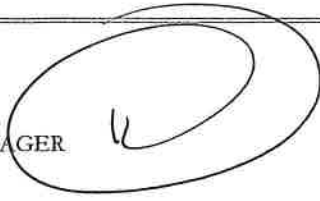


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WEST MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP - INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
FROM: KELLY K. KELCH, TOWNSHIP MANAGER  
SUBJECT: APRIL 2021 – MANAGER’S REPORT  
DATE: 4/15/2021



1. April 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting – The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. As with the previous month’s meetings, the April meeting will be closed to the general public in accordance with the recommendations from the State but will be streamed live on the Township Recreation Department and Fire Department Facebook pages. Residents can also submit questions in advance via email and will be given a call-in number during the live stream. We will reassess the situation prior to the May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting to determine when “in-person” meetings will resume.
2. COVID-19 Update – As of the date of this report (4/15), new coronavirus cases are averaging approximately 4,500-5,500 per day. The State reported a positivity percentage of 9.5%. This is a dramatic increase from 5.7% which was the high just a month ago. York County’s positivity rate is 11.2% which is also a large increase from 6.5% at this same time last month. A new study from Johns Hopkins University recently stated that nearly half of the new cases of coronavirus nationwide are coming from just five (5) states. Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania have reported 44% of the nation’s new coronavirus infection. We urge our staff and residents to continue to be vigilant and use best practices to fight the spread of this disease.
3. Township Audit – Maher Duessel is still in the process of completing the official audit of the Township financial records for 2020. The Township anticipates the audit being complete sometime in April. I will advise the Board of any substantial issues or findings.

4. Homicide Investigation – I was contacted by Chief Snyder regarding a homicide that occurred in the Township on Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. West Manchester Township Police were called to 34 North Gotwalt Street in West Manchester Township on March 30, 2021 at 0725 for the report of a man who was deceased from apparent stab wounds. Responding officers located Robert Runkle, age 65, inside the residence deceased from apparent stab wounds. During the ensuing investigation, Officers identified Brian K. Peters, Jr., age 33, as a suspect. Peters is believed to have stayed at the residence with Runkle for some amount of time before this homicide occurred. After the homicide, Peters stole Runkle's vehicle and left the scene. It is alleged that Peters made statements before leaving that he was headed outside the local area to commit additional crimes of violence. The investigation also revealed that Peters was wanted for a different homicide in Brevard County, Florida. With the assistance of Troopers and support staff of the Virginia State Police, Peters was located travelling southbound on I-95 in Hanover County, Virginia. Peters was subsequently stopped and arrested without incident. He is currently lodged in the Pamunkey Regional Jail in Hanover, VA. This investigation is still ongoing. Peters is charged with Criminal homicide and related offenses. Extradition will be coordinated with the appropriate authorities. Great work by the WMTPD and all of the agencies involved with the capture. The Department deeply appreciates the assistance of the York County District Attorney's Office, York County Coroner's Office, and the Virginia State Police. Anyone with additional information related to this case is encouraged to call Detective Sergeant Sean J. Conway at 717.792.9514. It is important to note that the victim and the suspect were known to one another, and there is no reason to believe that there is any additional danger to the public.
  
5. "No Parking" Request Canary Circle– The Township received a request to limit a portion of Canary Circle as "No Parking". Sergeant Sefchick has reviewed the request and his recommendation for approval is attached for your review. As directed by the Board, Andy Herrold has prepared an advertisement for an ordinance to restrict parking on the "inner circle" of Canary Circle from Finch Drive to Lark Drive in accordance with the submitted traffic study. The public hearing as well as consideration of Ordinance 21-01 has been placed on the agenda for action by the Board at its meeting of April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

6. Summer Parks Playground Program – The Township Summer Park Playground Program is back. After making the tough decision to cancel in 2020 out of concern for the safety of our staff and participants due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Township is currently accepting registrations for the 2021 program. In addition to the Summer Parks Program, the Township will also be resuming additional events such as Senior Bingo and the Old Time Carnival, as well as offering new programs and events such as May in Motion and the Haunted Halloween Homicide Dinner Theater. We will also continue to offer some of the “social distant” events that were such a success last year such as our Food Truck Madness events. Please be sure to check out the Township newsletter and website for a complete list of events. I would also like to acknowledge Lori Trimmer and Kristi Swartz for not only thinking of fun and creative events for residents to participate in during the pandemic, but also for continuing to be an asset to other Township departments as traditional events were cancelled. We look forward to 2021!
7. Baker Road Bridge Replacement - Construction on the Baker Road bridge, which connects West Manchester and Dover Townships, is expected to begin in September of 2021 and last into July 2022. The intent is to limit the maximum duration of road closure to minimize the impact on the community. The road could be closed in the fall or in early April 2022. The road closure duration will be limited to 100 calendar days. The schedule hinges on PennDOT’s approval, so it is subject to change. This information has been posted on the Township website and will be updated as additional information is made available.
8. SRO Contract – At its meeting of March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Board voted to approve a new, 3-year School Resource Officer (SRO) contract with the District for the school year. The new contract begins on July 1, 2021 and runs until June 30, 2024. As discussed, the most substantial change to the agreement was reducing the number of School Resource Officers from two (2) to one (1), which was done at the request of the District. I am happy to report that the contract has been signed by both parties and this matter will now be considered closed.

9. Public Works Contract Negotiations – The current labor contract between the Public Works Department, represented by the Teamsters, and the Township is set to expire on December 31, 2021. We have provided the union with our budget submission date as requested and are awaiting to hear regarding their availability to begin the negotiations.
10. Evergreen Lane Septic Issue – Late in the day on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Township was informed about a malfunctioning on-lot septic system on a property located on Evergreen Lane. A neighbor complained that the property has the septic discharging into their yard and is trying to dilute it with water and cleaning solution. The Township called D.E.P. as well as the Township Sewerage Enforcement Officer to investigate this issue and the property owner was working with both entities to resolve the issue. I was informed on March 26<sup>th</sup> that a new tank was installed and this matter has been resolved.
11. HB 988 – House Bill 988 seeks to repeal Act 43 of 2017 which regulates fireworks. The proposed bill would give the governing body of the **individual municipality** the ability to adopt reasonable rules and regulations dealing with consumer fireworks. The proposed legislation also would allow money collected from fines to be retained by the municipality to be used by law enforcement to increase enforcement actions. Considering the number of complaints that we have received since the passage of the statewide fireworks legislation, I have discussed this matter with Chief Laughman and asked him to write our local legislators to request their support of HB 988. I will keep the Board informed on this matter.
12. Amendment to Non-Uniform Pension Plan Document – Our financial adviser, Langan Financial, discovered an error in our pension plan document pertaining to the pension calculation for the non-uniform employees. The current plan did not allow for the accounting of certain wages to the pension calculation as it does in the uniformed plan. The amendment and advertisement to rectify this omission have been drafted and are attached for your review. The Board was made aware of this and authorized the advertisement and drafting of a proposed ordinance. Consideration of proposed Ordinance 21-02 to amend the non-uniform pension plan has been placed on the agenda for consideration by the Board at its meeting of April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

13. York Rail Issues - The Township has had several complaints in the last few weeks regarding York Railway blocking West Market Street. Lt. Emig met with the General Manager of York Rail, Don Craine, to inform him on the limitation on blocking the road. Lt. Emig also provided the patrol unit with guidance regarding enforcement of this issue.
14. Former Gander Mountain Building – I was contacted by John Lewis, the CEO and President of Doceo, a business supply and solution company, regarding the former Gander Mountain site. Mr. Lewis has the property under contract and plans to use the space for commercial office and associated retail. The uses are permitted in our Zoning Ordinance and Mr. Lewis is working with our Zoning Department to complete all of the necessary paperwork.
15. Former Manna Pro Building – The owner of the site, Matt Bupp, has been in contact with the Township regarding the redevelopment of the site. The proposed use is a Brewery in conjunction with some associated food, beverage and retail aspects. A portion of the site may also be developed into housing. The majority of the site is located in York City with a very small portion being in the Township. The applicant would need to comply with all applicable Township zoning regulations but I would recommend that we waive our land development regulations in favor of the City since the majority of the property is in their jurisdiction.