

**South Fayette Township  
Township Manager's Report  
January 11, 2023  
Submitted by John M. Barrett**

**Summary:** This report will summarize activity since our December Meeting. The end of 2022 and the start of 23 bring some year-end reporting duties to the attention of the Manager. We have officially closed the books on 2022 and departmental reports will reflect year end totals. We have also scheduled initial meetings with our Independent Auditors and have begun preparing the information they initially requested. Additionally, we anticipate 2023 to be very busy with capital projects and are looking to hit the ground running. We will bring to the board requests to advertise our Annual Road Program as well as a transportation improvement project on Washington Pike and Boyce Roads in an effort to get an early start on our annual work program. We also will convene the final meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee in January and will begin the adoption process of the Township Comprehensive Plan shortly thereafter. The report below will provide additional details on these efforts as well as other initiatives and issues that the Manager would like the Board to be made aware of.

**Municipal Complex and Police Station – Construction Schedule and Timeline.** Representatives from DiMarco Construction will be at the upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting. Recently, the General Contractor was asked to provide the Township with a written explanation of the schedule adjustment, which they have done. They are currently asking the Township for a no-cost Change Order to add additional time to their contract. DiMarco focuses on three reasons for requiring additional time and is requesting a total extension of 77 days from the original date of the contract. They cite weather, steel restaging and wet soils as driving the need to extend the schedule. They were asked to describe the scenarios surrounding those items in a document and submit to the Township. This has been completed and the response will be shared with the Commissioners prior to our meeting.

**Public Works – Parks and Facilities Division.** We continue to move forward with our plan to begin a Parks and Facilities Division with our Public Works Department. We are currently advertising for general laborers within this department and are hoping to have 3-5 new employees in place in March. We will begin with training and orientation with the new employees and will dispatch them to maintenance of our park system beginning this Spring. We still plan to augment their efforts with an additional 3-5 seasonal employees and are also looking to add a non-union Supervisor to the Parks and Facilities Division.

**Comprehensive Plan -** The Comprehensive Planning Process is approaching its conclusion, with a draft plan nearly ready to be revealed to the Board. The Steering Committee was presented with a draft plan just before the end of the year, and a final committee meeting has been set for later this month. Once the Steering Committee has completed their review of the draft, they will recommend that we share with the Board and invite the public to comment. The plan will then be placed on public display and a hearing will be set to allow for comment and feedback. A copy will also be provided to Allegheny County, and they will provide us with feedback within sixty days of receiving our plan. With input from the County in hand, we will then convene a public hearing to allow residents to offer commentary and further allow the Board to ask questions of our consultants and Steering Committee. Once the public review period has ended, the Board will have the opportunity to refine the plan any way they see fit before formally adopting the plan. We anticipate the plan will be adopted in May of this year, or shortly thereafter.

**2023 Road Program.** The Board will be asked to advertise our 2023 Annual Road Program in January. A tentative list of roads to be paved has been prepared and will be included with the advertisement. Our annual budget for the program is \$1.5M. We are advertising the program much earlier than in years past to attempt to have the paving program start early in the summer and conclude before school returns in the fall. We are also including, as an add alternate, the resurfacing of Recreation Road which runs through Fairview Park. This will be part of the paving program, but the funding will come from a different source. Which means our total paving budget will exceed \$1.5 M with the Parks Department providing resources to improve the main road through the park. We also anticipate, through a separate contact, installing sidewalks adjacent to Recreation Road and hope to have completed this calendar year.

**Mohawk Road.** The Township was recently made aware of an emergency closure of Millers Run Road between Battleridge and Mohawk Roads. The closure was related to a failing culvert running beneath the roadway that PennDOT has determined to be unsafe. The sudden need to close the state roadway and detour traffic around has caused a great impact to our local road, Mohawk Road. We are awaiting updated information from PennDOT regarding the duration of this closure. The state had planned to replace this structure but was not yet completed with the project design. They are currently evaluating the ability to introduce an interim solution to this problem or working to advance the permanent repairs the situation requires. We anticipate being notified of this decision very soon and will then be better positioned to introduce mitigation strategies to reduce traffic on Mohawk Road. The road is not built to handle truck traffic and high volumes of traffic, it is a local road that was designed for local traffic only. When Millers Run was initially closed, the Township was immediately made aware of local traffic problems on Mohawk and worked to immediately try and control volume on the road. Road Closed – No Thru Traffic signs were installed, and the Police Department offered assistance to enforce the signage. We are continuing to evaluate the need for road closures and traffic determent on Mohawk. We anticipate bringing this matter to conclusion once we have more info from PennDOT regarding the repair timeline for Millers Run and the ability to open Millers Run even if the lane is restricted. The Board will be kept informed of this situation as it continues to evolve.

**Board Strategic Planning Session.** In an effort to be as efficient and effective as we can in 2023, a Board Strategic Planning Session has been organized. The event will be facilitated by an outside consultant with experience working with municipalities and elected boards. The goal will be to work towards a prioritization of projects to be pursued in the coming year, as well as general discussion of board governance and visioning for the Township. The consultant has spent some time with the Manager and has also sat down with our Department Heads to better understand our upcoming work schedule, capital projects and departmental initiatives. In addition to facilitating a day and a half session with the Board, the consultant will prepare a follow up written report summarizing his findings and provide us with a working document we can use to track progress throughout the year.

If the Board has any questions about these or any other item, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John M. Barrett  
Township Manager