



November • December 2019

TALK *of the* TOWNSHIP

A Newsletter for our Residents

One Municipal Park Drive | Ligonier, PA 15658 | Fax: (724) 238-3711 | www.ligoniertownship.com

A NOTE FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

How we stack up compared to other Townships in Westmoreland:

Township	Road Miles	Population	Millage	Budget	Police
Ligonier	96	6,603	4	\$2,723,850	Yes
Allegheny	52	8,164	16.5	\$3,846,000	Yes
Salem	93	6,939	8	\$1,192,000	No
Sewickley	70	6,000	12	\$1,719,000	No
Washington	58	7,370	12	\$2,753,000	Yes

*Ligonier Township budget is current year, all others are from previous year.

** Allegheny & Ligonier Townships have a Manager form of government, all others are Supervisors/Roadmasters.

Real Estate Tax History

2016 the tax rate was set at 5 mils and the Township collected \$490,772 in taxes.

2017 the tax rate was set at 4 mils and the Township collected \$404,084, \$86,289 less than the previous year.

2018 the tax rate was set at 4 mils and the Township collected \$392,980, \$97,793 less than 2016.

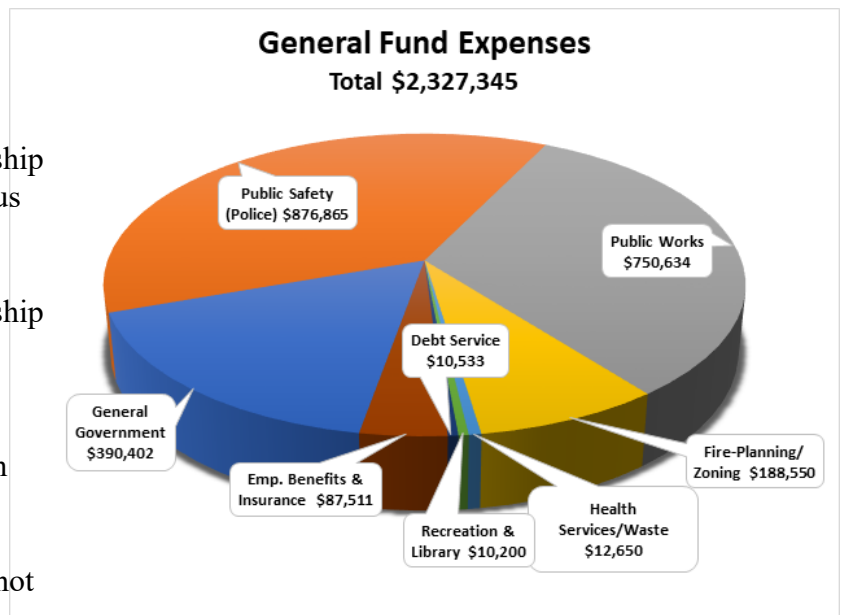
As of August 2019, the tax rate is 4 mils and the Township collected \$115,493, \$375,280 less than 2016.

Additionally, new growth & development have not offset the tax roll losses from the demolition of residential and commercial units.

2017: 9 permits were issued, with 7 demo & seed.

2018: 19 permits were issued with 17 demo & seed and 1 commercial.

As of August 2019, 15 permits were issued with 10 demo & seed and 1 commercial. In the past 3 years, 43 demo permits were issued, 34 structures are not coming back on the tax rolls.



Terry Carcella

PUBLIC WORKS

The decision to travel in winter storms (snow and/or icy conditions) is yours and yours alone, so please do not drive unless it is absolutely necessary. And please pay attention to all snow and travel advisories.

Operators of plow vehicles need your help as much as you need theirs. They must devote their full attention to operating the plow equipment in addition to driving the vehicle. PLEASE – be patient and do not follow snow removal equipment too closely. Allow plenty of room for them to operate and do their jobs. Slow down! You may want and expect to be able to drive the speed limit but will you be able to stop safely and keep your vehicle under control in unexpected situations?

If possible, do not park in the street or on road shoulders. Do not shovel, plow or blow snow onto roadways. This is prohibited by law and can cause a traffic hazard. It is best to place snow on the side of your driveway opposite the direction the plow approaches. This will allow the plow to carry snow away from your driveway instead of filling your driveway back in.

If possible, wait until the roads have been plowed and pushed back before clearing your driveway. There is no practical way to clear the streets without depositing some snow in driveways. Snow banks must be pushed back to provide drainage and room for the next storm.

Help reduce the possibility of a broken mailbox post. Mailboxes are usually damaged by the weight of the snow coming off the plow and not from the plow itself. State law provides that any installation within the highway right-of-way, including mailboxes, is placed at the owner’s risk. Mailboxes should be placed at the maximum usable distance back from the pavement with a 42” mounting height. Rotted wooden posts and cross arms, if so equipped, should be replaced prior to the winter season.

Finally, please be patient. Plowing, sanding, salting, and snow removal takes time. During storms of long duration, crews work around the clock until everything is done. Our primary mission is to make roadways safe for the traveling public at a reasonable cost to our taxpayers.



Bethlen Communities
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724-238-2235 x31
www.bethlen.com • info@bethlen.com



Bethlen Communities is a non-profit, faith-based Continuing Care Retirement Community that offers:

- Bethlen Home Skilled Nursing & Rehab
- Ligonier Gardens Personal Care Home
- Home Health and Hospice
- In-Home Companion Caregiver Services
- Independent Living Retirement Community
- Graceful Aging Wellness Center



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- SNOW REMOVAL
- DRIVEWAY SEALING
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Commercial - Residential

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STORMWATER

Over the past 9 months the Township has been actively updating its Stormwater Ordinance. The ordinance is being developed in conjunction with the Westmoreland County Planning Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The new ordinance will be advertised in early 2020 and go into effect once all reviews are final.

The ordinance contains new measures addressing chronic stormwater issues in the Township. The ordinance will give the Township Supervisors more control over how stormwater management takes place during development or redevelopment activities.

The Township has experienced quite a bit of flooding over the last couple of years. A large part of this problem is the above normal precipitation that was received. Township staff will be working with an engineering firm on a flooding & stormwater” study in 2020 to determine exactly what conditions are contributing to recurrent flooding. Specific areas that will be studied include; Ann Roberts Road, Laughlintown and parts of Darlington.

A Friendly Reminder – DO NOT rake or blow leaves or grass into storm drainage areas as it clogs the pipes carrying stormwater. Thank You!

Ligonier Township Municipal Authority (LTMA)

Ligonier Township Municipal Authority had a very busy summer. Several leaks were found and repaired. We would like to thank everyone for reporting the leaks and for their patience during the repairs. Community involvement is a tremendous help to us!

Just a friendly reminder that customers need to completely fill out their checks before sending them to us. Additionally it is imperative that you return the bill stub with your check or you MUST put your account number in the memo of the check. We need that information in order to apply the payment to the correct account.

As you may have read in the newspaper the board voted to increase water rates at the September 25th meeting. Quarterly customers will see that increase on their first bill of 2020.

LTMA Personnel Directory
(724) 238-7464

Manager

Anthony “Griff” Griffith.....ext 340

Secretary

Gail Barnhart.....ext 313

Haidee Street.....ext 314

**WALL COVERING
SPECIALIST**

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Res: 724-238-5279



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PA061698

18 Mallard Lane
Ligonier PA 15658

Mowing/Landscaping
Excavator/Skid Loader/Dump Truck

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Volunteer Fire Departments Directory

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

NUISANCE ORDINANCE

The Ligonier Township Supervisors adopted a Nuisance Ordinance on December 13, 2016. The general purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit “nuisances” on both public and private property within the Township. It is a tool that safeguards the health, safety, and wellness of our citizens. The ordinance describes the activities, conduct, and conditions that constitute a nuisance. The ordinance also contains the penalties for violations.

The ordinance helps to keep our Township properties in respectable condition. It is a fact that a property that is unsightly due to the presence of things like junk vehicles, old appliances, and rubbish directly affects the values of houses and buildings in a negative way. Studies estimate that one property in poor condition can lower property values in the neighborhood by 30%.

A resident can initiate a Nuisance Complaint by completing a “Nuisance Complaint Form.” These forms are available at the Township building and online by going to www.ligoniertownship.com and selecting “Forms & Ordinances,” and then selecting the Nuisance Complaint Form on the left side of the page. ALL complaint forms are kept confidential.

Please take good care of your property for the collective benefit of all township residents. Should you have any questions contact Keith Ashley at 724-238-2725, ext. 115 or at rashley@ligoniertownship.com.

BEAUFORT SERVICES, INC.

Plumbing, Heating and Electrical



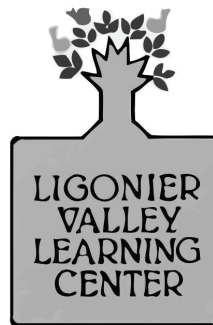
- Furnace Maintenance
- Sewer-Water Lines
- Backhoe Service
- Electric Eel Service



HEATING **LENNOX** COOLING

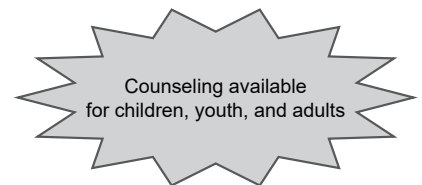
3731 Route 711, Ligonier, PA 15658

724-238-3471



COUNSELING SERVICES

Ligonier Valley Learning Center, Inc.



Specializing in:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Relationship Issues
- Trauma
- Grief/Loss
- Support/Training for Families

2 Convenient Locations:

Ligonier Center
117 Juniper Lane
Ligonier, PA 15658

Latrobe Center
326 McKinley Avenue
Latrobe, PA 15650

Call 724-238-5556 to schedule an appointment

LIGONIER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Wade Thomas (Chairman) John Beaufort (Vice-Chairman) Stephanie Verna (Secretary/Treasurer)
Paul Knupp Scott Matson

Ligonier Township Supervisors Monthly Meeting.....7:00 p.m.
Nov 12 • Dec 10

Ligonier Township Supervisors Work Session.....4:30 p.m.
Nov 26 • Dec 24

MEETINGS

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER

Meetings held at the Township Municipal Building unless otherwise noted. Meetings dates subject to change.

Ligonier Township Municipal Authority.....7:00 p.m.
Nov 6 • Dec 4

Lig. Twp. Municipal Authority Work Session.....4:00 p.m.
Nov 27 • Dec 18

Ligonier Township Zoning Hearing Board.....7:30 p.m.
Nov 19 • Dec 17

Ligonier Township Planning Commission.....7:00 p.m.
Nov 28 • Dec 26

Ligonier Township Recreation Board.....7:00 p.m.
Nov 11 • Dec 9

Ligonier Joint Plan Steering Committee.....7:00 p.m.
Nov 13 • Dec 5

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

(724) 238-2725

Manager

Terry Carcella.....ext 110

Public Works Director

Russ Morgan.....ext 139

Administrative Assistant

Vacant.....ext 111

Administrative Assistant/Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Bethany Caldwell.....ext 112

Community Development & Zoning Officer/Open Records Manager

Jim Nieusma.....ext 116

Code Enforcement Officer

Keith Ashley.....ext 115

Ligonier Valley Police

Chief of Police, John Berger.....724-238-5105 or 724-238-5611

The Township is open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Township will be closed on: NOVEMBER 11, 28-29 and DECEMBER 2 & 25

W&W

WELTY & WELTY LLP

GEORGE V. WELTY
DOUGLAS J. WELTY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Constance Donovan Matson D.V.M.

221 West Loyalhanna Street • Ligonier, PA 15658

Office: 724-238-9645 • Fax: 724-995-8123

Cell: 724-331-4475

Email: donovanc@vt.edu



Township of Ligonier
One Municipal Park Drive
Ligonier, PA 15658

TOWNSHIP CLOSED
NOVEMBER 11, 28-29
DECEMBER 2 & 25

To: Our Neighbors At

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the Township Municipal Complex is home to more than just your local government? In addition to the administration offices and public works garage, the complex is also the Ligonier Township Municipal Authority (LTMA) headquarters and workshop and the patrol unit of the Ligonier Valley Police Department is located here as well.

The municipal complex also functions as a warming station. Should there be a power outage during extreme weather; the Township has its own generator and residents may come in to warm up. In an emergency dial 911 to learn what warming stations are open.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY GUN PERMIT SCHEDULE

The Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office will be at the Municipal Building to issue License to Carry Permits from noon to 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Thursday, November 21 & Thursday, December 19

TOWNSHIP LOGO CONTEST

Congratulations to Mary Laughlin,
winner of the Township's logo
contest!