

PETERS TOWNSHIP,
PENNSYLVANIA

2022 CITIZEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT



PETERS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS

LETTER FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

PAUL LAUER

I am pleased to present the Peters Township Citizen's Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. This financial report is designed to convey important financial information to the residents of Peters Township in a reader-friendly and concise manner in order to provide transparency and accountability. The Citizen's Financial Report is suitable for those who prefer an overview or summary of the Township's government and its financial condition.

The focus of the 2022 Citizen's Financial Report is Peters Township Public Works Department, perhaps the most visible department to any resident driving Township streets or visiting the parks of our community. The dedicated professionals of the Public Works Department are committed to maintaining the parks, open spaces, Township facilities, and infrastructure (storm sewers, roads, catch basins) of the Township, as well as responding to winter weather emergencies.

Peters Township Public Works Department has seen major changes in its operational structure and personnel. Recently appointed Public Works Director Jared Scott oversees a department comprised of 22 employees, three of which serve as Foremen. The Public Works Department is experiencing a transition due largely to retirements. Of the 23 total employees in this department, 15 have been hired since January 2015. What hasn't changed during this transition is the commitment of the department's employees to serve our community, especially in times of emergency, on a daily basis.

Over the past several years, the Public Works Department has performed a number of critical infrastructure improvements, in addition to offering important services to Township residents. Since 2020, Public Works crews have repaired, rebuilt, or installed 41 catch basins along Township roads, and replaced 458 street and stop signs with new signs that meet federal reflectivity requirements. In 2022 alone, staff responded to 233 leaf collection requests, recycling 660 cubic yards of leaf waste, and 305 residential yard waste collection requests. Department staff have routinely demonstrated their technical skills by renovating the Engineering Department, installing new offices and a fitness center in the Police Department, completing living quarters in Fire Station #1, painting the Library, and replacing the shingle roofs of several shelters and pavilions in the parks with red metal roofs.

One of the most important things any Township can do to support its personnel and ensure that residents are receiving the level of service they expect from the Township is to provide them with the appropriate equipment and facilities. In 2022, the Township purchased two brine dispensers, doubling the number previously owned by the Township and allowing staff the ability to pre-treat every road in the Township in advance of winter weather. The Department also acquired an asphalt hot box that will allow it to use hot asphalt mix, as opposed to cold patch, when patching roads in the Township. Anticipating the completion of Rolling Hills Park, and the topographical challenges it poses to maintenance staff, the Township purchased several new zero-turn mowers as well as a remote-controlled mower that is designed to mow steep slopes that would be unsafe for any manned vehicle.

While Peters strives to ensure that its equipment and vehicle fleet remain up to date, equipped with the latest technology, and in good working order, the Township realizes that this equipment is only valuable if the operator possesses the skills and abilities to properly use it. Thanks to training provided to the Public Works staff, employees are trained and proficient on a variety of skills that allow them to best utilize the tools and equipment they use on a daily basis. Additionally, in 2022 the Public Works department began offering in-house Commercial Driver's License entry level driver training to new employees without their CDL. In addition, department staff have routinely demonstrated their technical skills by renovating the Engineering Department, installing new offices and a fitness center in the Police Department, completing living quarters in Fire Station #1, painting the Library, and replacing the shingle roofs of several shelters and pavilions in the parks with red metal roofs.

Finally, in light of the expansion of the personnel in the Public Works Department, the Township completed design and bid an expansion of the locker room and restroom areas at the Public Works Complex Main Building. This project will be completed over the summer of 2023, and will allow the Main Building to accommodate all staff of the Department.

The Citizen's Financial Report is designed to supplement, and not replace, the Peters Township Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR provides detailed reporting of the Township's financial position and operating activities each year presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of the summary nature of the Citizen's Financial Report, it is not intended to conform to these standards. For those wishing to review the Peters Township ACFR it can be found on the Township's website at www.peterstownship.com, at the Library, or in the Municipal Building.

As always, if you have questions or concerns regarding this report or any other matter please feel free to call me at 724-941-4180 or drop me an email at PFLauer@peterstownship.com.

Sincerely,

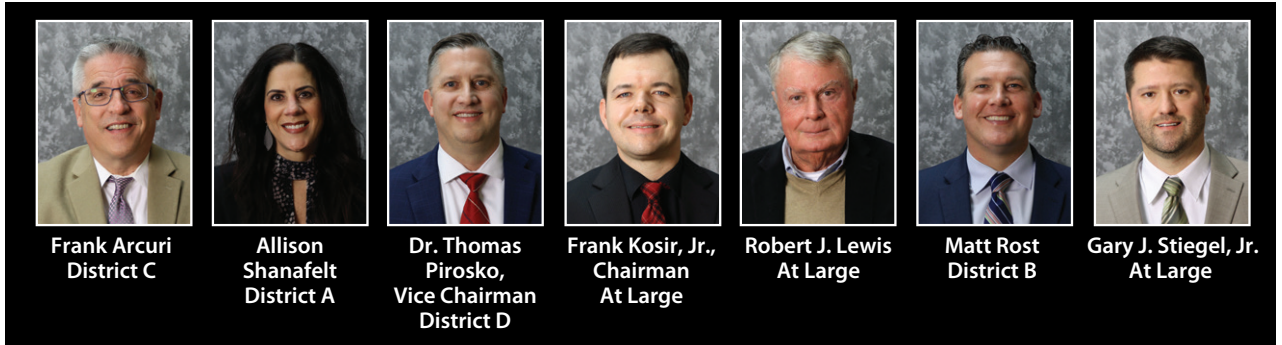
Paul F. Lauer
Township Manager



PETERS TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Peters Township, a home rule community, is governed by a seven-member Council. Council Members are elected for a four-year term. Four of the Council Members are elected by district, and three Council Members are elected at-large. Current members include:



PROFILE OF GOVERNMENT

Peters Township is a general unit of local government and, as such, provides a wide variety of public services. These services include:

- Police Protection
- Fire Protection
- Road Maintenance
- Planning
- Zoning/Code Enforcement
- Parks and Recreation
- Library
- Community Television

The Township operates through the authority granted it by the Peters Township Home Rule Charter. The Charter provides that

the Township be governed by a seven (7) member elected Council. The Council is vested with a broad range of policy-making powers. To assist the Council in formulation of policy, a variety of boards have been created. These include:

- Planning Commission
 - Zoning Hearing Board
 - Park and Recreation Board
 - Cable T.V. Board
 - Environmental Quality Board
 - Library Board
 - Youth Commission
 - Construction Appeals Board
- Day-to-day administration is the responsibility of the Township Manager. Council appoints

the Manager for an indeterminate period. The Township Manager, in turn, recommends to Council the appointment of all Department Heads.

The Peters Township Organizational Chart provides a visual representation of the Township's structure. The current organizational chart is published in the 2022 Township Budget and the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), both available on www.peterstownship.com.

FINANCIAL GOALS AND POLICIES

Peters Township has adopted a series of financial goals which it strives to attain over the long term. Financial goals, by their very nature, are broad and enduring guiding principles. The financial goals of Peters Township are:

- Provide a revenue structure that is dynamic and diverse to allow the Township the opportunity to deliver services that residents and businesses of the community need and desire,
- Maintain a strong credit rating,
- Deliver services to residents and businesses in a manner that maximizes value by focusing on quality and cost effectiveness,
- Provide professional financial management to ensure that the budgeting, accounting, and auditing processes comply with recognized standards, provides appropriate controls, encourages public involvement, is transparent, and provides information to assist in decision-making.

Peters Township has also adopted a variety of financial policies designed to set parameters for decisions and actions of the Township. These financial policies are derived from the Township's established financial goals and are intended to support the implementation of those goals. The financial policies of Peters Township fall into six categories. These include Budget, Revenue, Expenditure, Debt, Investment and Budgeting, Accounting, Auditing, & Financial Reporting Policies. The financial policies of the Township are reviewed annually and incorporated into the Township's budget document. If you wish to review the Township's financial policies you can view a copy of the Budget on the Township's website at www.peterstownship.com, at the Library, or in the Municipal Building.

REVENUE

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

The ability of any municipal government to achieve its goals is fundamentally determined by the municipality's capacity to raise the funds needed to meet the needs and desires of its residents and businesses. In the case of Peters Township, these funds are derived from a variety of sources.

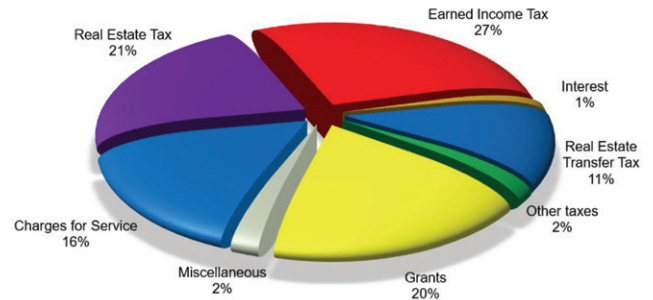
In 2022, 61% of Peters Township's total revenues of \$26,497,504 were derived from taxes. This compares with 68% in 2021 and 60% in 2020. In 2022, the Township collected \$16,251,190 in taxes. Of the taxes levied, Earned Income Tax and the Real Estate Tax are the most significant.

The Earned Income Tax is a one-half percent (.5%) tax levied against the wages earned by Township residents. In 2022, Earned Income Tax accounted for \$7,281,431 or 45% of the taxes levied for general government functions. This represents the highest year of Earned Income Tax collection on record. Earned Income Tax Revenue was \$422,734, or 6.2%, higher than the amount collected in 2021, the previous record high year.

The Real Estate Tax is a tax levied against the assessed valuation of real estate property located in the Township. The valuation of all taxable property in Peters Township in 2022 was \$3,346,529,218. The Real Estate Tax rate was raised to 1.7 mills in 2022, slightly higher than the 1.622 mills of 2021. Real Estate Tax receipts for 2022 totaled \$5,614,772, or 35% of tax revenue. This represented an increase of \$366,279, or 7% above 2021 receipts.

Three-Year Revenue	2022	2021	2020
Real estate tax	5,614,772	5,248,493	5,138,660
Earned income tax	7,281,431	6,858,697	6,371,217
Real estate transfer tax	2,896,744	2,828,118	2,117,554
Other Taxes	458,243	417,553	430,799
Total Tax Revenue	16,251,190	15,352,861	14,058,230
Charges for services	4,194,768	4,043,676	3,754,195
Grants	5,192,901	2,705,419	5,293,301
Investment Earnings	295,459	20,817	147,672
Miscellaneous Revenue	563,186	396,300	326,951
Total Non-Tax Revenue	10,246,314	7,166,212	9,522,119
Total Revenue	26,497,504	22,519,073	23,580,349

The Real Estate Transfer Tax is a tax levied on the value of all real estate transferred in Peters Township. The Township levy is one percent (1%) of the value of property transferred. This tax is collected by the Washington County Recorder of Deeds, who charges a two percent (2%) collection fee. In 2022, the Township collected \$2,896,744 in transfer taxes, or 18% of total tax revenues. This represents the largest single-year collection of transfer tax in the Township's history, an increase of \$68,626 from the record set in 2021. This was largely due to a boom in new residential construction and low interest rates for much of the year.



In 2022, the Township collected \$10,246,314 in revenue from non-tax sources. This represents 39% of the total revenue collected. By comparison, non-tax sources represented 32% of total revenue in 2021 and 40% of total revenue in 2020. This increase as a percentage of total revenue collected comes mainly from American Rescue Plan Act funds that were counted as revenue in 2022 as the Township chose to reimburse itself for wages of uniformed employees, as allowed under U.S. Treasury guidelines.

Charges for services equaled \$4,194,768, or 41% of all non-tax revenue in 2022. It is the Township's policy, whenever possible, to charge fees for specialized services. The Township's goal is to structure these fees in a manner to cover the total cost of providing the related service. Zoning and building permit fees offset the cost of municipal services associated with development activity. The costs of recreation activities are largely covered by program fees. The largest source of income from fees is related to collection and disposal of solid waste and recycling. In 2022, fees for solid waste and recycling totaled \$2,251,737. These fees are intended to cover 100% of the cost of solid waste collection and disposal.

Grants received by Peters Township in 2022 totaled \$5,192,901 and represent 51% of the Township's non-tax revenue. An important ongoing source of grant funds for Peters Township is the Pennsylvania State Liquid Fuel Program. Under this program, the state provides individual municipalities with a portion of the monies derived through the imposition of a statewide gasoline tax. In 2022, the Township received \$754,870 in Liquid Fuels funds.

The Township receives funds from several state programs, including two block grants: the Local Share Assessment program, under which the Township receives funds from state gaming tax, and the Gas Well Impact Fee program, which provides local municipalities affected by unconventional gas drilling activities a share of funds to offset local impacts. The Peters Township Council has designated that funds from both of these state block grants be used to finance capital improvements. In addition, the Township receives funds under the Foreign Fire Fund Program that are mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be turned over to the Peters Township Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association. The Relief Association utilizes these funds to acquire and maintain firefighting equipment and personal protection gear. Finally, the Foreign Casualty Insurance Program provides funds to help offset local public employee pension costs. The amount received does not cover all pension costs; the difference is made up by the General Fund and employee contributions. As mentioned previously, in 2022 the Township received \$2,307,328 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for revenue replacement.

EXPENDITURES

WHAT THE MONEY IS USED FOR

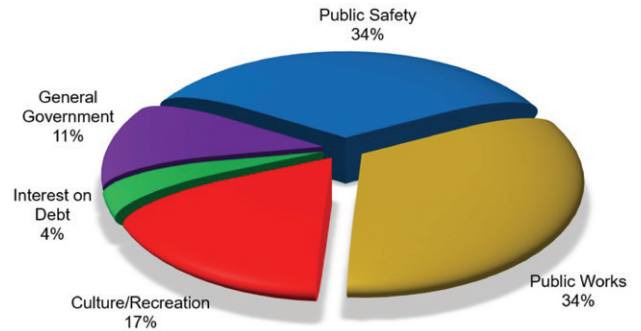
All municipal governments, through their budgeting process, define an action plan for achieving goals and objectives by allocating funds amongst a variety of competing programs. As a general unit of local government, Peters Township provides a wide variety of public services. These services are grouped into one of five categories including:

- General Government
- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Culture and Recreation
- Interest on Debt

Total expenses for all programs in 2022 were \$23,735,086, an increase from 2021 of \$2,838,820, or 14%. This increase in total expenses is primarily due to the construction of Rolling Hills Park and Fire Station #3, both of which were substantially complete at the end of 2022. General Government, a category that represents Legislative Body, Administration, Municipal Complex Maintenance, Information Technology, Legal Services, and Engineering, comprised 11% of all expenses in 2022, slightly lower than the 11.5% of expenses this category accounted for in 2021.

In 2022, expenses associated with Public Safety accounted for \$8,017,487, or 34%, of all expenses, an increase from 2021 of \$1,032,789 when it was 33% of all expenses. Programs contained in the Public Safety category include Police Services, Fire Services, Animal Control, Emergency Medical Services, Planning/Zoning, and Building Inspection. The main reason for this increase from 2021 was capital expenses related to the construction of Fire Station #3, and additional staffing expenses as well as fees for third-party contractors to complete inspections in the Building Inspection program.

Public Works expenses in 2022 totaled \$8,000,335, or 34% of total expenses, the same level of outlays that Public Works represented in 2021. Of this total, \$2,237,762 represents cost associated with the curbside collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclables. This service is performed under contract with Waste Management through the South Hills Area Council of Governments. The remaining



\$5,762,573 primarily represents the costs associated with staffing the Public Works Department and maintaining the Township's roads, storm sewers, and parks.

Programs included under the category of Culture and Recreation include the Peters Township Library, Parks and Recreation, and Peters Township Community Television. In 2022, expenses for Culture and Recreation equaled \$4,169,750, or 17% of the budget, an increase of \$316,497 from 2021 when it also represented 18% of expenses. The primary cause of this increase are capital costs associated with the construction of Rolling Hills Park, as well as a return to normal staffing and recreation programming levels post-pandemic.

Three-Year Expenses by Program

	2022	2021	2020
General Government	2,698,390	2,414,532	2,207,574
Public Safety	8,017,487	6,984,698	6,498,163
Public Works	8,000,335	7,024,211	7,308,437
Culture & Recreation	4,169,750	3,853,253	3,452,761
Interest on Debt	849,124	619,572	715,960
Total Expenses	23,735,086	20,896,266	20,182,895

2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- Completed electrical repairs and replacement of carpet on the first floor of the Library at a cost of \$40,625
- Installed a new playground at Rolling Hills Park for \$235,000
- Constructed Fire Station #3 on Bebout Road for \$3,792,569
- Acquired a remote-controlled mower for the Public Works Department to mow steep slopes in Township parks for \$58,950
- Reconstructed and installed storm sewer systems along Laurel and Maplewood Drives for \$643,949
- Lined deteriorated storm sewer systems along Thompsonville Road, Heritage Meadows Drive, and McCombs Road for \$134,212
- Roughly 4 miles of roads were repaved at a cost of \$1,395,325
- Repaved the Community Recreation Center front parking lot, concrete patio, and paths leading to Arrowhead Trail for \$192,056
- Replaced apparatus bay doors at Fire Station #1 for \$102,426
- Purchased two brine dispensing systems for use by the Public Works Department to pretreat roads in advance of winter storm events for \$60,312
- Acquired a new asphalt hot box (\$41,038) for the Public Works Department to better patch potholes and perform roadway repairs

DEBT AND ASSETS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The Statement of Net Position demonstrates the healthy financial condition of Peters Township as of December 31, 2022. Deferred outflows mainly represent differences between expected and actual pension payouts, as well as deferred charges on bond refunding, while deferred inflows are net differences between expected and net investment income related to pensions.

The net position of the Township was \$50,466,241 at the close of 2022. The Statement of Net Position as presented here is a summary overview. For greater detail please refer to the Peters Township Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which is available on the Township's website at www.peterstownship.com, at the Library, or in the Municipal Building. There will be some discrepancy between these reports in 2022, specific to net position, as the reappraisal of all Township property, equipment and other assets was not completed in time for the Citizen's Financial Report.

	As of 12/31/2022	As of 12/31/2021	As of 12/31/2020
Assets			
Current Assets	20,816,386	15,556,505	19,081,902
Capital and Other Assets	66,722,641	61,027,105	55,036,071
Total Assets	<u>87,539,027</u>	<u>76,583,610</u>	<u>74,117,973</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>5,088,247</u>	<u>2,338,446</u>	<u>2,851,464</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	2,416,801	3,523,978	1,482,992
Long Term Liabilities	38,624,105	25,384,112	27,073,161
Total Liabilities	<u>41,040,906</u>	<u>28,908,090</u>	<u>28,556,153</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,120,127</u>	<u>2,310,143</u>	<u>2,332,268</u>
Net Position	<u>50,466,241</u>	<u>47,703,823</u>	<u>46,081,016</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities reports all financial activity for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. The statement presents a summary overview of how the Township's net assets changed during the year as a result of all revenues collected and expenses made. For a more detailed view of financial activity refer to the Peters Township Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which is available on the Township's website at www.peterstownship.com, at the Library, or in the Municipal Building.

	2022	2021	2020
Revenues	26,497,504	22,519,073	23,580,349
Expenses	23,735,086	20,896,266	20,182,895
Change in Net Position	<u>2,762,418</u>	<u>1,622,807</u>	<u>3,397,454</u>
Net Position, January 1	47,703,823	46,081,016	42,683,562
Net Position, December 31	50,466,241	47,703,823	46,081,016

LONG-TERM DEBT

As of December 31, 2022, Peters Township had \$31,935,000 of debt outstanding in the form of general obligation bonds. This represents an increase of \$8,755,000, or 38% from the previous year as a result of the 2022 General Obligation Bond Issue. The Township also had \$171,561 of debt outstanding in the form of notes payable, a decrease of \$40,897 from 2021, and has no debt outstanding from capital leases.

Pennsylvania state law limits non-electoral debt to 250% of the annual average of revenues collected over a three-year period. As of December 31, 2022, Peters Township's non-electoral debt limit exceeded \$54,000,000. Non-electoral plus lease rental debt is limited to 350% of the annual average of revenues collected over a three-

year period, or over \$76,000,000. It is the policy of Peters Township to limit debt service payments to less than 10% of available funds. Available funds include cash balances and current revenues. In 2022, debt service payments amounted to 2.6% of available funds.

In 2022, the Standard and Poor's rating service reviewed the Township financial information for the purpose of issuing a bond rating. Peters Township's bond rating was maintained at AA+.



HOURS/LOCATION/EMPLOYEES/VEHICLES

- 750 Bebout Road, Venetia, PA 15367
- Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- 23 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee
- 1 director, 3 foreman, 19 union employees, 1 part-time administrative assistant
- 10 employees work within Road Department
- 8 employees work within Parks & Recreation Department
- 1 full-time mechanic
- Employees are switched between the two departments at any given time to accommodate job duties
- 23 licensed vehicles
- 75 pieces of miscellaneous equipment

MAJOR JOB DUTIES

- Street Maintenance
- Snow Plowing
- Paving
- Maintain 15 traffic signals and road signage
- Street Sweeping
- Roadside Trimming
- Storm sewer system maintenance
- Catch basin repair
- Respond to approximately 2,000 PA1 calls per year
- Fleet and equipment maintenance on a wide range of vehicles and equipment across all Township departments
- Leaf & yard waste collection
- Tree removal
- Maintain all Township-owned property, including parks, green spaces, parking lots, landscaped areas, and other open space areas owned by the Township
- Maintain Parks & Recreation facilities
- Special projects

STORM SEWER MAINTENANCE / CATCH BASIN REPAIR

- Annually averages 25 storm/catch basin rebuild/repair projects
- Performs dredging operations to promote and maintain controlled runoff in order to reduce backups and flooding
- Routinely inspects storm water system components: head walls, end walls, age and condition of pipes in addition to overall system function
- Assists Engineering Department with its MS4 Program (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System). The main goal of the MS4 Program is to improve surface water quality through the regulation of storm water discharges which can be affected by activities within the Township's watershed. Through education and outreach, the Township is eager to make residents and businesses aware of the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



STREET MAINTENANCE & SNOW REMOVAL

STREET MAINTENANCE

- Asphalt base repairs, crack sealing, patching potholes, and general maintenance of 116 lane miles of roadway in the Township
- Concrete curb replacement and sidewalk repairs/replacement
- Street sweeping of 116 lane miles of Township roads twice a year (early spring & late fall)

SNOW REMOVAL

- The Public Works Department performs snow removal on 137 miles of roads; 116 miles of Township roads and 21 miles by contract to plow PennDOT-owned roadways.
- Provides all snow removal for Township-owned sidewalks, buildings, and parking lots including the Arrowhead Trail and all parking lots associated with it.
- Pretreats roads with a liquid brine solution that contains a calcium chloride additive before winter weather to prevent ice from bonding to the road service
- Maintains a fleet of 13 fully equipped trucks plus 3 additional vehicles equipped only with snow plows.



FACILITY REPAIRS

- Performs maintenance to 9 Township Buildings: Public Works, Recreation Center, 3 Fire Stations, Police Station, Municipal Building, Library, and Tennis Center
- Job duties on Township facilities include snow removal, changing and replacing lighting, replacing ceramic tile, changing all HVAC filters twice a year, major projects including replacing concrete, complete remodeling including electrical, plumbing, framing, flooring, drywall, building custom shelves, etc.
- Works closely with Fire Department for traffic control during vehicle accidents, flooding, storms, snow events, downed trees, downed wires, and other emergency situations
- Works daily with Engineering and Planning Departments on issues including street signs, storm pipe replacement, repairs, and inspections
- Works with Police Department providing traffic control for various reasons including vehicle accidents and traffic light malfunctions



LEAF COLLECTION

- Operates a leaf vacuuming program each fall. Leaves are vacuumed daily with two separate leaf vacuum machines. The machines are each operated by an employee, along with a driver (4 total employees).
- Residents pay a subscription fee to be included on the leaf vacuuming list. A total of 233 leaf collection stops were performed weekly in 2022, with more expected in 2023. This program runs from the end of October to the beginning of December.
- There were 305 yard-waste collections in 2022. This service is performed every other week starting at the end of March and lasting until the beginning of October.

TREE REMOVAL

- Responds to resident requests regarding tree issues
- Responds to all tree issues that occur in Township open space and parks
- Monitors Township roadways for potential hazardous tree issues within right of way
- Coordinates with contractor to remove hazardous trees on as-needed basis



GOVERNANCE

Council met on 30 separate occasions in 2022, including 24 regular meetings, 5 public hearings and 6 workshops. The major undertakings were the development of Rolling Hills Park and its proposed aquatics facility, construction of Fire Station #3, the 2022 General Obligation Bond Issue, and the 2023 Budget.

In 2022, Council adopted 12 Ordinances and 41 Resolutions. The most significant ordinances and resolutions were the aforementioned bond issue, adopting a Strategic Plan for the Library, establishing a Performance Management Policy for Township employees, and designating how funds from the American Rescue Plan Act will be spent. The 2023 Budget was adopted, and the millage rate remained at 1.7 mills. Council also awarded 4 agreements and 29 bids, including replacement of the phone and wireless internet systems in Township facilities, reconstruction of Laurel and Maplewood Drives, roadway paving and rejuvenator, and liability insurance coverage for the Township.

ENGINEERING

Rolling Hills Park remained at the forefront of the Engineering Department's work, as all site work, building construction, and playground installation at the new park was substantially complete by the end of 2022. Projects designed, bid, and administered in-house included the annual stormwater pond rehabilitation project, cured-in-place storm sewer lining, and road paving as well as rejuvenator programs. The Township's traffic engineer, Traffic Planning & Design, completed a two-year project to inventory and develop a maintenance plan for the Township's traffic signals. Engineering Department staff offered review and inspection services to the construction of Fire Station #3, Rolling Hills Park, and the new baseball fields at Venetia Park. With an infusion of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, the Engineering Department was able to undertake some desperately needed infrastructure upgrades, including the reconstruction of Laurel and Maplewood Drives, as well as completion of design for a storm sewer project along Marlboro Drive, to be constructed in 2023, that will address chronic flooding issues.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The past year represented a bit of a shift for the largest recreation project in the Township's history, the Rolling Hills Park Aquatics Facility. The project was awarded another \$1.2 million in grant funds from the Commonwealth and Washington County, to go with a previously \$2 million award. However, bids for the project exceeded the potential budget, and the year ended with the Township evaluating a phased approach to the project that would allow it to proceed incrementally. The over \$7 million construction of the first phase of Rolling Hills Park finally reached completion after two years, and an

opening ceremony is scheduled for Spring 2023. The new park will have a trail system connecting to the Arrowhead Trail, pavilions, a playground, passive open space, and other recreational amenities. Lisa Morris was promoted to Assistant Parks & Recreation Director and Mike Schuster was hired as the new Racquet Sports Manager. Programming returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022, as a total of 398 volunteers donated 1,938 hours to Department programs, the Summer Concert Series had its second-highest ever attendance with 4,165 visitors, and Community Day returned for the first time in two years.

POLICE

The Peters Township Police Department maintained its accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, one of just 149 departments in the state to receive such distinction. The School Response Officer program expanded, with Mallory Jarzynka, Jamie Hughes, and Matthew Brand now staffing all of the elementary schools. Sergeant Judd Emery was assigned to oversee the now five-member SRO program. In other reorganization, Jason Brunetti was promoted to Captain to fill a vacancy in that position.

The Police Department responded to 5,226 calls for service in 2022. An analysis of the Department's Records Management System reveals there were 627 investigations undertaken in 2022. Of these investigations, 144 were cleared by the arrest of one or more persons. Police officers issued 1,310 traffic citations, 133 reportable accidents, and made 43 arrests for driving under the influence.

FIRE

The construction of Fire Station #3, located along Bebout Road in the Venetia District, was substantially complete by the end of 2022. Attention was then turned to staffing the facility, with the hiring of new full-time firefighters James Waugh and Tim Liedl. The Fire Department was recognized by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner for having 100% of its personnel trained to nationally recognized firefighting standards, making it one of only 37 fire departments in the state to reach this level.

In 2022, the Fire Department responded to 1,852 calls, of which medical response (496) and structure alarms (402) were the top sources. There were 678 fire inspections and 433 fire/life safety community education and outreach programs. The 30 active volunteer firefighters committed 4,606 hours to the Volunteer On-Duty Program, a 56% increase from the previous year.

LIBRARY

The Library began 2022 by undertaking a five-year strategic plan with a specialized nonprofit consulting firm. This effort included interviews with stakeholders within the Library and outside in the community to engage in determining how the Library can best serve the community in the next five years. The final plan adopted by Peters Township Council outlines four strategic directions for the Library to focus on in the next five years: increasing management and Board capacity, updating programs and services, strengthening community partnerships, and reevaluating the physical space of the Library.

Physical circulation of library materials surpassed pre-pandemic levels as patrons checked out 243,391 books, DVDs, audiobooks, and magazines. Digital circulation also remained strong with 68,197 eBooks, music, or newspapers accessed by patrons. Library programs, both digital and in-person, attracted over 15,000 attendees.

COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Peters Township Community Television composed 569 programs, a rebound of 24% from 2021, and a return to pre-pandemic levels. Among these programs were 178 studio productions, 63 school and sporting events, 53 public meetings, and 10 concerts in the park. Township residents watched more online programming than ever before, with 63,597 views—over 5,000 more views than 2021. School sporting events represented 60% of online views, as the platform affords out-of-town relatives and friends to follow Peters Township school athletics. Cable TV staff worked with other departments and Boards to highlight their initiatives (Citizens Police Academy, Fire Agility Test Demonstration, Pollinator Garden at Pleasant Valley Elementary), as well as major capital projects (Fire Station #1 Garage Door Replacement).

PLANNING

Mirroring national trends in residential construction and sales, Peters Township saw a decline in building activity from the record pace set in 2021. There were 307 home sales in 2022, a decline of 21% from 2021, and 37 building permits issued for new homes, or 80 less than the number issued in 2021. The median selling price of homes did rise by 8% from 2021, however, to \$507,225. In total, 352 building permits were issued, down from 433 in 2021. While construction was down, planning for future residential development exploded, with 403 new residential lots created in 2022, compared to only 54 in 2021. With an opening for one Building Inspector and the anticipated retirement of Jeff Wilmot in 2023, the Township hired Josh Smith and Alek Kunz to fill these roles. Seth Koons will take over as Planning Director upon the retirement of Ed Zuk from this position in early 2023.