

Upper Paxton Township Newsletter

Spring, 2022



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Road Improvements for 2022

This past year has seen us working to repair storm damage along the Mahantango Creek bank beside **Snyder Mill Road** along our northern most township boundary. Because the erosion of the south bank of the creek is nearing the roadway, officials have summoned PEMA and FEMA to research the use of Federal funds for the repair. The erosion was sped up from high rushing flood water as a result of one of last year's major storms. Temporarily, the roadway has been reduced to one lane for safety purposes, and vehicles need to remain on the roadway for safety reasons. Officials are hoping for a complete repair during the coming summer. Federal funds will make this possible!

Adams Lane, connecting Shaffer Road to Charles Road in Cloverly Acres, has been on the road improvement list for the past year. Again, heavy downpours have constantly eroded the dirt and stone road, and the township has begun to make improvements to collect the water and safely channel it into the pond along Charles Road. A major road improvement will then take place. When this work is completed this summer, the township will attempt to officially declare this as a township right-of-way. Resurfacing of Adams Lane will be the final act to improve this road.

Our township developments generally have wide cartways and have been a continuous challenge to the Supervisors. Their extra width makes them quite expensive to resurface. We have discovered a new technique and examined other municipalities who have used this new procedure, "Fog Sealing." It will be used in township developments, beginning this summer. An explanation of the "two-step" procedure will be provided to all residents who will benefit from the new paving.

ACT 537 Update

The year 2022 has us moving still, ever so slowly, forward in our responsibility to satisfy the state requirements regarding private water and on lot sewer systems. The Board of Supervisors recently met with the engineering firm that is preparing the required study to submit to PA DEP. To date, phase one of the study is not yet complete. We will keep our residents updated as the study moves forward.

SPRING CLEAN-UP



The township Spring Clean-up has been set for **Saturday, April 23**, beginning at 7:00 a.m., and concluding at 12:00 p.m. The event again takes place at the township complex on State Route 25. Volunteers are needed to help with the collection process. **You can volunteer by contacting the township office in advance at 717-692-4655.**

Remember, there is a \$25 charge for the collection of refrigeration items that contain the gas Freon. Also, there is a \$4 charge for car & light truck tires (\$6 for tires on wheels & also an additional charge for larger tires). **Upper Paxton Township residents** can bring electronics on the clean-up day. Electronics will be unloaded first, followed by items containing refrigerants, then tires, and lastly junk. Residents are asked to load their vehicles accordingly to facilitate rapid movement through the unloading area. Following these guidelines will aid the unloading process. **ALSO, THERE WILL BE A REPURPOSED AREA** where items will be placed that are deemed reusable for other citizens. You will be directed to that area with your items, and they will be available for others to pick up through the weekend, on a first come, first served basis. Please follow the directions of the township officials when reviewing the repurposed area. Every effort will be made to avoid congestion along the side of the highway from those wanting to pick up items.

Keep Your Township Roadways Safe

Snow dumping by residents on the roadways is not permitted. It creates a potentially dangerous situation for both vehicles and pedestrians. In a similar fashion, grass cuttings, when allowed to lay in the streets during the warm weather seasons, serves to clog storm drains and add to the problem of controlling storm waters. Last year's rains were a challenge to our storm water runoff, and you can aid in this matter by controlling and collecting your grass clippings. Remember, the Township Compost Lot is there for you to use.

Your Township Compost Lot

Your township officials are pleased to receive numerous positive comments regarding the Township Compost Lot. We are pleased to inform you that the renewal fee will remain at \$20 for the year 2022. This past year, there was a considerable expense required for a critical repair to the system, as well as the annual expense to remove the decaying compost. Your fees help to cover these bills, without budgeting tax dollars.

This renewal fee is due in April. At payment, your card will renew for the year (you will not need a new card). If you have not purchased a card and

would like to do so, new cards are available. Cards that are not renewed will be made inactive after April 30th. Please make your check payable to **Upper Paxton Township.**

If you do not renew, your card will be rendered void after April 30th, and will not open the facility to you. The Supervisors appreciate everyone's cooperation to keep our Compost Lot functioning well. Please remember to abide by the signs, and only deposit the proper items in their designated location. Just a friendly reminder, the facility is a compost lot, not a collection facility for other items.

Township Contributes to Millersburg Pool Construction



For the past three years, the Township budget has included funds for the anticipated pool construction. Recently, \$30,000 was given to the Millersburg Pool Association to support their work that will enhance the summer activities for children. A new splash pool and a variety of water activities, sprinklers, etc. will highlight the new facility. The Supervisors felt that this contribution was more than justified because many of our residents benefit from the pool during the summer months.

American Rescue Plan Monies

In February, \$194,000 was placed in the general fund, as permitted by the Federal Government as partial payment from the monies allotted to municipalities as part of the Covid relief. There is discussion as to how to best use these funds, as restrictions have been eased in recent months. As with all township finances, the use of these dollars will be clearly defined and recorded to assure their proper use. There are federal guidelines as to how these funds can be used, and they center on "Covid relief" for municipalities.

Ambulance Update

The Millersburg Area Ambulance Association has had the privilege to provide Emergency Medical Service to Upper Paxton Township, Millersburg Borough, and its surrounding communities for many years. The first ambulance to serve our two municipalities was placed in service on June 6, 1955, as a joint venture between the Millersburg Fire Company and American Legion Post 326.

As the years have passed, volunteerism has decreased to the point of being almost extinct. Vehicle expense, equipment, supplies, fuel cost, and insurance premiums have drastically increased creating a financial toll on all emergency services and the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association is no exception.

In 2010, with the creation of the Affordable Care Act, many unforeseen loopholes and issues were created for EMS agencies on how insurance reimbursements were received. Many insurances have implemented co-pays and co-insurance that are often not able to be collected by the EMS service. Millersburg Area Ambulance cannot and will not ever refuse service due to inability to pay, however the loss of funding has added to a significant financial shortfall.

Up to this point, The Millersburg Area Ambulance Association has been able to survive through responsible budgeting and use of insurance payments, several generous estate donations, and dedicated individuals that kept the ambulance in service for very little compensation.

As the COVID-19 Pandemic hit our country by storm, it hit the EMS community particularly hard. Most individuals that work in the EMS community are forced to work for more than one organization to make ends meet.

Millersburg Area Ambulance has been a part-time employer staffed by providers that all have other full-time jobs and remains that way. In 2020, the average rate of pay at that time for an EMT was \$10.00 an hour. The combination of these things has created a crucial financial shortfall that we can no longer overcome on our own. Millersburg Area Ambulance Association has been committed to remaining a small community-based organization and to maintain the business as a not-for-profit organization. Several meetings and discussions have been held over the last 18 months with our community leaders attempting to secure the future of The Millersburg Area Ambulance and its continued operation in our community.



(Ambulance continued)

The time has come to think outside the box and make some difficult decisions about what is best for not only the future of our organization but also for our community members. Currently the Millersburg Area Ambulance and Halifax Area Ambulance Services have made the decision to explore the possibility of a joint merger to maintain a community-based EMS service. Note: This is an edited article written by the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association. Please take the time to read the entire article on the Township website @ upperpaxtontwp.org.

**TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS STATEMENT
REGARDING OUR AMBULANCE SERVICE:**

The Township Supervisors are engaged in this concern. Money has been budgeted; however, it is not adequate to fully support the need. The issues are complex and will take time to work through. We cannot allow our community to be without this extremely vital service. Although they receive some pay, the members of the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association perform their work out of passion and have the highest level of respect and appreciation for their service.

Millersburg Fire Company Update



The Millersburg Fire Company Relief Association has ordered 22 replacement SCBA's (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) from Ark Safety in Millersburg. The current SCBA's used by the fire company are 18 years old. The new SCBA's are estimated to arrive in mid-April, after the training of all members, they are projected to be placed in service in May.

The Equipment Committee started a review of several manufacturers over two years ago. After presentations by manufacturers 3M Scott and Draeger, the committee recommended the Draeger SCBA and the fire company membership approved the purchase at the January 2022 company meeting. The purchase price for 22 SCBA's, 22 spare cylinders, masks, and accessories is \$135,000.

The current Board of Supervisors wish to thank the members of the Millersburg Fire Company for their vital service to the community.

Recap on Snow Treatments to Inform the Public

The Supervisors and Road Crew thank-you for your patience through the recent icy winter. Different storms pose different challenges for road treatment. The township's primary responsibility is to provide as much safety as possible, in a timely manner, for all residents. Some storms allow for the crew to pretreat roads, while others make it necessary for the crew to wait until the storm effects the road surface. There are times when the crew must leave some snow on the road surface because ice or freezing rain needs the snow to help with traction. One certain fact is that your road crew stands ready to alter their plans to provide the best road care possible!