

# Abbottstown Borough Bulletin

## Abbottstown Borough Police Ready to Serve!



While the leaders in Harrisburg decide on whether to charge municipalities for the use of the PA State Police's services, local leaders have heard from the residents of their desire to have a local officer on duty to take care of the items that the PSP do not have the resources for (being at the end of the county, response times can be taxing on the PSP barracks). Council wants to lighten the burden on our PSP troopers, and while we are very grateful to Lt. Nickey and his

crew, such incidences as local code violations and fireworks complaints are not within their responsibilities (nor should they be).

Abbottstown Borough Council has authorized an ordinance to establish a municipal police force, the Abbottstown Borough Police Department. The council decided in March to hire its current code enforcement officer, James Graham, as a part-time police officer. He is the retired commander of the state police barracks in Gettysburg. The council voted in June to adopt an ordinance creating the department (Ord. 2019-01).

Chief Graham will work with Mayor Watson to determine the "time and place" of patrols within the Borough beginning January 1st, 2020. He will also continue in his role as Code Enforcement Officer under the Borough's agreement with PA Municipal Code Alliance, who currently provides Abbottstown with enforcement and building permit services.

### Ordinance 1979 repealed: Sidewalks on King St.

At their regular meeting held Thursday, October 17th, upon the recommendation of Solicitor Tim Shultis and Manager David Bolton, Borough Council voted to repeal Ordinance 1979, requiring installation of new sidewalks along King Street within the borough. Council had previously authorized notices be sent to residents along King and Queen Streets informing them of the mandate, however, without proper records of the ordinance being adopted and the difficulty of actually installing sidewalks along some of the properties named prompted Council to rescind the 40 year old requirements.

Residents and homeowners will still be responsible for the maintenance and care of existing sidewalks. Council has instructed Mr. Bolton to investigate grants and funding opportunities available to help residents with the costs of installing sidewalks where none exist and will consider future ordinances based on borough conditions.



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### Important Dates

Dec 19	Council Meeting
Dec 21	Winter Solstice
Dec 23	Chanukah
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Kwanzaa
Dec 31	New Year's Eve
Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 6	Borough Council Reorganization Meeting
Jan 21	MLK, Jr. Day
Feb 2	Groundhog Day
Feb 18	Presidents' Day





## A Message from Abbottstown Council President Dennis R. Posey

4 years ago, this Council was handed the reins to the Borough after a big decision was made by the previous one; the building of the Borough Office out of our concrete pavilion. To fund this project, they borrowed \$538K from a \$650K note. At that time, there were very few borough services being provided to our citizens with an inefficient use of your tax dollars. One of our main tasks was to find a way to eliminate this debt as quickly as possible. However, there were a few things we needed to address along the way...

In 2015, our former solicitor cost us \$45K/year (66% over budget). By 2017, the borough was still paying over \$20K/year for solicitor services, far higher than most other municipalities. Routine tasks such as agreements/contracts for 3<sup>rd</sup> party services, resolutions and draft ordinances cost the borough a premium with the solicitor personally preparing everything.

At the end of 2017, Council hired a new Secretary/Treasurer with these skills. By performing the draft work in-house, Council has been able to spend 33% less this year than 2017 (300% less than 2015) for solicitor services while producing 5 updated ordinances and 18 resolutions to protect the interests of Abbottstown to the state and federal government.

By hiring a Treasurer with an MBA, Council has been able to focus on finances in more efficient ways since 2017, when our engineering costs were 44% over budget at \$35K/year. While our engineering firm previously administered our projects and dictated our costs, by tracking our costs and results in-house, we have saved over \$13K for these services (35% savings) and are under budget this year. Our Treasurer has also worked to recover reimbursements from local contractors for solicitor and engineering services performed to protect our interests.

This Council has seen the recovery of "lost" revenues from previous years increase to over 300% the funding of 2017 through excellent record tracking and pro-active measures. Our new partnership with PA Municipal Code Alliance for code enforcement has produced over 70% increase in permit fees due to increased communications between the borough staff and residents and voluntary compliance to requests, while only using half of the annual budget for Code Enforcement. Over 60 disabled/junk vehicles have been removed from the borough in the past two years and several unsafe structures have been secured, making our borough safer and more aesthetically pleasing.

The borough has also seen a decrease in several expenses through new partnerships/agreements for Contracted Park Services (15% savings over 2017), Office Supplies (down 58% from digital records conversion and emailing notifications in lieu of postage), and Auditing Services (30% savings through preparation and records keeping improvements). Overall, these savings and more will result in a strong fiscal finish of 2019 with only 92% expense to budget and 122% revenue to budget standing, a surplus of over \$90K to be used in the Capital Budget for 2020. Current budgeted Capital Expense for 2020 is only \$75K (police car, complete street overlay project and improvements to Kinneman Road property). This will allow the borough to save over \$200K for other community improvement projects in 2021 and beyond.

Additionally, the 2020 budget has been set to include the re-establishment of local law enforcement with the Abbottstown Borough Police Dept. starting patrols in January. Council has provided for public safety by painting local curbs yellow and installing LED warning light signs before Center Square to help prevent future, costly accidents. We have extended our Borough Office hours to 5 days per week to better serve our residents. We are also working with the Adams County Office of Planning and Development and ACTPO to have the Country Club Road bridge replaced and improved by 2024.

But getting back to where we started; the Debt Service on the Borough Office is being reviewed and analyzed for future savings. Currently, we have been able to shorten the life of the note by 4 years with extra principal payments being strategically paid to reduce interest costs, which so far has saved over \$65K on interest payments through the original note end date of 2037. While our current projections have our note paid back by 2033, our Treasurer is working on a plan to have it paid off 11 years early, by 2026, saving the borough over \$110K in interest costs. This will free up over \$50K per year thereafter in cash flow that can be used towards other community projects and providing additional services to our residents.

I would like to send a big "Thank You" to the residents of Abbottstown for their "votes of confidence" at our election last month, to my fellow colleagues past and present on Council for their service, to our borough staff for their diligence and dedication to their craft, and to God above for His Divine Guidance to make the right decisions for our borough. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All. db

**From the Desk of Frank Anderson, Councilor-Elect:** I would like to take this time to thank you for your votes and support and to introduce myself. I am the new member of your Borough Council. My name is Frank Anderson and I have lived in Abbottstown since 2003. I come from a farming background and I now work in the transportation industry. I would also like to thank Debbie Shearer for her help with petition signatures and her encouragement to serve on Council.

Now I offer some encouragement for you as residents of Abbottstown. It will take a lot more than electing new members to Council to make things happen. It also takes your involvement. Please, come to the meetings and have a voice in your local government. This is the only level of government that you have a true voice to make comments directly to Council to help them make informed and meaningful decisions. As a community, we can work together to make Abbottstown a better, safer place; a place that will make families want to move here.

**PSAB awards Borough**

The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs believes in recognizing those who put forth great effort to advance the ideals of the organization, which protects the interests of our boroughs. Through this recognition, they hope to inspire others to service. Soliciting nominations through the Adams County Boroughs Association (ACBA) had several elected and appointed officials from Adams County recognized for their service by the PSAB.

Abbotstown was busy improving its communication to its constituents, winning three awards for dissemination of information to the public (second place, Social Media; third place, Website; and third place, Newsletter).

Additionally, as the borough administrator, David Bolton was honored with the PSAB Distinguished Service Award for service to Adams County communities from PSAB Past-President Carl Cox (Tioga).



**Council extends Borough Office hours/services**

At their September meeting, Borough Council voted unanimously to extend the borough office hours from 12 to 32 per week. Previously, the office hours were only 3 days per week; now, the office will be open Monday thru Friday (except holidays and scheduled meetings). The new office hours will be: Mon-Wed, 8:30 am to 3 pm, Thurs 10 am to 5 pm, Fri 8:30 am to 2 pm. The office may be closed at times for staff to attend county and state level committee meetings and to attend training courses and conferences.

**ABBOTTSTOWN BOROUGH**

717-259-0965 abbotstown@comcast.net

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Monday	8:30 am to 3 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am to 3 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am to 3 pm
Thursday	10 am to 5 pm
Friday	8:30 am to 2 pm

Office may be closed at times for attendance at county/state meetings or enforcement activities.

**IT'S TIME FOR SNOW!**

By Ordinance, residents must remove their vehicles from the roadways where posted when there is an expected snowfall of 2" or more. Please help us serve you by making other parking plans for these events.

Thank you.



**DON'T FEEL TRASHED OUT!**

All residents (homeowner & renters) are required by Ordinance to contract with the designated solid waste hauler for the borough, Waste Connections. Set up an account and use their services by calling 717-709-1700 or [www.wasteconnections.com](http://www.wasteconnections.com). In 2019, the borough will cross check all borough addresses for proof of contract. Any residence not contracted with a hauler will be subject to the penalties prescribed.



**Permits are Required in Abbotstown!**

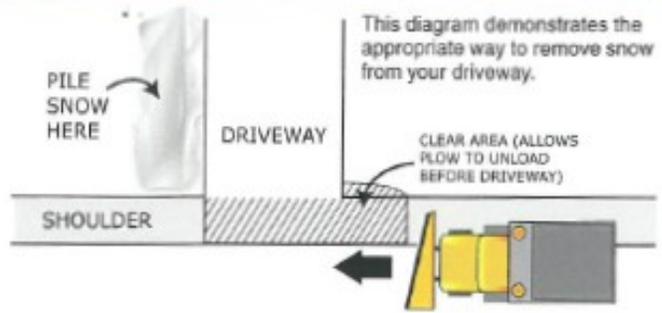
No Adams County resident will be issued a county building permit from the courthouse prior to obtaining one from the borough (or an exemption letter) as prescribed by the new county ordinance. Please call the borough office or contact Code Enforcement Officer James Graham at PMCA for assistance. Also, make sure to check with the borough office prior to planning your Springtime yard sales, as permits are required. In addition, the borough has passed a new Fireworks Ordinance. Be sure to check with the borough office before planning any spectator events involving fireworks (consumer or display).



## Shoveling Your Snow



**PLEASE do not shovel or blow your snow into the streets. We contract to have the streets cleared and need your help keeping them safe.**  
Thank you



"We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming. We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are. They are gifts from the universe that we cannot refuse. But we can choose what we will contribute to life

## Borough Council adopts 2020 Municipal Budgets with No Tax Increases

At their October 17th meeting, Borough Council adopted the 2020 Municipal Budgets at the same municipal tax rates as 2019. In the budget, Council plans to continue the street improvements started in 2019. The Borough will also begin funding the Abbottstown Borough Police Department, including the purchase of a dedicated police vehicle and other equipment needed to outfit Chief Graham.

The budgets were available for public inspection a month prior to the vote. It will continue to be available for any resident or property owner at the Borough Office during regular hours and also on our website, [www.AbbottstownBorough.com](http://www.AbbottstownBorough.com). Please contact the office if you have any questions on our funding.

### 2020 BUDGET OVERVIEW

#### 2020 Municipal Budget Exec. Summary

ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	CURRENT	PROJECTED	PROPOSED
2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2019	2020
\$240,190	\$279,627	\$286,178	\$304,956	\$252,876	\$332,861	334,941
\$783,421	\$226,677	\$244,989	\$288,405	\$148,512	\$256,233	327,955
-\$543,231	\$52,950	\$41,189	\$16,551		\$76,628	6,986

Projected surplus of \$76,628 to be placed into Capital Reserves for 2020 budget.  
Proposed budget has a working reserve of \$6,986.

### Capital Reserves

BUDGET	PROJECTED	PROPOSED
2019	2019	2020
\$302,536	\$302,536	\$261,592
\$171,700	\$117,572	\$75,000
\$130,836	\$184,964	\$186,592

\$120,000 needed for 'carry-over' to pay expenses through May 15, prior to Real Estate Revenues.  
Projected surplus of \$184,964 at the end of 2019.

Budget items include: \$40K to complete street preservations, \$25K for police vehicle & equipment, \$10K for Sutton Road sidewalk project, for a total of \$75K in 2020.  
Budgeted capital surplus of \$186,592 at the end of 2020.

### Liquid Fuels

BUDGET	PROJECTED	PROPOSED
2019	2019	2020
\$97,401	\$36,332	\$71,275
\$97,060	\$0	\$0
\$339	\$37,275	\$71,500

No projects completed from Liquid Fuels in 2019.  
\$71,500 'carry-over' and 2020 funds (reduced to \$34K in light of legislative considerations).

**Consideration: Municipal Match funds to repair Country Club Rd Bridge**  
Working with the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, along with the Adams Co Transportation Planning Organization to get the bridge on the next TIP. Match around \$100K.

**\$668,033 in total revenues and currently \$402,955 total expenses budgeted (+ \$265,078)**

**GET INVOLVED!**

**Square Beautification Project and Rec Park:** The borough has contracted with the Neil Strategy Group to form a non-profit organization to head the efforts with the Square and the Rec Park. Anyone interested in being involved should contact the borough office or Councilor Laura Baker.



## Abbottstown Borough Legislative Initiatives

Borough Council was busy during the 2019 calendar year supporting legislative efforts both within the borough and at the state level in Harrisburg to protect the interests of our residents. The Council authorized several new ordinances this year, including:

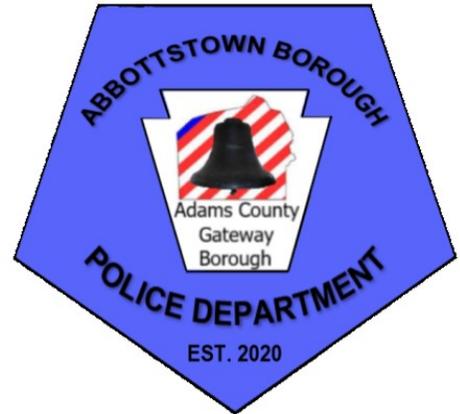
Ordinance 2019-01 Establishing Abbottstown Borough PD

Ordinance 2019-02 Naming United Hook & Ladder No. 33 and Adams Regional EMS as the borough service providers

Ordinance 2019-03 Identifying Nuisances in the Borough

Council is currently considering Ord. 2019-04 to update the Motor Vehicles, Traffic, Streets and Sidewalks guidelines.

Next year, Council will consider an ordinance to establish a Rental Property Inspection Program.



*"You may never need them, but if you do, they'll be there. It's that bedrock promise of protection that makes our public safety officials the unsung heroes that they are."*

*Ajit Pai*

## Municipal Resolutions Give Our Legislators Direction

The Lee Resolution (also known as "The Resolution for Independence") was the formal assertion passed by the Second Continental Congress on July 2, 1776 which resolved that the Thirteen Colonies in America were "free and independent States", separated from the British Empire and creating what became the United States of America. News of this act was published that evening in the Pennsylvania Evening Post and the next day in the Pennsylvania Gazette. The Declaration of Independence is the formal document which officially announced and explained the resolution, approved two days later on July 4, 1776.

The resolution is named for Richard Henry Lee of Virginia who proposed it to Congress after receiving instructions from the Virginia Convention and its President Edmund Pendleton. Lee's full resolution had three parts which were considered by Congress on June 7, 1776.

Just as our forefathers did, Borough Councils all across our Commonwealth adopt resolutions each year on a variety of issues they feel are important and bring these to our state legislators for immediate action.

Through past advocacy efforts, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) has helped to enact a modernized Borough Code; advocate for Right-to-Know Law reforms; sought relief for unfunded mandates; and support measures to eliminate blight by advocating for the creation of land banks and increased funding for blight remediation.

Advocacy is important because it helps you to gain access to programs, funding, and educational resources that can support your borough. That's why it's important for your borough to be involved in these efforts and in helping to decide PSAB's legislative priorities in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. You can do that through the resolutions process that is in place.

Individual boroughs or County Boroughs Associations (CBAs) can submit a resolution.

Prior to the PSAB Annual Conference, the PSAB Resolutions and Policy Steering Committee will review submitted resolutions and make recommendations for adoption to the full delegation (over 150 members).





*Mayor Duane Watson presents a Proclamation to Ben Haugh honoring his family's involvement and dedication to the Borough through their philanthropy and generosity. October 20 - 26 was "Haugh Family Week" in Abbottstown.*

## Mayor Watson Active in Recognizing Good Works

Many times, good deeds go unnoticed or unrecognized. As such, Mayor Duane Watson takes this part of his job very seriously and has been active in recognizing others for their contributions to Abbottstown Borough.

Mayor Watson is happy to entertain suggestions from our Borough residents or local businesses to identify individuals or groups who should be recognized for their contributions to our community. Please contact the Borough Office if you would like to nominate someone for a Mayor Proclamation recognition.



## Where in the World is John Abbet?

"Investigating the scene revealed the classic markings of a grave; a base stone which would have held a tombstone, large pieces of concrete inside the bush that might have been a cover stone, and an overgrown configuration of large pebble stones which may have augmented the display previously. The bush had definitely taken back anything that may have once been under it, so exhumation did not seem a likely option at this point. So, the question remained: Is this a grave and who is under here? Mrs. Boone seems to think it was John Abbet.

Walking into the barber-shop located at the front of the property to talk to Mr. O'Brien, who has been in town for almost half a century, I inquired about the potential grave site and was told that there is a sign in the front of the building, along Route 30, explaining the position of a grave located back there along W. Water Street, 180 feet north of the sign. However, it is NOT the grave of our borough's founder, but his son, also named John Abbet. So, I now knew that someone was under that bush and who it was, but why was he not buried in a cemetery, and where was our founder located?"

See our full story at the borough office or online.



**ABBOTTSTOWN BOROUGH MUNICIPAL SERVICES CONTACT NUMBERS**



Waste Connection 717-709-1700  
Abbottstown Post Office 717-259-9613  
Tax Collector 717-688-4166  
United Hook & Ladder FD 717-624-7456  
Adams Regional EMS 717-624-7456  
York Water 717-845-3601  
PA One Call 800-242-1776  
PA State Police 717-334-8111  
Abbottstown Paradise Joint Sewer Authority 717-259-9120



The Council of the Borough of Abbottstown would like to thank the following area businesses who have supported our community events this past year through donations and volunteer services...

**The Altland House**  
Grill ♦ Brewery ♦ Inn ♦ Catering  
www.altlandhouse.com | 717.259.9535  
1 Center Square | Abbottstown

**LOOKING FOR A DIFFERENT NIGHT OUT?**  
**Hofbräuhaus Pub & Eatery**  
*Bringing Germany To You!*  
• German-American Cuisine • Banquet Room Up To 40 People  
• Reservations Appreciated • Bar & Dining Room Daily Specials  
[www.hofbrauhauspa.com](http://www.hofbrauhauspa.com)  
**717-259-9641**  
Rt 30 West 135 West King St., PO Box 177 • Abbottstown PA 17301

**LM**  
TIRE & WHEEL  
**717-259-0567**  
[www.lmtire-wheel.com](http://www.lmtire-wheel.com)  
Buy • Sell • Trade  
New & Used Tires  
Factory & Custom Wheels  
Lift Kits & Truck Accessories

We Accept  
MasterCard American Express Discover VISA

185 W. King St.  
Abbottstown, PA 17301

Mon-Fri 9-6  
Sat 9-3  
Sun Closed

**Lincolnway**  
Sales & Service  
State Inspections • Exhausts • Motors  
Alignments • Enhanced Inspections  
Motorcycle Inspections • Transmissions  
Financing for our Buy Here/Pay Here

**717.624.8500**  
AAA Approved • Specializing in Suburban repairs

586 W. King Street | Abbottstown PA  
[lincolnwaysales2007@hotmail.com](mailto:lincolnwaysales2007@hotmail.com)



# ABBOTTSTOWN BOROUGH DIRECTORY

241 High Street | Abbottstown, PA 17301 | 717-259-0965 | 717-259-6213 fax  
 abbottstown@comcast.net

[www.AbbottstownBorough.com](http://www.AbbottstownBorough.com)

Office Hours: Mon thru Wed 8:30 am to 3 pm, Thurs 10 am to 5 pm, Fri 8:30 am to 2 pm

*Borough Council Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM  
 Budget Workshop will be held 1st Thursdays September - December*

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police Emergencies . . . . .	9-1-1	Fire Co. - United Hook & Ladder Co. 33 (non-emergency) . . . . .	717-624-7456
Fire Emergencies . . . . .	9-1-1	Tax Collector – Brandy Harman . . . . .	717-688-4166
Police Dispatch (non-emergency) . . . . .	717-334-8111 (PSP)		

## ABBOTTSTOWN BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Duane Watson, Mayor	2021
Dennis Posey, President of Council	2019
Dale Reichert, Vice-President of Council	2021
Councilor Laura Baker	2021
Councilor Dan Watkins	2019
Councilor April Trivitt	2019

<b>PA One Call Representative</b>	Dale Reichert
<b>Sewage Enforcement Officer</b>	Ted Brillhart of C.S. Davidson
<b>Snow Emergency Coordinator</b>	Duane Watson
<b>Webmaster</b>	David W. Bolton
<b>Zoning Permit Officer</b>	PA Municipal Code Alliance

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS/APPOINTMENTS

<b>Zoning Hearing Board</b>	Term Expires*
Sandy Myers	12/31/2019
Jerry Lillich	12/31/2020
VACANCY	12/31/2021

<b>Sewer Authority</b>	Term Expires**
April Trivitt	12/31/2018
Craig Peterson	12/31/2019
Dennis Posey	12/31/2020

\* (3 year appointment) \*\* (5 year appointment)

<b>Square Maintenance Committee</b>	Ryan Haugh
<b>Park/Rec Committee</b>	Laura Baker April Trivitt
<b>Personnel Committee</b>	Dennis Posey Dale Reichert Laura Baker (alt)

<b>Adams County Tax Collection Committee</b>	Craig Peterson Dennis Posey (alt)
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<b>Sidewalks &amp; Street Committee</b>	Dale Reichert Daniel Watkins Duane Watson
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<b>Vacancy Board Chairman</b>	Michelle Watson
<b>YATB</b>	Craig Peterson Dennis Posey (alt)

### Other Appointments

<b>Building Permits/Inspections</b>	PA Municipal Code Alliance <a href="http://pacodealliance.com/Permit-Applications">http://pacodealliance.com/Permit-Applications</a>
<b>Code Enforcement</b>	PA Municipal Code Alliance
<b>Emergency Management Coordinator</b>	Daniel Watkins
<b>Open Records Officer</b>	David W. Bolton

## STAFF DIRECTORY

David W. Bolton, MBA, CBO  
*Manager, Secretary, Treasurer, Open Records Officer*

Steve Rabine, *Fire Chief, United Hook & Ladder No 33*

Lt. Matthew Nickey, *Commander, PSP Gettysburg Barracks*

James Graham, *Code Enforcement Officer, PMCA Chief of Police, Abbottstown Borough Police Department*

## UTILITIES

### Electric

Met Ed 800-545-7741  
 Adams Electric Co-Operative  
 888-232-6732

### Sewer

Abbottstown/Paradise Joint Sewer Authority  
 717-259-9120

### Water

York Water Company  
 717-845-3601

### Trash

Waste Connections  
 717-709-1700  
 or [www.wasteconnections.pa.com](http://www.wasteconnections.pa.com)

### Public/Education/Government Channel

Community Media of South Central PA  
 128 N. Peter Street  
 New Oxford, PA 17325  
 717-334-3000  
[www.communitymedia.net](http://www.communitymedia.net)