

**South Fayette Township
Township Manager Report
June 10, 2020
Submitted by John M. Barrett**

Summary: This report will summarize activity since the May Board of Commissioners meeting. The ever-changing landscape of dealing with the pandemic has caused the Administration to stay diligent and prepared to modify our operations. The upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting will provide us with the opportunity to review a strategy to reopen the Township. Based upon discussions with staff, surrounding municipalities, individual Commissioners and other community stakeholders, I have prepared a recommendation for the Board to consider which outlines a phased approach to opening our facilities including the Township Administration Building, playgrounds, ball fields, basketball/tennis courts, pavilions and public restrooms. The Board will also have the opportunity to determine the fate of several Township events, like July 4th fireworks, Touch-a-Truck and Community Day. In addition, we will use our meeting to review the Sports Associations request to resume league sponsored youth sports in our parks.

Additionally, this report will provide the Board with updated information on various grants that have been previously awarded to the Township. In some instances, projects have been modified from the original application, and in other instances, projects are moving forward as designed. This report will provide depth on the issues above as well as additional commentary on relevant topics;

Reopening Process. Building (Appointment Only, Maximum Daily Number 8 of 14, Library, Senior Center, DPW/Seasonal). Parks (Playground, Courts and Pavilions). Athletic Fields (plans from associations). As the County announced plans to move into the “Green” phase of reopening the Commonwealth, the Township is prepared to move forward with reopening our facilities. To safely position the Township to reopen, there must be advanced procedures in place to welcome the public and accommodate our residents. We cannot simply open the doors to our buildings, parks, pavilions and fields without first staffing for heightened cleaning/sanitizing efforts. The Manager is recommending that beginning on June 15, the following changes will be made to our facilities;

- Township Building will remain closed to the public, but we will begin to accept appointments from residents, developers or other parties that request a meeting with Township Officials.
- Township Parks, including playgrounds, basketball courts and tennis courts to officially open to the public on June 15 (some restrictions apply).
- Township pavilions and restrooms to open on June 15th with reduced number of attendees and social distancing guidelines in place.
- Township Youth Sports Associations to open their seasons on June 15th. The associations have been asked to provide the Township with their written plans to modify behavior and protect players, coaches and fans. Only Township Associations will be permitted use of athletic fields. No tournament play will be permitted.
- July 4th Fireworks, Touch-a-Truck and Community Day to be cancelled. The Board will have the option of a firework celebration later in the fall.
- All Summer Playground Camps to be cancelled

- June Movie in the Park event cancelled. Staff exploring ways to hold July and August movies in the park with social distancing measures in place.
- Modified and/or virtual recreation program offerings to be explored and potentially implemented this summer. Fitness programs will likely be the first offerings to be reintroduced.

It is important to note that any activity that is now permitted since the County has moved into the Green phase will require heightened cleaning protocols and modified procedures to protect the public. To put ourselves in position to open facilities, we had to first bring Public Works back to 100% capacity and scheduling. Starting June 1, the DPW has resumed traditional staffing and scheduling. They continue to practice social distancing and have been provided with appropriate PPE to allow the safe return to work. In addition, we have supplemented their efforts with a modified Summer Help program. We have screened and hired four seasonal Summer Help workers who will help to clean and sanitize park facilities. They will also provide support to grass cutting efforts and various other projects. All Public Works Employees will practice social distancing and take precaution to remain safe from COVID-19.

This strategy is a recommended course of action. The Board has the authority to modify or change the strategy in any manner deemed appropriate. We will review this at our upcoming public meeting.

Hickory Grade Closing Details. The Township officially closed on the Hickory Grade Road property on June 5th. The Township is currently the rightful owner of this parcel. The next step in advancing our Township Building / Police Building project is to secure an architectural firm to assist the Township with a planning effort. Township staff has previously secured proposals for select firms and has conducted virtual meetings with each firm to better understand the approach that would be taken. This work was done by committee with representation from Chief Phoennik, Joe Niedermeyer, Andy Blenko, Andrea Iglar, Peggy Patterson and me. We have unanimously agreed that the firm we would believe is best suited to work with the Township is Kimmel-Bogrette. This firm provided us with a clear and concise scope of work, that has a reasonable fee identified. They have significant experience with the design of municipal buildings including police departments. The element that seemed to set them apart from other firms was their focus on eliminating change orders and bringing projects to completion within budget. The Board will be asked to award a service agreement with Kimmel-Bogrette at the June meeting, with an introductory project kick-off meeting being the next step in this process. The agenda includes a link to the firm's municipal portfolio which has been included to give the Board a sense of the experience and creativity they bring to the table.

Grant Updates: In recent years, the Township has been very aggressive with grant applications for a variety of Park and other Capital Projects. In recent weeks, there has been some activity on several grant applications and the Manager thought it was appropriate to give the Board with some updates on these grant resources.

- **DCNR Grant – \$300,000 Fairview Splash Pad.** The Township submitted this application to DCNR at the end of April and recently we heard some positive news from our local DCNR representative. Kathy Frankel reached out to me for permission to submit the Splash Pad project through the federally funded Land and Water Conservation Fund. The original Township application was through the Community Conservation Partnership Program which utilizes 100% state funding to

operate. This program has some uncertainty surrounding it, at least for 2020 applications. However, Kathy is suggesting our project be eligible for the federally funded LWCF program. She has also given us an indication that our project has an above average chance of being selected for funding through this program. We will not have a formal notice until fall and funds will not be available until 2021. However, this timing will line up with our pace, as we will first need to coordinate a project to do the site work needed to accommodate the Splash Pad. This work is currently being designed for HRG and will be ready for competitive bidding later this year. The project does appear in our 2020 Capital Budget.

GEDF 2017 Grant – Morgan Park Improvements. In 2017, the Township secured a \$200,000 grant from Allegheny County through the GEDF Program. The project that was submitted was an \$11M Recreation Facility to be built at 515 Millers Run Road. And while a project like this is still a possibility for South Fayette, the logistics of that grant require us to break ground on this project in the next 12 months. I do not believe we will be in position to break ground on a new Recreation Center in the next 12 months, but I would hate to forfeit this grant money through inaction. Recently, I have submitted a request to the County to redirect this funding to a different project at the same location. The revised project is to install three flood resilient youth baseball fields, establish ADA accessible loop trail through Morgan Park, provide ADA accessible restroom facilities, parking and establish a riparian buffer along Millers Run. The park project is eligible for GEDF funding, is recreation themed and sits on the same site as our original application. The Project Manager from the County has reviewed our request and while the approval requires approval from the County Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors, we have received positive feedback and reason to believe our request will be granted.

GEDF 2019 Grant – 515 Millers Run Facility. The Township applied to the GEDF program coordinated by the Pennsylvania DCED last year and was awarded a \$300,000 grant. Being a more recent grant than the 2017 project application described above, we are still hopeful that this grant can be applied to a version of a Community Center / Library facility at the Millers Run location.

Multi-Modal 2019 – Alpine and Route 50 Update. The Board is very much aware of the previously awarded grant that will support a traffic signal at the intersection of Alpine Road and Route 50. There was a small delay with the progression of this project as the grant program was temporarily shut down due to COVID. However, the delay was short, and the project is now up and running. The Board has awarded a contract to a vendor to install the signals and the initial work began last week. The light has been designed and the contractor has taken core samples to verify the location of the mast arms and poles. The equipment has been ordered and will take about 4 months to arrive. Once it does, the work can be completed within two weeks. So, assuming we don't experience a delay in receiving the equipment, the light could be installed this calendar year.

Multi-Modal 2019 – Washington Pike and Boyce Road. The Board is reminded that we submitted a grant application to the State Multi-Modal program last year to cover our expenses with the Washington Pike and Route 50 intersection. This would have been when we feared that Newbury was going under and the Township would be responsible for completing the intersection. After Newbury found a way to fund the remaining intersection improvements, we learned our application

was successful. With the intersection work completed, we requested to DCED the reallocation of those grant funds to a new project. We floated the idea of a signal at Washington Pike and Boyce as a project to apply this grant towards. The idea would be for Charter Homes to make up the balance of the project costs, assuming the grant was authorized to be redirected to this location. We have received notification that this request was granted, and Charter Homes has agreed to support the remainder of these costs. We will begin working with our Traffic Engineers to design the signalized intersection and the Board will be given progress updates.

2020 Road Program. The Township annual Road Program will be commencing in the coming weeks. A pre-construction meeting was held with Youngblood Paving and they intend to begin this week or next. The program will be coordinated by Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, with support from Township inspectors and Public Works. LSSE will receive daily logs from the contractor and will also have field representatives on site to document resident concerns and observe construction. The contract expressly identifies daily penalties that will be enforced if the work is not completed within 120 days. The project has been fully bonded. The contractor is obligated to provide residents with 48-hour advanced notice of any road activity. This will be accomplished with door knockers. The Township will also help to communicate paving activity through our media channels.

If anyone would like to discuss any issue independently, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will also be prepared to discuss with the group at our upcoming meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Barrett
Township Manager