



The Customer Service Center has taken on several functions to aid the Administrative Services Department. We will continue to work in 2018 to expand our benefits to the Borough. We recognize that our mission is to serve Borough residents and Borough operations, and this fact governs all that we do.

The Customer Service Center is open 24/7 and can be reached at 717-263-4111 with any Borough questions or concerns.

Water

Borough of Chambersburg Lead and Copper Testing

By Travis Amsley, Assistant Water and Sewer Superintendent

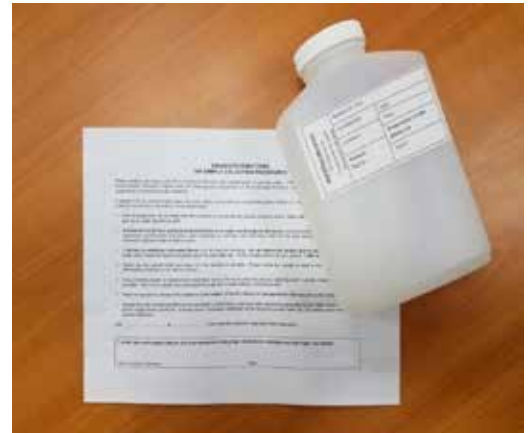
Beginning early October 2017 the Borough of Chambersburg Water Treatment Plant made its first major chemical change since the plant went online in 1970. The need for change of the primary coagulant chemical was based on several factors and has thus far reaped multiple benefits. The primary benefit of the chemical change is that the treatment plant is able to run longer, suffer fewer plant shutdowns, and start up quicker during rain events that previously would have rendered the plant offline for 24 hours or more. Secondary benefits include longer filter run times, elimination and /or reduction of other treatment chemicals, and simplified treatment and operation technique.

Changing any chemical or treatment process generally requires both approval and pilot testing by PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). Water Treatment Plant personnel will be gathering and submitting data to PA DEP on the plant's performance and water quality as associated with the chemical change. As part of this comprehensive evaluation, the Borough of Chambersburg is required to conduct a more frequent collection, analyzation, and submission of lead and copper testing.

Since initially testing for lead and copper as required by EPA in the early 1990s, the Borough of Chambersburg has been on a reduced sampling frequency due to its optimized corrosion control program and its lead and copper sampling results being far below action levels. Prior to the chemical change, the Borough had been required to submit thirty (30) lead and copper samples every three (3) years. The last lead and copper sampling was conducted in 2016, with the next reduced scheduled triennial sampling period beginning in June 2019.

However, due to the change in primary coagulant chemical, the Borough is now required to perform initial lead and copper sampling as part of the pilot testing program. Beginning Spring 2018, the Borough will begin sampling yet again for lead and copper, needing 60 samples for two (2) consecutive six (6) month periods. This means that from January through June and July through December 2018 the Borough will be asking residents whose homes meet the criteria for EPA defined sampling sites to participate in its lead and copper sampling program. Participation is strictly voluntarily and greatly appreciated; EPA has stringent definitions and criteria concerning what are considered an acceptable sampling site and there are limited quantities of homes in the Borough that meet this criteria.

The Borough of Chambersburg water treatment plant takes great pride and places utmost effort in producing and delivering clean, safe drinking water. Fortunately, the Borough's lead and copper sampling results have always been positive affirmation to this end. In the upcoming months, if your home is chosen to participate in lead and copper sampling, your cooperation and understanding will be greatly appreciated.



Sewer

J. Hase Mowrey Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Completed in 2017

By Lance Anderson, PE, Water & Sewer Superintendent

Prior to 2013, Chambersburg's 6.8 mgd, J. Hase Mowrey Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant served Chambersburg, Greene Township, Guilford Township, Hamilton Township and indirectly part of Letterkenny Township. In addition to the Commonwealth's 2008 Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy, which forced a cap on the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus discharged from the facility, Chambersburg was also facing the demand of building additional capacity (a 60% increase) to meet projected twenty-year build out in the service region,

as required by DEP's Act 537 Plan Study. These two mandates initially resulted in proposed facility renovations with an estimated price tag of over \$50 million.

The existing treatment facilities at the Chambersburg plant were not able to meet the pending nutrient discharge limits. Therefore, upgrades to the facility were required to meet the nitrogen and phosphorus caps. In addition to meeting these caps, an expansion from 6.8 mgd to 11.28 mgd was needed to

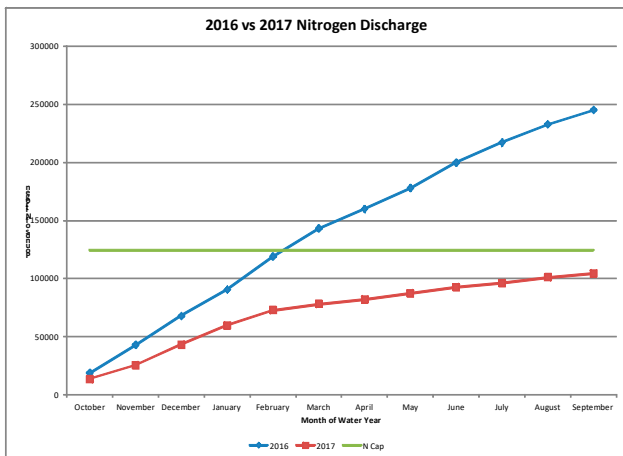
accommodate the anticipated growth within the service area. The facilities must be able to convey a total influent peak flow of 33.5 mgd based upon analysis of the Borough's collection and conveyance system.

The resulting extensive scope included upgrades to all facets of the treatment process with an emphasis on being cost effective, energy efficient, and environmentally sensitive. Key project components included:

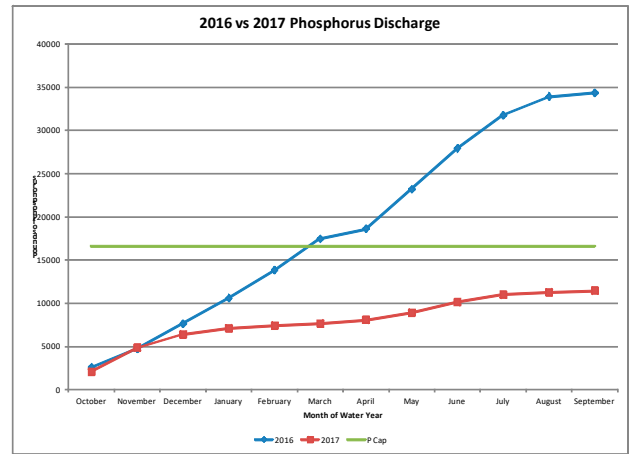
A new influent pump station replaced the existing deficient facilities. The new facility is sized for 33.5 mgd of influent flow, and all internal conveyance infrastructures are capable of passing flows that are associated with this peak as well.

An improved biological treatment process was required to provide nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) removal in order to meet discharge limits that have been established by the PA DEP. Compliance with these limits were required beginning in October 2012. In order to meet these requirements during the construction period, the Borough purchased nutrient credits on the open market from other treatment facilities on an interim basis through 2016. In 2016 alone, nutrient credits totaling \$262,800 were purchased in order to maintain compliance with the limits. In 2017, with the new biological treatment process online, the Wastewater Treatment plant was able to generate and sell \$4,800 in nutrient credits. The included figures show the 57% reduction in Nitrogen and 67% reduction in Phosphorus from 2016 to 2017 as a result of the improved biological treatment process.

A new biosolids treatment process greatly improved the final product quality. All biosolids can now be utilized for beneficial reuse in land application. Land application of biosolids has become one of the most cost-efficient biosolids management strategies available to treatment facilities.



A new headworks bar screening system replaced the existing comminutor (grinder) system. The equipment removes cleaning wipes, rags, diapers, etc. from sewage prior to entering the treatment process. Removal at the front end of the treatment facility is essential for the protection of downstream processes and equipment. Each week, a bar screen at the beginning of the wastewater treatment process removes 5,000 to



6,000 lbs (2.5 to 3 tons) of material from incoming raw sewage.

The upgrades were completed at a cost of \$39.9 million. Construction activities initially began in 2012 with the primary upgrades completed in March 2017. This made the project the



largest public works project in Chambersburg's history. Initially, prior to design, projected costs were estimated to be over \$50 million with a reduced scope of construction. Costs were shared with the Municipal Partners, as defined in the Intermunicipal Agreement, which was executed on September 13, 2010.

Chambersburg's J. Hase Mowrey Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant has been a symbol of intermunicipal cooperation for 40 years. The current upgrades will allow the facility to support the Chambersburg area for decades to come.



Community

Community Tackles Humane Way to Care for Feral Cats

By Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager

In January 2016, Town Council held a public meeting to discuss the most effective and humane way to care for the feral or wild cat population in the Borough. While there are a lot of opinions, experience in many other towns demonstrates that there are incredible challenges including social, behavioral, financial, and moral issues when dealing with feral cats. This is clearly no simple problem.

Folks who think there are simple solutions, have missed the lessons of dozens of other towns who continually struggle with this problem. Further, while we all might think we understand the problem, our friends, neighbors, and family may see the feral cat issue completely different than we see it. In local government, we must remain empathetic to all points of view; no matter how contentious.

Feral cat issues plague communities and unlike dogs, there is no State-wide or regional solution to this dilemma.

No one law is going to fix this problem.

However, Council did want to point out some helpful concepts to the public while struggling with solutions:

According to the Humane Society of the United States:

"Nuisance behaviors, such as urinating and defecating in someone's yard or garden, digging in someone's yard or garden, jumping on someone's car, and upsetting an owned cat, are the greatest concerns that the general public has about outdoor cats."

"A stray cat is a pet who has been lost or abandoned, is used to contact with people, and is tame enough to be adopted. A feral cat is the offspring of stray or feral cats and is not accustomed to human contact. Feral cats are usually too fearful to be handled or adopted."

"Stray cats may be reunited with their families or adopted into new homes, but feral cats will find it difficult or impossible to adapt to living as pets in close contact with people. But that doesn't mean there aren't many things you can do to improve feral cats' health and quality of life."

"Overpopulation is a serious concern, as well. In the United States, approximately 2 percent of the 30 to 40 million community (feral and stray) cats have been spayed or neutered. These cats produce around 80 percent of the kittens born in the U.S. each year. Although 85 percent of the estimated 75 to 80 million pet cats in the U.S. are already spayed or neutered, many have kittens before they are spayed or neutered. Those kittens, especially if they are allowed outdoors, add to



the number of outdoor cats and the problems associated with them."

"Spaying or neutering community (feral and stray) cats using trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs will reduce their numbers over time. Spaying or neutering pet cats before they reproduce will reduce their numbers and help stop pet overpopulation."

"Trap-neuter-return (TNR) is a nonlethal strategy for reducing the number of community cats (feral and stray) and improving the quality of life for cats, wildlife and people. At its most basic, TNR involves humanely trapping community cats, spaying or neutering them, vaccinating them against rabies, surgically removing the tip of one ear (a "tipped" ear is the universally recognized sign of a cat who has been spayed or neutered) and returning the cat to their wild home."

"There are many reasons cat problems are rarely solved by trapping and removing a colony. Community (feral and stray) cats live at a certain location because it offers food and shelter. If a colony is removed, cats from surrounding colonies may move in to take advantage of the newly available food and shelter. The cycle of reproduction and nuisance behavior begins all over again. If all the cats in a colony are not trapped, then the ones left behind will tend to have larger litters of kittens."

"The logic behind bans against feeding feral cats is that if there is no food available, the cats will go away. This rarely happens. First, cats are territorial animals that can survive for weeks without food and will not easily or quickly abandon their territory. As they grow hungrier and more desperate, they tend to venture closer to homes and businesses in search of food. Despite the effort to starve them out, the cats will also continue to reproduce, resulting in the deaths of many kittens. Second, feeding bans are nearly impossible to enforce. A person who is determined to feed the cats will usually succeed without

being detected. Repeated experience has shown that people who care about the cats will go to great lengths, risking their homes, jobs and even their liberty to feed starving animals. In addition, there may be more than one feeder and other sources of food, including dumpsters, garbage cans and other animals.”

Feeding bans just do not work.

For this reason, the Borough of Chambersburg does not currently have a feeding ban for feral cats. We strongly recommend against the outright feeding of feral cats and instead encourage alternative ways to deal with these animals; such as organizing your neighborhood to establish a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program.

These TNR programs take organization and vigilance. You and your neighbors need to do it as a group. The Borough of Chambersburg cannot organize TNR programs in each neighborhood or monitor their success.

The Borough of Chambersburg has no prohibition on humane trapping of community cats or any animal on your private property. Trapped animals can be brought to the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. The Borough does not enter upon private property and trap animals on your behalf.

There is nothing to prevent a cat under someone's care from running at large. However, you can trap it on your property.

- There are no local laws to prohibit cat nuisances such as digging in a garden or leaving urine or feces on public or private property
- There is nothing to permit or prohibit the organization of a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program by citizen volunteers who wish to organize and invest their time in such an activity
- There is nothing to permit or prohibit an impoundment facility from neutering cats under their control or collecting fees for their services
- There are no local laws requiring that cats be kept in or only permitted to be at large in the dwelling of their owner
- There is nothing to prevent the Borough from trapping cats on public property (i.e. a park)
- There is nothing to prevent any citizen from trapping cats on their own private property
- The Borough does not have a feeding ban as they are considered ineffectual
- The Borough does not enter upon private property and trap animals on your behalf
- Cats, owned or community, must be treated in a humane manner

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMAL CODES IN THE BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG, CALL PHIL WOLGEMUTH, ASSISTANT TO THE BOROUGH MANAGER, AT (717) 261-3232 OR RESEARCH THE MATTER AT THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES:

WWW.HUMANESOCIETY.ORG

Message from the Council President - *continued from page 11*

\$150,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the park will finally become a reality. The first phase will include a tot lot playground, a youth playground, a butterfly garden and a walkway around the playgrounds. Many young families live in the neighborhood, with no nearby recreational facilities, so I am sure this park will be a welcome addition.

As you can see, a lot is happening in the Borough of Chambersburg. These are just a few of the highlights. With the

recent renovations at Coyle Free Library, the Shook Home and the former Central Junior High School -- and others that are in the planning stages -- I see nothing but progress ahead. I look forward to working with Borough staff, fellow Council members, municipal partners, residents, businesses and others to move Chambersburg forward. I am proud to lead Borough Council and to be a part of the Chambersburg success story.



DRAFT CURB AND SIDEWALK MAPS RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Borough of Chambersburg is developing a Curb and Sidewalk Installation Program to identify where curb and sidewalk networks are necessary Borough-wide and to determine whether existing policies regarding curb and sidewalk installation and financing should be changed.

The program includes a series of DRAFT maps depicting every property in the Borough where curbs and sidewalks are currently located and where they may or may not be required in the future.

Property owners, and the general public, are encouraged to review and comment on the DRAFT maps and policies before any final decisions are made.



Attend a public meeting at Borough Hall on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. or Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will be held in Council Chambers on the second floor of Borough Hall, 100 S. Second St., Chambersburg, PA. Talk with staff about the program and review paper copies of the maps to see how your property may be affected.



Visit the program website at www.chambersburgpa.gov. Click on the 'maps' link and the select 'curb and sidewalk installation program'. Read about the program and review electronic copies of the maps to see how your property may be affected.



Call Borough staff or schedule a one-on-one meeting by contacting Phil Wolgemuth, Assistant to the Borough Manager, at 717-261-3232 or pwolgemuth@chambersburgpa.gov. Talk with staff about the program and review paper copies of the maps to see how your property may be affected.

Spanish translation will be provided at the public meetings and for those that need assistance navigating the website or interacting with staff.

All comments received will be shared with the Curb and Sidewalk Policy Compliance Committee in July or October 2018 so they can consider those comments before making any final recommendations to Town Council about the Curb and Sidewalk Installation Program.

Chambersburg Local Law on Temporary Signs

GOOD



NOT GOOD



GOOD



NOT GOOD



WHERE ARE SIGNS GENERALLY PROHIBITED?

Essentially, the space between the building-side edge of the sidewalk and the curb **OR** about four to six feet from the street surface is considered the Right of Way. While the Right of Way may not be the same from street to street, it is generally the area near the street including grass areas along the street. Absolutely no signs are authorized in this area including (but not necessarily limited to) real estate signs, yard sale signs, political signs, lost animal signs, etc.

No signs on medians, traffic islands, street lights, traffic sign poles, and telephone poles and garbage cans (all of which are almost always inside the right of way).

Signs are prohibited in the “Right of Way”

Borough of Chambersburg—www.chambersburgpa.gov—For information call Code Enforcement at (717) 261-3232.



**RECYCLE OFTEN.
RECYCLE RIGHT.™**



Borough of Chambersburg

Single stream recycling:



**Plastic Bottles
& Containers**



**Food & Beverage
Cans**



Paper



**Flattened Cardboard
& Paperboard**



**Food & Beverage
Cartons**



**Clear, Green &
Brown Glass**

Do NOT include in your mixed recycling bin:



NO Food Waste
(Compost instead!)



**NO Plastic
Supermarket
Bags & Film**



**NO Foam Cups,
Packing Peanuts
& Containers**



NO Needles
(Keep medical waste out of recycling. Place in safe disposal
medical trash containers)

**To Learn More Visit:
RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com**

#RORR

**Please place recycling all in one bin to be picked up by
Waste Management on behalf of Chambersburg every week
on the same day and in the same place as your Borough
trash pick up.**

Council Roster

2018 ROSTER EMAILS MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MAYOR Walter C. Bietsch
530 East Liberty Street
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Mayors Office 261-3243
mayor@chambersburgpa.gov

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**Council Meetings - 7:00 P.M.
Regular Public: 2nd and 4th
Mondays - Council Chambers**

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CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
OFFICE PHONE: (717) 264-5151
EXT. 3201 OR 3254

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Land Use and
Development Director
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Salzman Hughes
Borough Solicitor

G. Bryan Salzmman
Borough Solicitor
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Superintendent
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Brenda Hill
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Borough of Chambersburg
100 South Second Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201-0909

ECRWSEDDM
POSTAL CUSTOMER
CHAMBERSBURG PA 17201

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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THE MAIL MAN
ECRWSS



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