

PETERS TOWNSHIP,
PENNSYLVANIA

2019 CITIZEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT



PETERS TOWNSHIP PLANNING DEPARTMENT



LETTER FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

PAUL LAUER

I am pleased to present the Peters Township Citizen's Financial Report for the fiscal year December 31, 2019. This financial report is designed to convey important financial information to the residents of Peters Township in a reader friendly and concise manner so as to provide transparency and accountability. The Citizen's Financial Report is suitable for those readers who prefer an overview or summary of the Township's government and its financial condition.

This year the Citizens Report focuses on the Peters Township Planning Department. The role of a planning department is a vital one to the future of any community, and Peters Township is no different. The Department provides administrative support to both the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board, reviews land development and subdivision plans as submitted to the Township, enforces the Township's Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development, and Property Maintenance Ordinances, and administers the Uniform Construction Code. Perhaps most importantly, once every decade the Planning Department oversees the development of a Comprehensive Plan, meant to guide future land use and development standards, as well as infrastructure investment, in the Township.

Edward Zuk has served the community as the Planning Director since 1990, and brings both an exhaustive breadth of institutional knowledge about Township zoning/land development regulations as well as a professional commitment to ensure that land use decisions within the community are made to the long-term benefit of its residents. Beyond Mr. Zuk, the Department has seen a great deal of change since 2018. Kristin Hullihen has served as the Township's Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer since July 2018, and Seth Koons filled the newly-created role of Assistant Planning Director around the same time. Jeff Wilmot transitioned from the Public Works Department to Building Inspector in mid-2018, and Joseph Luff filled the other Building Inspector's role later that year. Rebecca Tomlin became the Department's Secretary in late 2018.

Recently, a major focus of the Planning Department has been the Township's Zoning Ordinance. A comprehensive restatement of this Ordinance was completed in late 2017, which incorporated the future land use goals developed during Plan Peters 2022, the Township's most recent Comprehensive Plan. Central to this Zoning Ordinance are several residential zoning overlays, designed to diversify the Township's housing stock, as well as mixed-use zoning typified by the McMurray Town Center. Since the adoption of this new Ordinance, 674 new residential units have been approved for development. The median value of home sales in the Township has risen from \$359,000 in 2017 to \$405,000 in 2019. In addition, 98,090 square-feet of commercial space has been approved for construction since the adoption of the new Zoning Ordinance.

In 2019, the Township issued 326 building permits, including 55 building permits for new homes. The estimated construction value of these permits was over \$83 million. Building inspectors performed 2,755 reviews and inspections, over 1,000 more than in 2018. The Department issued 182 code enforcement notifications for matters including grass/weeds, sight distance, dead or dying trees, and exterior property maintenance. The Planning Commission approved five (5) new commercial site plans, and three (3) residential developments.

The Citizen's Financial Report is designed to supplement and not replace the Peters Township Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR 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 is not intended to conform to these standards. For those wishing to review the Peters Township CAFR 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 Councilmen are elected by district. The remainder of Council is elected at-large. Current members include:



PROFILE OF GOVERNMENT

Peters Township is a general unit of local government and, such as, 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 2020 Township Budget and the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), both available on 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 goal 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 as 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 insure that the budgeting, accounting and auditing processes complies 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 offices.

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 desire of its residents and businesses. In the case of Peters Township these funds are derived from a variety of sources.

In 2019, 61% of Peters Township's total revenues of \$23,049,110 were derived from taxes. This compares with 68% in 2018 and 62% in 2017. The Township collected \$13,597,819 in taxes. Of the taxes levied Earned Income Tax and the Real Estate Tax are the most significant.

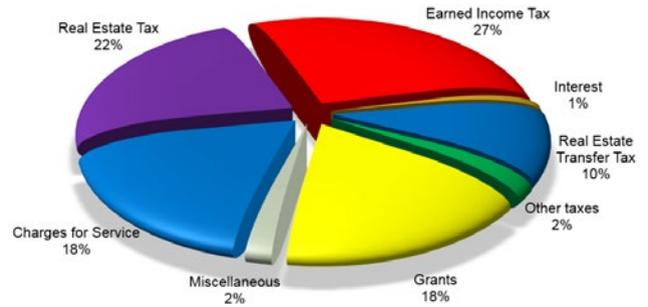
The Earned Income Tax is a one-half percent (.5%) tax levied against the wages earned by Township residents. In 2019, Earned Income Tax accounted for \$6,220,167 or 44% of the taxes levied for general government functions. Earned Income Tax Revenue was \$183,741, or 2.8%, lower than that collected in 2018.

The Real Estate Tax is a tax levied against the assessed valuation of real estate property located in the Township. The Township continued to adjust to the reassessment of all properties in Washington County that took place in 2017, the first reassessment in 36 years. The valuation of all taxable property in Peters Township in 2019 was \$3,178,799,599. The Real Estate Tax rate remained at 1.622 mills in 2019, the same level as 2018. Real Estate Tax receipts for 2019 totaled \$5,085,270 or 36% of tax revenue. This represented an increase of \$59,478 or 1.2% above 2018 receipts.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax is a tax levied on the value of all real estate transferred in Peters Township. The Township levy is

Three Year Revenue	2019	2018	2017
Real estate tax	5,085,270	5,025,792	4,679,033
Earned income tax	6,220,167	6,403,908	6,229,224
Real estate transfer tax	2,278,179	1,717,133	1,917,334
Other Taxes	457,341	450,986	446,138
	<u>14,040,957</u>	<u>13,597,819</u>	<u>13,271,729</u>
Charges for services	4,114,881	3,332,272	3,219,914
Grants	4,250,728	2,920,525	4,613,477
Investment Earnings	203,519	147,584	62,227
Miscellaneous Revenue	439,025	56,668	197,842
	<u>9,008,153</u>	<u>6,457,049</u>	<u>8,093,460</u>
Total Revenue	<u>23,049,110</u>	<u>20,054,868</u>	<u>21,365,189</u>

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 2019, the Township collected \$2,278,179 in transfer taxes or 12.6% of total tax revenues. This represents the largest single-year collection of transfer tax in the Township's history, and an increase of \$561,046 from 2018 levels, mainly due to a boom in new residential construction and sales.



In 2019, the Township collected \$9,008,153 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 2018 and 38% of total revenue in 2017.

Charges for services equaled \$4,114,881 or 46% of all non-tax revenue in 2019. 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 so as 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 cost of recreation activities are largely covered by program fees. The largest source of income from fees is that related to collection and disposal of solid waste and recycling. In 2019, fees for solid waste and recycling totaled \$2,031,521. These fees are intended to cover 100% of the cost of solid waste collection and disposal.

Grants received by Peters Township in 2019 totaled \$4,250,728 and represent 47% 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 2019, the Township received \$800,297 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, which 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.

EXPENDITURES

WHAT THE MONEY IS USED FOR

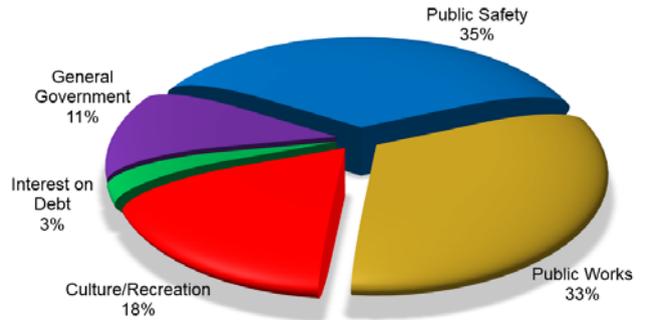
All municipal governments through their budgeting process define an action plan for achieving goals and objectives by allocating funds amongst a variety of competing programs. As a general unit of local government, Peters Township provides a wide variety of public services. These services are grouped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

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

Total expenses for all programs in 2019 were \$20,932,903, an increase over 2018 of \$1,500,392 or 7.7%. The increase in total expenses in 2019 is primarily due to major capital improvements with Public Safety, Rolling Hills Park, and a new solid waste and recycling contract. General Government, a category that represents Legislative Body, Administration, Municipal Complex maintenance, Information Technology, Legal Services, and Engineering, represented 11% of all expenses in 2019, a slight decrease from the 12% of expenses this category represented in 2018.

In 2019, expenses associated with Public Safety account for \$7,333,525 or 35% of all expenses, an increase over 2018 of \$451,789 when it was 35% 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 in 2019 was capital expenses including a new fire truck and emergency radio system.

Public Works expenses in 2018 totaled \$6,926,954 or 33% of total expenses, an increase from 2018 when Public Works represented 31% of all outlays. Of this amount \$2,051,031 represents cost associated with the curb side 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 \$4,875,923 primarily represents the costs associated with maintaining the Township infrastructure including 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 2019, expenses for Culture and Recreation equaled \$3,754,408 or 18% of the budget, a slight decrease from the 19% of expenses represented by this category in 2018.

Three-Years Expenditures by Program

	2019	2018	2017
General Government	2,379,302	2,290,118	2,002,009
Public Safety	7,333,525	6,881,736	6,333,670
Public Works	6,926,954	6,101,602	6,225,831
Culture & Recreation	3,754,408	3,701,815	3,585,582
Interest on Debt	538,714	457,240	477,275
	20,932,903	19,432,511	18,624,367

2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- Completed construction of Phase 1 of Rolling Hills Drive at a cost of \$1,390,750
- Purchased a new pumper apparatus for the Fire Department at a cost of \$482,641
- Acquired 47 new portable emergency radio units for the Fire and Police Departments at a cost of \$163,047
- Utilized cured-in-place-pipe technique to line 1,000 feet of corrugated metal pipe along Robinhood Drive for \$64,118
- Rehabilitated five Township-owned stormwater ponds for nearly \$48,200
- Roughly 5.3 miles of roads were repaved at a cost of \$1,470,593
- Completed the McMurray Town Center Streetscape, installing 18 pedestrian-scale streetlights along East McMurray Road, for \$289,142
- Purchased new leaf vacuum and limb chipper for Public Works for a combined \$147,354
- Replaced a rooftop unit, ductwork, and the boiler at the Municipal Building for \$160,366
- Replace the fence around Field 5 of Peterswood Park for \$60,925
- Replaced the roof of the Peters Township Public Library for \$98,900

DEBT AND ASSETS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The Statement of Net Position demonstrates the healthy financial condition of Peters Township as December 31, 2019. 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 \$42,683,562 at the close of 2019. The Statement of Net Position as presented here a summary overview. For greater detail please refer to the Peters Township Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR) which is available on the Township's website at www.peterstownship.com, at the library or in the municipal offices.

	As of 12/31/2019	As of 12/31/2018	As of 12/31/2017
Assets			
Current Assets	20,190,556	10,919,190	13,401,322
Capital and Other Assets	52,205,465	49,792,473	47,797,146
Total Assets	72,396,021	60,711,663	61,198,468
Deferred Outflows of Resources	2,016,043	3,303,219	1,620,870
Liabilities			
Current liabilities	1,842,596	1,370,604	1,510,176
Long Term Liabilities	27,916,173	21,513,419	20,306,774
Total Liabilities	29,758,769	22,884,023	21,816,950
Deferred Inflows of Resources	1,969,733	563,504	1,057,390
Net position	42,683,562	40,567,355	39,944,998

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities reports all financial activity for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. The statement presents a summary overview 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 Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR) which is available on the Township's website at www.peterstownship.com, at the library or in the municipal offices.

	2019	2018	2017
Revenues	23,049,110	20,054,868	21,365,189
Expenses	20,932,903	19,433,511	18,624,367
Change in Net Position	2,116,207	622,357	2,740,822
Net Position, January 1	40,567,355	39,944,998	37,204,176
Net Position, December 31	42,683,562	40,567,355	39,944,998

LONG-TERM DEBT

As of December 31, 2019, Peters Township had \$25,105,000 of debt outstanding in the form of bond. This represents an increase of \$9,025,000 or 56% from the previous year as a result of the General Obligation Bond Issue of 2019. The Township also had \$291,923 of debt outstanding in the form of notes payable, a decrease of \$38,630 from 2018, and \$43,004 of debt outstanding from capital leases, a reduction of \$136,440 from the prior year.

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, 2019, Peters Township's non-electoral debt limit exceeded \$48,000,000. Electoral debt is limited to 350% of the annual average of revenues collected

over a three-year period or over \$67,000,000. 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 2019, debt service payments amounted to 4.7% of available funds.

In 2019, the Standard and Poor's rating service reviewed the Township financial information for the purpose of issuing bond rating. Peters Township bonding rating was maintained at AA+ rating.

ED ZUK, PLANNING DIRECTOR:



Ed joined the Peters Township Planning Department in 1990 and has served as the Planning Director for the township since 1995. A native of Beaver Falls PA, Ed graduated from Arizona State University with a BS in Geography and Land Use Planning. He began his career in Arizona, working

as a planner for the cities of Tempe, Chandler, and the Town of Wickenburg before moving back to western Pennsylvania. Ed and his wife are Peters Township residents, and the two of them enjoy traveling to Chicago to visit their son.

SETH KOONS, ASSISTANT PLANNING DIRECTOR



Seth joined the Planning Department in July of 2018. After graduating from Ball State University in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning and Development, Seth worked as a Planner for the Town of La Plata, MD, and Westmoreland County, PA before he began working for the Township. Seth and his

wife are expecting their first child in June 2020 and currently spend most of their time with their dog, Finn.

JOE LUFF, BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL



Joe joined the Peters Township Planning Department in 2018 and serves as the Building Code Official for the Township. Prior to joining Peters Township, Joe served ten other Municipalities as their Building Code Official going back to 2004 when the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code was

adopted. Joe and his wife are proud parents of 2 sons who are both Eagle Scouts. Joe and his wife love to take walks with their dog Sylvia, a Labrador retriever.

JEFF WILMOT, BUILDING INSPECTOR



Jeff joined Peters Township in 1996 with the Public Works Department. In 2018, he moved to the Planning Department as a Building Inspector. Jeff is certified for both residential and commercial building inspections. Jeff is also a long-time member of the Peters Township Volunteer Fire Department, joining in

1993, and currently an active life member. Jeff and his wife are Peters Township residents and enjoy beach vacations and water activities.

KRISTIN HULLIHEN, ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER



Kristin grew up just outside of Peters Township. She holds a master's degree in Geography and Regional Planning from California University of Pennsylvania, and she has worked in municipal planning for over 10 years. Kristin's role as Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer will focus primarily on property

maintenance and her goal is to bring properties into compliance— working with the property owners to help figure out what is needed and the best way to reach that compliance. Kristin's free time is spent with her husband, daughter, and son – playing soccer, camping, and kayaking.

REBECCA TOMLIN, SECRETARY



Rebecca Tomlin joined the Planning Department in 2018. She graduated with a BS in Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh. As a secretary with over 15 years of experience, Rebecca is organized, self-motivated, and detail oriented with a focus on efficiency. She has a smile for everyone, even

if it is currently hidden behind a mask. Rebecca is inspired daily by her two beautiful daughters. She enjoys reading a good book with her dog curled up on her lap, cheering on the Pens, and discovering new places to eat with friends and family.

DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES

In terms of their day-to-day work activities, the Township Planning Department provides a multitude of services to the community. Below is a summary of different ways that the Planning Department ensures the welfare of the community is carefully looked after.

PERMITS

Whether it's a small renovation, or a large new construction, most commercial and residential projects require some type of permit. Each of the department's permit applications are available on the Township website. And while there are many types of permits issued by the Planning Department, the 3 most common permits that the department administers are Fence, Zoning, and Building permits.

FENCE

Fence permits are required anytime a property owner in the township wishes to install a fence on their property, regardless of the size or location. This permit typically requires a survey to ensure that the location of the proposed fence is in compliance with all Township regulations and does not infringe on an adjacent property.

ZONING

Zoning permits are necessary for small residential accessory structures up to 120 square feet in size. This permit has a reduced cost when compared to a standard permit and is typically obtained for small sheds or play structures.

BUILDING

The bulk of the permits issued by the Planning Department are for projects that require a standard building permit. Building permits are obtained for small residential projects such as a complete basement remodeling up to large scale commercial projects. The requirements for each building permit applicant can vary depending on the scope of the project, but the application is typically accompanied with a set of drawings that highlights the proposed activities. In addition to a sliding scale of application requirements, the scope of a building permit project also dictates the number of inspections that are required.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

The in-house building inspectors within the Planning Department perform many of the required inspections for a construction project. From footers, to framing, to final occupancy, the Planning Department is proud of its ability to complete these inspections without relying on a third-party inspector. Even some of the few inspections that cannot be done by the department's inspectors, such as a fire or sprinkler test, are still performed

by a Township agency, the Fire Department, who the Planning Department has a close working relationship with. Lastly, all electrical inspections are completed by a third-party inspector.

SITE PLAN REVIEW

For any new commercial construction, or a commercial project that requires a modification to their site plan, the Planning Department staff works with its consulting engineers to ensure that the plans are in compliance with all Township ordinances and engineering best practices. Each site plan reviewed by the Planning Department ultimately requires approval by the Township's Planning Commission, and in some circumstance, Council.

SUBDIVISIONS



Whether it's a simple lot line shift, or a 50-lot residential subdivision, all applications for the subdivision of land in the Township are administered through the Planning Department. The Planning Department utilizes the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance as the guideline for reviewing all subdivision plans. In all cases, a subdivision plan goes before the Township's Planning Commission for a recommendation to Council, and then before Council for either approval or denial.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Township Planning Department is also charged with the enforcement of many of the Township that pertain to the maintenance of properties and construction related activities. The bulk of the Department's Code Enforcement efforts involve the enforcement of the Property Maintenance Ordinance to ensure that no nuisance or problematic property adversely affects any surrounding property. The Township recently adopted a "Door

Hanger” ordinance that should allow the Planning Department to address some of the most common types of property maintenance violations more efficiently.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Peters Township Planning Commission consists of five members appointed by Council for a four-year term. Planning Commission meets the second Thursday each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers room of the Municipal Building at 610 E. McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317. Special meetings are the fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

The Planning Commission reviews and makes decisions on all plans submitted to Peters Township for the development commercial property. The Commission also provides recommendations to Council on all applications for the subdivision of land (both residential and commercial), on all proposed amendments to the Zoning or Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances, on all special exception and conditional use applications, and on matters of long-range planning.

Planning Commission

Aaron Smith, Chairman
David Wylie, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Mills
Conrad Tselepis
Theodore Kartofilis
Rochelle Koerbel

ZONING HEARING BOARD

The Zoning Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial body that primarily hears applications for Variances or appeals to the Peters Township Zoning Ordinance. The Board also reviews applications for special exceptions as provided in the Zoning Ordinance for an authorization of a use or structure.

The Peters Township Zoning Hearing Board consists of five members. Members are appointed by Council for a five-year term. The Zoning Hearing Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers room of the Municipal Building at 610 E. McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317.

Zoning Hearing Board

Frank Milfeit, Chairman
Kathryn Clark, Vice-Chairman
Dale Griffith
Alex O’Neill
Keith Higgins
Robert Sciulli

MINUTES AND AGENDAS

Meeting minutes and agenda for upcoming or past Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board meetings/hearings are available on the Township website, or from the Township Planning Department. These items will be posted approximately 1 week before the meeting/hearing date.

ONLINE CODE

The entire Peters Township Code of Ordinance is available through a link on the Township website or at bit.ly/peterstwpcode. As it pertains to the Planning Department, the most useful sections of the Township’s Code are Chapter 315 Property Maintenance, Chapter 385 Subdivision and Land Development, and Chapter 440 Zoning. Feel free to contact the Planning Department at 724.942.5005 with any question regarding the Township’s ordinances.

PT4ME!



Peters Township has an app for residents that allows direct communication with Township staff on a variety of issues. While using the PT4me! App, residents can report maintenance issues, code violations, request service, and stay informed about news and events in Peters Township. Download the app today!

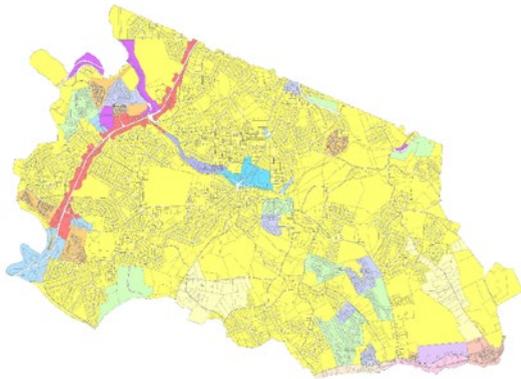
LONG RANGE PLANNING

LONG RANGE PLANNING

In addition to their regular day-to-day tasks and objectives, the Planning Department is also responsible for many of the long-range planning efforts of the Township. Here are just some of the ways that the Planning Department tries to prepare for the future of the Township.

this ongoing need, the Planning Department regularly works with the Township consulting traffic engineer to ensure each proposed development is feasible in scope and addresses their traffic impacts. The Township also has a Capital Improvement Program that identifies key intersections in the Township for roadway improvements. Funds for this program (Traffic Impact Fees) come from building permits for new homes and from commercial land development fees.

ZONING AND LAND USE



It is imperative that the Planning Department engage in discussions about the future zoning and land use throughout the Township and provide plans and recommendations to address the ever-changing markets. While they cannot predict exactly what will happen, the Planning Department can work to ensure each property in the Township can produce the best possible use.

CONNECTIVITY

To efficiently serve the Township regarding public and emergency services, the Township consistently advocates for the interconnectivity between both residential and commercial developments. The Planning Department spearheads this effort from the outset of any proposed development by looking for any reasonable opportunity to provide roadway or pedestrian connections to existing developments or public amenities.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

It is important that the Planning Department regularly reviews the various Township Ordinance they enforce to determine if any changes need to be made to meet an ever-changing world. In the cases where changes are necessary, the Planning Department will draft the proposed changes and present them to the Planning Commission and Council for discussion and approval. For significant revisions to these Ordinance, this process will typically include some type of public comment phase, giving residents of the Township the opportunity to weigh-in on the proposed changes.

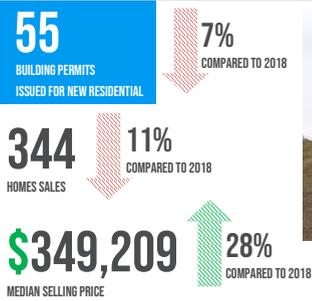
TRAFFIC

As the Township continues to grow, traffic will become more and more a focal point of proposed developments. To address

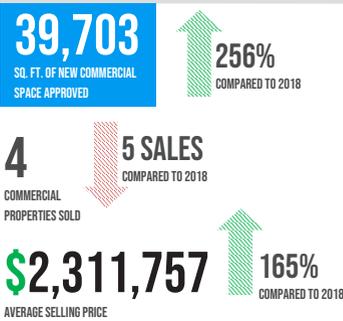


As outlined in their 2019 Annual Report there are several metrics the Department utilizes to analyze theirs, and the Township, yearly output, and market performance. Below is a highlight of some of these statistics. For additional information, a full copy of the annual report can be found on the Township website.

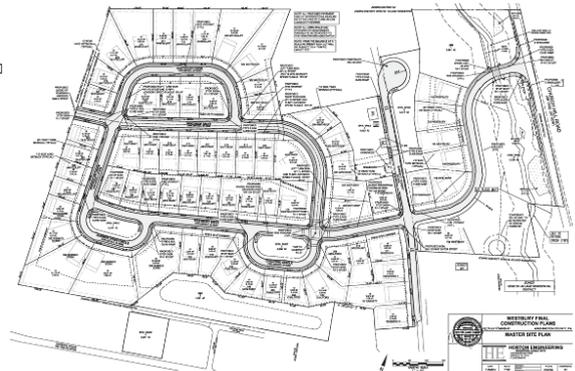
RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY



COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY



ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT



GOVERNANCE:

Council met on 35 separate occasions in 2019, including 24 regular meetings, 3 public hearings and 11 workshops. The major undertakings were consideration the development of Rolling Hills Park, adoption of new Police Department policies, and revisions to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

In 2019, Council adopted 13 Ordinances and 35 Resolutions. The most significant ordinances and resolutions were a revised property maintenance code, an updated Winter Storm Road Maintenance Policy, a new Emergency Operations Plan, and the 2019 General Obligation Bond Issue. The 2020 Budget was adopted, and the millage rate remained at 1.622 mills. Council also awarded 16 agreements and 20 bids, including general liability insurance, an emergency communications system, design consultant for Phase 1 of Rolling Hills Park, and hiring legal counsel to develop regulations for telecommunications towers.

ENGINEERING

While typically focused on infrastructure preservation, in 2019 the Engineering Department oversaw two major expansion projects in the construction of Phase 1 of Rolling Hills Drive and the McMurray Town Center Streetscape. Projects designed, bid, and administered in-house included the annual storm sewer rehabilitation project, detention pond rehabilitations, road paving program, and rejuvenator and crack sealing programs. Signal upgrades at the intersection of Valleybrook Road and East McMurray Road were awarded in late 2019, which should improve signal timing and traffic flow through two of the Township's busiest corridors. The department launched a new web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) in Spring 2019, and equipped various staff of other departments with tablets to access this information in the field and upload files, such as building inspections, in real-time. A two-year mapping project of the Township's storm sewer network was completed in 2019, and this information was uploaded into the new web-based GIS system.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

As the Township turned its attention to the development of Rolling Hills Park, hiring Mackin Engineers to design Phase 1 of the future park, major capital projects in 2019 focused on completion of Peterswood Park. Shelter 3 was replaced in 2019, design of a new playground in the park expansion and accessibility improvements began, and construction to replace Shelter 2 and its playground was underway. Josh Werner was promoted to Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, and Kelsey Munsick was added as a new Recreation Supervisor to expand programming.

Volunteers contributed over 1,800 hours of service to recreation programs in 2019. Recreation programs, youth sports, and community events attracted 18,233 participants in 2019. Holiday events attracted 3,621 participants, led by Haunted Trail which had a record 2,678 attendees. A total of 365 recreation programs were offered, a new record for the department. The Tennis Center had over 6,300 patrons in 2019, with record attendance at Junior Development Clinics.

POLICE

After years of meticulous work by department staff, and especially Captain Jennifer Ford, the Peters Township Police Department received accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, becoming one of just 118 departments in the state to receive such distinction. This event was preceded by the adoption of a new Policy and Procedures Manual for the Department in November 2019. The Police Department saw further changes to personnel and its leadership structure in 2019 with the promotion of Andrew Greene and Jay Davis to Sergeant, Judd Emery and Frank Marko to Corporal, and the hiring of new full-time officer Michael Del Re.

The Police Department responded to 5,611 calls for service in 2019. Of these calls, 658 were classified as criminal investigations/incidents under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. Of these criminal incidents, 327 were prosecuted. Police officers issued 1,413 traffic citations, 3,917 written warnings and made 55 arrests for driving under the influence.

FIRE

In June 2019, after 40 years of dedicated service to the residents of Peters Township, Chief Dan Coyle retired. He was succeeded in his role as Fire Chief by Michael McLaughlin, Jr., and David Caputo was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief. The renovations of Fire Station #1 were substantially completed in 2019, allowing the department to have a fully-functional training, office, and living setting that also houses an Emergency Operations Center. Part-Time Firefighter Craig DeRoss was promoted to Full-Time Firefighter in June 2019.

In 2019, the Fire Department responded to 1,507 calls, of which automatic alarms (376) and medical response (296) were the top sources. There were 772 fire inspections and 559 fire/life safety community education and outreach programs. The 34 active volunteer firefighters committed 2,844 hours to the Volunteer On-Duty Program. Finally, the Department partnered with its counterpart in North Strabane to restart the Citizens Fire Academy.

PUBLIC WORKS

For the twelfth year in a row, Peters Township paved over 4 miles of roads. In 2019, the Township

resurfaced 5.3 miles of roads. In addition, 9.6 miles of road were rejuvenated and the equivalent of 5.8 miles of pavement were treated by the crack sealing program. In 2019, Public Works replaced 131 streets signs, and repaired/rebuilt 37 storm sewer catch basins.

To address chronic icing problems on Brookwood Road and Royalbrooke Drive, public storm sewers were extended to improve drainage. Township residents recycled 1,648 tons of plastics, paper, metals, glass, and cardboard, and 642.5 cubic yards of leaf waste in 2019. Public Works responded to 441 requests to collect limbs and yard waste. Crews from Public Works showcased their skills by renovating the living quarters at Fire Station #1 and installing a new ADA-compliant parking pad.

LIBRARY

In 2019, the Peters Township Public Library had 204,470 visitors and 340,360 items borrowed by the public. There were 1,591 new applicants for WAGGIN library cards. Volunteers contributed 3,608 hours of service to library operations. The Library saw two major capital improvements with the replacement of its roof and the renovation of the first-floor bathrooms. A total of 31,004 people of all ages attended the Library's 1,525 programs held in 2019. The Library's third annual Read Local/Eat Local program allowed patrons to enjoy lunch from local food trucks and meet 24 local authors, including New York Times best-selling author Marie Benedict. Over 6,100 people used the Library's study rooms in 2019, and over 28,000 searched its databases. The Library continues to serve beyond its walls as volunteers shared Library resources at Community Day and the Peters Township Farmer's Market, as well as delivering materials to assisted living facilities and homebound patrons.

COMMUNITY TELEVISION

In 2019, Peters Township Community Television produced 694 programs, the most in the department's history. Among these programs included 460 studio productions, 61 community events, 99 school district events and sports, and 66 public meetings. There were 10,437 hours of programming shown on the Township's three public access stations, the sixth time in the department's history it eclipsed the 10,000-hour mark. By the end of the year, there were 2,235 community programs available to view online. There were 33,225 online video plays in 2019, an increase of 20,257 views from 2018 levels, and nearly triple the average of the previous ten years. The most viewed programs online were a litany of Peters Township School District athletics, high school commencement, The Edge, and Spotlight on Pittsburgh.