

PETERS TOWNSHIP,
PENNSYLVANIA

2018 CITIZEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT



PETERS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



PAUL LAUER

I am pleased to present the Peters Township Citizen's Financial Report for the fiscal year December 31, 2018. 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 operations and accomplishments of the Peters Township Fire Department. Peters Township is one of the few municipalities in Pennsylvania to boast a combination department, consisting of highly-trained and dedicated volunteers and career firefighters. Together they are committed to providing the highest standard of emergency service to our community. The Fire Department stands ready to provide fire suppression, emergency rescue, fire prevention and education, and emergency medical care. The department's mission is to provide these essential services promptly, safely, and compassionately to all who need them in Peters Township and through mutual aid to our neighbors.

The past year was momentous for the Fire Department in more ways than one. In early 2018, the Fire Department accepted delivery of a new 109-foot aerial fire truck from Rosenbauer Fire Apparatus. This new apparatus has advanced firefighting capabilities and is designed to provide access to most structures. The Volunteer Fire Company further contributed to the upgrading of the Department's equipment by purchasing forty-four (44) new self-contained breathing apparatus for all firefighters. Finally, Fire Station #1 received a much-needed facelift when the old dining hall was renovated to become office and classroom space for the Department. This area will also house an emergency command center to coordinate response across all departments during severe incidents.

Daniel Coyle has served our community as Fire Chief for since 1988. The Peters Township Fire Department is reflection of his vision and leadership. The Peters Township Fire Department is truly unique in that there exists no difference in the knowledge, training, and dedication between the volunteer and career firefighters. Chief Coyle has fostered a culture that values everyone's service. In June of 2019 Fire Chief Coyle will be stepping down. Chief Coyle has done an outstanding job positioning our Fire Department for the future. Nowhere is that more evident than in his efforts to prepare Deputy Fire Chief Mike McLaughlin to assume the Fire Chief upon his retirement.

The Fire Department received 1,350 calls for response and performed 657 fire inspections last year. The Department conducted a record 244 fire prevention programs. The Fire Department's annual Open House, which kicks off Fire Prevention Month in the Township, saw its attendance exceed 600 visitors, another record for the department. The Department was also awarded two federal grants, totaling nearly \$82,000, to upgrade their facilities and recruit volunteer firefighters.

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

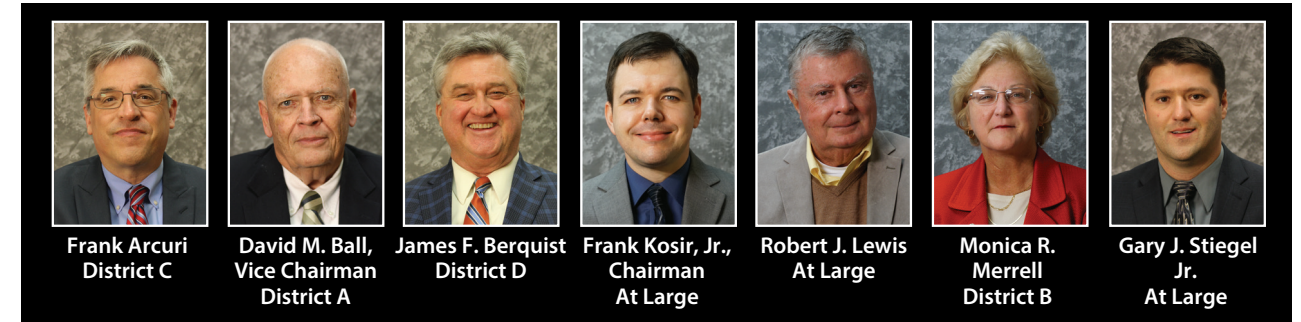
Sincerely,

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
- Code Enforcement
- 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 2019 Township Budget and 2018 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 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 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.

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 2018, 68% of Peters Township's total revenues of \$20,054,868 were derived from taxes. This compares with 62% in 2017 and 69% in 2016. The Township collected \$13,597,819 in taxes. Of the taxes levied, Earned Income Tax and the Real Estate Tax are the most significant.

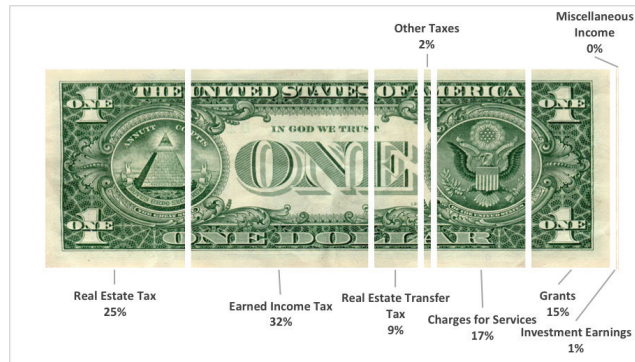
The Earned Income Tax is a one-half percent (.5%) tax levied against the wages earned by Township residents. In 2018, Earned Income Tax accounted for \$6,403,908 or 47% of the taxes levied for general government functions. Earned Income Tax Revenue was \$174,684 or 2.8% higher than that collected in 2017.

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 2018 was \$3,136,357,352. The Real Estate Tax rate increased by 0.1 mills to 1.622 mills in 2018 to finance future capital improvements. Real Estate Tax receipts for 2018 totaled \$5,025,792 or 37% of tax revenue. This represented an increase of \$346,759 or 7.4% above 2017 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	2018	2017	2016
Real estate tax	5,025,792	4,679,033	4,470,358
Earned income tax	6,403,908	6,229,224	5,670,499
Real estate transfer tax	1,717,133	1,917,334	1,584,562
Other Taxes	450,986	446,138	425,482
	13,597,819	13,271,729	12,150,901
Charges for services	3,332,272	3,219,914	3,209,228
Grants	2,920,525	4,613,477	2,293,447
Investment Earnings	147,584	62,227	18,887
Miscellaneous Revenue	56,668	197,842	54,541
	6,457,049	8,093,460	5,576,103
Total Revenue	20,054,868	21,365,189	17,727,004

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 2018 the Township collected \$1,717,133 in transfer taxes or 12.6% of total tax revenues. This is a decrease of \$200,201 from 2017 levels, when a development boom was experienced, spurred, in part, by the adoption of new residential zoning overlays.



In 2018, the Township collected \$6,457,049 in revenue from non-tax sources. This represents 32% of the total revenue collected. By comparison, non-tax sources represented 38% of total revenue in 2017 and 31% of total revenue in 2016.

Charges for services equaled \$3,332,272 or 52% of all non-tax revenue in 2018. 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 2018 fees for solid waste and recycling totaled \$1,607,099. These fees are intended to cover 100% of the cost of solid waste collection and disposal.

Grants received by Peters Township in 2018 totaled \$2,920,525 and represent 45% 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 2018, the Township received \$783,711 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

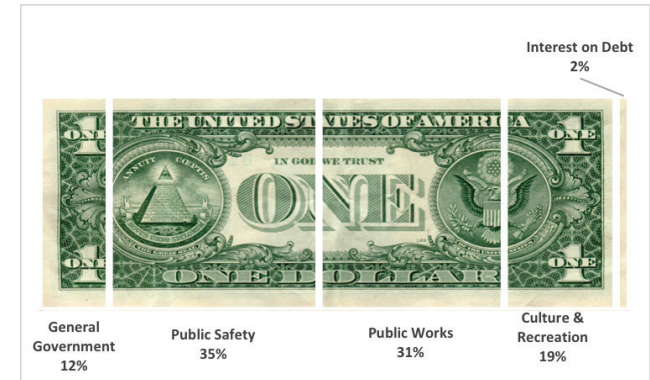
All municipal governments through their budgeting process define an action plan for achieving goals and objectives by allocating funds amongst a variety of competing programs. As a general unit of local government, Peters Township provides a wide variety of public services. These services are grouped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

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

Total expenses for all programs in 2018 were \$19,432,511, an increase over 2017 of \$808,144 or 4.3%. General Government, a category that represents Legislative Body, Administration, and Municipal Complex maintenance, represented 12% of all expenses in 2018, a slight increase from the 11% of expenses this category represented in 2017.

In 2018, expenses associated with Public Safety account for \$6,881,736 or 35% of all expenses, an increase over 2017 of \$548,066 or 34% of all costs. 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 was staffing changes in the Police Department and increased capital expenditures in the Fire Department.

Public Works expenses in 2018 totaled \$6,101,602 or 31% of total expenses, a decrease from 2017 when Public Works represented 33% of all outlays. Of this amount \$1,629,136 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 \$4,472,466 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 2018, expenditures for Culture and Recreation equaled \$3,701,815 or 19% of the budget, the same proportion of expenditures represented by this category in 2017.

Three-Years Expenditures by Program	by Program		
	2018	2017	2016
General Government	2,290,118	2,002,009	2,304,739
Public Safety	6,881,736	6,333,670	6,590,098
Public Works	6,101,602	6,225,831	5,818,054
Culture & Recreation	3,701,815	3,585,582	3,469,473
Interest on Debt	457,240	477,275	324,615
	19,432,511	18,624,367	18,506,979

2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- Fire Station #1 was renovated to convert the old dining hall into office and classroom space at a cost of \$410,975
- Completed purchase of a new aerial fire truck for the Fire Department at a combined cost of \$860,095 over two years
- Replaced deteriorated corrugated metal and concrete stormwater pipes along five Township roads for just over \$133,000
- Utilized cured-in-place-pipe technique to line 1,150 feet of corrugated metal pipe along Oakwood Road for \$68,270
- Rehabilitated six Township-owned stormwater ponds for nearly \$46,000
- Roughly 4.2 miles of roads were repaved at a cost of \$1,033,428
- Slip-lined a concrete arch culvert under the Arrowhead Trail near Sugar Camp Road at a cost of \$278,121
- Purchased a new Ventrac tractor for Public Works to serve both winter and summer maintenance at a cost of \$49,491
- Installed a new cardboard compactor at Fire Station #1 to address commercial and residential cardboard recycling needs for \$44,558
- Refinished and repainted the floor of the Recreation Center for \$51,700
- Replaced carpeting and repainted the Youth Services Department of the Library for \$45,572

DEBT AND ASSETS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The Statement of Net Position demonstrates the healthy financial condition of Peters Township as December 31, 2018. 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 \$40,567,355 at the close of 2018. 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 12/31/2018	As of 12/31/2017	As of 12/31/2016
Assets			
Current Assets	10,919,190	13,401,322	13,064,235
Capital and Other Assets	49,792,473	47,797,146	46,181,514
Total Assets	60,711,663	61,198,468	59,245,749
Deferred Outflows of Resources	3,303,219	1,620,870	2,403,428
Liabilities			
Current liabilities	1,370,604	1,510,176	1,261,239
Long Term Liabilities	21,513,419	19,636,409	22,513,397
Total Liabilities	22,884,023	21,146,585	23,774,636
Deferred Inflows of Resources	563,504	1,057,390	
Net position	40,567,355	40,615,363	37,874,541

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities reports all financial activity for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. A change in government accounting standards (GASB 75) that took effect on January 1, 2018 explains the difference in Net Position from the end of 2017.

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.

	2018	2017	2016
Revenues	20,054,868	21,365,189	17,727,004
Expenses	19,433,511	18,624,367	18,506,979
Change in Net Position	622,357	2,740,822	(779,975)
Net Position, January 1	39,944,998	37,874,541	38,654,516
Net Position, December 31	40,567,355	40,615,363	37,874,541

LONG-TERM DEBT

As of December 31, 2018, Peters Township had \$16,080,000 of debt outstanding in the form of bond. This represents a decrease of \$860,000 or 5.1% from the previous year as the Township continued to pay down its debt related to its most recent General Obligation Bond issues in 2013 and 2016. The Township also had \$330,553 of debt outstanding in the form of notes payable, a decrease of \$37,903 from 2017, and \$179,444 of debt outstanding from capital leases, a reduction of \$133,188 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, 2018, Peters Township's non-

electoral debt limit exceeded \$45,000,000. Electoral debt is limited to 350% of the annual average of revenues collected over a three-year period or over \$63,000,000. 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 2018, debt service payments amounted to 5.5% of available funds.

In 2016 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.

PETERS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



The End of an Era: Peters Township Fire Chief to Hand Over the Reins

An era that spans over four decades will soon come to an end. When most people think of the Peters Township Fire Department (PTFD), they often associate it with long time Fire Chief Dan Coyle. As of June 10, 2019, Deputy Fire Chief Michael McLaughlin Jr. will assume the role of Fire Chief at the helm of the department.

Coyle joined the department as a volunteer firefighter in 1977. Thanks to his dedication, professionalism, and progressive ideas about the delivery of fire protection, he was hired by Peters Township in 1982 as the Fire Marshall, a position he held for six years before being promoted to the Fire Chief in 1988. Chief Coyle has seen the Department through significant change and has worked tirelessly to ensure that Peters Township residents received the absolute best in fire and rescue services.

As Deputy Chief McLaughlin prepares to lead the robust department, he's not unfamiliar to the Peters Township community or its fire department. McLaughlin's father, Mike McLaughlin Sr. was among Peters Township's first career firefighters—known best by the community as "Fireman Mike." Mike McLaughlin Jr. grew up around the fire service, and began volunteering with Peters Township as soon as he turned 18. After graduating from Peters Township High School, he attended California University of Pennsylvania, where he received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. McLaughlin was soon hired by North Strabane Township as a career firefighter while also holding a Lieutenant position with PTFD. Shortly after being hired by Peters Township, he was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in 2013, and was named the township's Emergency Management Coordinator in 2017.

The Peters Township Fire Department will be forever grateful to Chief Daniel Coyle for his unwavering leadership. He has guided the organization through substantial growth and development while always ensuring that the service and professionalism provided to Peters Township residents was unmatched. Chief Coyle's impact will always be visible in the township he served, the department he led, and in the lives of all of those fortunate to have worked under him.

www.PTFD64.org Follow us:   



David Caputo, who has been an employee of Peters Township for the past nine years will assume the role of Deputy Fire Chief on June 10 when McLaughlin takes over as Chief. Caputo holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science Administration and has served most recently as a Captain/Paramedic within the Fire Department.



An Overview of Peters Township Fire Department

When a group of residents grew concerned about fire protection in Peters Township, they decided to do something about it, and founded the Peters Township Volunteer Fire Company in 1937. A fully volunteer organization, they provided fire protection and rescue services to the growing township for many years. After realizing the need for an increased staffing level, especially during daylight hours, paid staffing was added in the 1970s to fully meet the needs of the Township.

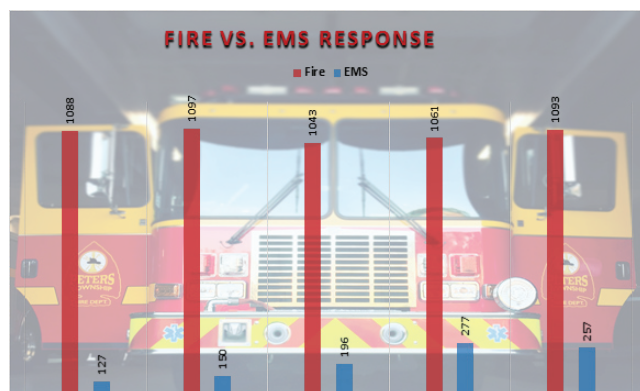
Today, The Peters Township Fire Department's 50-person roster is comprised of both career and volunteer firefighters that staff our stations with a minimum of two firefighters 24/7, 365 days per year. This staffing ensures that no matter the time of day, a staffed fire engine will respond immediately, as soon as an emergency call is received. The Department operates a total of nine fire apparatus—3 engines, 1 specialized rescue/engine, a 109' aerial ladder truck, and specialized squads, as well as a boat, and specially outfitted UTV for rescuing patients from wooded areas and the trail. These fire and rescue apparatus are housed in two fire stations—the headquarters on East McMurray Road near Washington Road, and the Substation at the intersection of Bebout and Sugarcamp Roads.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



The Peters Township Fire Department's primary purpose is to respond to various emergencies throughout our Township and surrounding communities in order to reduce and eliminate hazards to people, property, and the environment. Peters Fire personnel are trained and equipped to respond to a wide range of emergency incidents that include, but are not limited to: fire, rescue, and emergency medical. Over the past five years, PTFD has seen a steady rise in emergency incidents.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE



All Peters Township career firefighters as well as a number of volunteers hold certifications with the Pennsylvania Department of Health as Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. PTFD is one of few fire departments within the state holding an Advanced Life Support (ALS) License. This License allows PTFD Firefighter/Paramedics to administer the same level of care as an ambulance crew, with the exception of transporting a patient to the hospital. PTFD is dispatched on all high priority medical incidents such as cardiac arrests, overdoses, and unresponsive patients. In addition, the fire department is dispatched any time there is an extended response time for an ambulance.

www.PTFD64.org Follow us:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Under the direction of Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Michael McLaughlin, the Fire Department oversees and coordinates all functions of emergency management for the Township. This includes the prevention, minimization, and alleviation of damage and injuries caused by natural or manmade disasters. Incidents where the emergency management team is activated can range from a severe thunderstorm, flooding, to a mass-casualty incident. A major priority has been placed on joint training between all public safety agencies: fire, police, and EMS. Pictured below is a joint training that occurred for Rescue Task Force operations, a nationally recognized concept. This training involves an aggressive approach to rescuing victims of a mass casualty incident, even while a threat may still be present and is credited with a far lower mortality rate of victims.

The Fire Department Headquarters on East McMurray Road recently underwent an extensive renovation of offices, educational and work spaces, workout facilities, and bunk rooms. Part of this project consisted of an upgrade of the township's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is activated during any incident as deemed necessary by the PTFD command staff, and can be scaled from minor events such as thunderstorms with high call-volumes to extended events such as mass casualty incidents. During the renovation, the Fire Department also received an upgraded back-up generator that fully powers the EOC in the event of power loss, ensuring all public safety components, as well as township officials will have the ability to continue incident management.

HOW WE COMPARE

PTFD takes great pride in providing exceptional fire and emergency services at a feasible cost to its residents. Resources are always allocated accordingly to ensure maximum efficiency of staffing and apparatus, while always meeting or exceeding our minimum public safety standards. Below is a chart of the per capita cost of PTFD compared to three local municipalities. All three are combination departments, and provide 24/7/365 coverage, with the exception of municipality B which is not staffed 24/7. When taking all services into account—emergency response, prevention programs, community outreach, etc.—municipality A most similarly resembles PTFD. While the services provided are very similar, PTFD's per capita cost is nearly \$17 less. Peters Township residents pay approximately \$0.19 per day for 24/7/365 coverage.

Municipality	2018 Budget	2016 Population	Per Capita Cost
Peters Township	\$1,519,674.00	22,143	\$68.63
Municipality A	\$3,415,360.00	39,893	\$85.61
Municipality B	\$859,681.00	9,502	\$90.47
Municipality C	\$1,638,850.00	14,580	\$112.40



Fire & Safety Risk Reduction Through Education and Inspection

The Peters Township Fire Department holds Fire Prevention and Education as one of its highest priorities in our mission. The former Director of the Hurricane Preparedness Center, Max Mayfield once said, "Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy." Whether referring to a fire, medical emergency, or natural disaster, PTFD takes great strides to ensure that Peters Township residents and visitors never experience this tragedy. We work toward this goal in two ways: fire and life safety education, and fire inspections and code enforcement.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

PTFD's fire & life safety education programs are designed to give the opportunity to interact, educate, and build relationships with all age groups, from preschoolers to senior citizens. PTFD is highly visible in all daycares and schools within the Township through fire education programs. Throughout the year, PTFD interacts with students and teaches them how to react in the case of a fire or emergency. This includes use of the 911 system, what to do in the event of a fire, and familiarization of our firefighting gear, to ensure students are not scared of a fully geared firefighter. Additionally, all facilities undergo monthly fire drills.



Similar to educational facilities, PTFD performs monthly fire drills for residents and staff of all assisted living and personal care homes within the township. The department also provides fire and life safety education to community groups including Boy and Girl Scouts, athletic associations, and senior groups.

These topics range from fire safety to CPR and First Aid. Additionally, a Home Fire & Life Safety Inspection program is available to all residents. Smoke and CO detectors as well as extinguishers will be checked and replaced as needed, and other hazards will be reviewed such as proper storage and trip potentials.

FIRE INSPECTION & CODE ENFORCEMENT

Under the direction of the Fire Chief, PTFD assigns one firefighter as the fire Inspector. This firefighter works closely with the Peters Township Planning Department to ensure all codes are strictly adhered to. This is accomplished not only through plan reviews prior to construction, but throughout the building process, and with final testing and inspection once the building is complete. Duty crews also assist in routine annual inspections of occupancies to ensure all fire and life safety standards are being met.



www.PTFD64.org Follow us:

Volunteer Firefighters

Peters Township utilizes one of the most efficient and cost-effective solutions for the delivery of fire and emergency services: a combination of career and volunteer firefighters. Members of Peters Township Volunteer Fire Company work side-by-side with career firefighters who are employed by the Township (many of which are also members of the volunteer fire company). This partnership has been responsible for the ability to provide superior fire protection to those who live, work and visit Peters Township. The Volunteer Duty Shift Program established in 2010 accounts for thousands of hours of in-station coverage, and enables volunteers to respond immediately to emergencies along with the township's career personnel.

PTFD is actively recruiting men and women interested in joining our team as a volunteer firefighter. In addition, we are accepting applications for our Junior Firefighter Program (age 14 and up). Please contact Lieutenant Jordan Cramer at 724-941-4176 or jcramer@peterstownship.com for more information.

Community Outreach

Community outreach is an essential component of the Peters Township Fire Department. The relationships built within the community are priceless, and contribute to our success as an organization. PTFD has involvement in many community events from Cub Scout derby races to Halloween Trick-or-Treating.



«Peters Township Firefighters collect money each year for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In 2018 they raised over \$4,000 while collecting at the Donaldson's Crossroads Giant Eagle.

The Peters Township Fire Department's Citizens Fire Academy will return in the fall of 2019! An incredible opportunity to get up-close and personal with the fire service and learn what PTFD does each day! Stay tuned for more information.



SAVE THE DATE PTFD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 28

PTFD welcomed over 500 guests in 2018. Please join us for our most popular event of the year!

GOVERNANCE:

Council met on 31 separate occasions in 2018, including 24 regular meetings, four public hearings and seven workshops. The major undertakings were consideration of amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, adoption of the Rolling Hills Park Master Plan, and a new five-year solid waste and recycling contract.

In 2018, Council adopted 11 Ordinances and 19 Resolutions. The most significant ordinances and resolutions were a revised traffic impact fee, new Police Department policies, and an application to PennDOT to install a new intersection at Rolling Hills and East McMurray Road. The 2019 Budget was adopted, and the millage rate remained at 1.622 mills. Council also awarded 15 agreements and 25 bids, including a new collective bargaining agreement with the Firefighter's union, renovations to Fire Station #1, rehabilitation of an arch culvert on the Arrowhead Trail, and refurbishment of Township stormwater ponds.

ENGINEERING

The Engineering Department spearheaded an effort to improve the Township's technological infrastructure with the hiring of Vinh Ly as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator in 2018. Annually, a primary goal of the department is to focus on maintaining existing Township infrastructure, which was again on display in 2018. The Engineering Department took the lead in design for Rolling Hills Drive, a new roadway connecting East McMurray Road and Center Church Road. Projects designed, bid, and administered in-house included the Sugar Camp arch slip-lining project, annual storm sewer rehabilitation project, detention pond rehabilitations, road paving program, rejuvenator and crack sealing programs, and McMurray Town Center Streetscape. In December 2018, the Township's MS4 Permit was renewed, which will require a pollutant reduction project for the Brush Run Watershed to be completed in the next five years.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

A culmination of over a year of planning, public meetings, and stakeholder interviews was reached in April 2018, when Peters Township Council adopted the Rolling Hills Park Master Plan. This document will guide all future recreational and public improvements on the future 90+ acre Township park. In September 2018, the Township was awarded a \$160,000 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to develop an internal trail network that connects to the Arrowhead Trail on the property.

Capital improvement continued to be visible in the Parks and Recreation Department, as the gym floor at the Recreation Center was resurfaced and painted, new bubble doors were purchased for the Tennis Center, and repaving of the Arrowhead Trail. Over 340 volunteers contributed 1,646 hours of service to recreation programs in 2018. Recreation programs, youth sports, and community events attracted 20,531 participants in 2018.

POLICE

The Police Department welcomed new patrol officers Rachel Harper, Spencer Scott, and Conor Wohlfarth in late 2018. In addition, the Township part-time officer Edward Walker joined the department full-time as a Detective. Finally, Township and School District's School Resource Officer program was expanded with the addition of Judd Emery, who will work in the middle and elementary schools.

The Police Department responded to 5,605 calls for service in 2018. Of these calls, 668 were classified as criminal investigations/incidents under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. Of these criminal incidents, 226 were prosecuted. Police officers issued 1,385 traffic citations, 3,595 written warnings and made 54 arrests for driving under the influence. The department also initiated one-year trial program for body worn cameras for all of its officers in 2018.

PLANNING

In 2018, Peters Township issued 59 new residential construction permits, an increase from the 47 issued in 2017. The past year marked the first under the Township's new Zoning Ordinance, adopted in August 2017. Six (6) new residential developments, totaling 311 units, 187 single-family and 124 independent senior living apartments, were approved in 2018. A total of 384 homes sold in the Township in 2018, the average sale price being \$394,209. Nine (9) commercial properties sold for a total value of \$12,563,998. The average sale value of commercial property in 2018 was \$1,396,000.

The past year brought an extraordinary staff change to the Planning Department, with five new employees in the six-person department. These new employees are: Building Inspectors Joseph Luff and Jeffrey Wilmot, Assistant Planning Director Seth Koons, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Kristen Hullahen, and Secretary Rebecca Tomlin.

PUBLIC WORKS

For the eleventh year in a row, Peters Township paved over 4 miles of roads. In 2018, the Township resurfaced 4.2 miles of roads. In

addition, 9.8 miles of road were rejuvenated and the equivalent of 7.4 miles of pavement were treated by the crack sealing program. In 2018, Public Works replaced 156 streets signs, and repaired/rebuilt 23 storm sewer catch basins.

To address chronic drainage issues, aging corrugated metal storm sewer lines along High Street, Stonebrook Drive, and Scarborough Lane were replaced in October 2018. Township residents recycled 2,216 tons of plastics, paper, metals, glass, and cardboard, and 175 tons of leaf waste in 2018. Crews from Public Works showcased their skills by renovating the offices of the Engineering Department and painted the Youth Services Department in the Library in early 2018.

LIBRARY

In 2018, the Peters Township Public Library had 211,299 visitors and 336,025 items borrowed by the public. There were 1,632 new applicants for WAGGIN library cards. Volunteers contributed 3,537 hours of service to library operations. Long-serving IT/Reference Librarian Peter Stamooolis retired, and Ed Wolfe was hired in January 2018. The Youth Services Department of the Library received a facelift with new carpeting and painted walls. A total of 33,302 people of all ages attended the Library's 2,055 programs held in 2018. Nationally-acclaimed author Tim O'Brien and Olympic speed skating medalist John Henry Krueger were featured speakers at Library programs last year. Over 6,000 people used the Library's study rooms in 2018. 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 2018, Peters Township Community Television produced 630 programs, the second-most in the department's history. Among these programs included 399 studio productions, 48 community events, 107 school district events and sports, and 70 public meetings. There were 10,837 hours of programming shown on the Township's three public access stations, the fifth time in the department's history it eclipsed the 10,000-hour mark. By the end of the year, there were 1,718 community programs available to view online. There were 12,968 online video plays in 2018, an increase of 3,201 views from 2017 levels. A summary of this department would be incomplete without acknowledging the passing of long-time station volunteer Erma Grego and Cable TV Board Member Bob Buck in 2018.