

Managers' Report

August 19, 2025

Submitted by John M. Barrett

This report will summarize activity since our June meeting. The end of June was also the end of the second quarter of 2025. We will begin to prepare for a financial review of the first half of 2025 that will include our capital projects and year-end estimates. This will be shared with the Board and reviewed at a workshop meeting that we will soon be scheduling. Staff first need to finalize July numbers and reconcile accounts to provide you with accurate projections. In addition to reviewing finances, the quarterly workshop is another opportunity for us to discuss annual work plans and re-establish priorities for the following two quarters. Additionally, the Board will be asked for input on potential ordinances related to renewable energy systems and zoning, as well as authorize grant submissions for several impactful projects. The report below will provide additional details on these projects and others.

PED and LERTA Update and Schedule. The Township has engaged HRG to assist in implementing ordinance amendments and map changes for the expansion of the Planned Economic Development zoning district along the Southern Beltway. Additionally, we plan to revise our LERTA regulations and map in an effort to simplify the current program. Both of these projects were recommended in the Township Comprehensive Plan, and both projects were vetted with the Comp Plan Steering Committee prior to plan adoption. HRG previously served as the Township's planning consultant and prepared our most recent Comprehensive Plan, so they have familiarity with the Township and with both of these projects. An initial meeting was held with HRG to review the project, discuss timelines, and establish next steps, which will include discussions with the Township Planning Commission, a public hearing, review by Allegheny County, and adoption by the Board of Commissioners. We plan to pursue both projects simultaneously, which will likely require 3-4 months to complete. This puts both project timelines tentatively at the end of this calendar year; however, to meet that timeline, we will need to prioritize our time commitment to this initiative.

Millers Run Rehab Update. Since our last meeting, our efforts to rehabilitate the township library and senior space at 515 Millers Run have progressed significantly. After reviewing a proposal from the MS Consultants for the Design Development phase of the project, we worked with our Construction Consultant to review the breakdown of costs and explore ways to reduce costs. With this in mind, we received proposals from MEP Engineering Firms, and asked Gibson Thomas Engineering to provide us with proposals for some of the civil work. We have

completed this process and are ready to move forward with the project with continuing to use MS Consultants as our principal architect and lead consultant. We will integrate MEP design services from Claitman Engineering Associates and civil engineering services provided by Gibson Thomas Engineering. The Board will be asked to formally accept the proposal from the MEP firm at the upcoming public meeting. We continue to strive to have bid materials prepared and ready for public bidding before the end of 2025.

Hickory Grade Road widening project. The widening of Hickory Grade Road and Route 50 continues to be a priority for the Township, and we recently met with Gateway Engineers to refine the project scope and advance the project for public bidding. We have received positive comments from PennDOT District 11-0 on the corridor study that was prepared for this project, and the permit secured previously for the Township for this same project remains valid. We have asked the project consultant to modify the project slightly by incorporating mast arms for the signals and incorporating additional landscaping and wayfinding signage into the project.

DPW Retirement. The Public Works labor force was recently reduced when long-time employee Dale Kirkpatrick announced his retirement. Dale served as an Operator within the department and served the Township for over 35 years. We will ask the Board to advertise for a full-time laborer to replace Dale, and the department will also need to promote an existing employee to operator to account for this departure.

Panhandle Trail Improvement Project Update. The Township was previously awarded a grant for \$130,000 that requires a 30% match to go towards paving of the Panhandle Trail. The project was recently bid, and the results were very close to the Engineer's estimate. We will ask to award a contract to Mele & Mele, Inc. for the project that includes a 1.8-mile section that will be paved. Our long-term plans include paving the remainder of the trail and pursuing a multi-municipal effort to include our neighbors in North Fayette, potentially McDonald Borough, in our plans to improve the Panhandle Trail.

If anyone would like clarification or further discussion on any item in this report, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

John M. Barrett
Township Manager