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County Passes Updated Property Improvement Permit Ordinance

In an ongoing effort to promote good communication between the Boroughs and the Adams County Tax Services Department (Department), the Department is pleased to announce the passing of Adams County Ordinance #6 of 2018 on October 31, 2018. This ordinance establishes the Adams County Property Improvement Permit (County Permit), which is required of any property owner who is undertaking a property improvement project valued over \$2,500.00. It also requires a County Permit applicant to provide proof to the Department that an inquiry was made with their municipality in the form of a copy of a current municipal building permit, or a letter from the municipality indicating that a municipal permit is not required, before the Department will issue the County Permit.



The idea of County permitting is not a new concept. Prior to the passing of Ordinance #6, County permitting was mandated through Ordinance #3 of 2006, otherwise known as the Adams County Construction Permit. As a matter of fact, during the due diligence phase for the current ordinance, it was found that County permitting goes back as far as before 1970.

Pennsylvania's Assessment Laws changed in 2011, which addressed both municipal and owners' responsibilities in notifying the County of municipal permits and projects in excess of \$2,500.00. Also, there has been recent confusion, especially with property owners moving in from out of state where local ordinance structure is different than in Pennsylvania, about which permits were needed and at what government level gave the owner actual permission to proceed with their projects. Mainly because of these reasons, it was decided that the County's permit ordinance needed to be updated.

Please see *Property Improvement Permit* on page 2

Radar Not Brought to House Floor for Vote

Despite the best efforts of the Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association and the law enforcement and municipal associations in the Radar Coalition, a bill to enable municipal police to use radar was not brought to the floor of

Please see *Radar* on page 2

Property Improvement Permit from page 1

The goals of Ordinance #6 of 2018 is to foster better communication between property owners, municipalities and the County, making it clear to owners that in Pennsylvania, the municipality is the first line of permitting, while also making clear the requirement of the County Permit in order for the property owner to satisfy new legal requirements in the assessment law.

Because municipal permitting requirements and information gathered on municipal permits varies widely throughout the county, the County Permit is a means to consistently collect the same information for all projects in excess of \$2,500.00 to maintain uniformity and tax equity to all property owners throughout the County.

Finally, though tax fairness is the most important goal of the Department, consistent application of the County Permit provides the enhancement of the tax base for all taxing bodies' benefit.

The Adams County Tax Services Department appreciates the cooperation of all Adams County Boroughs in this endeavor. If there are ever any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Director Daryl Crum at 717-337-9837.



Radar from page 1

of the House for a vote. It appears that our representative form of government was prevented from functioning by a minority of Representatives who were *either* opposed to municipal police using radar *or* did not want the issue to be addressed in an election year. For now, the people of Pennsylvania will have to continue to live with the distinction of having the worst record for speeding-related fatalities in the country.

Although the actions of our House Representatives were extremely disappointing, all of us can celebrate the fact that no bill authorizing municipal police to use radar has ever progressed as far as Senate Bill 251. Hopefully, in this next legislative session, the people of Pennsylvania will prevail in their efforts through the Radar Coalition to enable municipal police to use radar to protect the public from speeding motorists.



Governor Wolf Signs Bill into Law That Will Allow for Emergency Procurements

Governor Tom Wolf has signed into law a bill that has been long advocated by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) that will allow boroughs to respond swiftly to emergencies. House Bill 99, introduced by Rep. David Zimmerman of Lancaster's 99th House District, was signed into law as Act 99 of 2018. PSAB thanks the Legislature and Governor Tom Wolf for the bipartisan support of this bill.

This law will accelerate the ability of a borough to respond swiftly to emergency situations within their communities, including infrastructure impacts such as broken water mains or sewer lines. This bill amends Chapter 14 Section 1402 (d) to allow a borough to make necessary purchases in response to the situation. The bill requires the borough to adopt a resolution stating the extent of the emergency addressed and the actions taken at its next public meeting, providing a level of transparency and accountability for any emergency expenditures.



Local News Items

Pennsylvania Rural Development Council: David Bolton was chosen to represent Pennsylvania's boroughs and received a commission from Governor Tom Wolf to serve on his Rural Development Council. The membership of the council are representatives from the Governor's cabinet, federal agencies and various organization that deal with rural development. Quarterly meetings are held by the council.

Community Media (CM) October Update: Community Media has been working with municipalities to find funding opportunities to support the Adams County local television station. CM has distributed an abundant amount of information regarding Franchise Fees, Public/Education/Government (PEG) fees, and contract renegotiations. Community Media has received some good initial responses with several municipalities contributing funds through donations.

ACCOG October Meeting: At the October Adams County Council of Governments meeting, the Superintendents of our county school districts held a forum and spoke on such topics as Career/Tech Ed and School Safety. We learned that Adams County has the lowest county unemployment in Pennsylvania and that 30% of our students should be given opportunities for career and tech ed. Machining, electronics, welding and other skilled trades are in need of support from educational sources to prepare our future workforce. Schools are evaluating building design, layout and materials used to increase safety.

ACTOP October Meeting: The Adams County Transportation Planning Organization discussed the Country Club Road bridge in Abbottstown. Andrew Merkel from the Adams County office of Planning and Development explained that the bridge is structurally deficient and qualifies for inclusion on the next TIP for replacement. He and County Bridge Engineer Will Cameron confirm that it is the only structurally deficient bridge in the county not yet addressed. He mentioned another program that may be available; a \$50M state grant program. I will continue to work to find a solution to this transportation safety issue for these Adams County residents

Pennsylvania Yellow Dot Program

The Pennsylvania State Police has asked our Association to pass the word to the municipalities about the Pennsylvania Yellow Dot Program. The program assists citizens in the "golden hour" of emergency care following a traffic crash when they may not be able to communicate their needs themselves. Placing a Yellow Dot decal in your vehicle's rear window alerts first responders to check your glove compartment for vital information to ensure you receive the medical attention that you need. The program is a cooperative effort among PennDOT, the state departments of Health and Aging, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, first responders, and local law enforcement.

Citizens complete a participation form online to have PennDOT mail them a Yellow Dot Kit. Upon receipt, participants complete the information section, which includes emergency contact information, medical history, medications, allergies, and doctors. A photo (showing the head and shoulders) is them taped to the appropriate location inside the booklet. The kit is placed in the vehicle's glove compartment. The Yellow Dot decal is placed in the lower left corner of the participant's rear windshield, no higher than e inches from the bottom.

PennDOT encourages you to share Yellow Dot benefits as part of your community outreach. Information handouts can be downloaded (for emailing) or printed from the PennDOT website. These handouts illustrate how the program works and tells people how they can request their own kit. It is perfect for health fairs, senior gatherings, and other public events. For further information, go to PennDOT's website at www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA and search for Yellow Dot Program.

Adams County Tax Collection Committee (ACTCC)

On November 7th, the Adams County Tax Collection Committee (ACTCC) was scheduled to meet to prepare for 2019. Unfortunately, ACTCC did not have a quorum. It was disappointing to those in attendance that the missing members did not message the ACTCC Secretary they would not be able to attend. On a positive note, ACTCC would like to thank the municipalities and school districts that did attend. And, they were: **Boroughs of:** Abbottstown, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Gettysburg, and McSherrystown. **Townships of:** Butler, Cumberland, Franklin, Hamiltonban, Highland, Huntington, Mt. Pleasant, Oxford and Straban. **School Districts of:** Conewago Valley, Fairfield Area School, Gettysburg School, Littlestown School and Upper Adams School.

Please be advised the next ACTCC meeting is scheduled for **February 6th** at the 911 center. ACTCC needs to meet to approve a budget, meeting dates, amendments to the YATB Operations Agreement, discuss possible bylaw changes, and elect officers. An email invitation will be sent to the ACTCC representatives, municipalities and school districts. In the email, everyone will be asked to indicate whether *they will or will not be able* to attend. Please respond so that ACTCC can make informed decision on whether to cancel the meeting or not.

Nominations Open for Governor’s Award for Local Government Excellence

Nominations are open for the awards to honor Pennsylvania’s local government leaders in recognition of exceptional dedication to improving public services through innovative initiatives.

Award nominations may be submitted for one or more of the following award categories: Building Community Partnerships; Responding to Adversity; Promoting Community/Economic Revitalization; Innovative Community/Governmental Initiatives; Fiscal Accountability and Best Management Practices; Innovative Planning and Sound Land Use Practices; Intergovernmental Cooperation; Information Technology; and Health and Wellness Initiatives.

Visit DCED’s website at <http://dced.pa.gov/governors-awards-for-local-government-excellence> to apply or for more information. The deadline to apply is December 14th.

Next ACBA Meeting...



January 21, 2019

ACBA Association Staff

Mayor Ron Harris..... President
 Mr. David Bolton..... Vice President
 Sandy Conrad..... Secretary
 Councilor Charlene Westcott..... Treasurer

Special Interests

PSAB Liaison..... Mr. David Bolton
 ACBA Legislative Committee..... Mr. David Bolton
 AC Transportation Planning Org... Mr. David Bolton
 AC Transportation Planning Org... Mr. David Hazlett
 AC Transportation Planning Org... Councilor Susan Naugle
 AC COG..... Mayor Ron Harris
 AC Land Conservancy..... Mr. Bill Chantelau
 ACTCC..... Mayor Ron Harris
 YATB..... Supervisor LuAnn Dille
 AC Water Resource Advisory..... Mr. Bill Chantelau
 Penn State Cooperative Ext..... Ms. Judy Chambers

Happy Holidays and Keep Safe!