

LOCAL TOPICS

Damascus Township False Alarm Ordinance

Damascus Township proposed a False Alarm Ordinance that we reviewed upon request in February of 2022. The intent of this ordinance was to limit the deployment of emergency response resources to homes not needing such resources due to a false, automated alarm. Our office's review focused on the definition of emergency response and how violation notices were delivered. The Damascus Township Supervisors adopted this Ordinance in March, 2022.

Palmyra Township Zoning Map Amendments

Proposed changes to Palmyra Township's Zoning Map/Ordinance were reviewed in November of 2022. Amendments were limited to redefining the ID (Industrial) Zoning District boundary and our office had no comments related to the changes. However, because the desired map change involved a realignment to a previous survey map, we noted how our municipal mapping assistance is limited to planning purposes so references to surveyed or recorded maps of record will need to be included on any zoning district maps the Planning/GIS Department might produce. The review process for these amendments was ongoing through the end of 2022.

Paupack Township Short Term Rentals Ordinance & Zoning Ordinance Amendments

In November of 2022, we reviewed the second draft of a newly proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance. This proposed Ordinance was first reviewed in the fall of 2021. As Paupack Township has continued to develop this Ordinance, it became clear that amendments to the Paupack Township Zoning Ordinance were also required to achieve consistency between these two documents, with respect to regulation of this land use. As such, our office simultaneously reviewed both of these ordinances in November of 2022 and provided the Township with our comments. Short Term Rental Ordinances and regulations have become common over the last several years in an attempt to better manage the undesirable effects that these types of land uses can have on a residential community. The typical issues that these regulations seek to manage most often relate to sewage, parking, noise and other disturbances, and occupancy. As we understand it, these regulations were still being finalized by the end of 2022.

Sterling Township Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Sterling Township proposed changes to their Zoning Ordinance related to Solid Waste Transfer Facilities that our office reviewed in May of 2022. The Planning/GIS Department's review centered on the proposed definitions, land use placement, and minimum size of such facilities. Amendments had not been adopted by the end of 2022.

Texas Township Zoning Ordinance Amendments

In the Spring of 2022, our office reviewed amendments to the Texas Township Zoning Ordinance. The effort was essentially a rewrite and codification of the various other amendments that occurred through the years. In addition to the recodification, several new amendments were proposed to manage and regulate land use. Also included within the amended Zoning Ordinance were regulations pertaining to Short Term Rentals. Our review was concluded in April and our comments were provided to the Township and their consultant, Woodland Design Associates, Inc., at that time. It is our understanding that Texas Township continues to work on these proposed amendments as of the writing of this report.

Wayne County and Municipal Comprehensive Plan Consistency Reviews

Canaan Township – Sewer Line Extension

A letter of support was provided to the Canaan Township Supervisors supporting their grant application for funding to extend the Waymart Area Sewer Authority's central sewer line on Township Route 466 (Canaan Road). The extension of this sewer line will serve their municipal garage and also the residents along that portion of this Township road. The Supervisors are planning to upgrade the municipal garage by adding a meeting space, an office area, restrooms and storage space for township records. The extension of this sewer line will aid in economic development while reducing the threat of malfunctioning on-lot sewer systems.

Central Wayne Regional Authority

The Central Wayne Regional Authority (CWRA) is applying to PennVEST to obtain funding that will be used for upgrades to the wastewater collection systems within Honesdale Borough and northeastern Cherry Ridge Township. A letter was sent to the Central Wayne Regional Authority supporting the application for funding as maintaining and improving the sewer system infrastructure is consistent with the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan and the local municipal comprehensive plans.

Central Wayne Regional Authority

A grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is being submitted by the Central Wayne Regional Authority to obtain funding that will be utilized to complete the necessary cleaning and painting of the aerobic digesters at the wastewater treatment plant within Honesdale Borough. Maintaining the structural integrity of the sewage collection facility provides reliable service to the residents who are connected to this sanitary sewer system. Wayne County supports this grant application and provided a letter of support to accompany the grant application.

Central Wayne Regional Authority

In order to assist in providing the residents of Honesdale Borough with adequate sanitary sewer service, the Central Wayne Regional Authority is applying for grant funding through the Covid-19 American Rescue Plan Act. This grant funding will be used to replace the old deteriorating sewer collection lines and manholes in the Grove Street and Terrace Street area. This project is consistent within the Community Facilities section of the County's Comprehensive Plan and also with the Central Wayne Regional Comprehensive Plan.

Cherry Ridge Township – Truck Purchase

Cherry Ridge Township requested a letter of support for a grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Local Share Account (LSA) for funding that will be used to purchase a new truck. This truck will be used to help maintain the 11 miles of Township roads and provide the residents of Cherry Ridge Township with safe and adequate traveling conditions. Highway maintenance is one of the top five important needs within the County and is consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

NY/PA Departments of Transportation – Bridge Bundle

A letter of support was provided to the U.S. Department of Transportation to accompany a grant application to the 2022 Bridge Investment Program (BIP) to assist in the improvement of the infrastructure to the Callicoon, Cochecton, Hancock and Matamoras Bridges. These four bridges carry approximately 24,000 vehicles per day collectively and provide pedestrian access for tourists and recreational users. The bundled bridge project will provide safety and continued support to the economy of the southeastern New York area and northeastern Pennsylvania region.

Honesdale Borough – Stormwater Study

Honesdale Borough is applying to PEMA for a grant that will be used to aid in the identification of stormwater drainage issues within the Vine Street section of the Borough which has also been identified within the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This flooding affects the Borough's Fourth street intersection of South Main Street, State Routes 6 and 191 creating hazardous conditions and restricting traffic flow at this high-volume traffic intersection area. Area residents and businesses have experienced repetitive damage to their properties due to this flooding. A letter supporting the grant application was provided to Honesdale Borough as the project is consistent with the County and Borough Comprehensive Plans as well as the County Act 167 Lackawaxen Stormwater Management Plan.

Honesdale Borough – Sewer & Stormwater Project

A letter supporting a grant application to the PA Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) was provided to Entech Engineering on behalf of Honesdale Borough. This grant will be utilized for identified stormwater improvements throughout multiple areas within the Borough. The project will also help the Central Wayne Regional Authority by providing new infrastructure to aid in eliminating combined storm sewer overflows from their sanitary sewer system.

Lacawac Sanctuary

The Lacawac Sanctuary is seeking funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to construct cabin-type residential units near their Environmental Education Center. Lacawac Sanctuary has inspired a love for nature, the outdoors and science among families and students for over 50 years. Lacawac's outreach programs connect underserved populations to nature by partnering with agencies where low income, diverse students are already engaged. A letter of support for this project was granted by the Wayne County Planning Department.

Lacawac Sanctuary

Lacawac Sanctuary is applying to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for a grant that will be used to assist with the completion of the Environmental Education and Recreation Center. The increased space will allow the center to serve more individuals and to provide programs year-round both indoors and outdoors. Wayne County supports the efforts of the Lacawac Sanctuary and has provided a letter supporting this grant application.

Lackawaxen River Access – White Mills

A letter supporting a grant application to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was provided in order to apply for funding that will be used to develop the river access located on the south side of the Lackawaxen River in White Mills, Texas Township. As per the Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study, this project has received strong support from the public. The project is consistent with the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan and supported by and referenced in the Central Wayne Regional Comprehensive Plan.

Oregon Township – Beardsley Road

Oregon Township will be applying to the Department of Community and Economic Development Multimodal Transportation Fund for a grant that will be used for widening and safety improvements to Beardsley Road. With the planned adjacent development of a 130-room hotel and wedding venue, the road improvements will be necessary to support access for guests, deliveries to the planned hotel, and access for emergency vehicles. Wayne County supports this proposed project in that it will provide numerous jobs, stimulate tourism and increase real estate tax revenue. Letters supporting the grant application were sent to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and also to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Prompton Borough – Phase II Road Work

A letter was sent to Prompton Borough Council supporting a grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development – Local Share Account for Phase II of drainage pipe replacement and road paving on River Street and Prompton Road within the Borough. The project is consistent with the listed goals under the County's Comprehensive Plan to provide and maintain an adequate transportation network.

South Canaan Township – Truck Purchase

South Canaan Township is applying to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Local Share Account (LSA) for a grant that will assist in the purchase of a new township truck. This new truck will allow the Supervisors to provide the residents with the required maintenance of their roads throughout the year including winter snowplowing. The Township is responsible for approximately 34 miles of road maintenance. A letter supporting this grant application was forwarded to the Township.

Texas #4 Fire Company – Building Renovations

Texas Township is applying through Honesdale Borough for grant funding from the Department of Community and Economic Development Local Share Account that will be used for building renovations to the Texas #4 Fire Hall. This 40-year-old building is in need of metal roof resealing, new spray insulation, light fixture LED replacement, ceiling tile replacement and driveway/parking lot renovations. A goal within the County's Comprehensive Plan is to provide for the necessary community facilities and promote capital improvements to address these needs. A letter supporting this grant application was provided to Honesdale Borough.

Wallenpaupack Area School District

The Wayne County Planning Department provided a letter of support to the Wallenpaupack Area School District to accompany a grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program to obtain funding for the purpose of expanding the playgrounds at both the North Primary and South Elementary School facilities. Also included will be the replacement of the baseball dugouts and player benches at the Junior/Senior high school. The project is consistent with the Community Facilities section of the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan.

Wayne County Commissioners – Hankins Pond

Wayne County Commissioners are applying to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for grant funding that will be used to restore the stone dam that will be converted to a pedestrian bridge over the former dam opening with a walkway across the entire length of this hand-laid stone structure. Further trail development is planned to access the ponds at the north end of the property. The County's Comprehensive Community Facilities and Recreation Plan identifies opportunities for re-use of existing facilities as a way to reduce costs and ensure existing structures of prominence are retained for use within the community. A letter supporting this project was provided to the Wayne County Commissioners.

Industrial Point Development Project

Wayne County plans to develop the Industrial Point Lackawaxen River access located within the Borough of Honesdale and is applying to the Department of Community and Economic Development Local Share Account for grant funding. The river corridor project was evaluated through the Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study and found to have strong public support for multi-use river access points between Honesdale and Hawley for use by residents and visitors to the area. The County fully supports this project and provided a letter to the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Wayne County YMCA

The Wayne County YMCA is seeking to construct a new facility on a parcel of land located within Cherry Ridge Township and is applying for grant funding through the Department of Community and Economic Development to assist in the development of the engineering and design phase of the project. The YMCA maintains a strong presence in the local community by fostering principles related to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Wayne County Planning Commission Board supports this proposal to construct a more modern facility that will allow the organization to provide programs that will benefit Wayne County. A letter of support was provided to the YMCA Board.