



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 Takes No Action on Office of Open Records Decision

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania – After studying the recent right to know decision issued by the Office of Open Records regarding Ms. Noel Purdy and former Mayor Darren Brown, Chambersburg Town Council has decided to take no action to appeal the decision.

The deadline to take action is on Friday, September 15, 2017, and Council adjourned on Monday, September 11, 2017, without acting; in what was their last opportunity to address the decision before the deadline passes.

Chambersburg Borough, who proudly displays a transparency page on the Borough website, has always been an advocate for public information sharing. The Borough regularly posts all agenda, minutes, contracts and purchases on the internet.

Chambersburg always attempts to comply with the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act and while the Borough cannot discuss the particulars of this case, Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill said “I do not believe Council would act in any way to discourage government transparency or citizen engagement.”

This statement does not state that the Borough of Chambersburg will create records not already in the custody or control of the Borough. Reports by news agencies otherwise were a misinterpretation of this release.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

RIGHT TO KNOW LAW

Act 3 of 2008

CHAPTER 9. AGENCY RESPONSE

Section 901. General rule.

Upon receipt of a written request for access to a record, an agency shall make a good faith effort to determine if the record requested is a public record, legislative record or financial record and whether the agency has possession, custody or control of the identified record, and to respond as promptly as possible under the circumstances existing at the time of the request.

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal 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 generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent 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 20,508 residents (2013). www.chambersburgpa.gov