



Borough of Chambersburg

A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAMBERSBURG APPROVES NEW WEBSITE TO ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERS

Chambersburg – At the regular meeting of Town Council on June 28, 2021, the Council Members heard from Personnel Supervisor Melinda Thompson regarding the development of a new website to encourage and track the extensive volunteer program in the Borough of Chambersburg. Ms. Thompson, who joined the Borough in December 2020, worked with Shawn Chilcote of the Information Technology Office and the Borough Secretary and her assistant, Jamia Wright and Cindy Harr, to develop a new gateway to the various boards, commissions, and committees that provide “an essential role supporting and advising the work of the municipal government.”

According to Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill, “From time to time the Town Council of the Borough of Chambersburg is called upon to appoint citizens to the various Boards, Commissions, and Committees that assist in furnishing advice and other services essential to the conduct of local government. A proven, successful method of finding such willing and able citizens is to request that those who are interested submit their names, background information, and areas of special interest to the municipality to be used as a basic resource in selecting individuals to fill vacancies and to participate in other ways.”

Town Council had directed staff to update and modernize this call for volunteers system.

The new website is a digital version of the same volunteer public engagement system previously done in a manual manner; however, now citizens can both review the fourteen boards, commissions, and committees that provide advice and consultation to the Borough, see their missions, their members, and express interest through an interactive form for their future appointment when opportunities arise.

To reach the website click on the “Volunteer Now!” logo at the Borough homepage, www.chambersburgpa.gov.

There are currently four openings including an open volunteer position on the Borough’s Shade Tree Commission, and one on the Borough’s Parking, Traffic, and Street Lights Committee. All positions are voluntary, most require residency inside the Borough limits (but not all) and none receive any remuneration other than “the satisfaction of helping your community,” according to Melinda Thompson.

Council President Alice Elia added, “It is our hope that the new website and call for volunteers will encourage those who have never volunteered in our community before to get involved. The webpages can be translated on-line and we want citizens to know that we welcome their participation in local government. If you are interested in helping your community, learning more about your municipality, and if you have talents that can be helpful to the various volunteer boards and committees, I strongly encourage you to fill out the Volunteer Opportunity Expression of Interest Form on the website.”

Finally, Council approved the website design as well as a plan to use email blasts to send out flyers whenever a specific opening is available on a board, commission, or committee. At the public meeting it was suggested that the flyers are also able to be shared on social media and printed and hung on traditional bulletin boards around town to reach everyone regardless of whether they are computer savvy or not.

If you have questions about the new website or volunteer opportunities, contact Borough Secretary Jamia Wright at jwright@chambersburgpa.gov.

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About The Borough of Chambersburg

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions (police, fire, parks, etc.), Chambersburg is Pennsylvania’s only municipality supplying electric and gas to residents and businesses. Chambersburg is one of thirty-five boroughs (out of 958) to operate a non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate multiple generation stations. Chambersburg is one of two municipalities in Pennsylvania to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is one of about two thousand communities to have its own electric system and one of about eight-hundred communities to have a natural gas system, but one of only about fifty to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent board or authority), and a new storm sewer utility (one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater). Chambersburg currently has 20,832 residents (2019).