MAYOR'S MONTLY UPDATE
DECEMBER 2018

BUDGET

2019 Temporary Budget

Township Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico and I have reviewed the operational budget requests of township department heads. A temporary budget was prepared and adopted by the township council at the January 3, 2019 reorganization meeting. The temporary budget is 26.25 percent of our yearly 2018 municipal budget. Our township auditor and chief financial officer have been asked for an assessment of the township's finances and to provide an overview of anticipated revenues, expenses, surplus, and debt services. We are working together to prepare a permanent budget for introduction at the March 2019 council meeting.

GRANTS

Grant Applications Recently Submitted

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
The purpose of HMGP is to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures that reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters. Our grant writer met with township officials including our Emergency Management Coordinator / Police Chief Robert Kugler. A decision was made to request funding for an emergency generator for the senior citizen center. The center is a designated evacuation shelter during major incidents and emergencies. The grant writer created a cost benefit analysis as part of grant application. The application was submitted to FEMA with a request amount of $81,000. If awarded the township's contribution will be $27,000.

Bergen County Community Development Block Grant
The township applied for funds for construction of handicap accessible bathrooms in the basement of VFW Post 3484. The request amount is $154,150. The township also applied for a brick and mortar project to pave North & South Leswing Avenues. The request amount for this project is $449,692.50.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)
This is a FEMA grant, which has as its primary goal to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments. This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Our grant writer, with assistance of Fire Chief Chris Sloma, organized grant materials including 2017 call volume statistics and other specific details concerning the AFG application. The application was submitted for three rescue boats with a total cost of $90,660. Grant request is $82,419, township contribution is $8,241.

Available Grants

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)
This is a FEMA grant that was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association. Our grant writer is organizing grant materials and will meet Fire Chief Chris Sloma concerning this SAFER application. The contents of the application will be reviewed and submitted prior to the deadline.

Pending Grants

We are currently waiting announcement for our **NJ Transportation Alternatives Program (NJTAP)** application in the amount of $434,798 and **Firehouse Subs** application in the amount of $15,003.71 for an automatic cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) unit.

Recently Awarded:

Bergen County Open Space Grant Fund (BCOSGF)
The township received notification that our grant application for $15,000 to help fund an ADA (The Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant playground at Avon Park was approved. The township has partnered with resident, Michael Maniscalco, who initiated the proposal to renovate the playground as his Eagle Scout community service project.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Community Partnership / Access for All Committee

This committee did not meet in December, but is scheduled to meet 7:00PM on Monday, January 21, 2019 at the Senior Center.

Mayor's Youth Group (MYG)

The MYG participated in our annual holiday decorating contest by touring the town to judge the homes of residents who registered to compete in the contest (See Holiday Decorating Contest Judging). The next meeting of the MYG will be on Saturday, January 12, 2019, 11:00AM at Town Hall.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Senior Holiday Party – Monday, December 17th

Members of our Saddle Brook Senior Club and AARP Chapter had a holiday party at the Venetian Banquet Hall in Garfield. They enjoyed delicious food and a fun afternoon of dancing and laughs with friends. I want to personally thank Senior Center Director Joe Lecce, AARP Vice President / Council President Karen D'Arminio, Senior Club President Lou Lipari, and my secretary, Christine Genuario, for all their hard work planning and organizing the event. Photos and a video of the party have been posted on our township website and Facebook page. The video was also broadcasted on Our Town TV, Ch. 77 – Cablevision, Ch. 38 – Verizon Fios.

Holiday Decorating Contest Judging – Wednesday, December 19th

It was a fun night as the Mayor's Youth Group (MYG) toured the town to judge the homes registered for the Holiday Decorating Contest. The group was thrilled to witness all the artistic and imaginative effort township residents put into making their homes beautiful and festive for the holidays. The top three contestants were announced and will receive a gift certificate from the township. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated in the contest. Photographs of all the registered homes can be found on the township website and Facebook page. The MYG also recorded a fun holiday video that can be viewed on our township website, Facebook Page and Our Town TV.

Fire Department Installation Dinner – Saturday, January 5, 2019 at Macaluso's Banquet Hall, Hawthorne, NJ

It was an honor swearing-in Saddle Brook Fire Chief Christopher Sloma and Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Polizzotti for the second year of their term. New firefighters and officers were also installed along with the chiefs. Congratulations and thank you to all our volunteer firefighters for the outstanding service they provide to our community. The members of our township council were also in attendance at the dinner to show their appreciation and support for the members of the fire department and their families.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

2018 Township Road Program

Paving has been completed on **Claremont** Avenue, **Hayes** Drive, **Nedellec** Drive and **Legregni** Street. Concrete work has been completed on **Erie** Street, but milling and paving will be postponed until the spring when the weather is warmer.

Bergen County Senior Housing Building – 29 Caldwell Avenue

The pre-fabricated units have been assembled and the roof has been installed and shingled. The contractors are making all the necessary plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling connections. They will begin finishing the exterior installing building siding, trim, shutters, gutters, down spouts, stairs, railings, etc. We anticipate the project being completed by the end of April 2019.

OTHER

Photo Gallery Displayed in Council Chambers at Town Hall

A new set of photographs taken by students of Saddle Brook High School are on display at town hall in council chambers. The new photos are part of an assignment given to the students by their photography teacher Ms. Kate Pritchard. Back in October, Ms. Pritchard had contacted me with the idea to display her students' work at town hall. I was excited, but did not anticipate just how impressive the gallery would be nor the attention they would receive from the public. The township council members and I recognized Ms. Pritchard and the students for their work at the November township council meeting.

Rededication of Maria J. Alia Gymnasium – December 14th

A new banner was unveiled rededicating the Saddle Brook High School Gym for the late Mario J. Alia. I attended the unveiling, which took place prior to the girls' varsity team basketball game. Thank you Saddle Brook Board of Education trustees, Superintendent Danielle Shanley and Athletic Supervisor Chris Ianniello for helping preserve Mr. Alia's legacy.

Township Reorganization Meeting, Thursday January 3, 2019

Councilwoman Karen D'Arminio, Councilman Todd Accomando and I took the oath of office after being re-elected to a second term on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Councilwoman Florence Mazzer was also reappointed Council President for another year. Congratulations to my colleagues on the council and to all those appointed to positions with the Township. Thank you Senator Joseph Lagana for administering oaths of office and presenting those re-elected with NJ Senate Resolutions. Thank you Bergen County Clerk John Hogan for attending and awarding certificates of election to Councilmembers D'Arminio and Accomando and myself. I also appreciate Pastor Bruce Janiga of Saint Philip the Apostle Church for giving the opening prayer to start the ceremony. After being sworn into office by her husband, former Saddle Brook Mayor Louis D'Arminio, she was presented with a certificate of achievement from the Women's Environmental and Development Organization (WEDO). The certificate was presented by WEDO representatives Cristina Cutrone - Councilwoman from Fair Lawn and Arati Kreibich - Councilwoman from Glen Rock.