



## KENNETT TOWNSHIP

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TO: Kennett Township Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Eden Ratliff, Township Manager  
Subject: December 2020 Department Head Report

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### **1. 2021 Budget**

The Preliminary 2021 budget was advertised and available for public inspection for the required 20 days per the Second Class Township code. Appearing on the December 16, 2020 agenda of the Board of Supervisors is the final budget for adoption along with the adoption of a tax resolution. The tax resolution is required to be adopted for each tax year setting the real estate tax rates for the upcoming year. No change to the tax rates are proposed for 2021.

### **2. Local Services Tax**

A majority of the Board of Supervisors voted to institute a Local Service Tax, a \$52.00 annualized tax on those that work in Kennett Township, effective January 1, 2021. The Department of Community and Economic Development has accepted and approved the new tax which was the last needed approval in the process.

### **3. Update on EMS Delivery Services for Kennett Township**

At the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board of Supervisors the majority of the Board voted to switch Emergency Medical Service delivery in the Township to Longwood Fire Company effective March 1, 2021 subject to an alternate proposal provided by Kennett Fire Company in January 2021. A proposal has not yet been submitted and a meeting has been scheduled with Kennett Fire Company with Supervisor Hoffman and I this week. Any further developments will be reported to the Board and the public at an upcoming meeting.

### **4. Kennett Greenway & Chandler Mill Road**

Please see the slide at the end of this report.

### **5. Ashford Sewer Repairs**

The Ashford Sewer repairs began this week replacing the sand filters in the community sewer system. The capital repairs are funded out of the sewer fund and have no service impact on the customers. This capital project is routine maintenance and will happen again within the next ten years.

**6. COVID Staff Updates – More remote, VIOP phones, etc.**

The Township staff continued to work remotely the majority of the time with the office still able to be communicated with virtually. I am very proud of the staff who continue to operate efficiently serving the residents of the Township on a daily basis. We appreciate the patience of the community with any delayed responses to submitted inquiries and look forward to when we can be in person again.

**7. Land Conservation Advisory Committee**

The Land Conservation Advisory Committee will meet via zoom on Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss open space priorities and the open space fund moving into 2021. The preservation of open space, with a target of 30% of the Township, continues to be a priority of the Board of Supervisors to promote passive recreation and environmental preservation in the Township.

**8. Environmental Advisory Council**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met this month and completed the Woodland Management Plan update which was a budgeted project in 2020. The plan reflects an update to woodlands in the Township and allows us to better understand this natural resource in our community. The plan serves as an excellent land development tool for both developers, staff, and the Planning Commission as land development plans are submitted and reviewed.

**9. Kennett Area Community Services Contribution**

In accordance with the 2020 budget amendments authorized by the Board of Supervisors on December 7<sup>th</sup> the Township has issued a \$5,000 donation to Kennett Area Community Services. The donation will go toward assisting KACS with filling emergency needs of our neighbors as well as providing food assistance. KACS is a first responder both financially and with crucial resources for those with unmet needs in our community.

**10. Kennett Township Winter Newsletter**

The Township winter newsletter will soon be available! Check it out for Township updates as well as updates from around the community. It is available electronically and those that need a hard copy can call the office and one will be provided for you. Enjoy!

Respectfully Submitted.

Eden R. Ratliff  
Township Manager

# Western Greenway Grant Update

- \$1.7M Grant + \$800-900K Match, expiring June 2021
  - Expended \$500-650K on Chandler Mill Bridge
- Options were discussed at our BOS meeting on Dec 7th
  - We heard the feedback & have incorporated it into next steps
- Our engineers are drafting a Task Order to cover a preliminary engineering design to enable a final design decision, cost est, timeline/staging & application for grant extension:
  - Chandler Mill Road Trail that continues to support 2-way traffic
  - South Street sidewalk connection from Borough to Scarlet Rd
    - They will dive deeper into design, permitting, traffic calming, user experience, constraints
    - Revised opinion of costs and timeline considerations
    - For South Street, application materials will be prepared for an additional grant application

➤ We recently learned about extensive grant restrictions on engineering spend (10% of grant \$170K) and contingency (5% of grant). This will require the Twp to absorb expenses beyond the match. Details to be examined and solutions proposed in conjunction with additional design work.

