



**MAYOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF  
COUNCIL, STAFF, AND OUR  
CITIZENS  
Presented October 07, 2019**

**RESPONSE LETTER FROM PENNDOT:**

Reference another letter recently authorized and sent to PennDot regarding tractor-trailer traffic on S. Washington St. onto E.

Baltimore Street, a letter was just received Oct. 4 from District Traffic Engineer Jason Bewley advising "Engineering and traffic studies will be performed to determine what, if any, changes in the existing conditions should be made to the subject area."

Greencastle will receive the study's results that will take up to 60 days to complete. Chief Phillippy recently spoke with a PennDot representative that was doing the study at the subject intersection.

**ATTENDANCE AND ASSISTANCE  
PROVIDED:**

It is always an honor to represent Greencastle at various functions in and around our community. I attended the first budget meeting and have offered written comments regarding proposed capital expenditures. I joined several members of Council at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast where those in attendance received training on Narcan deployment. We also received a Narcan kit. Greencastle Police were acknowledged for their pro-active work in the community for drug take-back and assistance provided to those in

need. I assisted the office staff working with a property owner for sewer upgrade project access. The FCADC and Chamber of Commerce awards banquets were positive experiences for the G-A community. I congratulate all the award recipients.

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:**

The Rescue Hose Company held a successful open house on Saturday, 05 October 2019, with many citizens attending and being educated while children enjoyed a variety of activities. 6 – 12 October is National Fire Prevention Week. ***Plan and practice your escape in the event of a fire or emergency! Be it at home, work, or public places. Smoke and fire detection systems should be tested regularly with batteries replaced when we change the times on our clocks (next month).***

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

With the new Public Works leaf collection system implementation, I recommend ***Council consider public discussion and comment*** to remove Chapter 95-3; B. (2) that currently permits "open fires solely for the purpose of disposing yard waste." Also, to consider residential contracting with one waste / recycling vendor that would include electronic recycling.

**MS/4 TESTIMONY; FOLLOW-UP;  
COMMENTS:**

The Mayor has been very critical regarding the STORM WATER UTILITY Ordinance that was enacted May 30, 2019 and subsequent Resolutions. At the public meeting held June 3, 2019, I requested a separate RESOLUTION that was unanimously approved requesting grant funding assistance for our citizens and the creation of a STRATEGIC FUNDING (STAKEHOLDERS) TASK FORCE as other municipalities have done. This action along with efforts by Antrim Township initiated impressive cooperation with Pa. Senator Judy Ward and State Representative Paul Schemel and ultimately an MS/4 hearing

held on September 11 that involved both Senators and State Representatives. We still do not have a STAKEHOLDERS TASK FORCE. By the end of this month, Greencastle will have collected an estimated \$600,000 in Storm water utility fees from our residents, businesses, School District, and what few industries we have. Will Council look at fee reductions in 2020? The Eastern Area SWM Project proposed should not be initiated until significant grant funds are applied for and approved! Such a project will not assist a majority of Orchard Development residents with their SWM issues that has been experienced since the 1950s'. SWM projects should capture run off at its source as much as possible. The Besore Library bio-retention project is a prime example that will be successful. Will the Borough be applying for Pa. Small Water and Sewer Grant Program funding that now includes "flood mitigation and storm water projects?" Applications are being accepted up until Dec. 13, 2019. Greencastle's annual Pa. DEP / MS4 Report was due September 30, 2019 which I'm sure was authored and sent by the Borough's Engineer. Can we review what is in the Annual Report? Especially with 2020 budget deliberations can we all meet and strategically review what we have learned since the SWM Utility Ordinance and fee was initiated in late May?

I testified before the Pa. Senate Committee September 11. Greencastle and Antrim Township emphasized and objected to the Pa. DEP "modeling" that is used to calculate future projects, especially "stream restoration." Antrim Township is doing water outfall testing of allegedly "impaired streams." Greencastle should be doing the same thing. To quote from GREENCASTLE BOROUGH'S POLLUTANT REDUCTION PLAN, "Greencastle will be utilizing the 'presumptive approach' in which it is assumed that a 10% reduction in sediment will accomplish the required nutrient reductions with our outfall streams." Last month I displayed photos of Paddy Run.

This seems to be a numbers game and not at all based on actual lab samples. Please...let's join Antrim Township with this testing! I recently spoke with the Secretary of Pa. DEP in Gettysburg. He agreed to a meeting later this month with me. I'll be accompanied by Sylvia House of Antrim Township's staff. Pa. DEP does not have the legislative authority to suspend the MS4 and Chesapeake Bay requirements and I doubt if our legislators will do so, especially with the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and the pressure they are under from others outside of the Commonwealth. Remember...we received NO response from our letter sent to Governor Tom Wolf in June.

I again encourage a strategic planning and review meeting by all members of Council regarding storm water costs and set projects that are financially within the Borough's means. At the same time, follow up on Resolution #2019-02 that was approved in June.

By: *Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor*