

MAYOR'S QUARTERLY UPDATE
JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019

BUDGET

Tax Bills

Property tax bills for the 2019/2020 tax year were mailed the first week of August 2019 with payment due by September 5 2019.

Bond Ordinance 1654-19

This ordinance was introduced at the July 2019 Township Council meeting and approved on final reading on August 1, 2019. This ordinance authorizes the making of various public improvements and the acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery and new communication and signal systems equipment and to appropriate the sum of \$710,000 to pay the cost thereof (Parts A-C) . This will be accomplished by the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriations and to provide the issuance of bond anticipation notes.

Part A involves the acquisition of new communication and signal systems equipment consisting of Police Department communications equipment and replacement of the flooring in the police communications room at police headquarters. The estimated cost of the appropriation is \$335,000.

Part B is the undertaking of improvements to the HVAC system at the Police Department headquarters. The estimated cost of this appropriation is \$119,000.

Part C is the acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery consisting of a street sweeper for the use of the Department of Public Works at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

Bond Ordinance 1659-19

This ordinance was introduced at the June 2019 Township Council meeting and approved on final reading on July 11, 2019. This ordinance authorizes the undertaking of various sanitary sewer system improvements in the Township and to appropriate the sum of \$400,000 to pay the cost thereof. This will be accomplished by the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation and to provide the issuance of bond anticipation notes.

Bond Ordinance 1668-19

This ordinance was introduced at the September 2019 Township Council meeting and approved on final reading on October 3, 2019. It authorizes the improvement of Fairlawn Parkway (Phase II) and Herbert Terrace (Entire Length) and to appropriate the sum of \$650,000 to pay the cost thereof, to make down payment, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation and to provide for the issuance of bond anticipation notes.

GRANTS

Available Grants

NJ Transit S5310

Our grant writer worked with Senior Center Director Joe Lecce and Business Administrator Peter LoDico to gather necessary information and documents to submit this grant to offset costs of our senior bus driver, insurance, fuel, and maintenance costs for our senior bus service. The NJ Transit S5310 grant provides municipalities funds to improve and fully fund programs for the enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. The deadline for FY2018 was October 4, 2019 and FY2019 is November 15.

Grants Submitted Pending Notification

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Local Aid

Our grant writer completed and submitted an application for improvements to Mayhill Street - Phase I for a request amount of \$353,862. The Department encourages municipalities to fund projects that promote and support walking and biking in their communities.

Safe and Secure Communities

The Township is eligible for \$30,000 through this grant. The Safe and Secure Grant Program (SSGP) is designed to provide eligible municipalities with state funding to support the salary of law enforcement personnel to address crime in a community-oriented manner. The Department of Law and Public Safety, through the Division of Criminal Justice, administers the SSGP. Funding is derived from fines imposed upon criminal convictions. The grant essentially offsets the cost of two officers. The Program requires a municipality to increase the number of law enforcement personnel through the use of grant funds and then maintain that total number of law enforcement personnel. The Township would be required to raise our total number of police officers to thirty five (35) from our current amount of thirty four (34). The Township is interested in hiring another police officer through this program and we are awaiting funding announcements.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

This application is for a generator at the Senior Center. The requested amount is \$81,000. The Saddle Brook contribution is \$27,000. Announcement of the award is pending.

Firehouse Subs

Fire House Subs grants offer funding for life saving equipment, prevention education, continuing education, support for military members, and disaster relief. The maximum award is \$25,000.

Police Department - A Public Safety Foundation grant application was created and submitted for our Police Department. They applied for thirty five (35) body-worn-cameras and mounts as well as a vehicle dash-cam in the amount of \$24,721.

Saddle Brook Ambulance Corps - Applied in Quarter 3 of 2018 seeking an automatic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) unit costing \$15,912.32.

Announcement of the awards are pending for both these applications.

Grant Notifications

NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Local Freight Impact Fund

The Township received notice that our FY2019 application was denied. Our grant writer submitted a grant alert upon NJDOT's announcement of the FY2020 Local Freight Program. The Local Freight Impact Fund solicits proposals aimed toward mitigating the impacts of the state's trucking industry. Typical proposals include resurfacing roadways adjacent to major highways which are home to industrial / shipping tenants and that experience a high volume of large truck traffic. The Township will not be submitting an application for FY2020.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Youth Group (MYG)

The MYG operated a table at National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th. Thank you to all the members who attended and participated in the event. Group members gave away coupons to 7-Eleven as well as "Never Give up Hope" magnets and wristbands. Registration forms were available encouraging Township youth entering grades 4-12 to join the MYG. Anyone interested in registering can call Christine Genuario, Secretary to Mayor, at 201-587-2903.

Flood Committee – Monday September 23rd

The committee met to discuss formulating a mission statement and improving our rating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Obtaining flood mitigation assistance brochures from FEMA to educate residents within the flood zone was agreed upon. The Township is considering the advantages of hiring a flood plain manager to conduct flood loss reduction activities including enforcing our flood damage prevention ordinance, updating flood maps, plans and policies of the community, and any activities related to administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

• NOTE: MOST EVENTS ARE PHOTOGRAPHED AND RECORDED. THE RECORDINGS ARE BROADCASTED ON OUR TOWN (PUBLIC ACCESS) TV, CH. 77 – CABLEVISION, CH. 38 – VERIZON FIOS. THE PHOTOS AND RECORDINGS ARE ALSO POSTED ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE.

Township Fireworks Display, Wednesday, July 3rd

The Township's annual fireworks celebration was again held at our Saddle River County Park. Thank you to all of our emergency services personnel including the Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau, Office of Emergency Management, Police Department, Ambulance Corps and the Department of Public Works.

Avon Park Unveiling – Saturday, July 20th

An unveiling and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new and improved Avon Park playground marked the official opening of the playground! This renovation originated as Michael Maniscalco's Eagle Scout Project. Through his vision and hard work, it developed into something truly special, which brought our community closer together. Michael managed the entire project himself, but received help and support of his family and volunteers from his Boy Scout Troop 213, the Saddle Brook (SB) High / Middle School Music Association, SB Angels Sports Program and SB Community Partnership Committee (to name a few). He also received contributions in the form of monetary donations, construction materials / products, equipment and labor from local businesses and residents. Michael was also instrumental in the Township receiving an Open Space Grant from Bergen County to build his inclusive American Disability Act (ADA) compliant playground for individuals with special needs and disabilities. Michael recognized several individuals and businesses for their assistance and generosity and several dignitaries were in attendance.

Saddle Brook Fire Department Engine Company 2 Dedication – Saturday July 27th

Thank you to all who attended to support the Saddle Brook Fire Department, especially all the sponsors for their generous donations. The Township appreciates all our emergency services personnel from the Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps. Thank you to JoAnn Brendel, Damien Danis and Massimo Maceri for taking photographs of the dedication.

National Night Out – Tuesday August 6th

Our Police Department once again hosted a National Night Out celebration on the grounds of Washington School from 6PM-9PM. National Night Out is an event that has been celebrated in the U.S. since 1984. The event, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is held annually on the first Tuesday in August. We had a nice crowd come out and enjoy our Night Out celebration. It was a great way to bring the community together to meet and thank our first responders who keep us safe every day. The main purpose of National Night Out is to increase awareness about police and public safety programs. Our Police Department was joined and assisted by members of our Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Fire Prevention Bureau. Other local participants included the Community School, Mayor's Youth Group and Boy Scout Troop 213. We also had representatives from state and county law enforcement.

Mayor's Walk – Saturday, August 24th

I want to thank everyone who came out for the Fourth Annual Mayor's Walk around the lake at the County Park. The Walk is part of The Mayor's Wellness Campaign, which is an initiative to improve the health and wellness of residents and business owners by providing nutritional advice and recreational opportunities. The goal is to get people to lead healthier, more active lives and schedule regular check-ups with their doctors. This year the Township promoted our Community Partnership Access for All Committee and each participant received a free blue and gold tee shirt. Special thanks to Christine Genuario and Andy Gallo for all their assistance.

Township Picnic – Saturday August 24th

I want to thank everyone for attending our annual picnic. The weather was just perfect for everyone to comfortably enjoy the festivities. I want to thank our Project and Activities Committee led by Councilwoman Karen D'Armino. I really appreciate all her hard work along with my secretary, Christine Genuario and Chairwoman Shannon Accomando. Thanks also to Business Administrator Peter LoDico and Recreation Director Andy Gallo for helping man the registration table at the picnic. I can't thank our sponsors enough for their generous contributions and participation. We could not have had the picnic without their assistance. I also want to thank all the members of our Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Corps. We also appreciate the effort from our employees that worked the picnic, especially our DPW staff and Senior Center Director Joe Lecce, Bus Driver Howie Rofofsky and Bus Assistant Sandi Goodwin. I also appreciate the help from our civic organizations, including the Women's Club, Boy Scouts and Mayor's Youth Group. A big shout out to Reverend Andrew Park and Korean Martyr Church for their delicious barbeque.

Senior Housing Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Monday, September 9th

The Housing Development Corporation of Bergen County (HDC), the non-profit development arm of the Housing Authority of Bergen County (HABC) hosted a Ribbon Cutting event at the Saddle Brook senior housing development. Elected officials, government offices, local businesses, community leaders and non-profit colleagues celebrated the opening of thirty (30) beautiful new apartments for senior citizen households. Six of the new apartments are set aside for senior citizen special needs households. The property is owned by the Township and is leased to the HDC under a long-term lease provision. The complex features one-bedroom prefabricated modular apartments. The building contains a common area space that includes a bright and airy community room, laundry facilities, office space for management, and a tenant service coordinator. The entire building is ADA adaptable. Each apartment has a complete kitchen with Energy Star appliances. Six of the apartments have been set aside for households experiencing homelessness or who are precariously housed. Applications for the apartments were accepted after public advertisement and several listening sessions were held at the Saddle Brook Senior Center to inform interested members of the community about the application and leasing process.

Shredding Event, Saturday September 14th

A free mobile shredding event was held at Coolidge School from 9AM-1PM. Residents were able to bring their unwanted documents containing personal information to have safely and securely destroyed. Thank you Recycling Coordinator Joan Ramsey and Greg Jacobs of the Department of Public Works for their assistance. Special thanks to Mayor's Secretary, Christine Genuario, for planning and organizing the event

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Municipal Complex – 55 Mayhill Street

I am happy to announce that the Township has entered into a contract to purchase 55 Mayhill Street and will proceed with a much needed Civic Center and Municipal Complex that includes Municipal Offices, Court, Fire and Ambulance Corps. At the Township Council meeting held on October 3, 2019, our Township Auditor mentioned that the timing couldn't be better as interest rates at this time were under 2% and the Township will pay an older bond off in 2020. The Township will now apply to the Bergen County Improvement Authority to finance the cost and utilize the county's AAA rating. We will keep residents up to date as we proceed on this important project for our community.

2018 Road Program

This program consisted on paving Erie Street, Hayes Drive, Legregni Street, Nedellec Drive and Claremont Ave and was awarded to AJM Contractors. A bulk of work was completed in the fall 2018 including paving all roads except Erie, which was paved in spring 2019. AJM is progressing with the punch list items. Paving analysis has been submitted by AJM for all streets except Erie, however the reports are not in accordance with contract documents. Punch list work has progressed and is near completion.

Leswing Avenue Paving - Community Development Block Grant (CDG 2018)

The project was advertised for bid on June 20, 2019 and bids were received on July 2, 2019. The project was awarded to 4 Clean-up in the amount to \$174,599. Construction commenced on August 5, 2019 and was completed on August 31, 2019.

Water Main Scheele Place

The project was advertised for bid on June 30, 2019 and bids were received on July 2, 2019. The project was awarded to John Garcia Construction on August 1, 2019. Contracts were executed and work commenced on September 17, 2019.

2019 Road Program

The contract for the program was awarded to 4-Cleanup in the amount of \$466,421. It is anticipated that Rosedale Ave, Madison Ave and North Sixth Street will be paved this year while the remaining roads, Evans Place, Oak Ave and North & South Leswing will be paved in the spring 2020.

Rochelle Parkway Paving - Community Development Block Grant (CDG 2019)

The Township Engineer has completed a bid package and advertisement will occur shortly.

Fairlawn Parkway Paving – N.J. Dept. of Transportation Municipal Aid (NJDOT 2018)

The NJDOT approved \$200,000 towards this project. The Township awarded the project for the improvements of Fairlawn Parkway from Cambridge Ave to Floral Lane for an estimated total construction cost of \$388,881. Design is progressing and nearing completion. NJDOT recently approved funding for Fairlawn Parkway Phase II. A proposal for engineering services has been approved and the Township intends on preparing one bid package for both phases and issue the bid package this fall for construction in spring 2020. Design work has commenced.

Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) Work

PSE&G has been working in the north end of the Township replacing aging cast iron gas pipes with new, durable plastic and/or coated steel piping – ensuring the continued safety and reliability of our gas system well into the future. Work started in mid-April and we expect it to be completed this fall. Some of the streets where gas pipes were replaced will be paved curb to curb by PSE&G by the end of this year. The remaining streets will be done in the spring 2020.

OTHER

Ordinances Passed

Restricting Single Use Plastic Bags - (Ord. # 1660-19)

A new section was added recognizing the need to add a new chapter to the Township Code to include a new section entitled “SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION”, whereas, the Township Council desires to reduce the number of disposable plastic carryout bags that are being used, discarded, and littered and to promote the use of reusable carryout bags and recyclable paper bags by retail establishments located within the Township.

Placing of Garbage & Recycling Cans at Curb - (Ord. #s 1661-19 & 1663-19)

Amending provisions of Chapter 100 (GARBAGE) and Chapter 156 (RECYCLING) of the Township Code, specifically that cans cannot be put out before 6PM on the night prior to the pickup and all containers must be removed from the curb area within 12 hours of pick up.

Flood Damage Prevention – (Ord. # 1665-19)

An ordinance to amend all sections of the Township Code, Chapter 95, to incorporate updated language to meet the recent changes to federal and state requirements.

Affordable Housing – (Ord. # 1666-19)

An ordinance amending Chapter 48 of the Township Code entitled, “AFFORDABLE HOUSING”, so that it conforms to the settlement involving the affordable housing litigation presently in the Superior Court of Bergen County.

Fee for Water Meters with Sale of House – (Ord. # 1667-19)

An ordinance amending Chapter 203, Section 25 entitled “FEE FOR METERS WITH SALE OF HOUSE”, whereas the Township Council recognizes the need to amend said Ordinance to add a new sentence to Article I as follows: “Should the fee have been paid as of January 12, 2013, said fee shall be waived, and, the said fee shall be waived if the same has already been paid from the date of adoption of this ordinance.”

Safety Town

On Friday, June 28th, I presented graduation certificates to the children that completed the Safety Town Program. The 5 & 6 year graduates also received Safety Town baseball caps. Safety Town is an early childhood education program designed to introduce our children to all types of safety. The school district has offered this valuable program during summer recess for over 30 years. During the 8-day program, children learn safety behavior and learn to protect themselves and others around them through role-playing in simulated situations. Thank you to the program staff and volunteers led by Instructor Mariann Freitas Schultz and members of our Police Department, Fire Department, Fire Prevention, Ambulance Corps and Office of Emergency Management. They all did an awesome job presenting this important program to the children.

Grand Openings

On Sunday, July 14, 2019, I was present at the grand opening of Saddle Brook Veterinary Center, 390A Market Street, Saddle Brook. It was an honor and pleasure to welcome Dr. Gianina Aronovici and her staff to the Township and take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony! We wish them the best of luck in their new business. On Thursday, July 25, 2019, Councilman Andrew Cimiluca and I attended the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Moxie Salon and Beauty Bar, 110 Market St. Moxie is a full service hair salon offering services such as color, haircuts, blowouts, updos, highlights, etc. It’s an exciting time when a new business opens in town and it’s always a pleasure welcoming them to the community. Congratulations and best of luck to everyone at Moxie!

Passing of Police Officer Michael Juliano – August 1st

The Saddle Brook Police Department, together with the family and friends of Police Officer Michael Juliano, had the solemn duty to bring to rest our departed Officer. I personally acknowledge and thank the many government officials, police officers, law enforcement and other public safety and municipal departments for their overwhelming support, attendance and participation. Special thanks to NJ Honor Guard, Pipes and Drums of Bergen County, Honor Guard Units of the Saddle Brook, Bergen County Sheriff's Departments and many other agencies. Also all Motorcycle Units and police cars involved in the motorcade of the funeral procession. I also want to thank those who may have offered donations to the Elmwood Park Volunteer Ambulance Corps and to other causes in Memory of Officer Juliano. REST IN PEACE Police Officer Michael Juliano and GOD BLESS YOU and all your family.

Saddle Brook High School Elections

On Tuesday, 9/24/19, the Saddle Brook High School held elections for Class Officers and Student Council. The students used actual voting machines that were providing by the Bergen County Board of Elections. School Principal Brenda Coffey, Vice Principal Raymond Searles and Township Clerk Peter Lo Dico presided over the elections along with Township residents and poll workers Marie Kenny and Ines Radman. Congratulations to all the winners!

Tri-Centennial Park – Saddle River Road and Platt Avenue

A lighted flag pole was installed and perimeter fencing was erected on the property. We plan on having a monument and gazebo with benches erected in the near future. Our Township Historic Committee will be burying a time capsule in the Park. We are also considering including a playground area.

Mayhill Street Playground Adjacent Saddle Brook Library

The Township Council and I recognize the need to make improvements to this playground and it will be one of our priorities for the upcoming year. We are currently looking for sources to help fund a project of this type. We are anticipating a donation from a local business the will be earmarked for new playground equipment and we are searching for available grants that would help defray construction costs.