



The Solebury Messenger

A Quarterly Publication of Solebury Township

Vol. 24, No.4

Winter Issue

December 2018

2019 budget funds new police officers, boosts library

The Solebury Township Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a budget for 2019 that funds two new, full-time police officers and increases the Township's contribution to the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury.

"This police force hasn't been increased in many years, and I think for a lot of years we thought we were immune from anything," said Board Chairman Mark Baum Baicker. "The last two years have shown us that we're not immune from what happens everywhere. And, to me, if we don't have an adequate police force, I don't think we have what we want to live in Solebury."

To fund the new officers and the increased library

contribution, the budget calls for a 0.95 millage increase, for a total tax rate of 23.81 mills, which will be the sixth lowest of the 54 townships and boroughs in Bucks County.

While the additional officers will be an ongoing cost, the board made clear that the increased library contribution, from \$100,000 in 2018 to \$120,000 in 2019, is a one-off expense that will be revisited from year to year.

"The way that we handle the contribution to the library is a year to year decision," said Baum Baicker. "So we can't say now if next year we'll give more than we gave this year, less than we gave this year or the same as we gave this year. We do plan to have ongoing conversations with the library through the course of the

year."

Throughout this year's budget process, supervisors weighed the various needs voiced by residents and the volunteers who serve on the Township's many advisory committees, in a series of public meetings during the summer and fall.

This is a balancing act," said Supervisor Kevin Morrissey. "Many different aspects of the community need to be supported in some manner.

"I believe we need to maintain a balanced budget to protect the community as best we can, to attain a surplus which maintains the Township's excellent credit rating," Morrissey said.

Strategic Master Plan adopted for Aquetong Spring Park

With a primary goal of restoring and conserving the aquatic habitat of Aquetong Creek and its environs, the Board of Supervisors has signed-off on the final Strategic Master Plan for Aquetong Spring Park.

Once a mill pond contained by a dilapidated civil-war-era dam, the Township has worked

property to restore the area to its natural habitat. With the dam removed, significant grant funding in place, and the plan approved, residents will see work begin in earnest in mid-2019.

The master plan breaks the site, in the general area of the Route 202 intersection with Lower Mountain Road, into three strategic zones. The Cultural Landscape Zone includes the old Judy House and its environs, the

What's in Your Inbox?

Meeting agendas, police alerts, weather bulletins and more are available by email. Visit SoleburyTwp.org and click "Email Notices."

steadfastly since acquiring the

...continued on page 2.

Strategic Master Plan adopted for Aquetong Spring Park

...continued from page 1.

Aquatic Habitat is the area above the old dam, and the Forest Restoration Zone is the downstream area below where the dam was removed.

Stream restoration and park improvements will be the first major, visible projects on the site. The Route 202 trail, which will join as Solebury's link in the 1,300-mile 9/11 Memorial Trail, is the most logistically complicated element. Reforestation will begin this winter.

Solebury was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant for riparian buffers, a significant contribution to restoring the natural habitat. Other grant funds help cover the cost of the Route 202 trail, the Route 202 tributary restoration, and recreation funding. The Township has budgeted for the cost of forestry management; a grant application is pending with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service for the

trout habitat, storm water management and reforestation costs.

William Collins, of Simone Collins Landscape Architects, presented the final plan to the board at its Nov. 20 meeting. "It was a very aggressive schedule, everyone worked hard on it. The committee deserves real credit for its work," he said, acknowledging the Township's volunteers on the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee.

"This has been a long process for a lot of these people," said Board Chairman Mark Baum Baicker. "It's been a really big item in their lives and it's going to come to fruition now." In addition to the ASAC members, Baicker thanked the current liaison to the committee, Supervisor John Francis, and his predecessor, Supervisor Kevin Morrissey, for their work to keep the project moving on its fast-paced schedule.

Township Directory

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-5656.
General Inquiries: soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org

Township Manager Dennis H. Carney:
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary
Christine Terranova: cterranova@soleburytwp.org

LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator
Jean Weiss: jweiss@soleburytwp.org

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:
soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org

Right-To-Know Officers
Administrative Records: Jean Weiss,
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org
Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie,
police@soleburypd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Mark Baum Baicker mbaumbaicker@soleburytwp.org **Vice-Chair Kevin Morrissey** kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org
Supervisor Noel Barrett nbarrett@soleburytwp.org **Supervisor Robert A. McEwan** rmcewan@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor John Francis
jfrancis@soleburytwp.org

Board of Supervisors 2019 Meetings

*Calendar information is subject to changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.
All meetings are held at Solebury Township Hall.
Meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

January 7 (Reorganization - The first Monday in January) - 6:00 pm
January 15
February 5
February 19
March 5
March 19
April 2
April 16
May 7
May 23 (Thursday due to Primary on 21st)
June 18
July 16
August 20
September 3 - Budget Session
September 17
October 1 - Budget Session
October 15
November 7 - Budget Session (Thursday due to election on 5th)
November 19
December 10 (The second Tuesday of the month)

*Committee meetings will be set at the reorganization.
Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!
Visit: SoleburyTwp.org, click "Email Notices"
and enter your email address.*

Board of Supervisors lists accomplishments of 2018

During 2018, the Solebury Board of Supervisors addressed over 150 issues. Many of these topics required extended additional meetings and analysis. In addition, all Supervisors are liaison to one or more Township Committees which in total meet at least 70 times a year. Lastly, the Township Administration provides the valuable service of addressing many community matters daily as well as coordinating the decisions made by the Board of Supervisors.

The following list is a highlight of these activities for 2018.

Agricultural use ordinance.

The Farm Committee is working with the Planning Commission and Township Administration to develop clear

and easy means to use temporary greenhouses which will assist with the expansion of agriculture in the Township.

New Hope Crushed Stone Reclamation and Primrose Creek Restoration. Working with the DEP for the safe and responsible process of finalizing the use of the quarry property as a mining operation by March 2019.

WAWA. Provided a forum for the community to provide feedback to WAWA concerning a potential new WAWA facility in the Township.

Associate Committee Membership. The Township

expanded membership to include Associate Committee Members. This will enable a wider range of participation in community efforts and will enable residents to contribute to the community in the manner they wish. Additionally, this will develop a “farm team” of experienced committee candidates when a regular committee position becomes available.

Provided for additional environmental protection.

The Solebury Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has



increased the recycling program while working with the New Hope-Solebury School district and Township. The EAC continues to explore means to improve the natural sustainability of the Township.

Penn East Pipeline. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution opposing the Penn East Pipeline. This reflects Solebury Township's continued concern for the project and its effects upon the community.

Temporary Lodging Facilities and Event Uses Ordinance. This ordinance was developed to enable a fair,

safe and legal environment for the operation of a “Bed & Breakfast” and temporary events while respecting the rights of property owners.

Police contract.

Successfully renegotiated the police contract that was acceptable to all parties. This union contract will provide a four year working relationship between the Township and police officers. Included are lower health care costs.

2019 Budget. Finalized the 2019 budget, which maintains the Township as one of the lowest total taxed

municipalities in Bucks County.

Increased safety of township residents.

Will add two new full-time police officers in 2019. Worked with PennDOT to reduce the

speed limit on Carversville Road.

24 Hour Emergency Service.

Implemented 24 hour emergency service as authorized by the 2017 referendum. This will significantly improve emergency/lifesaving care for Solebury residents.

Completed Police facility upgrades. The improvements include the following:

- New locker room, which will enable the expansion of a women's locker area.
- Large evidence storage facility, which will provide

...continued on page 4.

Board of Supervisors lists accomplishments of 2018

...continued from page 3.

capability to store vehicles, bikes or other large evidence securely and examined and processed in a controlled environment.

- Ready room for radios, Tasers, foul weather gear and other related equipment

Deer management program. This plan is to control and lessen the deer population in Solebury. It is recognized that the overpopulation is causing health, safety and environmental issues. A number of new properties were registered for this important program in 2018 due to the efforts of several Deer Committee members and Township Administration.

New Multipurpose sports field will be available Spring 2019. As a result of generous donations by Solebury residents, a new multipurpose sports field is being

constructed behind the Solebury Township building.

Aquetong Spring Park. Development is continuing in this park which will provide 48 acres of passive recreational opportunities to the community. A major 2018 milestone is the finalization of the Aquetong Spring Park Strategic Master Plan and the start of the utilization of the \$1.5mil awarded grant funds. Although the park is evolving, the community is invited to visit and enjoy the park.

Closed off-site storage facility and moved files to Township Building. This will save approx. \$6K per year on storage fees.

Emergency exit path. Developed an Emergency exit path for the Lower Elementary School.

Repair/replacement in kind in historic districts. Thanks to the efforts of the Historic Architectural Review

Board, streamlined rules for repairs and replacements in kind were passed by the Board of Supervisors late in 2017 and their benefits began to be realized in 2018, with several Carversville residents undertaking in-kind repairs and replacements. This demonstrates that the rules are already having their desired effect of encouraging residents of our historic districts to maintain their properties in good condition.

Township grants. Solebury has been awarded \$1.1mil in additional grants to be used for Aquetong Spring Park.

Land Preservation. Thanks in large part to the efforts of the Land Preservation Committee, Solebury furthered its leadership in land preservation, with 38 percent of the Township now enjoying some level of protection from future development.

Know who to call to report potholes and help speed road repairs

We've seen some extreme weather swings in the township. To report potholes and other this year, and the repeated thawing and maintenance issues to PennDOT, call 1-800-FIX-ROAD (1-800-349-7623) or file an electronic report at <https://customer.care.pennndot.gov>.

To help our road crews fix these potholes quickly, we need your help in reporting them as soon as they pop up.

State Roads in Solebury:
Aquetong Road ~ Carversville Road
Fleecydale Road ~ Green Hill Road
Lower York Road ~ Mechanicsville Road
Phillips Mill Road ~ River Road ~ Stoney Hill Road
Sugan Road (Paxson Road to Upper York Road)
Upper York Road ~ Windy Bush Road

PennDOT is responsible for the state roads township website. 5656 or use the "Contact Us" button on the

Storm Outage Contacts

PECO 1-800-841-4141 or www.peco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus/Pages/OutageMap.aspx

Verizon 1-800-837-4966 or www.verizon.com/support/residential/service-outage

XFINITY (Comcast) 1-800-934-6489 or www.xfinity.com/support/status

Did holiday gifts upgrade your tech or appliances?

How to recycle your old and unwanted electronics

Televisions, computers and many other electronic devices can no longer be disposed of with municipal waste under Pennsylvania's Covered Devices Recycling Act of 2010. Many of these devices contain mercury, lead, arsenic, chromium and other potentially hazardous substances. Recycling keeps these toxins from contaminating groundwater from landfills, and reduces the mining of rare earth minerals used in manufacturing.

Bucks County does not have an electronics recycling program, but county officials do recommend the services of several private firms that handle old televisions.

Please confirm the program, fees, and any other conditions with these companies before dropping off.

Television and Computer Monitor Recyclers

Lower Bucks

E-Waste Experts
416 Green Lane
Bristol, PA 19007
877-328-2927

Central Bucks

611 Metals
6776 Easton Road
Pipersville, PA 18947
267-629-6427

Upper Bucks

Gigabiter
130 Penn Ann Drive
Quakertown, PA 18951
267-227-3032

Call for Pick-up

E-Waste Experts—1-877-328-2927
1-800-Got Junk—1-800-468-5865
Geek Squad—1-800-433-5778
Junk Luggers— 1-800-584-5864

Perkasie PC Repair & Recycling
1133 N. 5th Street
Perkasie, PA 18944
215-257-7727

Other Commercial Recycling Options

Staples

- Offers free, in-store – drop off recycling for most electronics, except TVs. They have a limit of 7 items per customer per day.
- Offers a Trade-In promotion. This can be done in-store or online. Staples should be contacted directly for additional information.
- All recycling companies partnered with Staples are e-Stewards recyclers.

PECO

PECO Energy will pick up your old working refrigerator, freezer or room air conditioner for free. They will recycle the item, and pay \$50 for a refrigerator or freezer and \$10 for an air conditioner. More information is available online at peco.com/recycling.

Best Buy

- Offers free, in-store – drop-off recycling for most electronics, except TVs and Computer Monitors. They have a limit of 3 items per household per day.
- Offers a Trade-In promotion. Best Buy should be contacted directly for additional information.
 - TVs: Stores in Pennsylvania do not accept TVs for drop-off.
 - Do offer Haul- Away Options for TVs:
 - They will haul away a TV from your home for \$14.99 when a replacement product is delivered by Geek Squad or Best Buy Home Delivery. Stand-alone pickup without a qualifying TV purchase is \$99.99.
 - Monitors: Stores in Pennsylvania do not accept Monitors for drop-off. No Haul-Away option available.
 - One of their electronics recyclers is an e-Stewards recycler.

Lighting up Halloween Night

The Solebury Township Police and Parks & Recreation teamed up to distribute spooky (but highly visible) Halloween items to area trick-or-treaters.

The annual Halloween night give-away helps kids stay safe and visible as they enjoy the holiday festivities.

Light sabres, glow sticks, and a wide variety of light-up and reflective items were all on hand, free of charge, for the ghosts, goblins and assorted super heroes who gathered at the tables in North Pointe.



Lambertville • New Hope Winter Festival January 19-27, 2019

TICKETED EVENTS

Saturday, January 19

Revolutionary Pub Crawl - 12:30 to 4pm
Pub Crawl After Party - 4 to 7pm
Fire & Ice Ball - 7 to 11pm

Sunday, January 20

Blues, BBQ & NFL Playoffs - 3 to 7pm
Inn-to-Inn Dinner & House Tour - 4 to 5:30pm

Monday, January 21

Inn-to-Inn Dinner & House Tour - 6 to 7:30pm

Tuesday, January 22

Winter Walking Food & Shop Tour - 1 to 4pm

Wednesday, January 23

Winter Fest "Jersey Shore" - 7 to 11pm

Thursday, January 24

Taste of Winter Fest - 7 to 9pm

Friday, January 25

British Invasion: Peter Asher & Jeremy Clyde
Pre-Concert Reception - 6:30pm
Concert - 8pm

Saturday, January 26

Magical Musical Pub Crawl - 12:30 to 4pm
Pub Crawl After Party - 4 to 7pm
Beef 'n' Brew - 1 to 4pm
A Capella Extravaganza - 7 to 11pm

Sunday, January 27

Chili Cook-Off - 1 to 4pm

Twin Rivertown Projects is a non-profit corporation and proceeds directly benefit the New Hope, Lambertville, and Solebury Parks & Recreation Departments and our local food pantry, Fisherman's Mark, as well as many other community organizations, social services, school groups and scholarships, fire, police and rescue organizations.

215-862-5067

For detailed event info and to purchase tickets, go to:

WinterFestival.net



Winter Festival Concert 2019

Presents

Peter Asher & Jeremy Clyde



Multi Media Interactive Event

"I Go To Pieces"

"A World Without Love"

"A Summer Song"

"Yesterday's Gone"

"Everyone's Gone to the Moon"



Tickets/Concert Information

www.winterfestival.net

215-862-5067

267-987-7855

Friday, January 25

8PM

New Hope Winery

6123 Lower York Road/ Rt. 202

New Hope, PA 18938

