

STOCKERTOWN NEWS

www.stockertown.org



**Local Elections
November 5th
7:00AM—8:00PM**

**Trick or Treat
October 31st
6PM—8PM**

Large amounts of grease have been found in the sewer lines from Long's Development. Please put your cooking oils and fats in the trash. ONLY waste water goes in your drains!

**Rod and Gun
Club Events
November 10th
Block Shoot
December 8th
Block Shoot**



SEWER CONNECTION UPDATE!

After meeting with DEP last week, we have addressed the few details necessary for final approval of our Part II Construction permit which allows us to begin seeking financing.

The estimated cost of design, permits, construction, and decommissioning of the existing plant is 2.8 million dollars. The principal balance on the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant is \$741,520 at 3.2% interest. That rate increases to 4.66% in 2024 thru the year 2044.. Adding the two, the debt service to be financed is 3.6 million dollars. The Borough will pay an additional yearly usage fee to Easton Sewer Authority of \$89K .

Because of the two zip codes in the Borough, the Census, as it relates to household income, is skewed upward to show an average income of \$86k per household which makes us **ineligible to participate in the median household income survey.**

However...As luck would have it, the Borough is applying for a grant recently made available from Pennsylvania H2O. This project is considered high priority by DEP, who's goal is to regionalize all independent treatment plants. This is a big plus for us.

Applicants are eligible for up to one million dollars with a 50/50 match, which "could" reduce our debt service, optimistically, by one million dollars. More realistically, we are in a very good position to receive some portion of the H2O Grant allotment.

There are several options from which to secure additional financing. 1, PENNVEST, Pennsylvania's low cost financial assistance for water and waste water projects, will have a fixed

rate of interest between 2% and 3% depending on the project costs and funds available at the time. PENNVEST will not allow an existing loan balance to be wrapped into the loan.

2, Local Banking Institutions with rates of at least 4% with a step-up interest rate on long term loans.
3, A Bond Issue with an average fixed rate of 2.95% on a 25 year bond and 3.05% on a 30 year bond. With a bond, the existing debt can be incorporated into the loan and the interest is fixed for the life of the bond. The annual audits and reporting documents are minimal compared to those associated with a PENNVEST loan.

We are researching all options with the ultimate goal of structuring a loan around the current resident's ability to pay by avoiding a large monthly increase. Securing a shorter term loan to achieve a lower interest rate puts an unfair burden on current residents. Whereas, extending the length of the loan increases the total amount to be repaid but reduces the payments to a more acceptable level. **This sewer connection will service the Borough for many years to come and therefore the loan should be structured to include future generations in it's repayment.**

In conclusion, we await a decision on the H2O grant awards which will dictate how much we will finance and under which terms. Grant awards are expected in mid January 2020. When financing is secured, the project will be bid and construction could begin in mid summer of 2020. There's a lot here to absorb. If you have questions, please feel free to ask.

DIRECTORY
BOROUGH MAYOR
 Ken Zemencsik

BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Meets 1st & 3rd Mondays
 at 7:30 PM
 209 Main Street
 Amy Richard, President
 Kathleen Zdonowski,
 Vice President
 Cindy Hower
 Rosemarie Wenzelberger
 A. Joseph Gosnell
 Pamela Davis
 Carl Zito

BOROUGH OFFICE
 610 759-8393
 Anita Caughy, Secretary

BOROUGH SOLICITOR
 Gary N. Asteak

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
 Karl Hennings, Director
 Todd Lichtenwalner
 Ken Zemencsik

**ZONING OFFICER/
 BUILDING INSPECTOR**
 John Soloe

PLANNING COMMISSION
 Meets as Needed
 2nd Monday 7:30 PM
 Sean Dooley, Chairman
 Kathleen Zdonowski
 A. Joseph Gosnell
 Joel Zingone

**ZONING HEARING
 BOARD** As Needed
 Kim Malavolta
 Lucienne Dooley
 Morgan Schafer

TAX COLLECTOR
 Anita Caughy
 610 759-8393



BEFORE



AFTER

- ◆ The Public Works building is completed adding an attractive asset to the Borough. The cost: Demolition by Beatty Inc. \$9,700, Construction by Dutchman Contractors, \$124,400, Heating System by Fogels Fuel \$5,885, totaling \$139,985. The project was paid for in part by the Bushkill Street Turn-Back dollars of \$66K and the balance of \$74K from general savings.
- ◆ Leaf ONLY pick-up starts November 4th and will continue through December 2nd as necessary. Place leaves on the curb, not in the street. Do not include branches or stones.
- ◆ It is unlawful to push or shovel snow from your property onto public streets in the Borough.
- ◆ Our Officers will again be all over on Halloween Night protecting our little "Trick or Treaters" and passing out goody bags. Please have some reflective material or lights with your children for their safety.
- ◆ Local Food Banks are in need of canned and boxed foods from those able to donate, and is available to those less fortunate.
- ◆ **Nazareth Area Food Bank**
 529 South Main Street
 Nazareth, PA
 610 365-8869
- ◆ **Animal Food Bank of LV**
 860 Broad Street #115
 Emmaus, PA
 610 421-8014



EMERGENCY SERVICES

STOCKERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
NON-EMERGENCY
 610 759-2200
 610 759-3232, Office
 John Soloe, Chief
 Eric Schwab,
 Assistant Chief
 Adam Shimer

911

FORKS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
NON-EMERGENCY
 610 759-2200
 Charles Gallagher,
 Fire Chief
 Timothy Weis,
 Fire Marshall

State Representative
 Joseph Emrick
 610 759-5090

State Senator
 Lisa Boscola
 610 868-8667

Easton Public Library
 610 258-2917

POST OFFICE
 Postmaster
 610 759-6278

STOCKERTOWN ROD AND GUN CLUB
 Info & Memberships
 610 759-9255

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY SPCA
 610 252-7722
www.healthy-animal-center.org

The smallest act of kindness is worth so much more than the grandest intention.