



# Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County  
celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service  
over 125 years of community electric and a  
regional wastewater, water, and municipal solid waste utility*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CHAMBERSBURG APPROVES REHAB OF TENNIS COURTS IN TWO PARKS

Chambersburg – On Monday, March 25, 2019, after a lengthy presentation, the Chambersburg Town Council authorized the repair/replacement of the tennis courts at both Memorial Park and at Henninger Field Park, by Nagel Athletic Surfaces of East Syracuse, New York. Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill and Recreation Superintendent Julie Redding explained the proposal to Council at the public meeting.

At a total cost of \$355,780, the projects will be entirely paid for with proceeds left from the 2016 Recreation Bond, borrowed almost three years ago, to build the Chambersburg Aquatic Center and other park and playground improvements. At the beginning of the presentation, the Borough Manager reviewed the spending from the 2016 debt issuance and summarized remaining balances available for more projects. The bond, originally almost \$10 million, started 2019 with a balance of \$903,900 in available resources. According to Julie Redding, “it is the recommendation of the Recreation Superintendent that the tennis courts at Memorial Park and Henninger Field Park be tackled in the 2019 construction season, as the next projects to be addressed with these balances.”

The Recreation Department received quotes to renovate Memorial Park, Henninger Field Park, and Buchanan Elementary School Tennis Courts from Nagel Athletic Surfaces, a COSTARS vendor. It was determined that construction should not yet proceed at the Buchanan Elementary School, as Ms. Redding has not yet had an opportunity to meet with the Chambersburg Area School District, who owns the land where these courts sit, in order to ascertain an agreement for their improvements.

COSTARS is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s cooperative purchasing program, of which the Borough of Chambersburg is a member. Participation in COSTARS alleviates the need for the Borough to competitively bid these projects, as COSTARS has already addressed procurement rules in selecting Nagel to be the athletic surfaces contractor.

#### **Memorial Park Courts (4): \$227,712**

In summary, the scope of work includes the following: new perimeter fencing, a completely new surface and subsurface below the courts - not a patch, and converting one court into two permanent pickleball Courts. A four-foot fence would be installed between the adjacent tennis court and pickleball area to provide a separate space for each activity.

Unlike previous attempts to patch the courts, Monday's proposal would be a full reconstruction. The vendor came highly recommended from a neighboring community. Originally discussed in 2016, this plan costs more, but this new proposal includes new fencing between the third and fourth court and the fourth court conversion into pickleball courts. Each pickleball court will also be separated by a 4' high fence. Pickleball, a game like tennis with elements of badminton and table tennis, is becoming very popular in the Chambersburg area.

#### **Henninger Park Tennis Courts (2): \$128,068**

In summary, the scope of work includes the following: two new color-coded courts, new fencing system on the north end, west side of the court closest to the playground, in between both courts, and in between the first tennis and basketball court, and removing two trees and trimming others close to the north end court. During the evaluation of the north court, closest to the playground, it was determined that two trees close to the court would need to be removed due to the root system intruding into this court. Other trees alongside the court would also need to be trimmed significantly as they currently create a canopy that drops leaves and other debris, and will cause a slippery surface if unaddressed. Recently, Wilson College Baseball began using the field at Henninger Field Park. However, the Borough Manager pointed out that the agreement between the Borough and Wilson maintains community access to the courts.

Council Member Sharon Bigler described growing up and learning to play tennis on the courts at Henninger Field Park. “We need to do this”, she said before making the motion to move forward with the plans.

Jeffrey Stonehill pointed out “this was the point of the 2016 Recreation Bond, to improve the parks all over the Borough. These courts need attention, are in serious disrepair, are important community facilities, and heavily used. Council established that these courts would be one of the projects paid for when the money was borrowed in 2016.”

Redding indicated the courts would be completed later in 2019. More information can be obtained by contacting Julie Redding, Recreation Superintendent, at [jredding@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jredding@chambersburgpa.gov)

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania’s only municipality supplying electric & gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater. Chambersburg currently has 20,360 residents (2012).