

Capital Improvement Program

Built upon the Comprehensive Plan's goals and objectives, the Capital Improvement Program is a vital part of the Comprehensive Plan. It begins with the objectives that represent community priorities.

The recommendations and objectives are targets that the Township can shoot for in order to translate discussion into reality.

Getting Ready for Implementation

The challenges and opportunities facing the Township require public involvement, a process which has already begun. Monthly planning workshops were conducted during 2001 and 2002. Data was gathered and analyzed. Consensus or "common ground" was identified in meetings attended by various public and private interests.

Township Supervisors are greatly aided when there is evidence of community support for action. Three areas for which there is evidence of community support are:

- Preservation of agricultural land
- Development of Township parcel for recreation
- Improvement to Route 522

The Municipal Budget

Are community priorities reflected in local municipal budgets? Should they be? The answer is yes. With municipalities as with families, planning and action must be based upon a realistic foundation, the budget. However, every budget has limits. For families, a set of values guides the spending of family income. It is the same for municipalities.

Penn Township has a somewhat unique budget. The earned income tax, liquid fuels funds and the amusement tax have basically enabled the Township to conduct municipal business without a Township tax.

Historically, the absence of a local property tax has kept expenditures to only traditional activities supported by the Township. However, in recent years, the following new circumstances are evident:

- There is significant population growth in Penn Township.
- There are new kinds of residents moving to the area who have different expectations for municipal services.
- New developments call for additional infrastructure improvements, increased maintenance and community services.

Should the above set of new circumstances cause Township officials

to reconsider their traditional no-local-tax stand? It is an important decision that must be addressed by the Supervisors as they look toward a future of increased population growth, more new construction and enhanced expectations.

Funding for Township Priorities

The purpose of taxes and other public fees is to provide for community priorities. These priorities have been identified in this Comprehensive Plan and include:

- Agricultural preservation can be enhanced by a number of programs administered by the County Conservation District and DEP. These programs have been spelled out in the Land/Ag Programs chapter. In addition, review and revision of the Township's Zoning Ordinance will help to assure the future of agriculture.
- Recreation development will be largely dependent upon State grants, many of which require a 50% match. State grants for recreation are identified and described in the next chart. The upgrade of the popular softball field and future expansion will require funds in excess of those currently available locally. The municipal budget may need to be adjusted if this recreation project is to move forward.
- The improvement of Route 522 can be achieved by several

- transportation programs summarized in the next chart. In particular, Transportation Enhancements funds offered by PennDOT can be achieved by submitting identified priorities to Snyder County for inclusion in their Twelve Year Plan.

Potential Funding Resources

Funding sources change with the passing of time and political administrations. The current theme at the State level is "growing greener." Penn Township will need to be familiar with this core concept in order to be successful in obtaining State grants.

All Pennsylvania funds pertaining to community development are secured through a single application process. The PA Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Customer Service Center (CSC) publishes an annual Funding Source Directory containing information on DCED's programs and services. This directory serves as the entry point for the DCED Single Application for Assistance. Both the Funding Source Directory and Single Application can be obtained online at www.dced.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/DCE_D/application.

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania has compiled and published a directory entitled PA Rural Access Guide. Co-sponsored by the PA Association of Township Supervisors, it is targeted to areas like Penn Township. This guide is available online at www.ruralpa.org.