
LANESBORO QUARTERLY

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Susquehanna Community School District Tax Study Commission & Upcoming Public Information Session

The second meeting of the Susquehanna Community School District Tax Study Commission will be a Public Information Session and Public Hearing on ACT 1 – The Taxpayer Relief Act. The meeting/hearing will be held on OCTOBER 5, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Susquehanna Community School District High School Auditorium.

Act 1 – The Taxpayer Relief Act – will change many aspects of public school financing. The Public Information Session will provide taxpayers with an overview of the components of ACT 1. The Public Hearing, which will follow the public information session, will provide taxpayers an opportunity to express their opinions on the implementation of an income tax for the purpose of property tax reduction. Act 1 requires the Tax Study Commission to make a recommendation to the board of education in regard to implementing an income tax. However, regardless of the recommendation of the Tax Study Commission, the voters of the district will decide in the 2007 primary election if the district implements an income tax for the purpose of reducing property taxes for qualifying homesteads and farmsteads.

If you are interested in learning more about ACT 1 and the income tax provision in the law, you are encouraged to attend.

WWW.LANESBOROPA.COM

Lanesboro would like to announce Jeanine Keefer, borough Webmaster, is working out the final kinks and will soon have our website online. The website will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs, and contain information relating to local history, borough ordinances, meeting minutes, permits, local businesses and other pertinent information. Be sure to check it out – the website is www.lanesboropa.com

DEP Public Hearing Regarding B&S Quarry Mining Permit

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Pottsville Office has scheduled a public hearing, tentatively scheduled for October 18 @ the Community Center from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The public is encouraged to attend, and to voice any concerns or comments you may have. More detailed information will be published in the local newspapers in the coming weeks – we hope to see you there!

Community Park Phase II

Lanesboro would like to thank French's Auto and Bob Coe of Hometown Cleaning for making a contribution to Phase II. The bike stand, picnic tables and grills that were purchased with these and other donations have been constructed and are ready for your use! We like to say a special thanks to Jesse Hilton, Tom Culnane, Mike Foster, Dan Boughton, and Jim Maby for their assistance with construction.

Cleveland's Garage Accepting Used Motor Oil

Chuck Cleveland, owner of Cleveland's Garage on Main Street, has given everyone an environmentally friendly way of disposing of your used motor oil. Effective immediately, the garage is accepting used motor oil. The oil can be dropped at any time during normal working hours, FREE OF CHARGE! For more information, please stop by and see Chuck at the garage.

Susquehanna County Housing Rehabilitation Program



WHAT IS THE HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM?

The Housing Rehabilitation Program is the use of grant funds to assist Low Income homeowners with repair or replacement of principal fixtures and components of their existing structures. The funds must bring the dwelling up to Minimum Property Standards. Some examples of eligible repairs are roofs, windows, doors, siding, furnaces, and electrical repairs and upgrades. The Susquehanna County Housing/Redevelopment Authority administers the Housing Rehabilitation Program for Susquehanna County. Please note that the program has about a 4-year wait, but anyone interested is encouraged to call the office at 278-4096 to get his or her name on the waiting list.

Susquehanna County Housing Rehabilitation Program Cont'd

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

The homeowner must own and occupy the home to be assisted as well as meet the low-income requirements. The housing Rehabilitation program has a waiting list that numbers well into the hundreds. You must have your name entered on the waiting list kept at the Housing/Redevelopment Authority office. Applicants are then assisted consecutively from the waiting list with no emergency assistance available. Income limits are based on the # in household:

1-person can make a maximum of \$28,350 2-person household can make a maximum of \$32,400
3-person household can make a maximum of \$36,450 4-person household can make a maximum of \$40,500

WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE GRANT?

The grant covers up to a maximum of \$15,000 in repairs. This is a deferred loan meaning that the homeowner does not have to repay the loan as long as they continue to own and occupy the home for a period of five years after job completion. After the five-year period the loan is then forgiven.

WHAT ARE THE HOMEOWNER'S OBLIGATIONS?

Upon completion of an inspection by the Housing/Redevelopment Inspector, the homeowner is responsible to choose contractors to bid on the work prescribed by the Redevelopment Authority. The Redevelopment Authority will schedule the bid and handle all payments to the contractors.

For further information on income requirements and to have you name added to the waiting list please call or stop by The Susquehanna County Housing Redevelopment Authority Office. They are located in the Community Bank Building, Suite 103, at 61 Church Street, Montrose PA 18801. Their phone number is 278.4096.

Feasibility Study Underway for New Municipal Building

Delta Engineers of Binghamton, New York was hired earlier this summer to do a structural inspection of the current municipal building. The purpose of the inspection was to determine what effect Father Time has had on the building and remediation options available. Not surprisingly, the engineers found that the foundation and first floor structure of the building to be in need of repair. Several floor joists have been replaced thru the years, but those too are starting to age. The dry-laid stone foundation has several areas that have weakened and allowing rainwater to run in. These problems are being accelerated by moisture in the crawl space under the building. As you know, the building itself sits lower than the road and nearby parking lot, causing all of the water to drain into the building.

The engineering report suggested there are two options available to fix the problem. The first would be to jack the building up, replace the entire foundation, put in a pumping system for the water draining into the building, and replace the first floor system. The second would be to replace the building with a suitably sized, ADA accessible, energy efficient building.

After much discussion over a couple of council meetings, the council consensus was that making repairs to the building would not be cost effective. Unrecoverable costs such as a temporary structure, new utilities (water, sewer, phone, electric) associated with temporary housing would be needed for the Post Office and municipal offices. Furthermore, when the project was complete, the building would still be a 150+-year-old non-energy efficient structure that has less than half of its space usable (the 2nd floor was closed for multiple reasons years ago). The decision was then made to proceed with undertaking the process to replace the structure with a new structure elsewhere in Lanesboro, allowing the existing structure to stay in use until its completion. Councilman Bill Roberts and wife Jeannine Keefer donated a vacant lot upon which the new structure will be built. A feasibility study is being conducted by Delta Engineers to determine the appropriate type, size and layout of the existing structure. At the same time, funding options are being investigated. We are hopeful that we may be able to secure a second and possibly third tenant to help offset some of the costs associated with the new building. We are also investigating the viability of "selling" the woodwork of the 2nd floor of the existing structure, again to offset some of the costs associated with the new building. Please note that it is very early in the process, and that your input is important to helping shape a building that all of Lanesboro can be proud of. It is anticipated that once some of the initial items have been ironed out, informational meetings will be held to keep you abreast and solicit your input on the project. Our goal is groundbreaking in early spring, with move-in sometime before the snow flies in the fall of 2007.