



# Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Chambersburg Receives County CARES Act Funding to Address COVID-19 Costs

**Chambersburg, Pennsylvania** – On December 14, 2020, the Chambersburg Borough was notified of an \$808,246.63 grant award through the Franklin County Municipal Reimbursement Program, funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The grant will reimburse certain costs incurred as a result of the Borough's COVID-19 response efforts. These efforts included the Chambersburg Fire Department and Ambulance Service, which implemented a Continuity of Operations Plan (COP), which surged staffing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COP followed the National Emergency Declaration on March 13, 2020, and Mayor Walter Bietsch's Declaration of a Health Emergency on March 18, 2020. Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Borough has remained open, and has honored its commitment to safely providing services and utilities to its residents without interruption.

Council President Alice Elia noted, "We are very grateful for the funding received. We appreciate the Commissioners and Franklin County staff for recognizing the strain COVID-19 has placed on the Borough and overall community."

At the regular public meeting of Town Council on December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Borough approved a subgrant agreement with Franklin County in order to receive the funding to offset the cost of direct Borough response, planning, equipment, and public outreach efforts related to COVID-19. Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill commented, "The COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted the Borough on all levels, however, Borough staff has remained steadfast working to ensure residents are receiving necessary services. We also recognize our grant consultant, GMS Funding Solutions, who directly assisted the Borough in compiling the necessary information and shepherded us through the grant application process."

Dustin Ulrich, Fire and EMS Chief for the Borough, commented on the funding received, and spoke to the impact COVID-19 has played on Fire and EMS staff stating, "This has been quite the challenging year for our Fire and EMS staff, however, they have risen to the task and have continued providing front line care to those in our community. We are thankful for the funding provided by the County, understanding the impact this pandemic has made on our Department and the region overall."

Mr. Stonehill added that costs such as personal protective equipment (PPE), additional disinfection services, and the digital information signs rented by the Borough were reimbursed to the community as a result of this grant award.

The CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The \$2 trillion economic relief package aimed to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provided economic assistance for local governments and American workers, families, and small businesses. Specifically, the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Program was supported by Act 24 of 2020 was signed by Governor Wolf on May 29, 2020. This legislation provided \$625 million in CARES Act funding through block grants to Pennsylvania counties. The funding is being administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and is strictly to be used for support of COVID-19-related activities to offset the cost of direct county COVID-19 response; assist businesses and municipalities; provide behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services; fund nonprofit assistance programs; and deploy broadband to unserved or underserved areas. As a result, Franklin County solicited applications from municipalities through its Franklin County Municipal Reimbursement Program.

If you have any questions about the Borough's receipt of the Franklin County Municipal Reimbursement Program funding, please email Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager, at [jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jstonehill@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 and 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 20,508 residents (2013). [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov)