



**MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF
GREENCASTLE
February 5, 2024**

POLICE OPERATIONS / OIC, STRATEGIC PLANNING: Significant team activities involving all officers, with specific assignments, began January 7. Some of these assignments include vehicle maintenance and documentation, evidence security, radar sign deployment, specialized enforcement, and foot patrol. I thank all members of the GPD for your due diligence and assistance with scheduling to serve and protect our citizens and visitors. Officer In Charge Keith Russell has issued an in-depth report.

PA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELIQUENCY RECRUITMENT INCENTIVES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT OPPORTUNITY: This grant opportunity is 100% funded at approximately \$5,000 to recruit to police personnel as we presently have a full-time vacancy and several part-time vacancies.

PA ECONOMY LEAGUE REPORT, "IT'S NOT 1965 ANYMORE: STATE TAX LAWS FAIL TO MEET MUNICIPAL REVENUE NEEDS": This is an important read with recommendations for our legislators to help municipalities who provide many services to stay financially solvent.

RESCUE HOSE COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT: At the first Public Safety Committee meeting I will discuss scheduling a Spring tour of the Rescue Hose Company. It will be very interesting to tour the station, equipment, museum, and review the call volume experienced. In 2023 the Company responded to nearly 2,500 calls for assistance.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING REPORT: Larry Pittman has issued his monthly report. Two locomotives have continued to idle for extended periods of time adjacent to the Jerome R. King Playground with diesel fumes emanating in the area along with the diesel engine sounds and brake dryers constantly ejecting air sounds. I recently met with N/S Regional Executive Director Jeremy Shoemaker in Greencastle and presented a concerns paper regarding complaints received. I also requested bridge inspection reports that I would like to discuss with the Public Safety Committee when they meet.

ADDITIONAL CENTER SQUARE LED LIGHTING: The additional lighting above the rotary traffic island along with the new ornamental lighting greatly improves visual and safety for the center of town.

I am honored to represent Greencastle and attend many public events in the Greencastle area. I was a guest speaker on January 10 at the Leadership Franklin County, 2024 class.

ACTIVE ITEMS:

- Downtown parking inventory, new systems, private owner partnerships
- Recommendation for “parking with arrow” signs downtown
- Downtown truck traffic (letter authorized to PennDot)

Respectfully submitted, *Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor*