



Borough of Chambersburg

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chambersburg Receives Infrastructure Plan with a Request for Police Station Renovation

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania – At the Regular Meeting of Town Council on Monday, October 29, 2018, Chambersburg heard a presentation from the Borough's Land Use & Community Development Director, the Borough Manager, and an architect, on millions of dollars of needed infrastructure projects, some which will happen in 2019 and others which need more time to be developed.

The list of projects is called a Capital Improvements Plan, and Town Council gets this report every year in advance of adoption of the upcoming budget. According to Phil Wolgemuth, Assistant to the Borough Manager, "the CIP is not a budget but rather a plan. The Borough budget is developed from the CIP, but apart from it. Sometimes the CIP directly relates to budget decisions. Sometimes, in the development and implementation of the budget, projects are deferred or changed." Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill added, "With the proper management of the finances of the Borough, the elected officials should be asked to develop an infrastructure plan of things that need to be accomplished, and not just wait until those projects need to be built."

One of the items on the infrastructure plan was the presentation by architect Dennis Sowers of SGS Architects and Engineers, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, regarding the need to renovate the Borough's aging Police Station.

The southern part of City Hall was built and opened to the public in 1972 to provide a police station for the Police Department on the first floor and basement and a meeting space for Town Council on the second floor. Since 1972, the building has been used accordingly; however, construction of the Utility Departments' Addition to City Hall now provides an opportunity for the Police Department to expand and make better use of the addition, which was opened in 1972.

In addition to the first floor and basement of City Hall, the Police Department occupies the Borough-owned building at 136 S. Second St. These spaces provide fragmented and inefficient work spaces for the 37 employees of the department, including officers, civilians and the Mayor, who supervises the Police. The offices, evidence rooms, and holding cells in the basement are the most evident examples of inadequate accommodations for a modern Police Department. Another example, is the lobby where people can enter the building and walk through the lobby while Police Department staff are talking with citizens, sometimes about sensitive matters.

According to the Borough Manager, "a tour of the facility, which I recommend everyone take, would demonstrate that the number of employees, the technology, code issues such as light, ventilation and fire codes, storage, the secure handling of prisoners, and evidence, and the condition of the workspace are all of concern and or liability to the Borough. When I arrived in Chambersburg, there was at the time, a project in the Capital Improvements Plan to construct a new freestanding police station in the rear parking lot behind City Hall. Estimated cost for that conceptual project was \$5 million in 2007. It was decided by Council to make the Utility's Departments' Addition to City Hall a priority, specifically, because that building project was funded by utility fees and not taxes. Its construction required no utility rate increases and no tax increase. Further, the construction of the addition, allowed additional office square footage to be allocated from the utility departments, and Town Council, for Police Station use. That project will be completed within the next few weeks. With the completion of that project, attention returned to the needs of the Police Department." Stonehill continued "I believe the funding of the renovation of the existing space, estimated by our architect to be approximately \$5 million in 2021 money, proves the point that the 2007 project was too expensive. Unfortunately, no source of funding has yet been identified for any police station renovation. Therefore the draft Capital Improvements Plan does not contemplate any activity towards this goal in 2019."

Phil Wolgemuth added that the project also includes some alternate construction items including replacement of the slate roof over the original Market House part of City Hall and repairs to the historic clock tower. Those needs are important, but not specifically a part of the needs of the Police Department.

Chambersburg is expected to release the details of the full 2019 Budget on Monday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

It is anticipated that the Capital Improvements Plan will be finalized before the end of November.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Phil Wolgemuth at pwolgemuth@chambersburgpa.gov; to tour the facility, contact Mayor Walter Bietsch at mayor@chambersburgpa.gov

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

Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013). www.chambersburgpa.gov



1

3

9

4

5

6





PEOPLE WHO
TOLERATE
ME ON A
DAILY BASIS...
THEY'RE THE
REAL HEROS.



