

# 2019 | ANNUAL REPORT

+ 2020 FORECAST



Alice Elia, Council President & Walter Bietsch, Mayor  
Photo Credit: Markell DeLoatch

## THE TOWN IN PENNSYLVANIA WITH THE MOST SERVICES & UTILITIES

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION • ELECTRIC GENERATION • WATER • SEWER  
SANITATION • STORM SEWER • NATURAL GAS • EMERGENCY SERVICES  
RECYCLING • POLICE • PUBLIC WORKS • RECREATION  
LAND USE • COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## PRESIDENT OF TOWN COUNCIL

ALICE ELIA

### Message from the President

This past November I was honored to be elected by the residents of Ward 1 to represent them for another four years on Chambersburg's Borough Council. On January 6,

2020, I was humbled to be selected by my fellow council members to serve as President of the Chambersburg Borough Council. Since first being elected to Council in 2015, I have learned so much about our great Borough; I am proud to play even a small part in its success. It is my goal over the next two years to ensure that Council works together to listen to our community, treat our residents and one another with respect, and perform our duties with honesty and integrity.

2019 was an exciting year in the Borough. With monies still available through the recreation bond that was approved in 2016, along with a grant from the state, and a donation from the Homeowners' Association of Nicholson Square, we completed a brand new park in the Nicholson Square neighborhood. With a walking/jogging path, fields, a playground, and basketball courts, it is a great addition to our community. Tennis courts at Memorial Park and Henninger field were resurfaced and restored to like-new condition, and pickle ball was added at Memorial Park. In addition, the Eugene C. Clarke Jr. Community Center received some much-needed repairs and updates to keep it functioning as a community hub for decades to come. Next on the park improvement list is a project to consolidate skate parks, moving all equipment to the Fourth Street location, which will also be resurfaced. This project came at the direct request of community members who use the skate parks regularly; we are excited to work with them on these improvements.

2019 also saw an increased commitment to renewable energy. Council voted in November to continue drawing electricity from power generated by methane from our local landfill. Using this "recycled gas" is good for the environment and furthers our initiative to be a sustainable community. In addition to generating power from our local landfill, Borough Council members voted to move forward with an investment in solar power production for the Borough. This project will get underway in 2020. When it is complete, 15% of Chambersburg's electric portfolio will be comprised of renewable energy.

Downtown Chambersburg continues to see new and exciting developments. Restaurants and businesses continue to arrive and

thrive. In 2020, we will start to see the new Franklin County Judicial Center really take shape. Development is certainly not limited to downtown, however, as the flurry of new investment in coffee shops, boutiques, and new restaurants on Wayne Avenue shows. All of our recent building and development indicates confidence; the Borough of Chambersburg is worth investing in.

Chambersburg would not be what it is without the many wonderful people who choose to work for the Borough. Borough employees work tirelessly to keep our community a place in which people want to live, work, and play. I am honored to work alongside such intelligent and committed people. In 2020, the Borough will continue to work toward attracting a workforce representative of our growing and diverse community. This effort began with the hiring of a Diversity, Outreach, and Employment Resources Manager in May of 2019. New for 2020, the Borough has brought food inspections and permitting in-house, once more following feedback from community members. Council's decision to make this change represents its commitment to food safety in the Borough and customer service for borough businesses. So far, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The Borough of Chambersburg prides itself on its responsiveness and transparency. Borough Council meetings are held every second and fourth Monday of the month at 7pm in Council Chambers. These meetings are open to the public. We encourage your attendance and feedback. As Council's recent skatepark and in-house permitting changes indicate, we make better decisions with input from you. The agendas are online so that you can see what will be discussed. Reach out to your council members if you can't attend a meeting. Contact information for Council Members is available online through the Borough website ([www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov)), inside this Annual Report, or call the Borough office to contact directly your representatives with any concerns or issues. If you are looking to get more involved, the Borough has many advisory committees that rely on volunteers.

If you would like to serve on one of these committees, or if you would like to sit down and discuss your thoughts about the Borough of Chambersburg, please contact the Borough Secretary at [boroughsecretariesoffice@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:boroughsecretariesoffice@chambersburgpa.gov)

***Thank you for choosing to live, work, and play in the Borough of Chambersburg.***





## BOROUGH MANAGER & DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES

JEFFREY STONEHILL

### Generation Build

As the Downtown goes through its metamorphosis, as new development replaces underutilized structures, and other classic buildings are enhanced and renovated, and as

major municipal and government projects are undertaken throughout the community, it is easy to lose sight of how and why so much is changing now.

***Our community's changes are challenging, but well planned, well thought-out, and a necessary update.***

There is so much going on with Chambersburg Borough municipal government, it is tough to summarize it in an annual report. This organization has undergone striking changes over the last decade, shuffling employees and departments, venturing into new areas of service delivery, setting dramatic and far-reaching goals for the utility departments, re-stating several times priorities and policies, and their impact on budget and spending, and most importantly making up for decades of needed investment in infrastructure, public safety, and economic development. In summary, the message of this year, as with many in recent history, is that there are so many projects, initiatives, plans, and processes being undertaken in the Borough, the town is booming, and our organization is in constant motion.

Constant motion requires several factors to avoid chaos. First, we are blessed with quality organizational leadership from top to bottom. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, human capital is defined as: "the knowledge, skills, competencies and other attributes embodied in individuals or groups of individuals acquired during their life and used to produce goods, services, or ideas in market circumstances". Chambersburg Borough government is mostly about our personnel. It is about their skills to produce the services, which our community depends upon, or their skills, to organize and efficiently run the largest Borough organization in the Commonwealth.

I am not concerned that our workforce, like our community, has grown larger, more complex, more specialized, and highly productive. The services demanded by our community requires this response. Those who seek to devolve government would be the first to agree that our services, based mainly on an enterprise model of government, are highly successful, rivals our for-profit and governmental peers, and is as cost effective as any government workforce. Therefore, when our utility fees must gently rise, or a new fee for public safety is required, we can still be proud of not only the personnel, their ability to accomplish the mission, but also the frugality of the way this organization operates.

***Adding a fee for public safety, when that service is paramount to our community, is common sense.***

Once, the consensus was that we were undertaking a boom in infrastructure construction. I have now come to believe that the so-called "boom" is the new normal. When the Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project was completed, it was the largest public works project in Chambersburg history. Since its completion, we have invested several million dollars in street projects; millions in pipes for water, sewer, and natural gas. The Borough completed the construction of a new Utility Departments' Addition to City Hall, a new Aquatic Center along with new playgrounds, one new park, and tennis courts throughout the neighborhoods of the Borough. Every year the Borough completes electric system substation upgrades, water system upgrades, traffic signal upgrades, and more. Now, the Borough is planning to upgrade the Chambersburg Police Station and soon build a new public works facility.

Therefore, I have concluded that we are "generation build." I suspect this has occurred several times in history. A generation of community leaders are challenged with the need to address many projects, all simultaneously. It must go in cycles; and this is a build-cycle.

Recently, the new Storm Sewer Utility clarified their need to undertake ten projects costing approximately \$8.6 million throughout the community in order to meet the mandated requirement to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Their plan, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, added these construction projects to the typical mandate to maintain the storm sewer system and keep pollution from entering our creeks. The mandated development of a list of important construction projects imposed upon the Borough came as no surprise to staff. After all, we are "generation build."

The recently approved 2020 Budget includes funding to move forward the plan to reconstruct the existing Chambersburg Police Station, built in 1971-1972. Council's adopted Capital Improvements Plan includes funding to move forward with future relocation of the Borough's public works facility from Loudon Street to Wayne Avenue. This will not be completed for several years, but a site has now been selected. Their budget includes funding to build a new maintenance facility for the Electric Department at the existing S. Franklin Street service center. Your local government plans to build many more projects and fund many more services to address challenges necessary for utility infrastructure.

***These are necessary projects, done in a least-cost manner, and improve the local economy and local utilities.***



In 2020, the Borough will re-assume the Health Code/Food & Restaurant Inspection program, outsourced to a private third-party vendor years ago. This new service, like many new initiatives, forces an increase in the number of Borough employees, the human capital to produce these service outcomes. However, no increase in taxes is proposed. Fees are mostly utilized in enterprise type operations. We want the community to appreciate all the services performed by Borough employees.

The Health Code/Food & Restaurant Inspection program was one of two outsourcing experiments, which ended in 2019. The Town Council also decided to end the third party collection of residential (and residential type) recycling. Re-entering the recycling collection and processing field was a challenge for the Sanitation Department. However, both "re-integration back to Borough employee" projects lend a lesson for our community:

Chambersburg Borough employees are as well capable, well accomplished, similarly cost effective, and wildly better at customer service and dealing with the public than for-profit vendors in the area. Therefore, this year will include additional growth of personnel and functions.

In conclusion, the town is booming, and our organization is in constant motion. Constant motion requires human capital to avoid chaos. Our workforce, like our community, has grown larger, more complex, more specialized, and highly productive. We are "generation build," undertaking the new normal in infrastructure construction.

This year, we plan to build many more projects and fund many more services including returning previously out-sourced services back to be handled by Borough personnel.

Additionally, we are planning on the future, taking steps to be prepared should this rate of activity continue. We are updating our Comprehensive Plan and integrating our other long-term planning documents into a new Comprehensive Plan. At the end of the year, a new Curb and Sidewalk Master Plan was approved to add another chapter to our Comprehensive Plan. We have hired our first Diversity, Outreach, and Employment Resources (DOER) employee, who is developing methods of community engagement in both human resources to bolster our human capital and citizen engagement; to insure our activities meet community expectations. Finally, there is so much construction underway or soon to be underway, including supporting Franklin County, and their efforts to reshape Memorial Square and Downtown Chambersburg. So much motion.



## Financial Summary

The recently adopted 2020 budget was the 11th budget in the last 14 years with no increase in taxes. The Borough of Chambersburg did not raise real estate taxes between 2007 and 2013; then there was an increase in 2014, a second increase in 2016, and a third in 2018. Chambersburg has not raised the real estate tax rate in most years, in recent history. Others often raise taxes on our taxpayers, such as Franklin County or the Chambersburg Area School District; and, that sometimes leads to confusion. In 2014, 2016, and 2018, the Borough raised the real estate tax rate, but only to fund police and fire services, and in 2018 to begin paying off the 2016 Recreation Bond. Beginning a decade ago, and through 2020, there is a constant theme in our finances: real estate tax increases were rare and mostly dedicated to funding police and fire services.

In 2020, the budget includes a small tax decrease, and a shift from an Ambulance Tax to an Ambulance Fee. A fee can be charged for this service under State Law. This is not always true. A Police or Fire fee is specifically prohibited. However, emergency medical services is different. There will be a further explanation of the new proposed fee going forward. However, the fee, unlike a real estate tax, is broad-based. Utility customers of the Borough will pay this new flat Ambulance fee on their utility invoice. Similar to when the State added an E-911 service charge to telephone bills a generation ago.

Taxes, especially real estate taxes, are paid by a smaller percentage of our citizens and businesses than fees. Under State Law, 26.4% of

all properties inside the Borough are exempt from paying real estate taxes. So only 73.6% of properties will pay a real estate tax. Whereas, 100% of utility accounts will pay a fee placed on utility invoices.

If there was a more broad-based tax available (i.e. a sales tax), that might be a more appropriate tax to fund an emergency service such as our struggling Ambulance Service. That is not a possibility under State Law.

In the 2020 Budget, it is contemplated that SGS Architects/Engineers of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, will proceed with the final design of the Police Station renovation, including some alternatives, which may not make the final project, including a full refurbishment of the Borough's historic Clock Tower.

Once the plans are completed, they can be issued for competitive bid, to find the lowest qualified contractor to undertake the project. It is envisioned the bidding will occur in the fall of 2020. Once bidding is complete, Town Council will need to decide on funding. In 2019, the Borough was lucky to obtain, through the competent work of our consultant GMS Funding Solutions, a State grant of \$1.7 million to offset construction costs. It is estimated that an additional \$6.4 million (including technology, furniture, and security systems, and including the Clock Tower) may be necessary.

***Thank you to our State officials, Sen. Doug Mastriano and Rep. Rob Kauffman, who both work tirelessly in support of the Borough of Chambersburg and our need to obtain our fair share of State grants.***

The only way to fund the balance of this project would be with a Police Station Bond. A bond would require a dedicated tax, over twenty or twenty-five years, to pay it back to the bond issuers. Similar to the 2016 Recreation Bond Tax, if Town Council proceeds, beginning in 2021, there would likely be a new 2021 Police Station Bond Tax. This will require a community discussion throughout 2020 to determine whether such an investment has Town Council and community support.

In Chambersburg, our citizens pay no dedicated Recreation Tax to support recreation services, no dedicated Highway Tax to support street maintenance, and no taxes at all to support any of the Borough's departments and operations, our utilities, or our utility support departments other than police and fire. Our taxes are very limited, yet misinformation is abundant on this topic.

***Your real estate taxes do not pay for most of the Borough operations other than police and fire.***

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 Fire Department. The 2020 budget includes a small decrease in the tax that had been dedicated to Ambulance operations.

In 2018, the Borough Manager recommended, and Town Council approved, an increase in the Fire Tax for use by the Fire Department and its Ambulance operations; as well as an increase in the Police Tax. This small increase (½ mil) was approved to be reversed out, in order to shift Ambulance funding from this tax to a broad-based fee on utility invoices. In our 2020 Budget, the Town Council approved no additional changes to taxes or tax rates other than this small decrease.

Within the Borough, all the real estate taxes collected are for the Police Department and the support of the Chambersburg Fire Department; none of this revenue used to support any other department or operation. As of 2020, we will still only use real estate taxes to support police and fire; and to pay off the 2016 Recreation Bond, the construction costs associated with park improvements.

Township property owners pay no taxes to the Borough of Chambersburg. Taxes paid to the Chambersburg Area School District and Franklin County are completely separate from taxes paid to the Borough. However, we do our part in limiting their taxes as well by providing the schools and county buildings, inside the Borough, with inexpensive utilities.

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, Land Use & Community Development, 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



normally done with Highway Aid grant money (a grant from the State created by the sale of Liquid Fuels) and maybe if there is 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 2020, the approved budget envisions a significant depletion of the Borough's capital reserve account. First, those expenses related to the design and development of the Police Station project will need to be paid for using available savings. No proposed bond sale is contemplated until 2021. Second, the Highway Department is contemplating a major repair of the Glen Street Fountain. While it may be possible to raise money for that project, the budget contemplates proceeding either way. Finally, a number of projects are necessary, or grant matches for projects are necessary, which would come from capital reserve, including matching a grant for new Fire Department radios, Highway Department bridge repairs, and new technology investment. In all, \$1.38 million in spending will reduce the capital reserve. We successfully ended 2019 with a cash infusion into the capital reserve to offset this spending.

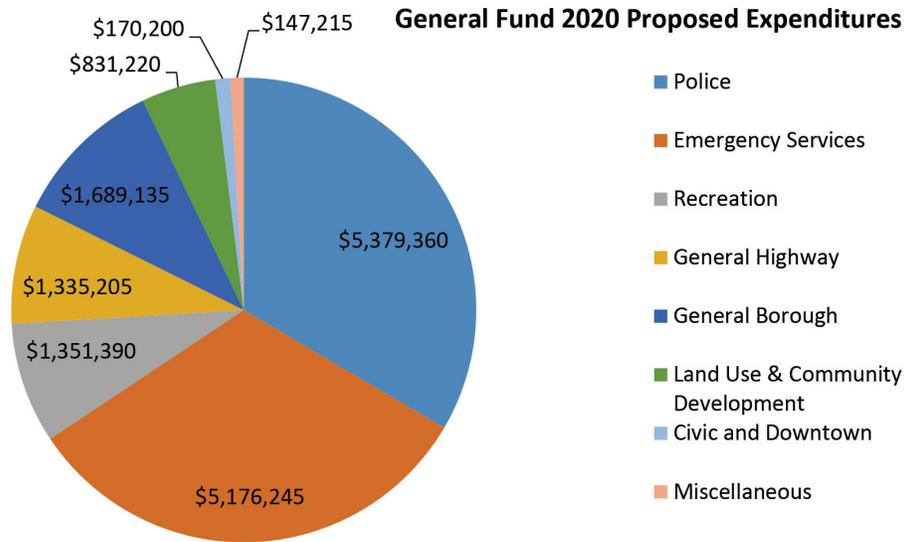
Therefore, in 2020, the Borough will not use the capital reserve to have a street maintenance program, unlike previous years. Instead, the Borough will not spend more than the Highway Aid received from the State, and will have a smaller-than-typical street program in 2020. Smaller despite the growing needs for street maintenance or the need to address the condition of Borough-owned alleys. Alleys are not being addressed at all and Council has been urged to take action.

In 2020, the Borough Manager is proposing a study to find a new way to fund alley paving with the formation of a new committee. Once the Curb and Sidewalk Master Plan is published (it was done in December 2019), the Engineering Department should transition, from the study of curbs and sidewalks, to the study of alleys. Further, staff is recommending a comprehensive funding scheme be developed to address the serious condition of back alleys. The Borough owns many (although not all) of the many back alleys. It appears we own more back alleys compared to communities of a similar size.

In conclusion, while there is no tax rate increase approved by this year, in fact a small tax reduction, it is important to acknowledge that there will be a proposal to institute a Police Station Bond Tax in the next budget, and certain expenses, such as streets and alleys are still not being addressed properly.

In 2020, the Borough's General Fund Budget will be \$16,079,970. In 2019, the Borough's General Fund Budget was \$15,157,375. This represents a 6.0% increase, and is likely a realistic gauge of actual growth in the Borough's spending plan, given the expansion of the Emergency Services Department fee increase.

- **The 2020 General Fund Budget is balanced**
- **Of the total expenditures planned in the General Fund, 65.7% are for Police and Emergency Services**
- **Of the total expenditures in Police and Emergency Services 74% are for personnel costs (wages and benefits)**



Finally, the General Fund is balanced in 2020, in no small part, by the addition of a \$7 per utility invoice per month Ambulance fee to support the activities of the Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services operations. There is no alternative offered to avoid this fee. To avoid the fee, this budget would need to add a painful large real estate tax increase. To compound matters, that large real estate tax increase could not be an Ambulance Tax. Pursuant to State Law, it would need to be for some other unrelated General Fund activity (i.e. Recreation), which in turn, would free up undesignated revenue for the Emergency Services Department. This would be hard to explain to citizens.

**In 2020, the Town Council approved budget did not change the Police Tax rate, currently at 24 mil.**

**POLICE TAX RATE**

YEAR	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MIL	17	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	23	23	24	24	24

**In 2020, the Town Council approved budget did not change the Fire Tax rate, currently at 3 mil; but eliminated the Ambulance Tax rate, entirely.**

**FIRE TAX RATE**

YEAR	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
FIRE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.0
AMBULANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.5	.5	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.0

**In 2020, the Town Council approved budget did not change the Recreation Bond Tax rate, currently at 3 mil.**

**RECREATION BOND TAX RATE**

YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MIL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3

## TOTAL BOROUGH TAX RATE

YEAR	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MIL	17	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	23.5	23.5	25.5	25.5	30.5	30.5	30

***In 2020, the Town Council approved budget lowered the overall Tax Rate to 30 mil.  
Chambersburg Borough real estate taxes have risen 76.4% in 14 years, or about 5.46% per year.***

Total assessed value of taxable real estate inside the Borough for 2020 is estimated to be \$205,607,440; down very slightly from last year. Therefore, the cash value of 1 mil would equal \$205,607. However, when factoring in our average collection rate for any given year, we should expect that same mil to yield \$201,929. This difference is a result of the average amount of taxes remitted on time, annually, versus the total that is levied.

Therefore, for budget purposes, 1 mil is equal to approximately \$205,353 in cash. As explained, if you assume the standard percentage of taxpayers will fail to pay their taxes, 1 mil would equal \$201,929 in cash. If you assume some old outstanding tax liens from previous years may pay their debts in 2020, 1 mil might equal \$205,353 in cash.

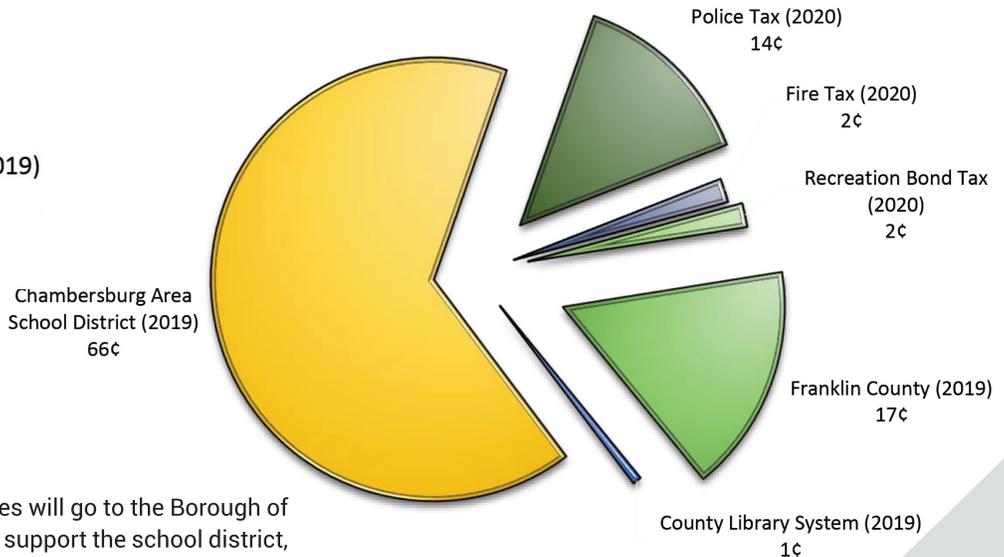
The Typical Single Family home is not your home. Your assessed value likely did not change between 2019 and 2020. However, every year, the average home changes as the total value of all real estate in the Borough is re-adjusted. Likely, your home's taxes will drop 1.5% in 2020 or about \$8 (impact varies based upon assessed value). However, the Average Single Family Home in Chambersburg will see an increase of about \$4 per year or \$0.33 per month in real estate taxes, as a result in the increased value of all assessed property, which also increases the assessed value of the Average Single Family Home. Your annual Borough Tax Bill is based upon the Franklin County's determination of your property's assessed value.

## TOTAL TAX BURDEN ON TYPICAL HOME

<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY (2019)</b>	<b>29.10 MIL</b>	<b>\$475.20</b>	<b>16.61%</b>
<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY (2019)</b>	<b>1.05 MIL</b>	<b>\$17.15</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>CHAMBERSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT (2019)</b>	<b>115.019 MIL</b>	<b>\$1,878.26</b>	<b>65.66%</b>
<b>POLICE TAX (2020)</b>	<b>24 MIL</b>	<b>\$391.92</b>	<b>13.7%</b>
<b>FIRE TAX (2020)</b>	<b>3.0 MIL</b>	<b>\$48.99</b>	<b>1.71%</b>
<b>AMBULANCE TAX (2020)</b>	<b>0 MIL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>RECREATION BOND TAX (2020)</b>	<b>3.0 MIL</b>	<b>\$48.99</b>	<b>1.71%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175.17 MIL</b>	<b>\$2,882.75</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Total Tax Burden on Typical Home

- Franklin County (2019)
- Chambersburg Area School District (2019)
- Fire Tax (2020)
- Recreation Bond Tax (2020)
- County Library System (2019)
- Police Tax (2020)
- Ambulance Tax (2020) - \$0



Only 18¢ of every \$1 paid in real estate taxes will go to the Borough of Chambersburg. The balance, 82¢ will go to support the school district, the county, and the library. In fact, 66¢ of every dollar goes to the Chambersburg Area School District.

## New Ambulance Fee Update

In February 2020, the Borough will NOT send out the Ambulance Fee on utility invoices. In March 2020, the fee will restart. Most customers will notice no difference, but the Borough will have made a change for folks living in multi-family residential units (i.e. apartments or townhomes).

Beginning this year, Town Council approved a new \$7 per month Ambulance Fee for utility invoices for service addresses within the Borough. The Borough mailed the first invoice for this new charge to all customers in January 2020. This article will explain further the fee and to explain a slight change to the fee rules beginning in March 2020.

A fee may be charged in exchange for the Borough Fire Department's ambulance service under State law. The Borough provide basic lifesaving ambulance services for our community. There is a significant cost to having ambulances staffed around the clock and ready to serve the Borough.

This Ambulance Fee helps defray the costs of the ambulance service being ready-to-serve. It is not a tax, as under State law taxes can only be assessed on the value of real estate. Approximately 27% of property owners are exempt from paying taxes. This is a fee in exchange for being ready to provide a service. When our residents and visitors call for an ambulance, they expect one to respond. Even with this fee, the Borough spends more on ambulance service than all the revenue it collects from the fee and other fees charged to ambulance patients.

### ***This a ready-to-serve fee and is different from patient charges to utilize the ambulance service.***

For many years, the Borough has been prohibited from collecting fees invoiced to patients who are covered by Medicaid/Medicare. For example, each year the Borough is forced to "write-off" as uncollectible, due to Medicaid/Medicare rules, over \$1.5 million in normal service fees that patients with third party insurance would have paid. This is in addition to almost \$300,000 per year in unpaid fees for patients with no insurance, or unpaid deductibles or copays. All ambulance companies in Franklin County are experiencing the same financial problem with some finding it difficult to stay in business.

After discussion, Council has proposed a slight change to the application of the Ambulance Fee. Beginning in March 2020, the utility customer responsible for paying the water service will be the party responsible for paying the Ambulance Fee.

When the change is made, only those utility accounts with water service will be responsible going forward for the Ambulance Fee. This is for the same reason that water is typically paid by the property owner, landlord, or property owner's management company. Property owners and tenants pay electric service alike. There is no manner to distinguish between the two classes with regard to electric service and this can lead to confusion on issuing fee invoices. Further, about 1/3 of properties within the Borough of Chambersburg are not Borough public power customers. Likewise, sanitation services are indiscriminate and not paid by all. Finally, while sanitary sewer rentals are also typically paid by only the property owner, landlord, or



property owner's management company, sanitary sewer rentals are charged upon water usage. Only water charges are not assigned to both tenants and land owners as well as calculated by number of residential units.

Therefore, beginning in March 2020, the Ambulance Fee will be calculated using the water service account. Invoices that do not have a water charge (i.e. an extra dumpster or just electric service) will not be charged an Ambulance Fee going forward.

For each residential unit (i.e. an apartment or townhouse), the responsible party will be charged one (1) \$7-Ambulance Fee per month, \$84 dollars per year, restarting in March 2020 upon the invoice for the water account responsible for the residential unit's water service. Finally, commercial or institutional customers will be charged one (1) \$7-Ambulance Fee per month, \$84 dollars per year, for each commercial or institutional water service connection.

To adapt this slight change to the apartment billing rules, Council authorized a reprieve from issuing Ambulance Fee invoices for February 2020. Single-family home occupants will notice no changes when the billing resumes in March 2020.

In addition, the fee is not related to the **Ambulance Club**. The Ambulance Club is a voluntary program. If you join, it can help prevent the application of any "out-of-pocket" expenses that you might be required to pay under insurance rules. Your decision to join the Ambulance Club is a voluntary exchange for potentially avoiding additional costs associated with using the Borough's basic lifesaving ambulance service. Every ambulance patient is different, with different insurance, and different out-of-pocket responsibilities. The Ambulance Club is a voluntary program, which might help control patient costs if you utilize the ambulance.

***If you have any questions about the Ambulance Club, please call Dustin Ulrich, Fire Chief, at (717) 263-5872.***

***If you have any questions about the application of the Ambulance Fee on your utility bill, call Customer Service at (717) 264-5151.***

***If you want more information or to better understand the funding crisis for ambulance services throughout Pennsylvania, call Dustin Ulrich, Fire Chief, at (717) 263-5872.***

The Borough of Chambersburg remains committed to providing ambulance service for our community and we appreciate the support of our residents and businesses in making this possible.

## Food and Fun in the Borough

The Borough is blessed and honored to host many fine restaurants and special events of various sizes. Large events like Old Market Day or smaller ones like a church parking lot party, as well as national or local restaurants, interact with the Land Use and Community Development Department to secure Special Event Permits and Retail Food Facility Licenses. Staff from the department coordinate event logistics and permitting, inspect establishments that serve food to the public and serve as Special Event Monitors.

**Special Event Permit** – A temporary event, gathering or activity on private property or public property. Farmers markets, flea markets, commercial parties with admission or the sale of merchandise, concerts with or without admission fees, carnivals, circuses, or other types of festivals with or without admission or sale of merchandise, political or public speaking events, and seasonal celebration, all of which are a temporary use on private and public property.

**Alcoholic Beverages** – Whether on private or public property, your event can include the sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages. However, the disbursement of such beverages requires a permit from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board and additional requirements from the Borough.

**Special Event Monitors** – Extra part-time Borough employees that work under the direction of the Chambersburg Police Department to provide assistance at Special Events.

**Retail Food Facility License** - An establishment which stores, prepares, packages, vends, offers for sale or otherwise provides food for human consumption. All Retail Food Facilities in the Borough are inspected at least one time annually for compliance with PA Department of Agriculture regulations. Complaints about restaurants in the Borough can be filed by contacting the Land Use and Community Development Department.

*If you have questions about Special Event Permits, Retail Food Facility Licenses or Special Event Monitors, please contact Jody Mayer at (717) 251-2465 or [jmayer@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jmayer@chambersburgpa.gov)*



*Icefest 2019*



*Borough of Chambersburg Sculpture - Icefest 2020*



*Applefest 2019*

## New Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee Expected to Start in 2020

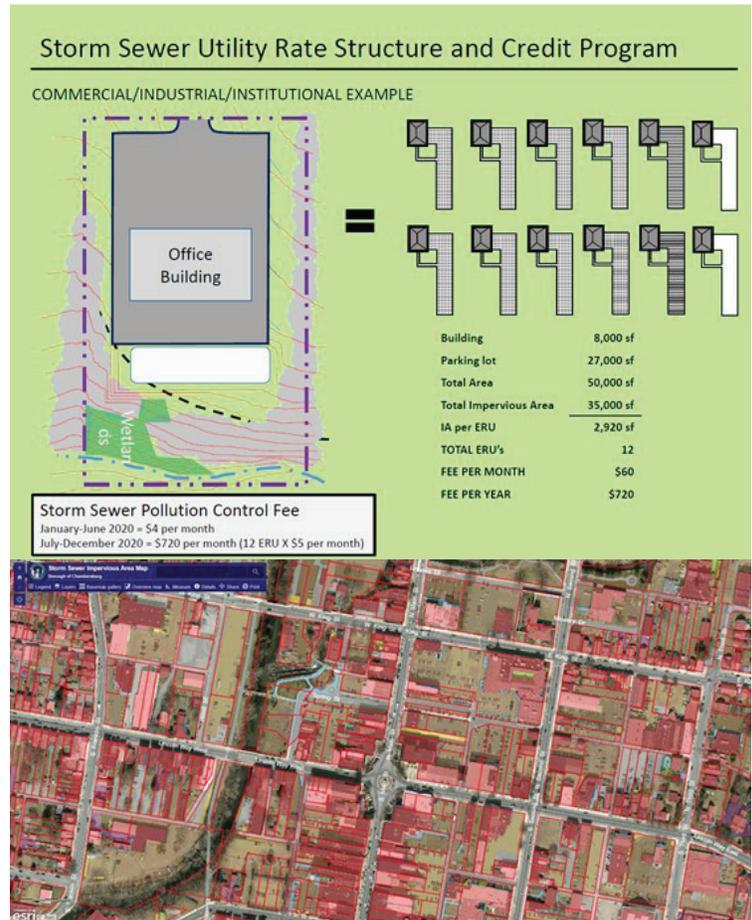
It is expected that Town Council will approve a new Storm Sewer Utility rate structure and credit program, to begin in July 2020, that will affect every property owner in the Borough regardless of whether their property is developed for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, school, church, government, or charitable purpose. Rates will be uniformly applicable and rationally tied to stormwater discharged by each property, changing the current \$4 per month Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee to a fee schedule based on lot impervious area along with a credit program to create incentives for property owners to reduce the amount of stormwater generated on their property.

Single-family residential properties will continue to pay a set monthly fee while all other developed properties will pay a set monthly fee multiplied by the amount of impervious area on their property, which includes all buildings and paved areas.

Different types of credits for single-family residential properties and other developed properties will be offered as a way for utility customers to reduce monthly fees by implementing Best Management Practices to reduce the contribution of stormwater and pollutants to the storm sewer system and to support federal and state municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit requirements for the Borough.

***Property owners, and anyone else with interest in this topic, are strongly encouraged to contact Andy Stottlemeyer, Storm Sewer System Manager, at (717) 251-2434 or [astottlemeyer@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:astottlemeyer@chambersburgpa.gov)***

***Mr. Stottlemeyer can provide to property owners the estimated amount of the Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee they will be charged starting in July 2020.***



### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR WALT BIETSCH

As 2019 came to an end, I completed my second full year in office as Mayor of Chambersburg. It has been my honor and privilege to have represented our borough as its mayor.

As I attended various municipal conferences during the past year, I continued to be impressed with the respect and envy that other municipal leaders have for our borough. I believe that this opinion held by other municipal leaders, directly reflects upon our great borough departments and the solid infrastructure that supports the various services that we provide our residents. According to the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association, Chambersburg had the lowest electric rate in 2019 among 35 municipal electric providers and 7 commercial providers in Pennsylvania. Chambersburg also continues to provide the lowest natural gas rates in Pennsylvania.

This success is directly attributed to the great management that we have in the administration of our utility departments. I am extremely proud of our family of borough employees, all of whom are dedicated to providing our residents with very efficient, effective, and affordable public services.

2019 saw the creation of a position in our Human Resources Department in response to the diversity of our community. The Diversity and Employment Resources Coordinator (DOER) operates under a "Next Gen" strategy, in an effort to reach out to the young people in our community and encourage them to consider a career in local government. Further, with Chambersburg considered #14 in Pennsylvania for the size of our Hispanic population, it is important that our borough begin to address the fact that our workforce should be representative of the diversity of our community. This can be challenging since we cannot sacrifice hiring the best and brightest for the sake of diversity, but rather, encourage the best and brightest of our diverse community to consider employment with our borough.

In 2019, the borough completed the design phase of the Chambersburg Police Department renovation of the 1972 addition to borough hall. This design was created by SGS Architect-Engineering in conjunction with an advisory committee comprised of Police Department and borough personnel. The next phase of the project commenced beginning in January 2020, which involves the engineering phase and will determine the actual cost of the project. The renovation project is based upon the need for a modern facility that will create a more efficient and desirable workplace. We are forward thinking in our approach to the project, looking to the future for expansion, as our workforce is predicted to increase in size to meet the increasing requests for police services. The renovation plan also includes replacing the complete roof on the 1972 addition and the original borough hall building, along with the restoration of the original clock tower.

In anticipation of the project funding requirement, efforts were made to seek some outside funding in the form of a grant in 2019. I am honored to have been a participant in this effort, which resulted in a \$1.7 million dollar grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This grant funding will be committed directly to the cost of the renovation. I also extend our deepest thanks to State Representative Rob Kauffman and State Senator Doug Mastriano for their unwavering support and assistance in acquiring this grant.

The Police Department continued to evolve in 2019 as we pursued a variety of technologies that will provide platforms for our officers to be more effective and productive in performing their duties. The use of social media has proven to be a great success for our department. Our partnership with Crimewatch Technologies has been instrumental in providing a media platform to get our messaging out to the community. Citizens have provided tips on crimes that are posted on Crimewatch, which helped solve a number of crimes in 2019, within 24-48 hours. Citizens can follow our department via Crimewatch on Facebook.



Chief Camacho hosted the first ever police department town hall meeting in 2019, seeking input from our residents. It was expressed to the attendees that we operate on transparency and we value their input. We received many positive comments regarding our police operations and addressed concerns regarding safety in our community. We look forward to future town hall meetings and will continue to seek input from our residents.

Our Police Department continues to be fully staffed with 34 officers. But looking into the future, with consideration towards the continued growth of our residential and commercial development, the existing police staffing level must be addressed to ensure we have an appropriate number of officers to provide the high level of service that the borough requires and the community has come to expect.

***I am very proud of the professionalism and enthusiasm of the officers in our police department, all of whom work tirelessly to protect and serve our community. We as an organization, will continue to maintain the highest standards of performance, transparency and service to our community.***



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

CHIEF RON CAMACHO

The Chambersburg Borough Police Department continues to improve its ability to serve the citizens of Chambersburg through the innovative use of technology, and the enhanced training of the agency's officers, detectives, and supervisors. The demands on the police have never been higher, training provides the officers with the "tools" needed to address the many and varied calls for service they respond to daily.

In 2019, Chief Ron Camacho was asked to be a speaker at the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) Tech conference. The presentation was on the unique way the Chambersburg Police Department uses police technology (In car cameras, downtown cameras, license plate readers, and the CRIMEWATCH social media platform) to solve crimes, improve clearance rates, and provide better services to Borough residents. The Chambersburg Police Department is gaining a reputation as a leader in integrating different technological platforms to maximize success.

The department rolled out its 5-year Strategic Plan in 2019. The Strategic Plan is a "living" document that provides a clear path for the department to follow. Some of the goals, once accomplished, can be taken out of the plan, others are reoccurring and need to be completed and improved upon on a yearly basis. It took over a year to develop the Strategic Plan. Part of the development process was to get input from the community. A survey was distributed to a cross section of Borough residents and the very positive results assisted in the development of the Strategic Plan.

***In following with our culture of transparency, both the Strategic Plan and the results of the community survey are on the department's website:***

***[www.franklin.crimewatchpa.com/chambersburgpd](http://www.franklin.crimewatchpa.com/chambersburgpd)***

From March 30 through April 10, 2019, the department was tasked with the response and investigation of four significant criminal events that occurred within the Borough of Chambersburg within an eleven-day period; this was an extremely unusual spike of criminal activity. On March 30, a shooting incident occurred on the 300 block of South Main St. This crime was quickly solved and two male subjects were identified and arrested within days of this initial incident. On April 4, Detectives investigated the report of an armed robbery at the Second Street Park. Four juvenile males were identified and arrested for the offense within a forty-eight-hour period. On April 9, a subsequent drive by shooting incident occurred on W. King Street. Patrol officers and detectives were able to link the shooter's motive to the first incident, which led the swift apprehension and arrest of two males and three females connected with the March 30 shooting. On April 10, two male subjects entered a local jewelry store and stole a diamond ring valued at over \$12,000.00. Two males and one female subject from Philadelphia were arrested in connection with this theft within two days.

All of these cases were quickly closed by efforts of the department's officers and detectives. They were able to leverage available information and resources such as the Borough's camera network, Crimewatch, cell phone tracking, and the established criminal intelligence/information sharing network. The actions of the officers and detectives during this time truly demonstrates the proficiency they have achieved in fight and solving crimes in Chambersburg.

The police department was featured in the fall issue of the Liberty Journal, the official magazine of Liberty University. Nine members of the department either have recently received degrees from Liberty University or are currently pursuing them. Twelve total members of the department are taking college courses and actively following their goal of obtaining a Bachelor's or Master's degree. Twelve officers are more than a 1/3 of the organization; that is a large, unprecedented number for a department our size. This demonstrates the department's commitment to education, which will elevate the continued professionalism of its officers.



Police Dept. featured in the fall issue of the Liberty Journal

In September of 2019, Lt Richard Morrissette graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy, 277th session. The FBI National Academy is a command and leadership school for law enforcement executives. Perspective members have to go through a rigorous vetting process and competition for acceptance into the program is tough. There is usually a three to five year waiting list of qualified candidates anticipating a start date. The FBI National Academy is located at Quantico, Virginia, and students spend a semester there attending classes. The last member of the Chambersburg Police Department to attend the course was Chief William N. Johnson. He was there for the 94th session from June to September 1973. With Lt Morrissette's recent graduation from the course, we believe a "pipeline" will be established for other up and coming leaders from the department to attend. Chief Camacho is also a graduate from the FBI National Academy; he attended the 239th session in 2009, while he was a Captain with the York City Police Department.

The Chambersburg Police K9 Unit continues to serve the citizens of the Borough with 57 deployments, in 2019. These deployments ranged from felony tracks, narcotic interdictions, to aggression and violence deterrents. In addition to their deployments, K9 Basco and K9 Mattis participated in 14 community service events. The Unit stays strong and ready for the Department's needs with over 384 training hours to hone their skills.



Chambersburg Police K-9 Unit

The Chambersburg Police Department's part-time traffic unit was created to enhance public safety through fair and reasonable enforcement of Pennsylvania's motor vehicle laws. The unit's officers concentrate on enforcement during their shifts and they address the many complaints of speeding, and traffic issues throughout the Borough. There are four officers assigned to the unit, one officer per patrol squad, plus the sergeant in charge of the unit. In 2019, the unit conducted 214 traffic stops, issued 69 citations, gave 157 warnings, and conducted 38 MCSAP inspections.

***The Chambersburg Police Department continues to grow and cultivate a great, and trusting relationship with the Borough residents. The department is committed to becoming one of the most professional and forward-thinking law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania, while fulfilling its mission to provide excellent police services to all persons who live, work, or visit the Borough of Chambersburg.***



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF DUSTIN ULRICH

The Chambersburg Fire Department (CFD) personnel continued the Department's mission in 2019 to provide high quality emergency medical service, fire suppression, fire prevention, fire safety training, and fire code enforcement

services for the protection and enhancement of life and safety for those who live, work, and visit this wonderful town.

Currently, the Department has a staffing of twenty-five, full-time career firefighters as well as sixteen part-time firefighters who are also emergency medical technicians. A Borough Fire and EMS Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and four Fire Captains lead them. The Department also has a volunteer Deputy Fire Chief in addition to the two career chiefs. Having a highly trained, mission driven, staffed department allows us to provide a quick response and arrival to any location within the Borough. In most cases, from the time of dispatch to the time that a fire or EMS unit arrives is around four and a half minutes on average to any location within the Borough. This prompt response delivers quick fire extinguishment before any major damage can occur as well as provides essential lifesaving medical care when time is critical. In 2019, fire apparatus responded to 993 responses that could have consisted of structural fires, fire alarms, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials, and medical calls.



**Multi-Dwelling Fire on West Washington Street**

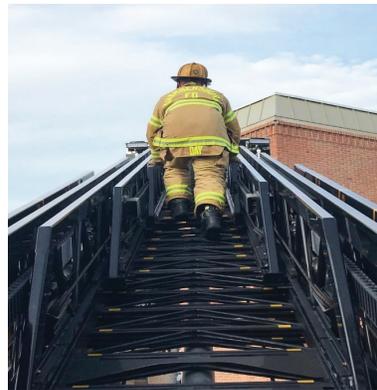
Basic Life Support emergency responses remain on a consistent increase annually, and in 2019, there were 4,351 responses handled for emergency medical services. CFD emergency medical services continue to be the busiest in the area and much of this is contributed to the amazing growth of health care and nursing facilities in the Borough. Unfortunately, the emergency medical system across the state is in dire need of revitalization. Many mandates are set forth for organizations and municipalities that limit the dollar amount insurance companies surrender as payment. Both Medicare and Medicaid have established set return amounts and, unfortunately, this minimal reimbursement only covers a fraction of the true transport cost. Therefore, the department and the municipality incur a financial burden. As operational costs expand with limited ways to close this unfunded gap, Council adopted an ordinance that established an ambulance service fee beginning January 2020.

This ordinance assesses a seven-dollar monthly fee to assist with the rising costs of these ambulance services. This monthly fee does not affect any services rendered through the annual Ambulance "Club" Contribution Program nor the fees paid by Ambulance patients.

CFD is extremely proactive and takes great pride in fire safety and prevention education. Prevention is the best practice to early detection, and to prevent fires from occurring or by becoming large enough to cause a significant loss. Another facet of our Department is to provide commercial businesses with routine fire code inspections. Our triennial inspections insure fire safety in our commercial establishments to area residents and visitors. CFD certified inspectors inspect and permit approximately 1,259 commercial businesses every three years. In 2019, the Department collaborated with the American Red Cross to provide and install the proper amount of smoke alarms that include ten-year lithium batteries. With this valuable program, CFD receives the alarms from the Red Cross and installs them at no charge for any Borough resident. In addition to this smoke alarm program, the Department paired up with the Borough Gas Department to provide residences with carbon monoxide detectors. These life saving devices are distributed to those residents who have an attached garage or a fuel-burning appliance. Fire safety events, child seat installations, and the installation of over five hundred smoke alarms and/or carbon monoxide detectors benefited approximately 8,500 community residents.

***To take advantage of the smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector, or "child safety-seat programs", please contact CFD at 717-263-5872.***

Each year, the Department focuses on available alternate means of funding for equipment to be as fiscally responsible as possible. The Department was fortunate enough to receive over \$550,000 in Federal and State grants since 2010. In 2019, this successful practice of funding continued when the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner's Office awarded the Chambersburg Fire Department a total of \$50,911 in grants. CFD utilized these funds toward the purchase of firefighter turnout gear, firefighter ballistic vest, fire prevention equipment, and gym equipment.



**Turnout Gear Grant**

In all assurance, the Borough of Chambersburg Fire Department will continue to meet the future needs and services to the residents with both professional career and volunteer staff. All of the officers and members of the Department look forward to serving you in 2020 and invite anyone to stop in and visit your local fire department.

# COMMUNITY TACKLES HUMANE WAY TO CARE FOR FERAL CATS

JEFFREY STONEHILL

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 many 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 statewide or regional solution to this dilemma. No one law is going to fix this problem.

**However, Council did want to point out some helpful points 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."*

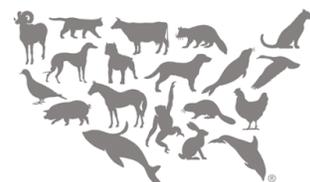
*"Spaying or neutering community (feral and stray) cats using trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs will reduce their numbers over time. Spaying or neutering pet cats before they reproduce will reduce their numbers and help stop pet overpopulation."*



*"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."*



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

### **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, Deputy Borough Manager, at: (717) 251-2436**

**Or research the matter at the Humane Society of the United States [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)**

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

JULIE REDDING, CPRP, CPSI, CPO, RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT

**Recreation amenities and opportunities for Chambersburg Borough residents and visitors consists of more than 100 acres of developed park and/or open green-space:**



- **The Cumberland Valley Rail Trail** (a 1.6 mile, dog-friendly, linear park which runs between Commerce St. and close to Industrial Dr.)
- **The Bike Park** (located adjacent to the Rail Trail between Commerce and King Streets)
- **Eight playgrounds** (positioned in various parks throughout the Borough)
- **A large Recreation Center which houses two gymnasiums** (one of which is now air conditioned!)
- **Several meeting rooms and large banquet facility**
- **The Aquatic Center located within Memorial Park**

### **Follow Us on Twitter: @ChambersburgRec**

Several of these facilities offer features that have not experienced significant repairs or upgrades for several years, even decades. While 2019 did not produce quite the substantial recreation changes evidenced in 2018, it certainly concluded the year showcasing several additional enhanced features at the Recreation Center and various Borough parks.

Upon the completion of the Aquatic Center and replacement of new playground equipment within each existing Borough playground park (with the exception of one), additional money remained in the 2016 Recreation Bond account to continue long-term, recreation enhancements as voted upon by Council near the end of 2018.

These projects completed in 2019 consisted of renovating the existing tennis courts (2) at Henninger Field Park; redesigning the tennis courts (4) at Memorial Park by creating 3 new tennis and 2 dedicated pickle ball courts within the footprint of the existing tennis complex; addressing the leaking roof at the Rec Center by replacing the entire roof over Gym 1 and repairing other sections; installing air conditioning (and simultaneously new heating) in Gym 2 at the Rec Center; and completing Phase 2 of Nicholson Square Park (which brought this new park development to completion!) Nicholson Square Park now consists of two age-specific playgrounds, a small pavilion, two half-court basketball courts, a newly graded and seeded multi-purpose field, and a paved pathway permitting walking and jogging around the park.



**Renovated Tennis Courts at Henninger Field Park**

Even upon completion of these numerous facility upgrades and newly constructed areas, additional Recreation Bond funds remain to be spent. Town Council approved the following projects to be completed in 2020: repairing cracks and resurfacing the 4th Street Skate

Park, replacing windows on the front of the Recreation Center, and completing phase one of replacing exterior doors at the Recreation Center. The completion of these projects will expend the remaining funds of the 2016 Recreation Bond.

The Chambersburg Aquatic Center's second season, 2019, proved to be even better than 2018 in all categories. Daily attendance, memberships, and concession sales increased, and additional party and rental opportunities were provided. The success of the second season certainly begs the question, "When will a new feature be added?" The answer: Apparently, not soon enough! Perhaps 2021...

***The wildly successful Aquatic Center has ended each of its first two seasons with a contribution to its reserves for future maintenance or expansion.***



**Bucket Splash at Chambersburg Aquatic Center**

In addition to continuing to improve existing structures and park amenities, the Recreation Department served over 10,000 patrons through various programs, leagues, and events designed for preschoolers through adults. Additionally, over 65,000 people utilized various rental opportunities provided by the Department such as gymnasiums, banquet and meeting rooms, pavilions and field spaces. With the installation of the air conditioning in Gym 2,

the Department plans to offer even more programs and rental options throughout the summer of 2020. The Recreation Department takes great pride in offering quality opportunities to enhance the health and vitality of all residents, and strives to offer something fun for everyone. If you haven't visited our parks, the Aquatic Center, or participated in a program, plan to join us in 2020!

***To view a listing of seasonal programs, park/playground locations, Aquatic Center details, and facility rental options, please visit our website at:***

***[http://www.chambersburgpa.gov/rec\\_dep/index.php](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov/rec_dep/index.php)***

**Chambersburg Agrees to Sponsor Day-in-the-Park Independence Day Event at Memorial Park**

After years of hosting the annual event, the Borough recently completed discussions with the Cumberland Valley 21 Day Retreat Organization regarding a transition in 2020, for the event to become a Borough event run by the Recreation Department and the Aquatic Center, with a continued role for the organization to play as the stewards of all the Borough's patriotic celebrations.

After the Cumberland Valley 21 Day Retreat struggled to raise money in 2019, it was determined that it would be in the best interest of the community, and the operation of the Aquatic Center, if the Borough Recreation Department assumed responsibility for the annual Independence Day Fireworks and the Day-In-The-Park event formerly sponsored by the Cumberland Valley 21 Day Retreat Organization. This is a very important event to the tradition of our community.

While the cost of this event was included in the approved 2020 Budget, the plan is to raise revenue from a variety of sources to offset the expense. A total expense of \$20,000 was added to the Recreation Department/Aquatic Center budget. Staff does not believe this will be the net cost after revenue and contributions.

First, there would be revenue sharing with the vendors who participate in the Day-In-The-Park event. This revenue has historically gone to offset the cost of the event and the Recreation Department would hope to grow and expand the offerings at the event to increase attendance and revenue sharing. There is no cost for admission to the event nor for parking. It is important this continue as a free community event.

For example, we would like there to be food trucks at the event and bouncy houses. Traditionally, such vendors share their revenue with the Borough for being in the park or at a special event. The Recreation Superintendent has begun the process of securing vendors for the Day-In-The-Park event.

In addition, the Aquatic Center is considering the hosting of a VIP ticketed event during the fireworks with additional food and drink specials and an up-close view of the fireworks from within the Aquatic Center. The Aquatic Center event would be optional for those who wish to contribute the fundraising for the event.

Second, in exchange for assuming responsibility, the CV 21 Day Retreat organization will make an annual gift to the Borough to offset costs.

Third, we believe there are opportunities for other charitable organizations (especially those with patriotic themes) to make Borough gifts as well as corporate sponsorships.

In the end, while we are not assured that this assumption of responsibility will be a net negative or breakeven in cost for the Borough, we also believe it is more in keeping with the Recreation Department activities. The Borough typically runs large activities.

The deadline for the deposit to support this event is due by the end of December. Therefore, we have proceeded to request proposals from fireworks' vendors to secure a reservation for the event. The final cost of the fireworks will be approximately \$20,000 for an average height, average intensity, 20-25 minute show with finale.

We believe it is very important to have a more traditional fireworks show, which could be seen throughout the community.

Finally, we believe that between the Rec Department and the Aquatic Center, this event will be rejuvenated, expanded, and as successful as ever. The CV 21 Day Retreat Organization will continue to manage the flag retirement ceremonies across the region and on Independence Day at the band shell. This ceremony is an important tradition in our community and shall continue.



*Chambersburg Aquatic Center*

## **Borough Adds New Features to Nicholson Square Park**

On October 29, 2019, the Chambersburg Recreation Department held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate Nicholson Square Park, the Borough's newest community park, located just off Bassett Drive in the northern portion of the Borough. The park was, until recently, just open space, reserved by the developers situated between rows of townhomes. Now, the facility is full of recreation options to support, not only the Nicholson Square neighborhood and its enormous youth population, but also, youngsters and adults from across Chambersburg; and even nearby Menno Haven retirement community and the Franklin Square area of Greene Township.

The multi-year effort to install new amenities fulfilled the objectives of the 2006 Borough Master Park Plan. In 2018, over ten years after the release of the plan, construction began on the first phase of this project. The park development project consisted of a picnic pavilion, age appropriate playgrounds, handicap accessible parking spaces, and a walkway around the playgrounds.

A second phase, to install two half-court basketball courts, grade and seed the remaining open space to develop a multi-purpose field, and connect and continue the pathway around the field, was finished in the fall of 2019.

"This new facility fills a tremendous need for additional park and recreational amenities in the Borough's First Ward," said Vice President of Town Council, Alice Elia, who represents the First Ward where the

park is located. "The importance of a park of this nature cannot be understated, and how it is the northernmost Borough park, filling a need for our community," emphasized Julie Redding, Superintendent of the Chambersburg Recreation Department; adding "it serves as a "small regional recreational facility."

Council Member Elia, added "that a commitment of Town Council to issue the 2016 Recreation Bond not only resulted in our construction of the Aquatic Center, but new playground equipment in every neighborhood of the Borough, other amenities such as fixing up our Recreation Center on S. Third Street, and finally construction of this new facility at Nicholson Square."

Other dignitaries at the event included Council Member Barb Beattie, County Commissioners Bob Ziobrowski and Bob Thomas, Stephen Christian, President & Executive Director of the Chambersburg Area Development Corporation and the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce, and Sam Thrush from Downtown Chambersburg, Inc.

Ms. Redding pointed out "the park project was advanced through a collaborative effort between the Borough of Chambersburg, Nicholson Square Village Community Association, the community homeowners association (HOA), and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. David H. Martin was the contractor on the project and Chuck Strodoski, of YSM Landscape Architects in York, Pennsylvania, helped design the layouts for the park."

The Nicholson Square Village Community Association, along with their partner PB Services, Inc. Real Estate, donated \$50,000 towards this project. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, also known as DCNR, awarded a Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant to the Borough of Chambersburg for costs associated with the first phase of the park project. Additional proceeds for the project came from the Borough's 2016 Recreation Bond.

"The Homeowners' Association gift demonstrated a commitment to accomplishing the park development project," said Ken Rife, President of the HOA, as he expressed the community's enthusiasm for the park, "the people appreciate the park here, and we have noticed a gravitation of youth from the parking lots of the development to participation in activities at the park."

Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill added, "Chambersburg's Town Council has shown tremendous commitment to the Borough's recreation projects," and that "recreation is not just about health, safety, and neighborhood quality, it is a key to economic development. A good park raises area real estate values."

Mike Eschenmann of DCNR congratulated the Borough on the completion of the project, and spoke to the remarkable effort put into completing the park project and others like it in the Borough, stating, "Chambersburg has shown professional leadership and dedicated commitment to recreation projects such as this...keep up the great work here in Chambersburg."

Commissioner Bob Ziobrowski highlighted that Franklin County Commissioners have been supportive of the project since the onset, providing a support letter for the Borough's grant application in 2015. Commissioner Bob Thomas spoke to the importance of amenities like Nicholson Square Park, and commented, "the accessibility here gives this park the ability to meet the needs of those with disabilities." "The general sense is that the neighborhood is quite pleased with the new facility," added Jeffrey Stonehill. "I hope that everyone visits the new park."

***If you have any questions about the Nicholson Square Park project please email Julie Redding, Chambersburg Recreation Department: [jredding@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jredding@chambersburgpa.gov)***

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

DAVID FINCH, ASSISTANT BOROUGH MANAGER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

### The Borough's Swiss-Army-Knife Like Department

David Finch (Assistant Borough Manager/Public Works Director), Elwood Sord (Assistant Public Works Director/Roadmaster) and Dennis Fleagle (Public works Supervisor/Assistant Roadmaster) lead this extremely important all-purpose public works operation.

The Department continues to perform its traditional role of maintaining the streets of the Borough whether that is to fix potholes or to plow snow. We are always on the lookout to perform these duties more efficiently than before. Additionally, the Department can be called on to assist any other department in their daily tasks. On any given day, the personnel of the Highway Department might be called upon to: mow lawns; clean the storm water inlets; emplace new traffic signs and fix old ones; pick up discarded furniture; collect thrown-out Christmas trees; clean up after accidents; manage hazardous fuel spills; chase bees out of parking lots; and we even take time to set up the Borough Christmas Tree.

All of this is, of course, in addition to our primary job of maintaining the Borough's streets.



Crack Sealing

In 2019 the Department began an experimental program of crack sealing of Borough roads in an effort to keep them from breaking up earlier than they otherwise might. This was completed on Hollywell Avenue, and we intend to continue this program in 2020. The objective is to maintain roads because longer we can wait to replace a road, the more taxpayer dollars we can save and use for other projects.



Setting Up the Borough Christmas Tree

Another big project for 2020 is a maintenance project for the Glen Street Fountain. Although Memorial Fountain was refurbished a few years ago, Glen Street Fountain is now showing signs of age. Our goal will be to refurbish the fountain so that it continues to be one of the beautiful, historic sites of Chambersburg for many decades to come.



Glen Street Fountain

Our goal will be to refurbish the fountain so that it continues to be one of the beautiful, historic sites of Chambersburg for many decades to come.

# ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

RON PEZON, PE, CEM, CSDP, CDSM, ELECTRIC SUPERINTENDENT

## Chambersburg Public Power

The Borough's municipal electric utility has been diligently serving the expanding energy needs of our community for over 126 years. The department operates today much like the investor-owned utilities of yesteryear, but now is able to enjoy the vast benefits of today's most competitive, yet ever-changing wholesale power purchasing markets. The Borough's operating model uses the legacy or traditional utility infrastructure model consisting of one utility operating generation, transmission, substation, distribution systems, meters and services. This wholly owned structure, when managed well, is able to deliver the most benefits of electricity reliability to its end-users and on average over time at the least possible cost.

## Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)

The American Public Power Association, an organization serving over 2,000 public electric utilities like Chambersburg recognized the Borough Electric for the fourth time since 2009.



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.

## RATES

In recent history, we did see power purchase costs, and therefore rates climb into the lower double digits per kWh. Residential rates rose in the Borough 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 years, staff consistently lowered costs while Borough Council consistently lowered overall electric rates with a long term plan in mind. The new multiple source and block portfolio approach adopted by Council May 14, 2012 was responsible for significantly lowering then, and stabilizing power supply costs in 2014 and through to this day.

In 2019, the Borough renegotiated the Landfill Gas to Power supply agreement, effectively lowering the purchased power cost from that

YEAR	MONTH	RATE REDUCTION
2010	JUNE	7.5%
2010	OCTOBER	7.5%
2013	MAY	5.0%
2013	NOVEMBER	5.0%
2014	NOVEMBER	3.7%
2020	JANUARY	2.0%

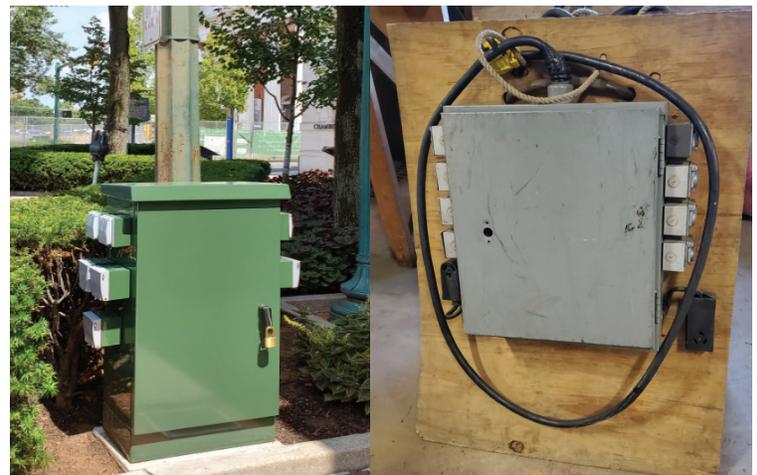
facility and extended the time period of the deal, resulting in a temporary 2% rate reduction starting in January 2020. What follows is the history of council approved rate reductions since the high water mark experienced in 2009 through mid-2010.

## Accomplishments 2019

Again, the Department achieved some significant milestones and laid the groundwork for more improvements to come.

- **Completed quality inspections of its 3,000 utility poles over the past 10 years, which on annual rotation is about 300 poles per year.**
- **The 2019 General Obligation Bond Projects, replacements, additions, improvements were approved in 2019 and will be implemented during the period 2019-2021 including: Substation Transformers; Generation; Transmission; Distribution Operations Center; possible solar Interconnection.**
- **Many temporary electric supply boards that were used downtown for festival vendors were replaced with new electric cabinets in key locations. The remaining panel board conversions are expected in 2020.**

Chambersburg completes the replacements, upgrades, improvements, projects in a well-managed way such that each year the department is intended to come out under the Council approved budget. Preparing and focusing on short and long term project-spending goals, helps keep costs down, such that the financial benefits year after year can be passed on to customers through low and stable electric rates.



New Downtown Mobile Power Boards

## Street Lighting Update

The Borough's two-person traffic signal, electrician section along with the Borough's distribution line crews have been systematically updating and converting street lights, traffic and pedestrian signals from traditional incandescent light sources to modern and efficient LED's. If all goes as planned with the signal upgrade project, within two years it is anticipated that 100% of the traffic and pedestrian signals would have been converted to LED.



LED's are the newest technology in lighting and that has the potential to reduce significantly the cost burden of operating the street lighting, area lighting, traffic and pedestrian control systems.

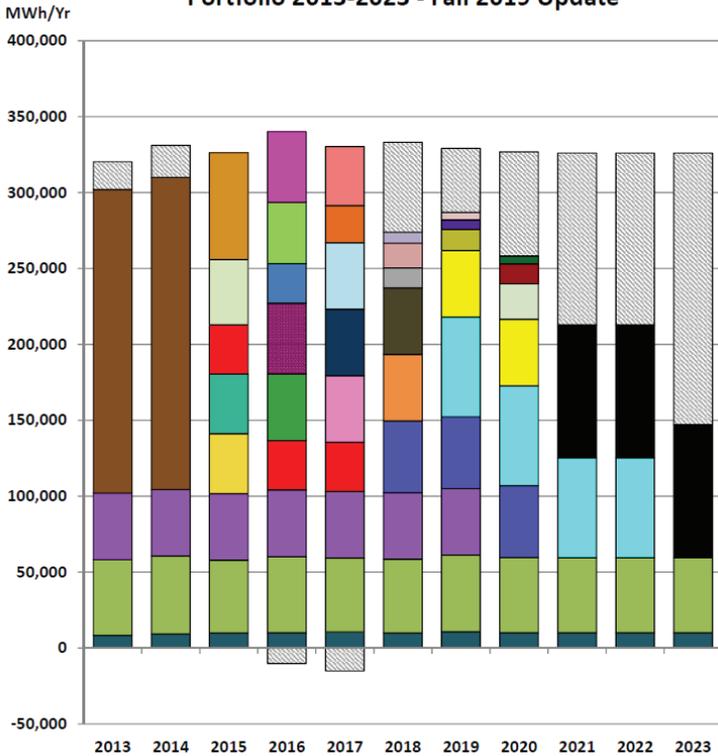
## Expanding the Power Supply Portfolio

Chambersburg, using its Town Council form of government, locally owned and operated system, is able to keep most of the benefits of local management within the Borough and for the exclusive benefit of its residents. The Borough shops collectively for its wholesale power needs up to twice per year for the Borough's over 11,000 retail customers, and as a group, so that we basically get bulk (wholesale) power prices.

In addition, the Borough, through its in-house power generating plants is able to bring back home some of the outside or "market" derived financial benefits to its customers, contributing to the stable rates and power quality that residents have come to enjoy for many decades.

**In 2020 and through 2023 as shown below, the Borough and its customers will enjoy more than 9 wholesale power supply agreements.**

**Chambersburg Power Supply Portfolio 2013-2023 - Fall 2019 Update**



In addition to having a diverse power purchase portfolio, the Borough's own, about 30 MW of generation capability at two plants is sold as peaking power through various agreements to the electric grid to help offset the very high cost electricity in the sometimes-unpredictable seasons. The power supply team buys power up to twice per year, seeks out new and cost-effective forms of generation to add into the plan, which works to stabilize power prices and therefore rates well into the future.

To diversify power sources even more going into the next decade, the Borough has been investigating traditional and renewable sources of power to contribute meaningfully to the already favorable power supply agreements that are in place. System types and fuel diversification are key for reducing long-term power supply costs, thereby lowering to a minimum the average electric utility rates for the Borough's customers.

New forms of energy and renewable energies available today with retiring old fueled plants and forms of energy generation stations could certainly cause significant changes to, or possible disruptions of the traditional, larger scale utility operations and systems. Staff watches and listens to regulatory bodies for quickly changing operating rules or conditions that may directly affect the Borough's operations.

## How do Chambersburg's Rates Compare to the State and Country?

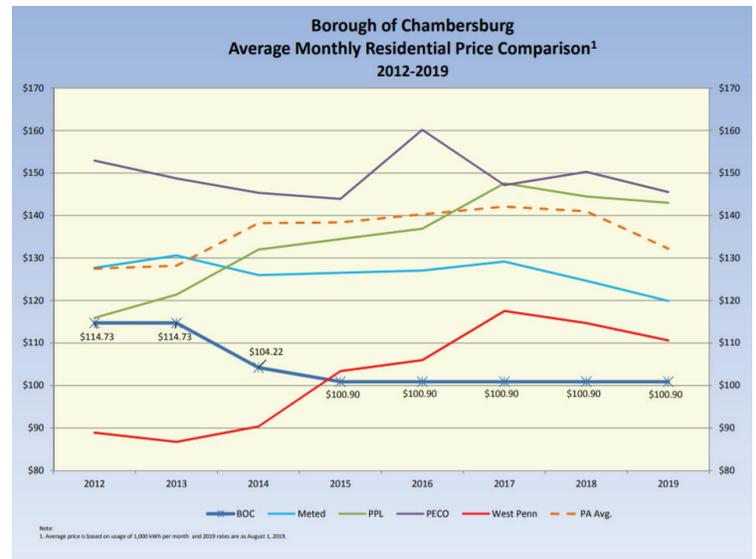
As the electric utilities and power markets sorted out the severe challenges in the late 1990s electric rates overall in Pennsylvania and in the Borough did rise for a time. Due to the Borough Council's strategic actions during and since 2010 however, Chambersburg's residential rate has come down to what is now below that of all surrounding investor-owned utilities. In fact, Chambersburg ranks favorably within PA and around the country.

**The table to the left compares Chambersburg's various overall rate classes to that of PA's submission to EIA, and to the United States (US EIA-Energy Information Administration 2018 by rank).**

### Cost per kWh (Least Cost (1) Order Rank with all States, US EIA 2018)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL
BOC	\$0.1009 (11)	\$0.0966 (22)	\$0.0779 (36)
PA	\$0.1390 (38)	\$0.0890 (13)	\$0.0680 (26)

As a result of the new portfolio approach, the Borough's residential electric rate has settled in well below that of a sample of utilities and the PA State average for the typical (1,000 kWh/month) residential bill as shown below.



Council approved a 2% reduction in the electric Power Supply Adjustment (PSA) in 2019, a move that will likely improve the Borough's position in 2020 for a time and until a rate study and potential rate releveling can occur. The reduction came as a result of the renegotiated lower cost and increased term length of the landfill gas to power plant agreement. Looking forward at this time, using the Borough's portfolio approach and its "tools", there are likely more cost saving opportunities on the horizon.

## Borough Enters Into Contract Extension for Electricity Generated From Landfill Gas

Since 2012, the Borough of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania's largest public power system, has been consuming electricity from a landmark landfill gas to electricity power plant, which was built at Progressive Waste's Blue Ridge Landfill in Scotland, Pennsylvania. Energy Power Partners or EPP now owns this facility, originally developed by a division of the PPL Corporation. The Borough of Chambersburg and EPP have been cooperating on an extension to the original contract, entered into in 2011, which would have ended at the end of 2022.

"This power comes from the gas generated by 'recycling' the Borough's waste," said Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill, who also serves as Director of Utilities for the Borough of Chambersburg. "Recycled gas to electricity is good for the environment and, in this case, provides baseload electricity for our Borough power system, saving us from having to buy power off the grid."

The original arrangement with PPL included the Borough's construction of a power line, dubbed "the extension cord", which delivers the electricity from the landfill to the Borough. An Alternative Energy Grant from the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority made that part of the project possible. GMS Funding Solutions of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, represented the Borough of Chambersburg on that grant application. Borough Solicitor, Bryan Salzmann of Salzmann Hughes said of the extension cord, "the Borough and the Commonwealth invested in this important component of the project and we want to make sure that it continues to provide alternative energy for the Chambersburg community for years to come."

"Best yet," added Borough Electric Department Superintendent Ronald Pezon, "the contract extension lowers the price of the energy that we are consuming from the project." He went on to explain, "The new arrangement with EPP allows the Borough to purchase this electricity at a significant discount, saving the Borough \$7.8 million in power costs over the next twelve plus years. Such a significant savings leads directly to lower electricity bills for our customers."

In fact, according to Stonehill, the proposed 2020 Budget currently being reviewed by Town Council includes a 1.98% across-the-board reduction in retail rates for Borough electric customers. "This would be the fourth electric rate reduction in the past seven years," according to Stonehill, "and, would save the typical residential customer about \$2 per month."

Methane-to-energy systems at landfills have a dual benefit for the environment - they generate electricity from renewable fuel while also eliminating emissions of methane, a gas that may contribute to global climate change. This power plant, for example, prevents the release of the equivalent of 33,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

Chambersburg has been acquiring the full output of the electricity under a Purchased Power Agreement (PPA) for an initial 10-year term, 2013-2022, at a fixed price of \$63/MWh for the entire term with no additional delivery or congestion fees as the connection is made to a substation within Chambersburg's power system. From the beginning, there was the potential to invest in further future generation over an extended term of the agreement. The new price will be \$51/MWh for all hours fixed. More importantly, we were able to negotiate that price starting January 1, 2020. Therefore, the overall cost savings on this PPA over current contract price (if the parties would have simply extended it another 10 years at the present price of \$63/MWh) is approximately \$7.8 million. The Borough will start saving approximately \$600,000 per year starting in January 2020 over what the Borough was paying EPP for the same power. Further, all of the protections of the original agreement have stayed in place.

**Landfill Gas  
to Electricity  
Power Plant**



Recognizing the immediate cost savings over the current contract term, Pezon estimates the true cost of power for the contract extension to be approximately \$43/MWh. "This is a very competitive power supply cost and reflects the behind the meter nature of the project."

The electric energy produced from this facility represents an approximate 15% slice of all the power in Chambersburg. "This means," according to Stonehill, "that 15% of all the electricity in Chambersburg is from a renewable green energy source."

On Monday, November 18, 2019, the Chambersburg Town Council entered into this contract extension with EPP at a public meeting. Present at the meeting was Steve Gabrielle, Partner at EPP, to thank the Borough for this project extension. "Harnessing landfill gas to create renewable electricity provides many benefits to the Borough, its residents and the entire Commonwealth. The project provides a sustainable, lower carbon supply of energy and increases the energy independence of Chambersburg from the utility grid, all while providing a long-term financial benefit. EPP looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Borough."

Town Council President Heath Talhelm pointed out that this is a very important partnership for the Borough of Chambersburg. "We are able to extend this project," added President Talhelm, "and in doing so, the Borough of Chambersburg extend our commitment to renewable energy and lower electric rates. President Talhelm noted that the proposed 2020 Budget includes a proposal for a small retail electric rate decrease."

Jeffrey Stonehill pointed out that "the savings from the contract extension will begin as early as February 2020. The electric bills issued in February 2020 for January 2020 electric usage will reflect the decrease."

***If you have any questions about the landfill gas to electricity project extension, call Ronald Pezon, Electric Department Superintendent, at 717-251-2426 or [rpezon@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:rpezon@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 one 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 one of only two municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is one 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.

# GAS DEPARTMENT

JOHN LEARY, GAS SUPERINTENDENT

## Natural Gas Report

Safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly natural gas has become the energy of choice in America. Chambersburg residents are especially blessed with value and safety, being served natural gas



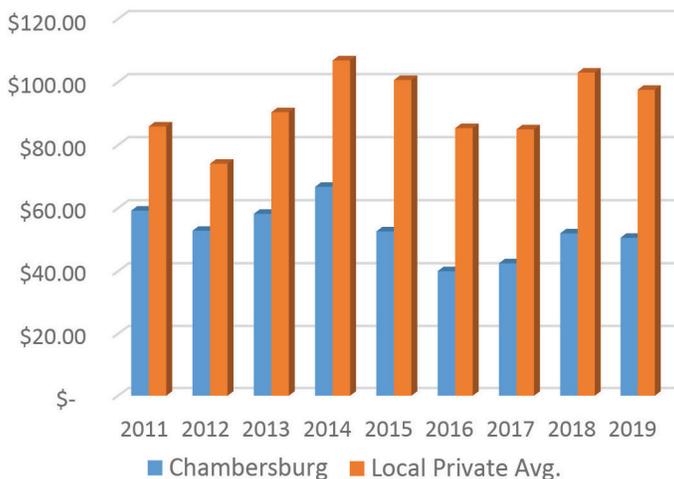
by the Chambersburg Borough Gas Department. Safety is our top priority, and no gas system in PA is safer than Chambersburg's. Additionally, Chambersburg residents pay the lowest prices for natural gas in PA.

Natural gas is the safest energy available. Homes with gas stoves are 2.5 times less likely to have house fires compared to houses with electric stoves, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The NFPA says that cooking is the main cause of house fires in the U.S.

**Chambersburg residents' gas prices are currently 48% lower than local private gas companies, and the lowest in Pennsylvania.**

- Average Chambersburg residential customer paid \$607 for gas over the past twelve months
- Average local private utility customer paid \$1,170 for gas over the same period for the same amount of gas
- Borough gas costs about ¼ the price per BTU as heating oil or electric.

## Avg. Residential Gas Bill



We are also excited to provide over \$11 million in direct annual benefits to Borough residents. This includes total annual savings of \$6 million in gas bills, \$2 million to fund essential Borough operations (which includes sharing services such as Finance, Personnel, IT and a Payment in Lieu of Taxes), and \$3 million directly injected into the local economy.

The safety of Chambersburg gas customers 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.

**A large part of our safety program consists of an aggressive program to replace old underground piping. As can be seen in the charts below, gas leaks in the Borough have trended significantly lower as we've replaced old pipes.**

- Replaced ¾ miles of Cast Iron (CI) gas main in 2019 – similar amount planned for 2020; gas leaks continue to trend lower (see chart below on decrease in Lost and Unaccounted for Gas (LUAF) as we've replaced pipe)
- In 2019 Borough received the APGA Safety Award for the 6th straight year
- Three Government safety inspections in 2019 – 0 violations found
- Net revenue returns to residents through projects to improve safety and service – over \$1 million budgeted for 2019, similar amount in 2020
- Using data normalized for size of system, Chambersburg has 34% fewer gas leaks than similar systems in US; 58% less than all US gas systems
- There have been 0 reportable gas safety incidents in Chambersburg in the past 30+ years

## Chambersburg % LUAF Gas Trend



**The Chambersburg Gas Department is proud to be a winner of the 2019 APGA Safety Award in recognition of our safety efforts and safety record. This is the sixth 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. CO is a dangerous odorless gas that can be a byproduct of malfunctioning heating systems. This year we expanded the program to handle the purchase of combination CO and methane detectors. We have sponsored this program for the past six years, and have purchased well 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 the best public gas systems in the US, with excellence measured in four areas; System Integrity, System Improvement, Employee Safety and Workforce Development.



Chambersburg has been awarded SOAR at the Gold level – the highest possible level. There are approximately 1,000 Public Gas Systems in the US. Only 45 systems have earned SOAR Awards, with just six at the Gold level. The SOAR award

is analogous to APPA's RP3 award (RP3's three levels are Diamond, Platinum and Gold).

To allow more residents to benefit from natural gas service, the Borough has aggressively expanded our system. We have been able to increase our number of gas customers from 5,100 to 6,100 in the past ten years.

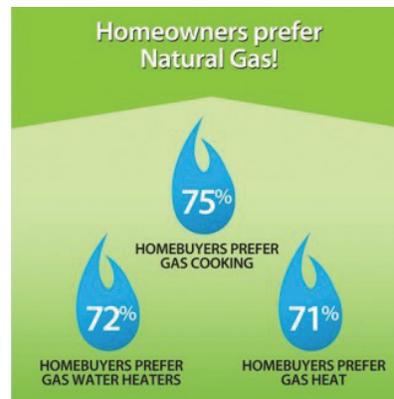
To further help customers enjoy natural gas, we offer a highly successful Gas Conversion Financing Program. To date, we have 530 homes participating, with a total value of \$2.3 million in 0% interest loans. The Borough of Chambersburg's Main Street Energy Efficiency Financing Program is an on-bill financing 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.

**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 Gas Department also offers loans up to \$10,000 to assist small commercial businesses to achieve energy cost savings by converting to gas. We believe helping local small businesses be successful ends up benefitting everyone in the Borough.



In 2019, the Borough began transporting gas to UGI Utilities, Inc., for distribution in Greene Township. The Borough is generally prohibited from selling gas outside of the Borough. Significant development is beginning, or beginning soon, across the Borough line in Greene Township with Menno Haven, Wellspan Health, and others. These projects

need natural gas service to operate as cost effectively, safely and environmentally friendly as possible. UGI doesn't have facilities close enough to this area to serve them, so UGI has contracted with us to transport their gas through the Borough facilities. The Borough has adequate capacity to accommodate UGI's gas needs. This arrangement provides a Win-Win-Win situation: the Borough is paid to transport gas, Greene Township entities have gas service, and UGI gains customers in Greene Township.

To assist the Borough in further expanding our transportation arrangement with UGI, we received a \$584,000 PIPES grant from the Commonwealth of PA. This grant will allow us to expand our lines in new areas to transport gas to UGI. The Borough anticipates receiving over \$100,000 per year in net revenue from our transportation arrangement with UGI.

**Natural Gas Use Benefits Society**

- **Access to natural gas helps combat poverty, saving the average American almost \$1,000 per year according to an independent ICF study**
- **National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) published a study this past year which showed that "low...natural gas prices...averted 11,000 winter deaths per year in the US"**
- **Gas use improves the environment – pollution and carbon emissions have plummeted in the US primarily due to natural gas replacing other fuels**

The Borough Stores/Warehouse Department falls under the responsibility of the Gas Department. The Customer Service Center, located on S. Franklin Street is our customer service center for both internal and external customers. Operating around the clock, the center includes the warehouse functions of the Borough and the live customer service operators.

This Department provides two key internal services for the other departments of the Borough: first, it is the centralized purchasing and inventory location for parts, supplies, and utility hardware (the Stores/Warehouse); and second, it provides a 24/7/365 Customer Service Center for utility emergency and routine customer service.

Warehouse revenue reached record levels in 2019. This was primarily due to unprecedented levels of work completed by the utilities. As an internal services Department, most of our revenue is derived from the material we supply to the utilities.

Further integrating technology in the Department has helped us better serve our customers. Warehouse personnel are some of the Borough leaders in the testing, implementing and training for the new Borough wide software program.



Looking forward to 2020, the Gas Department anticipates our customers will see gas prices similar to those in 2019. No gas rate increase is currently planned for 2020. We anticipate adding 100 more gas customers in 2020, with half being through the loan program.

We also anticipate another busy year of older cast iron gas main replacement on Lincoln Way East. Additionally, we anticipate continuing to look at ways to benefit more residents by expanding gas service to new areas. In 2019, we began extending the gas system into the Laurich Meadows (Martina Drive area) development, and anticipate completing that expansion in 2020. We also anticipate expanding the gas system into other areas, including the Limekiln Drive area and Roland Drive, among others.

## WATER DEPARTMENT

LANCE ANDERSON, PE, WATER & SEWER SUPERINTENDENT

### Borough of Chambersburg Water Department Meter Replacements

The Borough of Chambersburg Water Department has more than 9,000 metered water connections. These meters range in size from  $\frac{3}{4}$ " the typical residential meter, to 8", representing a much larger system meter. The age of these meters spans from the current year back to 1965.

As meters age, the mechanical components of the meters wear, leading to failure which ultimately requires replacement. Waiting for a meter to fail to replace it is not a good practice for several reasons. First, the Water and Sewer Departments depend upon monthly meter readings for both billing and water accountability numbers. Not having accurate numbers results in unaccounted for water and can lead to billing estimates for the customer. If the customer were to experience a leak during this time period, there would be little way of knowing it until the meter in question was replaced with a new meter.

Second, water meters are often installed in groups. For example, when a new street is developed or a housing complex is built within the Borough, the water meters for these houses or units are often installed by a plumber all at the same time, sometimes over the span of several weeks, sometimes even years. This practice is logical; however, this practice also results in the meters all being of the same age and wear out relatively at the same time, leading for the need to replace all of the water meters on a street or housing complex at the same time in the future.

Borough workers from the water department have begun replacing the oldest water meters in the past few years and will continue to do so in 2020. The immediate goal is to replace approximately 900 water meters that span from 1965 up to year 1989 within the next two years. Water meter technology has advanced considerably in later years to include leak detection and data logging capabilities, advanced material and design, enhanced accuracy, and read technology that in some meters requires no moving parts and enables meters to be read remotely.



*Typical Residential Water Meter*

Prior to this work being done, a letter with more information will be mailed to each individual customer that has a meter that requires replacement. Borough technicians will schedule with the customer a convenient time to complete this work. The meters are furnished by the water department and there is no charge for the work.

Customer cooperation is greatly appreciated as we continue this necessary work. If you have further questions regarding your water meter, contact the Water Department or ask the technician at the time of installation.



# SEWER DEPARTMENT

LANCE ANDERSON, PE, WATER & SEWER SUPERINTENDENT

## SEWER LATERAL INFORMATION GUIDE - Definition, Ownership & Responsibility, Maintenance, Replacement

### What is a Sanitary Sewer?

A sanitary sewer is a system of mains or pipes and structures (typically manholes) normally located in the street or in a public easement that are solely designed to transport sewage to the wastewater treatment plant. The Borough of Chambersburg owns and maintains these sanitary sewer pipes. Chambersburg has operated a Sewer System since 1911. The current system includes nearly 86 miles of mains and 2,288 manholes.

### What is a Sewer Lateral?

The sewer pipes that carry wastewater from the sanitary fixtures and drains inside homes or businesses to the Borough's sewer mains are called a sewer laterals. **The property owner owns and is responsible for maintaining the sewer lateral from the property structure to the Borough's sewer main.** In some locations within Chambersburg, there are "joint" private sewer laterals used by two or more residences. The properties that are served by the joint sewer lateral own the line and all properties served are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the lateral.

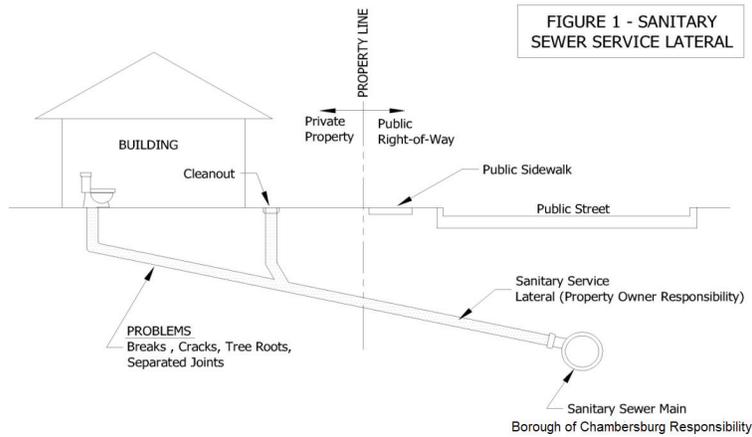
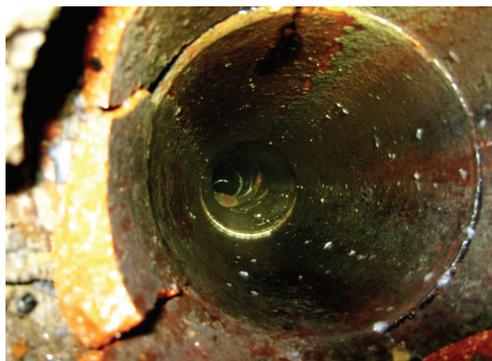


FIGURE 1 - SANITARY SEWER SERVICE LATERAL

### What Causes Backups?

Occasionally the sewer lateral becomes blocked and the sewage is unable to flow; the blockage causes the sewage flow to "backup" or "overflow" to the first available outlet, which is most commonly a low elevation fixture (such as a bathtub drain or basement sink) in a private address. The most common causes of backups include:

- **A buildup of grease, debris or foreign objects in the laterals or mains.**
- **Partial or complete blockage caused by tree roots.**
- **The collapse of an old deteriorated sewer lateral.**
- **The separation of a sewer lateral joint or cracking of the sewer lateral wall.**



Typical Clay Sewer Lateral in Disrepair

### How Can I Prevent Backups in My Sewer Lateral?

Occasionally, the sewer lateral becomes blocked and the sewage is unable to flow; the blockage causes the sewage flow to "backup" or "overflow" to the first available outlet, which is most commonly a low elevation fixture (such as a bathtub drain or basement sink) in a private address. The most common causes of backups include:

- ✗ **DON'T** pour grease, fats and oils from cooking down the drain.
- ✗ **DON'T** use the sewer to dispose of food scraps.
- ✗ **DON'T** use the toilet as a wastebasket for garbage or chemicals. These items can kill "good" bacteria used in sewage treatment, cost much more to treat, and can enter area streams.
- ✗ **DON'T** plant trees with shallow, spreading root systems near your sewer lateral. Tree roots seek water sources, such as from cracked sewer lines. Once the roots have penetrated the line through cracks, the roots can create a dense mat and trap materials.
- ✗ **DON'T** connect backyard drains, sump pumps and other drainage systems to the sanitary sewer line. It's illegal and can cause the capacity of the mainline to be exceeded during heavy rains.

- ✓ **DO** collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage.
- ✓ **DO** place food scraps in the garbage for disposal with solid waste.
- ✓ **DO** place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste. (Disposable diapers and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system.)
- ✓ **DO** consult a licensed plumber to investigate the condition of your sewer lateral if you have noticed sewage odors within the house, even if you have not experienced a backup or overflow.
- ✓ **DO** consult a licensed plumber to undo any illegal non-sewage plumbing connections to the sewer lateral.

### When Should I Replace My Sewer Lateral?

Most sewer laterals are constructed of PVC (plastic), cast iron, or terra cotta (clay). Many homes in Chambersburg were built before 1950 and often have not replaced their original sewer service laterals. Over time, these pipes, generally made of clay, can crack, break, collapse, become disjuncted, experience displacement, and/or be subject to intrusion by roots, all of which can cause backups as discussed above. Homeowner's insurance programs do not typically cover the cost of replacing laterals since it is considered a normal part of home maintenance.

The Borough of Chambersburg encourages its customers who live on streets scheduled to be paved to have their sewer laterals assessed for condition. Condition can typically be evaluated by a licensed plumber using a sewer camera. Repairing or replacing your sewer lateral prior to street paving represents a cost savings and greatly decreases your risk of future failure of your sewer lateral. Repair after the street has been paved is much more expensive due to bringing the recently-paved street back to as new condition.

All property owners with clay sewer laterals should consider replacement. Property owners can contact the Borough Sewer Department with specific questions regarding their sewer lateral age, condition, and repair/replacement options.

# SANITATION & RECYCLING DEPARTMENT

DAVID FINCH, ASSISTANT BOROUGH MANAGER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

David Finch (Assistant Borough Manager/Public Works Director), Chad Ebersole, (Operations Supervisor), and Robert Howard (Assistant Operations Supervisor) run this department.

The Sanitation Department pursues a commitment to provide a safe, efficient, and effective municipal solid waste collection and disposal system that protects the natural environment, citizens of Chambersburg, and businesses. We also strive to preserve the quality of life of our citizens and their environments today and in the future.

- *To safely and efficiently collect residential solid waste and dispose of it at the landfill*
- *To safely and efficiently collect residential recyclable materials for processing and reuse*
- *To provide general cleanliness to the Chambersburg community*

In recent years, we have instituted a number of new programs to improve service to our residents. This has included a new system for leaf removal from streets, a new Green Yard Waste Recycling Center (with expanded hours), and, most importantly, a vastly improved and expanded curbside residential recycling program.



***New Recycling Transfer Station  
Built at the Borough Farm***

For the last four years, Waste Management ran the residential recycling program on behalf of the Borough. As time went on, it became apparent to Waste Management that, due to changes in the world market for recycled materials, recycling was no longer as successful business for them. They therefore announced to the Borough that they would no longer continue residential recycling at the conclusion of the contract in early January of 2020.

On Monday, June 3, 2019, the Chambersburg Town Council approved the first changes to the successful Borough recycling system in four years. Since 2015, the Borough with over 8,000 households had maintained a contract with Waste Management for the curbside collection of single stream commingled residential and small business recycling. This system has been very popular and very successful as the quantity of recycled materials rose significantly from before this system was put in place.

While the Borough's experiences with Waste Management were very satisfactory, for the firm to continue to provide recycling to Chambersburg, the system would needed to have been extensively changed, and Town Council was not supportive of those changes. In the end, Council thought it best to transition back to a system where Borough-employees in Borough-owned trucks collect the same single stream of recyclable materials.

Chambersburg personnel have for many years collected all residential and commercial municipal waste, so the transition back to collecting our own recycling was not too difficult to arrange.

The key to the transition was to find a way to properly process the recycled materials. To that end, Chambersburg Town Council has entered into a three year contract with McCardle Recycling, a firm recently started by longtime veteran waste consultant Kevin McCardle, who will take possession of and be responsible for the marketing of Chambersburg's recycling material.

At the Council meeting on June 3, Mr. McCardle explained that he has a relationship with a number of recycling processing facilities and the contract insures that he will find a home for the entire single stream of commingled materials, including the less popular items such as glass and certain types of plastic.

The Borough of Chambersburg recycling will therefore not significantly change under this system. We want to remain a green community and we do so with our wholesale electricity purchases, our commitment to the environment, and this sanitation program.

Chambersburg Borough had previously received a Sustainable PA community Gold Level designation from the Pennsylvania Municipal League and Sustainable Pittsburgh.



As a part of this plan, the Borough will hire additional Sanitation Department personnel, purchase a new recycling vehicle from G-S Products of Somerset, Pennsylvania, and build a temporary transfer station where recycled material will be transferred from the Borough to McCardle Recycling. However, we expect the transition in January 2020 to be seamless for Borough recycling customers.

The possibility of an increase in trash fees for our residents had been discussed for several years but we have been able to hold this off, despite the rising cost of operations. In 2019, we considered raising the fees mid-year but were once again able to hold off. However, the impact of our new recycling program plus several years of increased costs has required that we raise our monthly sanitation fee from \$18.75 to \$20.80.

Although nobody likes to see Borough fees increase for any reason, it is always important to remember that Chambersburg provides trash fees that are lower in cost than any other provider in the area. Keeping the lowest sanitation fees is a goal of the Borough of Chambersburg. Additionally, our Sanitation fees provide services not provided by these other private companies, such as street cleaning, leaf pick-up, electronic waste disposal, twice annual bulky item collection, and disposal of green yard waste at the green yard waste center on Commerce Street.

It is our goal to continue to manage the system to provide to our residents the best possible service at the lowest cost in the area.

# 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:

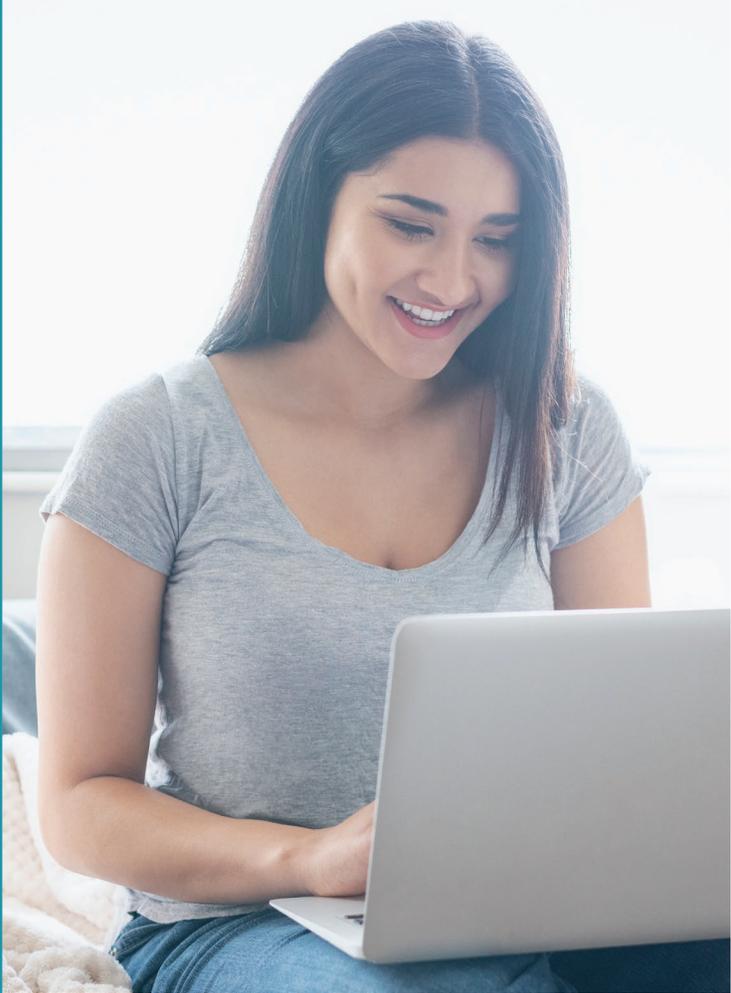
- Keep all grass clippings on your property; off of the curb and sidewalk and out of the street.
- Compost grass clippings on your property away from storm drains, wetlands and streams.
- Grass clippings can be bagged and placed at the curbside or other designated area for collection by the Borough Sanitation 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](mailto: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](http://www.chambersburgpa.org)** (Click on the Documents link and then scroll down to the Storm Sewer section)

Or contact Andrew Stottlemyer, Storm Sewer System Manager at: **717-709-2289 or [astottlemyer@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:astottlemyer@chambersburgpa.gov)**



# Respond your way to the 2020 Census.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding. All of them are easy!



Online



By Phone



By Mail

The 2020 Census marks the first time you will be invited to respond online—even on your mobile device. The online form is available in many different languages. Visit [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020CENSUS.GOV) for more information about responding online.

**2020CENSUS.GOV**

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Census  
2020

## Census data impacts funding for things like:

- > Education programs and grants
- > Public transportation
- > Medicare and Medicaid
- > Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- > Libraries
- > Community centers
- > School meal programs
- > Parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities

For more information, visit:  
**2020CENSUS.GOV**

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States<sup>®</sup>  
Census  
2020

# Nada que temer, mucho que ganar.

Cuando participas en el censo, tus respuestas están protegidas y nadie puede compartir tu información personal con ninguna entidad del gobierno, esto incluye al ICE, el FBI o la policía. Cada 10 años, los datos del censo ayudan a determinar cómo se distribuyen los fondos federales en nuestras comunidades para que se beneficien con:

- > Más programas educativos
- > Clínicas de salud
- > Centros recreativos
- > Programas de almuerzos escolares
- > Centros comunitarios para adultos mayores

El censo es nuestra oportunidad de contribuir para que haya un mejor futuro en nuestra comunidad.

Para más información visita  
**2020CENSUS.GOV/ES**

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2020**

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

JASON H. COHEN, FINANCE DIRECTOR

### Chambersburg Financial Operations Annual Report

In 2019, the Borough's Finance Department experienced minor personnel changes, including the addition of an Accounting Technician position, designed to help the Department keep pace with the increasing responsibilities in Finance and Accounting, resulting from increased activities on behalf of many Borough departments, and particularly the utilities, for which the Accounting Division of the Department is responsible.

The Finance Department is continuing the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning software package, and is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the same for the Electric, Water, Sewer, Gas, Community Development, Human Resources, Stores/Warehouse, and Motor Equipment Departments. The intent of such implementation is to increase communication and productivity amongst the Borough's multiple departments, thereby leading to a more efficient use of taxpayer/ratepayer dollars.

Since 2015, the Finance Department continues to work directly with the Borough's investment advisors - Sterling Advisors, with \$50.1 million under management, in order to realize an average yield of 1.80%, with an average maturity of only 1.0 years, and an estimated annual income of \$608,819. These increased returns should further lessen the burden on the Borough's tax and operating revenues for the funding of operations.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Finance Department also administered the Borough's Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) solicitation 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 \$37,937 to be used towards those services, which the Borough would not have otherwise received. This represents an increase of 41% over PILOT's received in 2015, since undertaking this initiative.

The Finance Department also continues to administer the Borough's collections process, instituted in 2015, which resulted in the collection of 32% of delinquent debt identified as collectible by January 2019, as of 7/31/2019, and YTD collections of delinquent debt exceeding \$107,000 – a figure that is lesser than past years, due to the process effectively containing instances of delinquency. 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 91.55% of debt within sixty days of delinquency.

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, 2017.

# 2019 ACTUAL

## REVENUES:

Taxes: Property, Wage, Deed Transfer, Emergency & Municipal & PILOT	\$11,984,065
Police Fines & Costs	\$192,784
Recreation Department - Pool & Park Receipts	\$204,366
Federal, State & Other Reimbursements	\$1,179,547
Licenses, Permits, Ambulance, & Other Receipts	\$3,590,473
Enterprise Funds	\$66,665,096
Internal Service Funds	\$12,399,468
Payroll, Employees' Pensions & Other Trust Funds	\$19,277,737
Surplus Operating Funds from preceding Fiscal Year	\$31,191,036
Surplus Special and Reserve Funds from preceding Fiscal Year	\$24,420,983

## AMOUNT:

## TOTAL RECEIPTS

Inter-Fund Transfers \$171,105,555

\$12,130,764

## TOTAL RECEIPTS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS

\$183,236,318

## APPROPRIATIONS:

Fire, Ambulance, & Police	\$9,694,329
Highway, Traffic & Lighting	\$2,838,935
Public Recreation	\$2,208,422
General Administration	\$828,906
Community Development	\$1,929,353
Enterprise Funds	\$56,962,509
Internal Service Funds	\$12,149,734
Payroll, Employee Pensions & Other Trust Funds	\$19,025,146
Surplus Operating Funds from preceding Fiscal Year	\$33,139,032
Surplus Special and Reserve Funds from preceding Fiscal Year	\$32,329,189

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Inter-Fund Transfers \$171,105,555

\$12,130,764

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS

\$183,236,318

## PROPERTY TAX RATES - DIRECT AND OVERLAPPING GOVERNMENTS

TAX YEAR	BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG	CHAMBERSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT	FRANKLIN COUNTY	FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY
2019	30.5 mils	115.019 mils	29.10 mils	1.05 mils
2018	30.5 mils	109.647 mils	27.60 mils	1.05 mils
2017	25.5 mils	105.94 mils	27.60 mils	1.05 mils
2016	25.5 mils	101.378 mils	27.60 mils	1.05 mils
2015	23.5 mils	98.426 mils	25.65 mils	1.05 mils

1. Chambersburg Town Council adopts only the Borough rate; not the other rates.
2. Chambersburg Town Council did not raise taxes for six years prior to 2014.
3. Your Borough Property Tax represents only 17¢ of every \$1 paid in property taxes in 2019.
4. The Borough also collects Earned Income Tax, Deed Transfer Tax, and Local Services Tax.

# 2020 COUNCIL ROSTER

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

## MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**Barbara Beattie**  
218 Lantern Lane  
Third Ward - 2018-2021  
bbeattie@chambersburgpa.gov

**Sharon A. Bigler**  
359 High Street  
Fourth Ward - 2020-2023  
sbigler@chambersburgpa.gov

**Amer Chaudhry**  
97 Glen Street  
Fourth Ward - 2018-2021  
achaudhry@chambersburgpa.gov

**Allen B. Coffman**  
112 Pennsylvania Avenue  
First Ward - 2018-2021  
acoffman@chambersburgpa.gov

**Alice C. Elia**  
1447 Wilson Avenue  
First Ward - 2020-2023  
aelia@chambersburgpa.gov

**Bill Everly**  
910 Leidig Drive  
Fifth Ward - 2020-2023  
beverly@chambersburgpa.gov

**Michael Herbert**  
209 South Coldbrook Avenue  
Second Ward - 2018-2021  
mherbert@chambersburgpa.gov

**John Huber**  
234 S. Coldbrook Avenue  
Second Ward - 2020-2023  
jhuber@chambersburgpa.gov

**Kathy J. Leedy**  
191 Eisenhower Drive  
Third Ward - 2020-2023  
kleedy@chambersburgpa.gov

**Heath E. Talhelm**  
840 Brandon Drive  
Fifth Ward - 2018-2021  
htalhelm@chambersburgpa.gov

## MAYOR

**Walter C. Bietsch**  
530 East Liberty Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
Mayors Office 261-3243  
mayor@chambersburgpa.gov

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

7:00 P.M.  
REGULAR PUBLIC:  
2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

## OFFICE ADDRESS:

100 SOUTH SECOND STREET,  
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201

## OFFICE PHONE:

(717) 264-5151

## BOROUGH STAFF

**Jeffrey Stonehill**  
Borough Manager  
Director of Utilities  
(b) 717-251-2433

**Phil Wolgemuth**  
Deputy Borough Manager  
Land Use & Development Director  
(b) 717-251-2436

**David C. Finch**  
Assistant Borough Manager  
Public Works Director  
(b) 717-660-2702

**Jamia L. Wright**  
Borough Secretary  
(b) 717-251-2437

**Kristine M. Baker**  
Assistant Borough Secretary  
(b) 717-251-2407

**G. Bryan Salzmann**  
Borough Solicitor  
(b) 717-263-2121

**Welton J. Fischer**  
Assistant Borough Solicitor  
(b) 717-264-8020

**Ron Pezon**  
Electric Superintendent  
(b) 717-251-2426

**Jeff Heverley**  
Assistant Electric Superintendent  
(b) 717-251-2418

**John Leary**  
Gas Superintendent  
(b) 717-251-2422

**Jon Mason**  
Assistant Gas Superintendent  
(b) 717-251-2423

**Lance Anderson**  
Water and Sewer Superintendent  
(b) 717-251-2405

**Travis Amsley**  
Assistant to the Water  
and Sewer Superintendent  
(b) 717-251-2439

**A. Elwood Sord**  
Assistant Public Works Director  
(b) 717-251-2479

**Dustin Ulrich**  
Emergency Services Chief  
(b) 717-251-2475

**Roland Comacho**  
Police Chief  
(b) 717-264-4131

**Julie Redding**  
Recreation Superintendent  
(b) 717-251-2470

**William F. Dubbs, Jr.**  
Property Maintenance Code Officer  
(b) 717-251-2444

**Ana Carey**  
Property Maintenance Code Officer  
(b) 717-251-2445

**Guy Shaul**  
Economic Development Specialist  
(b) 717-251-2446

**Jason Cohen**  
Finance Director  
(b) 717-251-2412

**Brenda Hill**  
Borough Tax Collector  
(b) 717-263-6565

**Franklin County  
Area Tax Bureau**  
(b) 717-263-5141

## BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG

100 SOUTH SECOND STREET | CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201  
www.chambersburgpa.gov | Phone: (717) 264-5151  
boroughsecretariesoffice@chambersburgpa.gov

BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG  
100 South Second Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201-0909

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## **BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG**

100 South Second Street | Chambersburg, PA 17201

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