



TALK *of the* TOWNSHIP

A Newsletter for our Residents

Township of Ligonier | One Municipal Park Drive | Ligonier, PA 15658 | www.ligoniertownship.com

BUDGET

Ligonier Township Supervisors at the regular meeting on December 10, 2016 approved the 2017 Township Budget with a decrease in the real estate taxes of 1 mill or 20% for the tax year 2017.

The Township has been operating efficiently enough the past two years that a surplus of funds was determined by the Supervisors and those funds should be returned to the taxpayers in the form of a tax cut. Ligonier Township continues to evaluate the municipal operations with every effort to provide services to the residents at the lowest possible cost. Every department's budget for expenditures with the exception of public safety was reduced. Additional funds were applied to our police and public safety department.

Most recently the Township was awarded a grant from our application to FEMA for snow storm "Jonas" that occurred in 2016. A 75% match of \$19,666.27. This reimbursement of the general fund helped in keeping our public works costs in line from the previous winter season. We have also been blessed with a couple mild winter seasons and low fuel costs.

Our Tax Rate History:

2004 tax rate was at 2 Mills.

2005 tax rate was increased by 1.5 mills to 3.5 mills for the year.

2012 tax rate was increased by 1.5 mills to 5 mills until 2016.

2016 tax rate is now set at 4 mills for the next tax year 2017.

Happy Holidays to all,
Terry Carcella, Manager

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

From the Desk of Terry Carcella, Manager

The Ligonier Township Municipal Authority was formed in December of 1949. Over that 66 year history, water and later, sewer services were provided to a large portion of Township residents. Like many municipal authorities, the LTMA policy was to keep rates as low as possible for the services provided. The LTMA is a joint water and sewer authority and unfortunately over the years very little planning was implemented and funds were not retained to replace aging lines and equipment. So much so that one of the potential buyers estimated that at least 10 to 13 million dollars would have to be invested in the system replacing water lines.

The recent expansion of service to the Darlington and Laughlintown villages were great projects needed by the residents of the Township, and between 15 to 20 million dollars was expended on those projects. For any operation to continue to operate efficiently, the cost of providing that future service would have to involve rate increases. Funds were not set aside for replacing lines, and long range planning for the LTMA and the Township did not exist. The Township's last comprehensive plan is over 25 years old. The required Act 537 plan (Sewage planning) was never approved by the DEP and continues to be corrected by the Township as we stand here today. Every local government with any growth potential will hit the wall economically if major infrastructure projects are continually ignored by everyone. The old saying of, "failing to plan is a plan to fail," fits here. We cannot overcome years of neglect in a day, a week, or a year if we never recognize the problem in the first place.

The Township has few options to solve this problem. The Township Administration has been discussing this problem for over a year now. In the representative form of government, the elected officials are charged in making the decisions in the best interest of the Township. The future is bright for Ligonier Township no matter what happens with the LTMA and we will succeed in keeping and making Ligonier Township a great place to live.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

TAX COLLECTOR

By Sue R. Kinsey

Ligonier Township spring property taxes (County and Township) will be mailed March 1, 2017. Discount amount will be honored through April 30th, Face amount through June 30th and Penalty amount through December 31, 2017. Ligonier Township fall property taxes (School) will be mailed August 1, 2017. Discount amount will be honored through September 30th, face amount through November 30th and penalty amount through December 31, 2017. All payments must be accompanied with a tax statement. If a receipt is requested, please include a self addressed, stamped return envelope. Tax statements are no longer mailed to the mortgage companies. Tax statements are mailed to the taxpayer. If applicable, please forward your statement to the mortgage company for prompt payment. The Tax notice is to be mailed to the last known post office address of each of the taxables. The tax collector's responsibilities for giving notice end when this action has been taken. Failure to receive a tax statement does not relieve the taxpayer of the

responsibility of payment. If you do not receive a tax statement, please contact the tax office. Payments made December 1st through December 31st must be paid with a certified check, cashiers check or money order. A drop-off slot is available at the tax collectors office to accept payments before or after business hours. Change of mailing address protocol: Address request forms are available at the tax office to be mailed to:

Westmoreland County Real Property Tax Division
ATTN: Address Change
40 North Pennsylvania Ave. Suite 440
Greensburg, PA 15601

Office Hours:

Tuesday thru Thursday:

8:00 a.m. till 12:00 Noon • 1:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. till 12:00 Noon

Last Saturday of the Month April and September
9:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.

724-238-2300

LIGONIER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

At our December board meeting we approved our 2017 Work Session and Board Meeting dates.

BOARD MEETINGS

January 4th
February 1st
March 1st

WORK SESSIONS

January 25th
February 22nd
March 29th

We also adopted the same Holiday schedule as Ligonier Township. It will be added to our website soon.

If you have any questions regarding services please call the secretarial staff between **7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Monday thru Friday at (724) 238-7464.

*We wish all of you a Happy
and Healthy 2017!*

RECYCLING

Christmas trees can be dropped off for recycling at the Country Market Field from December 26 – January 31. Those dropping trees off are asked to remove all decorations, lights, wire, bags, etc.



Also, Electronics Recycling is no longer available in the Township unless it is a designated Dumpster Day event.

If you have electronics to recycle, you can do so at Westmoreland Cleanways located at the old Kingston plant, Recycling Center GPS Address:

113 Innovative Lane (Building F)
Latrobe, PA 15650

TOWNSHIP NEWS

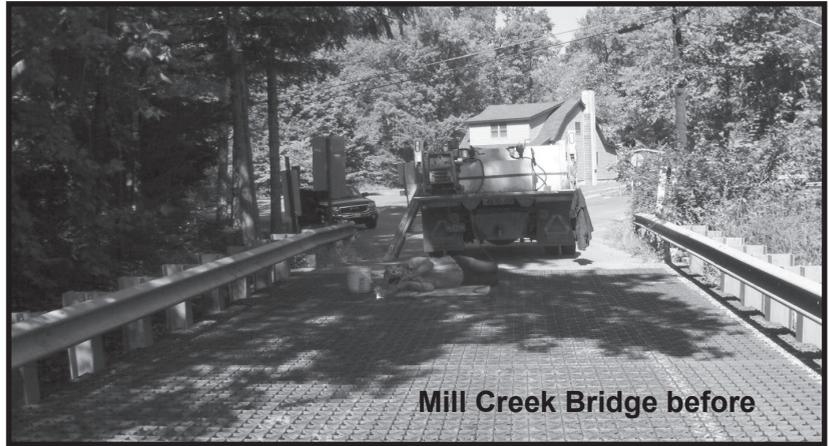
BRIDGE PROJECTS

Ligonier Township completed two much needed bridge projects this year. The Mill Creek Bridge located on Mill Road was completed in early summer. This bridge was closed by the commonwealth because of structural defects and we were able to fast track it. Zion Church Road Bridge was completed in October. This bridge was only closed for eight weeks from demolition to opening. These bridges also have a larger weight restriction which enables our emergency vehicles to cross them without any restriction. This is especially important to the citizens in the Zion Church Road area, because with this new bridge the emergency response time is reduced for fire, police and ambulance service.

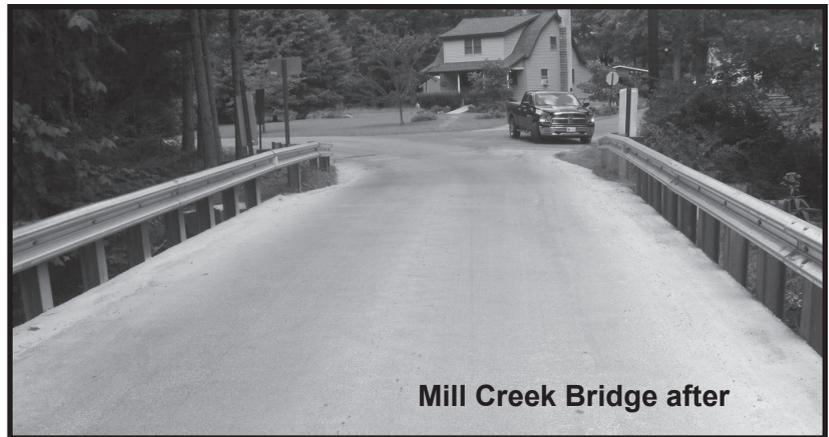
I'm proud to say that after research by staff in Ligonier Township we were able to locate a company in the state that builds and designs modular bridges and has an impeccable record. This company out of Warren, PA was able to build us two bridges at a fraction of the cost that the township had paid for bridges in the past. We utilized our experienced road crew to finish much of the construction of these bridges themselves. The savings incurred by this endeavor has entered into the tens of thousands of dollars. While the demolition and construction of these bridges caused some traffic delays and re-routing for a period of time, we ensured that the down time was kept at a minimum.

I want to express my thanks to the Ligonier Township road crew for the professional and quality work that they performed in the demolition and construction of these bridges. I also want to thank Markosky Engineering of Ligonier Township for performing all the necessary permitting and engineering that was needed in a professional and cost effective manner.

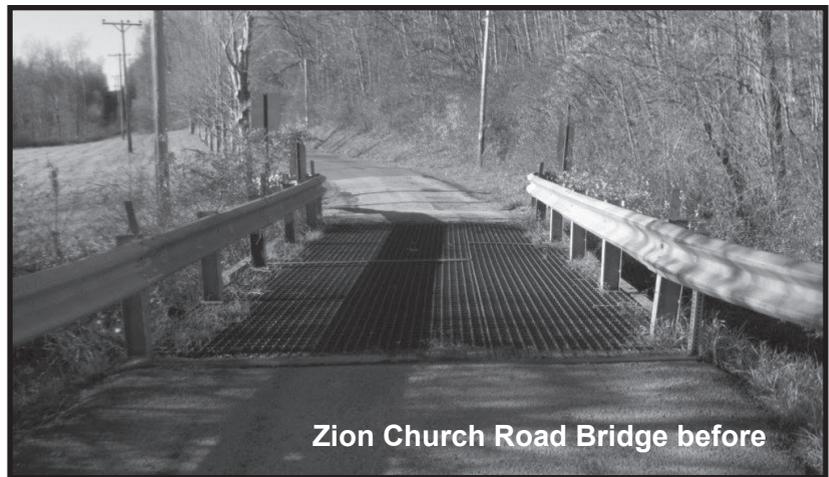
We are looking at at least one bridge replacement in 2017 which will be the bridge located on Clifford Woods Road off of State Route 271.



Mill Creek Bridge before



Mill Creek Bridge after



Zion Church Road Bridge before



Zion Church Road Bridge after

TOWNSHIP NEWS

FIRE HYDRANT AND STREET LIGHT TAXES

At the 2016 meeting, Terry explained that the hydrant districts have a rate of \$.05/foot. For the 2017 time-period, the 780 square foot per law will be maintained. A maximum frontage of 150 square feet on any property or a fee of less than a dollar will not be charged. Land lock parcel will be a flat fee of \$5.00, and the maximum shall not exceed \$7.50.

Street lights are looking to be upgraded to LED in 2017 and a survey will be sent to residents to see if all the current lights are needed and/or need to be upgraded.

A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Wade Thomas to approve Resolution #07-2016 Fire Hydrant/Street Light Fees. Motion carried with Roll Call Vote 3-2, Knupp and Matson No.

In summary, Hydrants: maximum fee of \$7.50

Street Lights: will be determined at the January Reorganization meeting on January 3, 2017 at 4 p.m.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The Committee Meeting for the Comprehensive Plan held on November 21, 2016 was a success and we are looking forward to the Township and Borough resident input at the Community Workshops which will take place January 16-18, 2017 Time TBD

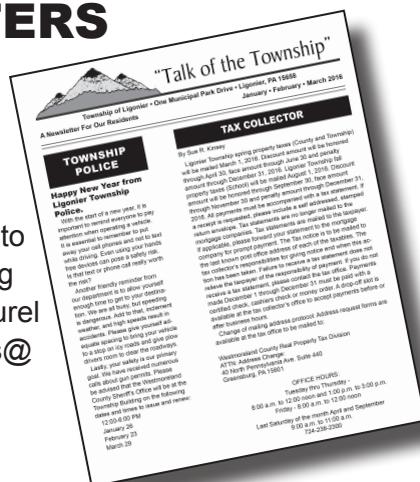
There are 10 groups in which people can participate:

1. Environmental/Open Space
2. Recreation/Trails
3. Transportation
4. Government Services
5. Business/Economic
6. Agriculture
7. Police/Public Safety
8. Housing/Rentals
9. Heritage Tourism
10. Community Design

If any of these areas are of interest to you, we encourage you to sign up and share your input.

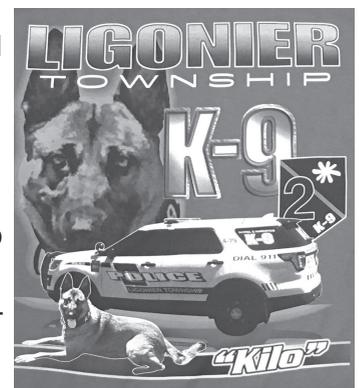
NEWSLETTERS

Township Newsletters are available in print and online. If you are not receiving a printed copy and wish to be added to the mailing list, please contact Laurel Ross via email at lross@ligoniertownship.com.



K-9 T-SHIRTS

The new K-9 shirts are here! T-shirts are \$20 and Sweatshirts are \$30 for sizes Small-3XL. Youth size S-L are also available, though quantities are limited. You can do so by contacting Jimmy via Facebook (Ligonier Township PD K-9) or stopping by the Township to see Roxanne.



The Ligonier Township Municipal Building will be closed on:
January 1 and February 20
The Township Building is open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

W&W
WELTY & WELTY LLP

GEORGE V. WELTY
DOUGLAS J. WELTY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

244 WEST MAIN STREET
 LIGONIER, PENNSYLVANIA

(724) 238-5877

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Website: www.darlingtoninn.com

Email: darlingtonInn@yahoo.com



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Cell: 724-331-4475

Email: donovanc@vt.edu



TOWNSHIP of LIGONIER

One Municipal Park Drive | Ligonier, PA 15658

MEETINGS JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH

- Ligonier Township Municipal Building.....724-238-2725
- Lig. Twp. Municipal Authority**..... 4:00 p.m.
January 4 • February 1 • March 1
- Lig. Twp. Municipal Authority Work Session**..... 4:00 p.m.
January 25 • February 22 • March 29
- Ligonier Township Supervisors**..... 7:00 p.m.
January 10 • February 14 • March 14
- Ligonier Township Supervisors Work Session** 4:30 p.m.
January 24 • February 28 • March 28
- Ligonier Township Recreation Board**..... 7:00 p.m.
January 9 • February 13 • March 13
- Ligonier Township Planning Commission** 7:00 p.m.
January 26 • February 23 • March 23
- Ligonier Township Zoning Hearing Board** 7:30 p.m.
January 17 • February 21 • March 21

Volunteer Fire Departments Directory

- Waterford Volunteer Fire Department.....724-238-0471
Chief Robert Beaufort
- Darlington Volunteer Fire Department..... 724-238-4820
Chief Robert McDowell Cell....814-242-3785
- Wilpen Volunteer Fire Department 724-238-6585
Chief Michael DiRinaldo

LIGONIER TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

- Ligonier Township Supervisors:** Wade Thomas (Chairman), Paul Knupp (Vice-Chairman), Bruce Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), D. Scott Matson, Gary Thistlethwaite
- Ligonier Township Manager** 724-238-2725 ext 110
Terry Carcella
- Ligonier Township Financial Administrative Assistant/ Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**..... 724-238-2725 ext 111
Roxanne Shadron
- Ligonier Public Works Director**..... 724-238-2725 ext 139
Russell Morgan
- Ligonier Township Administrative Assistant Public Works/Police Depts.** 724-238-2725 ext 112
Laurel Ross
- Ligonier Township Police** 724-238-5105
Chief of Police Michael W. Matronics
- Ligonier Township Zoning Office**.....724-238-2725 ext 115
Richard Bell
- Ligonier Township Municipal Authority** 724-238-2725
Secretaries - Haidee Street.....ext 314
Amanda Jellison....ext 340
- Ligonier Township Tax Collector** 724-238-2300
Sue R. Kinsey
- Ligonier Township Web Site**.....www.ligoniertownship.com
- Ligonier Township Fax Number**724-238-3711
- Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co** 412-828-2178
- Berkheimer Tax Administrator** 866-701-7206