**MAYOR’S REPORT**

**9/5/17**

* **Health and Public Safety:**

A. The majority of town roads scheduled to be paved are finished with the exception of Heckman Street. Heckman will be going out to bid early next week. Additionally, the town will be working on roadway and sidewalk projects as follows:

1. Relining of all roads including student crossing areas. Additionally, looking into problematic bus stop areas.

2. Installing new handicapped access to sidewalks on Heckman.

3. Temporary repairs to Summit Avenue by the utility companies who did the shoddy repairs.

4. New signage at several problematic roadways throughout town.

5. New brick crosswalks from the Black Bridge to Union Square.

B. The town is hiring a new code inspector this week. Please remember the town has over 1200 building/ landlord units that contain approximately 3000 rental units. We are working to reduce the backlog and improve response time and concerns with this position.

C. Continuation of correcting Treatment Plant odors.

D. The municipal building relocation will be finalized this week. We have not left one stone unturned in the search for a new facility that:

1. Has ample room for staff

2. Is customer friendly (access).

3. Is not a large expenditure requiring a tax increase on residents. I continue to take the position that the taxpayer should not bear the burden of the mold in the current building when it was caused by human error. We may now have another facility that should not increase cost to the taxpayer. If in fact we must build a new facility in the future, Senate President Steve Sweeney's office has directed us to a Department of Agriculture loan up to $3.5 million @ approximately 3.3% interest over 40 years. The NJ Department of Health has given the town an additional 60 days to relocate the building given the fact the air is safe at the current building (because of the fresh air brought in by window AC units and negative air pressure).

E. The Food Dessert Task Force had a meeting last weekend and the task force is preparing a letter to the property owner.

F. The Mayor's office keeps in close contact with the CARES Organization and the Freedom House on South Main St. The town has experienced over 13 drug related deaths (DOA) and 35 plus Narcan assists by PPD since January 1, 2017. The two organizations noted above could not have arrived any sooner.

G. The Mayor's office is looking at rental licensing and inspection fees.

**•Transparent Government:**

A. On August 28, 2017 I was invited to speak at the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Board Summit. I represented Phillipsburg to the best of my ability. I feel it is extremely important to get our town name out there for potential investors.

B. We are working on appropriate salary adjustments and raises utilizing criteria such as: cost-of-living, similar comparible town job salaries, job descriptions and performance reviews. The 2017 budget was passed with the recommended adjustments and raises with 0% net effect on the budget. We will keep trying to reach a reasonable consensus.

C. The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan is underway as all applications are being submitted with a Phase I Work Plan. The plan will be developed by Van Cleff Engineering, the town CFO and the Mayor's office.

**•Economic Development:**

A. I -78 logistics has gained several development approvals on the Lopatcong side of the property:

1. Preliminary subdivision- approved

2. Preliminary site plan- approved

3. Final site plan - will be granted once conditions are met - this is in process and is straightforward.

B. The new parking Kiosk at the Riverside Parking facility continues to generate respectable revenue for the UEZ and town for downtown redevelopment.

C. The new UEZ Marketing Analysis was presented to the Land Use Board at the last meeting. The plan was well received and generated many questions and comments. The Marketing Analysis coupled with the new Short Marketing Film "Phillipsburg" will definitely inspire investors to look hard at Phillipsburg as a location to invest financial assets.

**•Recreation:**

A. Supt. Kelly Post Sheedy is working to close the municipal pool for the winter. The pool generated more money than last year within a shorter season.

B. Kelly is also working hard to reorganize the Joseph Firth Youth Center while planning the Pork Roll Palooza.

C. Kelly will be helping to educate residents about the Open Space Referendum.

D. All Playgrounds are being cleaned of weeds and debris before winter season

•Municipal Organizational Culture:

A. Several municipal employees are taking on additional responsibilities and others are attending training to help improve the efficiency of the towns procurement process. Kudos to Sam Cappello and Sandy Callery for stepping up to the plate.

**•Volunteers:**

A. Thank you Lawrie Hodgson Morello and friends for landscaping the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

B. Thank you Jim and Carole Diee for watering the new mums on S. Main St.

•Other:

Marketing Consultant idea: