MAYOR'S MONTLY UPDATE
SEPTEMBER 2018

BUDGET

Update

As we approach the end of the year, Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico and I will begin working on the 2019 township budget. We have begun scheduling budget hearings with department heads to determine their operational needs and projected fiscal requirements for 2019. Each department will be asked not to exceed the state required two percent spending cap for budget appropriations.

Bond Ordinance # 1647-18

This ordinance was introduced at the August 2, 2018 council meeting. The council motion to accept carried on first reading and passed again unanimously on final reading at the September 6, 2018 council meeting. This ordinance authorizes making various improvements to Fairlawn Parkway (Phase 1) to appropriate the sum of $410,000 to pay for the cost thereof, by authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance the appropriation. Note: The Township is also utilizing a Department of Transportation grant of $200,000 for this project, which includes resurfacing Fairlawn Parkway from Cambridge Ave to Floral Lane.

GRANTS

Pending Grants

N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)
We worked with the school district to apply for safety improvements at the township's four elementary schools. The request is for $564,782. The application was submitted by our grant writer prior to the September 18, 2018 deadline. Announcement of the award is pending.

Bergen County Open Space Grant Fund (BCOSGF)
With assistance from our township grant writer, the township submitted an application through the BCOSGF. We requested financial assistance to help fund a new handicapped accessible playground at Avon Park. The town is partnering with resident Michael Maniscalco, who initiated the proposal to renovate the playground as his Eagle Scout community service project. We expect to present our proposal before the BCOSGF Committee sometime in the near future.

Bergen County Community Development Block Grant (BCCDBG)

Our grant writer with assistance from Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico submitted the 2019 BCCDBG application requesting funding for drainage improvements / road resurfacing of North and South Leswing Avenues and repairs / improvements to our Senior Citizen Building. A service organization project for renovations / improvements to VFW Post 3484, 44 Market Street were also requested.

N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)
The township applied for a streetscape grant project on Market Street in the amount of $434,798. The township council passed a resolution in support of the application and submitted it prior to the August 23, 2018 deadline.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)
An application was submitted on April 24, 2018 requesting $30,645 to recruit five new fire department members. Announcement of the award is pending.

Public Safety Foundation – Firehouse Subs
A Firehouse Subs application was submitted for the Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps on September 7, 2017 requesting an automatic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) unit costing $15,003.71. Announcement of an award is pending.

<u>Available Grants</u>

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

Our grant writer issued a grant alert concerning AFG, which became available on September 24th and is due in early November. A brief was developed by our grant writer and a questionnaire was completed by the township as per the AFG application requirements. A request for fire department rescue boats is being considered.

N.J. Municipal Aid Grant Program

This program was announced as opened with the application due date extended to October 18th. The township through our engineer is proposing phase 2 improvements to Fairlawn Parkway from Floral Lane to the municipal boundary of Fair Lawn. Also phase 2 improvements to Caldwell Avenue from 200 feet north of Hillside Avenue to Market Street.

Other Grant Funding Opportunities

We have our grant writer researching whether there are any grants available to fund improvements to VFW Post 3484, 44 Market Street as well as grant/loan sources for building a new fire house and ambulance building.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Community Partnership / Access for All Committees – Tuesday, September 25th

Both committees met after breaking for the summer months and had a productive meeting. Topics of discussion included food drives for the Saddle Brook Food Pantry, the High School Middle School Community Partnership Club, doing another public service announcement on Our Town Public Access Television and participating in the Out of the Darkness Walk sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on Sunday, October 21st. The next meeting is Monday, October 22nd, 6:00PM at the Senior Center.

Mayor's Youth Group (MYG) Meeting – Saturday, September 22nd

The Group met at 11AM at town hall to discuss upcoming events and activities, which included the Senior Halloween Party on Tuesday, October 23rd, Halloween Decorating Contest on Thursday, October 25th and Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 27th.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Unico Street Fair – Sunday, October 7th

The Saddle Brook Unico put on another great street fair this year! This event helps bring our town together for a day of entertainment and socializing with friends and neighbors. The street fair took place on Market Street between Westminster Place and Mayhill Street. There were food and merchandise vendors, local businesses and civic organizations providing information, and amusements and rides for children. Photos and a video of the event were posted on the township's Facebook page as well as the township's website. A video was also produced and is showing on Our Town Cable TV, Ch. 77 – Cablevision, Ch. 38 – Verizon Fios.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Decorating Contest

Registration for the contest began on Monday, October 1st with the deadline for filing on Monday, October 22nd. The judging will take place on Thursday, October 25th. To register, residents must email their name, address and telephone number to cgenuario@saddlebrooknj.gov or call (201) 587-2903. Participants are asked to leave their lights on from 6-10PM the evening of the judging. Winners will be announced at the November 8th council meeting.

Senior Halloween Party – Tuesday, October 23rd

The costume party will take place at the Saddle Brook VFW, 44 Market Street from 6-9PM. There will be dinner, dessert and entertainment by Peter Lieberman. Transportation to and from the event will be available upon request.

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 27th

Trunk or Treat will take place in the parking lot of Saddle Brook High / Middle School from 12- 2PM. Parents must register their children (12 & under) and return completed registration forms to town hall, 93 Market Street by Monday, October 22nd. There will be a DJ, plenty of treats and contests for best costumes by age group and best decorated trunk.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Road Resurfacing Projects

Fairlawn Parkway
The township received notification that our N.J. Department of Transportation – NJDOT FY 2018 Municipal Aid Application for Fairlawn Parkway was selected to receive funding in the amount of $200,000. The council and I awarded the project for the improvements of Fairlawn Parkway from Cambridge Avenue to Floral Lane for an estimated total construction cost of $386,811.71. Design is underway.

President Street
Construction of this project has been awarded to AA Berms, LLC in the amount of $97,980.00. A preconstruction meeting was held on October 10, 2017. Contracts have been executed, however this work was put on hold to replace the water main on President Street. The water main improvement portion of the project was completed the week of September 10th.

2018 Township Road Program
The contracts have been executed for the following roads, which we hope will be completed by the end of this year:

Claremont Avenue
Erie Street
Hayes Drive
Legregni Street
Nedellec Drive

Bergen County Senior Housing Building – 29 Caldwell Avenue

The foundation walls have been installed. The pre-fabricated units are in the process of being delivered and building installation is scheduled to begin mid-October.

OTHER

Visit from Senator Joseph Lagana

On Monday, September 30th, N.J. District 38 Senator Joseph Lagana and Assemblywoman Lisa Swain attended our township AARP meeting at the Senior Center. The Senator and Assemblywoman spoke about issues facing senior citizens today. I thank them for visiting and providing an informative presentation to our seniors.