

MAYOR MINUTES



Dear Fellow Residents of Harrison Township.

As we enter 2017, we are excited to move forward with several projects that will have a significant impact on Harrison Township from multiple perspectives. These projects and initiatives will have a positive effect on our infrastructure and our fiscal well being, as well as on the fabric of our community.

LIQUOR LICENSE NET \$1.3M IN REVENUE

To start, many of you know about the two new liquor licenses auctioned off late last year. We previously issued four Consumption (Restaurant) liquor licenses, which are owned by the developer of the Richwood project (Madison Marquette). They plan to include four restaurants there that serve alcohol. They paid a total of \$2 million for those four licenses. We auctioned off the 5th Consumption license last year for the winning bid of \$500,000 submitted by the owners of Naples Ristorante & Pizza. They are expected to come before our Joint Land Use Board (JLUB) early this year with their plans and proposal for that use. The second liquor license we auctioned last year was a Distribution license (Liquor Store). Our voters approved a Distribution Liquor license referendum in November 2015, which authorized us to issue up to two distribution licenses based on our population. The winning bid for this first Distribution license was \$801,000 submitted by TGF Investment Group, LLC. They, too, are expected to bring forward their plans and proposal early this year. The immediate fiscal impact here is obvious, \$1.3 million of revenue, but it is the long-term impact that is most exciting. These two uses will provide amenities to our community that have been desired for a long time. The public approval process at our JLUB will ensure that these uses are commenced in a manner suited to the high standards we have established and we are excited for these two projects to move forward ASAP.

YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM – COMING IN THE SPRING

As the weather breaks in 2017, you will see our Curbside Yard Waste Pick-up Program get started. Our 2016 Budget included this long-awaited (and much requested) service. Carts (for grass clippings and small materials) will be delivered upon request and this program will also include curbside pick-up of larger brush or trees and a mulching and composting capability of the collected material. The resulting natural mulch and compost will be available to our residents free of charge. The information and roll-out of this program will be conveyed to you in the next couple months.

PILOT PROGRAM LEADS TO NEW POLICE STATION

As you have probably noticed, we broke ground last fall on our new Police Facility at the corner of Walters Road & Colson Lane. Clearly, our community has needed this upgrade for many years and a project of this size is a big decision. That's why we delayed that decision until we knew we had righted our fiscal ship for the long term and we had initiated some of the slated PILOT programs to help pay for the facility. The revenue from the PILOT with Mullica Gardens Assisted Living facility will pay for a big chunk of the Police facility project. I am also happy to say that the project is ahead of schedule and currently under budget. We expect a Ribbon-cutting by the summer.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the progress we are making. The plan is to provide you with more information and more often in 2017 – so you will be hearing from me frequently as there are a lot of great things happening in our town.

On behalf of your Township Committee, I wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy 2017.



Together For Harrison Township,

Lou Manzo

Your Mayor

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