



MOUNT JOY TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012



FROM THE DESK OF MT. JOY'S CHAIRMAN, JOHN GORMONT

SUPERVISORS:

John E. Gormont,
Chairman:
Finance

David R. Updyke,
Vice-Chairman:
Finance, Roads

Gilbert M. Clark:
Personnel, Planning,
Land Use & Zoning

Michael E. Gearhart :
Buildings & Grounds,
Council of Govt.

Bradley A. Trostle:
Personnel, Public Safety



SUPPORT STAFF:

Susan Harbin,
Secretary/Treasurer

Cindy Smith,
Zoning Officer

Sheri Moyer,
Office Assistant

Ronnie Reed,
Roadmaster



OFFICE HOURS:

Mon., Wed., & Fri.:
9:00am - 12:00pm

Tues. & Thurs.:
1:00pm - 4:00pm

717-359-4500
mtjoytwp@mtjoytwp.us

Township is DEBT FREE in 2012

What a good way to start another year "DEBT FREE"! The Township Finance committee recommended to the Board of Supervisors a plan to pay off all the debt owed by the township. After the Board approved the plan late last year during the budget process, it was put into place, and completed in the January 2012 timeframe.

The plan used to eliminate the debt was a combination of reduction in expenditures (that created additional revenue funds) which were applied to the loan, an evaluation of the interest costs of the loan, and the interest we were receiving on the three CDs banked. After that evaluation, it was determined that we were paying over \$30K a year in interest on the loan, and only making \$5K in interest on the CDs. So as the CDs matured they were cashed in, and the money was applied to the loan. Thus, we eliminated the excessive interest payments. The final loan payment was made from the 2012 budget. This was a payment originally scheduled to be made this year. Now that the loan is paid off, we can begin the process of putting surplus money into CDs to work toward rebuilding the township's reserves.

In addition to paying off the township's debt, we are proud of the cost reduction measures we have undertaken over the past two years. These reductions have now allowed the Board of Supervisors, for the second year in a row, to approve another 20% tax reduction for 2012. With the elimination of the \$780K of debt, the Finance Committee will now focus on additional tax reductions in the coming years and again rebuild the Township's reserve funding. Several years ago the township had no debt and \$1M in reserves, now we have NO DEBT and will be work to restoring the previous level of reserves.

As everyone knows, this past winter has been fairly easy on the township as far as winter weather and the need for snow removal. That certainly has been a cost savings on the road maintenance expense as well as the township's heating bills. In addition, we replaced the old propane tank with a new larger tank to allow the township to purchase propane during the summer when the price is lower. This should help lower the costs substantially. There was cost associated with the purchase and installation of the new tank, but over time, being able to purchase the propane at a much lower cost will quickly recover the expense.

Everything in the township has not been about spending reduction. We did purchase two additional trucks over the last year. One was purchased from Carroll Valley Boro, to support the snow removal in the township. It is a 1999 International with 36k miles, single axle dump, equipped with a plow and salt spreader. The second was a 2012 Ford F550, purchased to replace the 1991 Chevrolet pickup that was wrecked during the October snow storm. It is equipped with a plow and salt spreader that will work well for removing snow in developments and cul-de-sacs.

It is almost time for the students to return to Mud College School for the spring season, and we hope they all enjoy their time there. This also means it is going to be time for the road crew to be out maintaining the roads, so be on the lookout for the "Men Working" signs. They will begin the mowing operations very soon as well, so please give them the room they need to do their job safely and completely.

I hope everyone has a good start to the year and is able to accomplish all the things they need to do throughout the remainder of the year. Remember the Township meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, hope to see you there.

John Gormont, Chairman, Mt. Joy Township Board of Supervisors

NOTICE OF 2011 AUDIT

Township of Mount Joy, Adams County, PA
From January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

Pursuant to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Township Code, notice is hereby given that the Auditor's Report of the Township of Mount Joy, Adams County, Pennsylvania for the year ended December 31, 2011 been filed as required. The audit was performed by Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, Hanover, PA. The following are concise financial statements of the Township:

	<u>Government Fund Types</u>		<u>Fiduciary Fund Types</u>	<u>Totals</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Pension Fund</u>	<u>(Memorandum Only)</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2011	\$ 861,455	\$ 48,711	\$ 48,612	\$ 958,778
RECEIPTS				
Taxes Collected	754,602			754,602
Licenses & Permits	17,987			17,987
Fines and Forfeitures	9,937			9,937
Interest & Rents	7,764	346	728	8,838
Intergovernmental Revenues	97,637	127,075		224,712
Charges for Service	24,808			24,808
Unclassified Operating Revenues	201			201
Other Financing Sources	12,964	2,885	11,378	27,227
Total Receipts	<u>925,900</u>	<u>130,306</u>	<u>12,106</u>	<u>1,068,312</u>
Total Available	<u>\$ 1,787,355</u>	<u>\$ 179,017</u>	<u>\$ 60,718</u>	<u>\$ 2,027,090</u>
EXPENDITURES				
General Government	\$ 198,563			\$ 198,563
Public Safety	155,391			155,391
Public Works - Sanitation	0			-
- Highways & Roads	156,639	148,030		304,669
- Other Services	5,000			5,000
Culture and Recreation	9,829			9,829
Debt Service	300,854	25,903		326,757
Employer Paid Benefits & Withholding Items	25,529			25,529
Insurance	31,031			31,031
Fiduciary fund expenses			10,547	10,547
Other Financing Uses	24,229	-	-	24,229
Total Expenditures	<u>907,065</u>	<u>173,933</u>	<u>10,547</u>	<u>1,091,545</u>
FUND BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2011	<u>880,290</u>	<u>5,084</u>	<u>50,171</u>	<u>935,545</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 1,787,355</u>	<u>\$ 179,017</u>	<u>\$ 60,718</u>	<u>\$ 2,027,090</u>

The Township issued a non-electoral general obligation bond in 2003 in the amount of \$1,050,000 of which a balance of \$373,372 remains as of 12/31/2011.

ROAD REPORT

The Township's Roadmaster, Ronnie Reed, and his crew have been busy the last couple of months. The road crew placed stop signs, speed limit and curb signs along Mud College, Miller and Updike Roads. They replaced speed limit and curve signs along Highland Avenue Road. Bridge ends were replaced along Low Dutch Road. The Township purchased a new Ford 550 dump truck that the men constructed and installed sideboards. During the winter months they did a lot of equipment maintenance, sanding and cleaning the frame on the International, new steps were constructed and installed on the F350 truck, painted all the truck frames, and washed all the equipment.





NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DEVELOPMENT BONDS

There has been a lot of talk about the Neighborhood Improvement Development (NID) Bonds for The Links at Gettysburg, so I will try to simplify the issue. I have been overwhelmed with a lot of knowledge about the NID bond process over the past few months. I now have a much better understanding of the overall bond process.

In 2003 the Township Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance under the Pennsylvania NID Law establishing the Links at Gettysburg Neighborhood Improvement District. The Board also approved a NID Plan that identified certain public improvements in the Links NID and provided for special assessments from property owners in the Links for the cost of these improvements. The duty to complete the Links NID improvements is NOT the financial responsibility of the Township. The duty to complete the Links NID improvements lies solely with the developer of the Links.

Also in 2003, the Board approved a separate ordinance creating Red Rock Municipal Authority and charged it with responsibility for administering the Links NID, including the collection of the special assessments.

In 2004, the Board approved an ordinance for the issuance of NID bonds up to \$8.7M for The Links at Gettysburg NID improvements. The Township's involvement is to issue the bonds as the governing municipality. This bond issuance is recorded by DCED as non-electoral debt to the Township, which indicates it does not impact the Township's ability to borrow money and does not pledge the Township's financial assets.

To date, the developer of the Links has drawn funds from the NID bonds as reimbursement for improvements made in the Links. At this time there have been three separate bond issuances in the amount of \$2,286,000, a portion of the total bond amount. As we move forward over the next few years, I expect there will be more bond issuances as development continues in the Links.

The Township has NO responsibility for the repayment of these bonds. The property owners in The Links at Gettysburg have the financial responsibility for the bond payments. All of the property owners of The Links are required to pay an annual special assessment of up to \$1500.00 for the repayment of the funds.

John Gormont, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

COMMENTS FROM MT. JOY'S ZONING OFFICER



Spring renovation projects are in full swing. For your convenience, the following are brief permitting guidelines:

- Projects with no structural changes, such as windows, doors, and roofing materials replacement do not require a Township Zoning Permit.
- Any structural addition requires permitting.
- Prior to the installation of any pool please contact me.
- Fencing over six foot in height requires an inspection.

Septic inspections and reporting forms are currently in process for District 2. Please be aware, if your property is located in District 2 you will be required to pump within the calendar year.

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONSUMER INFORMATION

Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act— protection for consumers who hire contractors for home remodeling projects.

Effective July 1, 2009, contractors who perform home improvements totaling \$5,000.00 or more per year must register with the PA Office of Attorney General. The law requires written contracts between the contractor and consumer when the price of the project exceeds \$500, and provides for criminal penalties for home improvement fraud and civil penalties for violations of the act. If you are remodeling your home, be sure your contractor is registered with the Office of Attorney General before you sign a contract. You can check the registration status of a contractor by visiting the PA Attorney General's website at www.attorneygeneral.gov or call toll free 1-888-520-6680. All contractors must display their official registration number on all contracts, estimates, proposals, and advertisements distributed within the Commonwealth. Mount Joy Township has revised its Land Use Permit Application to require contractors to report their registration number on the application. (Information above provided by publication of the PA Home Improvement Consumer Information, Tom Corbet, PA Attorney General. Pamphlets, which include additional information, are available at the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building).

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Mt. Joy Township
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Gettysburg, PA 17325

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gettysburg Outlets: The Greyhounds of Gettysburg will be at the Outlets the end of April. The Farmers Market will open the beginning of May (Friday and Saturday) and will continue through the summer months. A concert series will be held every Thursday evening in June and July and on July 16th the Lanco British Car Show will be at the Outlets.

Barlow Fire Company: April 19th Hoagie Sale; May 5th Community Day; June 9th Golf Tournament; June 16th Barlow's Fried Chicken Feed

Bonneauville Fire Company: April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th Late Night Bingo; May 11th Basket Bingo; July 21st Community Day

Gettysburg Fire Company: June 26—June 30th Firemen's Carnival

Alpha Fire Company/Littlestown: April 22nd, June 24, July 22nd Pit Beef Drive Thru; May 6th Chicken BBQ;



Adams County Tire Collection Day

Saturday, May 12, 2012, 8:00am to 1:00pm
\$1.00 per tire, must be pre-pd before May 7th

Adams County Agricultural & Natural Resources Ctr.
670 Old Harrisburg Rd., Gettysburg
Advanced registration is required, Call 717-337-9827

TAKE BACK Adams County

Saturday, April 28th, 10:00am to 2:00pm

FREE Medication Collection

Biglerville, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Littlestown,
New Oxford, York Springs
Call 717-338-0300 x26 for collection sites

