

LITTLE BRITAIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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American Rescue Plan Funding

For months, anyone who watched, listened or read the news heard endless talk about a proposed federal program referred to as the American Rescue Plan (ARP). However, once the program was passed, talk of how the funding approved would actually be used seemed to disappear.

So, in an effort to let residents know how the approved funding will affect residents of Pennsylvania and more specifically Little Britain Township, lets start with an overview of the program.

On March 11, 2021, a 1.9 trillion dollar federal coronavirus relief package was signed into law, known as the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Pennsylvania was allocated to receive \$13.722 billion of that funding. Of that amount, \$7.2 billion has been retained by the State. \$2.8 billion has been allocated to Counties throughout the state, \$2.3 billion has been allocated to municipalities with a population between 50,001 and 249,999 residents and \$936 million has been allocated to municipalities with a population under 50,000 people.

Now that all of those LARGE numbers are floating ahead in your head, we'll break it down a tad further to the \$441,681.50 funding that will be received by Little Britain Township. In August of 2021, the township received half of the funding allocated or \$220,840.75. We anticipate receiving the second half of the funding this summer.

So what has the township done with this funding so far. The simple answer is—it was placed into an interest bearing account while the Board awaited final clarifications on what the funding could be used for.

The original guidelines were extremely restrictive and would have made it challenging for the township to utilize the funds within the boundaries of the program. A major reason for this is that Pennsylvania is one of a few states that has local governmental units, meaning governments beneath the county or city level.

Final guidelines for the use of this funding were approved by the Treasury Department on January 6th. Thankfully, the updated guidelines provide more flexibility in the manner these funds may be used, which the Board is exploring. They are giving great consideration to how they can best utilize this one-time influx of funding prior to its expiration in December 2024.

Suggestions from residents range from paving more roads, updating township equipment, making technology improvements at the municipal building to replacing playground equipment at the Park. While all of these are viable options, it should be noted that the cost to repave an existing road is roughly \$150,000.00 per mile. To convert a dirt and gravel road to a hardtop road is approximately \$300,000.00 per mile. The cost to replace a play structure at the park similar in size and components to what is currently installed would run around \$75,000.00. The cost to replace a single dump truck used by the roadcrew could exceed \$125,000.00.

So as you can see, the sad truth is that while this funding can definitely help fund some needed/wanted updates within the Township, it will not be enough to fulfill everything on everyone's wish list. Please know however that the members of the Board will continue to uphold the oath of their office and act to protect the health, safety and welfare of all of its residents to the best of their abilities.

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Welcome Aboard

Knowing how busy and hectic life can become, the township is always thankful for those who willingly serve on the various committees and boards to ensure things run smoothly and legally.

Two recent additions to the Zoning Hearing Board are Shauna Osborne and Laurel Topper. We welcome them both and thank them for their commitment to serving on this Board.

The township would also like to welcome David Martin to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Martin's name is probably not new or unfamiliar to many of you, as he is a lifelong resident of the Township and has served as a member of the Township Planning Commission since 2017. He began his 6-year term as a Supervisor in January.

While it is always a pleasure to welcome new people into service with the township, it is with sadness that we must say goodbye to those who have completed their terms in office. Shawn Reimold who was appointed and then elected to complete the term of another Supervisor, ended his term on the Board in December 2021. We thank him for his dedicated and faithful service to the township during his term.

TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

April 15th - Good Friday, Offices Closed

April 30th - Spring Clean-Up Day
8 a.m. to Noon

May 17th - Election Day, Offices Closed

May 30th - Memorial Day, Offices Closed

July 4th - Independence Day, Offices Closed

Sept. 5th - Labor Day, Offices Closed

Zoning Matters

Just as the seasons continually change, so do the rules and regulations that govern our daily lives. Although we may not like these rules, once enacted they apply to each and every resident within the Township. As the appointed Zoning Officer/Building Code Official for Little Britain Township it is my job to enforce the rules and regulations as written. I have no authority to grant relief or ignore individuals who violate these laws. If a resident feels I have acted outside the scope of my authority, they have the right to appeal my decision to the appropriate Board. If it is a situation involving the Zoning Ordinance of Little Britain Township, you would file an appeal to the Zoning Officer's Decision to the Zoning Hearing Board. If it is an issue related to the Uniform Construction Code, you would file an appeal with the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board. Likewise, if an individual feels a specific rule or regulation is causing them an unnecessary hardship, which is not self-inflicted, they may apply for a variance before the Zoning Hearing Board if the rule or regulation is within the Zoning Ordinance or the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board if the rule or regulation is within the State Uniform Construction Code. These two Boards are the only persons that can grant you relief, no other appointed or elected individual within the Township can grant exceptions or variances.

Stationary Power Units/Generators

Per Section 326 of the Zoning Ordinance - In all Zoning Districts, stationary power units are permitted as an accessory use, except that all stationary power units must be exhausted a minimum of forty (40) feet from any property line and be muffled to sixty (60) decibels at the property line. Units pre-existing the effective date of this provision shall become compliant with this provision no later than **May 1, 2023**. The foregoing provision shall not apply to equipment that is solely emergency generating equipment.

A stationary power unit is a diesel or gasoline engine that runs to provide electricity and or air pressure to operate equipment, obtain water, charge batteries, etc. Please mark your calendars and if you are not currently conforming with this regulation, start working on reaching compliance before the May 1, 2023 deadline.

Uniform Construction Code Changes

The building code in Pennsylvania, known as the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) is updated on a three-year cycle. According to that cycle the code was due to be updated in 2021 but was delayed by the pandemic. Effective February 14, 2022, we have transitioned to the International Building Code 2018 (IBC 2018), International Residential Code 2018 (IRC 2018), International Plumbing Code (IPC 2018), International Mechanical Code (IMC 2018) and the International Fire Code 2018 (IFC 2018). These are the most notable codes, but all were updated, as well as all codes and standards that are adopted by reference within each of the above. Please note, there is a six (6) month grace period for all projects that are being drafted and/or designed under a signed contract dated prior to the February 14, 2022 adoption date. If you have a plan that qualifies it is important that you ensure permits are applied for on or before July 14, 2022 to remain eligible under the prior codes.

Sunset Drive is Now Armstrong Lane

In an ongoing effort to protect the health, safety and welfare of Little Britain Township's residents the Board of Supervisors renamed Sunset Drive, Armstrong Lane effective December 14, 2021. The change was driven by ongoing issues with delivery failures and more importantly with emergency services response issues. The confusion stemmed from two Sunset Drive's within the same zip code. We have a Sunset Drive, Nottingham PA 19362 in Little Britain Township, Lancaster County and just across the Octorara Creek there is a Sunset Drive, Nottingham PA 19362 in West Nottingham Township, Chester County. This decision was not made lightly but was made to ensure everyone gets the help they need, as quickly as possible when dialing 911.

Wishing you and your family a Blessed Easter



