END OF YEAR NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

December 28, 2022

I wanted to bring you up to date on what we have been doing in 2022. The year has been productive, challenging and exciting as the borough has moved into a new direction of goals, vision and focus – all while holding the line on the borough budget with no increase in taxes. One of our shining moments was that we, working with the Muncy Legion and VFW, were able to successfully bring back the Memorial Day Parade!

On the personnel side, we appointed a new borough solicitor and accountant, we have hired a new streets foreman, we have hired a property maintenance/codes enforcement officer, we have been able to retain our administrative staff and we re-appointed our chief of police. We are grateful to have such a talented and dedicated group at the borough and we have been fortunate to find and keep these highly skilled and motivated people. We are improving the way we oversee and administer the tasks and issues that come before council, to better and more quickly serve the needs of residents and local businesses. All members of council and borough staff have been instrumental in this process.

On the infrastructure side, the borough has aggressively gone after numerous grants to the tune of seeking $1,915,500. The following grants were prepared and submitted:

- Basketball Court, Lycoming County ARPA grant, requested $94,930
- New “Welcome to Muncy” sign, Lycoming County ARPA grant, requested $25,000
- 5 Crosswalks/School Crossings, PennDOT ARLE grant, requested $162,000
- Borough Building ADA Upgrades, Lycoming County CDBG, requested $156,000
- Downtown Streetscape, PA DCED Multimodal grant, $1,248,400 requested
- Canopy Street Trees, DCNR Bare Root Tree grant, 12 trees requested
- Crossroads Corner, DCNR Fall Supplemental C2P2 grant, $129,360 requested
- Crossroads Corner, T-Mobile Hometown grant, $50,000 requested

We were awarded $25,000 from Lycoming County’s Mini grant for a basketball court. We are awaiting word on most of the other applications. As we head into 2023, with the help of Muncy Bank, WBRA & MBMA, we will be bringing on board a consultant, Penn Strategies, to provide grantsmanship and economic development support and further our strive and push to obtain much needed grant funds and business development.
There’s been lots of action all summer and fall as PennDOT completed the Water St bridge replacement and repaving and the Main St/Water St intersection widening; the WBRA completed the Quarry Road utility improvements and resurfacing and the borough repaved a section of Market St, Mechanic St, W Noble Alley, E Lafayette St and S Green Alley. UGI has also completed utility improvements along W Penn St.

The Muncy Area Fire Department was sold and they have begun site work and construction of a new building on SR 2044 (E Penn St) near the Masonic Lodge that is on track for completion next year. We are looking forward to the old fire department building being repurposed. In addition, our beautiful, historic Muncy Library added an elevator and completed remodeling making the building ADA handicap accessible.

A community committee made up of residents, professionals, artists, businesses and historians was formed to provide input into a concept design of the open, vacant lot at the Main St/Water St corner. The goal is to obtain grant funding to transform this into a greenspace, passive recreation pocket park. These lotscape improvements to this “Crossroads Corner” site will be a beginning of a downtown revitalization.

In July, the United States Army Corps of Engineers gave a presentation of their flooding assessment of the borough. To our surprise and delight, they discussed the possibility of real flood control in the future. The borough, with support from Muncy Bank, County Commissioners and Muncy Creek Township, will be pushing ahead to have an alternatives study completed. Accordingly, the borough opted to have ONLY 2 more FEMA buyouts of reoccurring flooding homes, located right along Glade Run, be demolished (7 homes were on the list). Also, volunteers saw that the blue flood signs were taken down in the northern part of town as we transition into a more modern “virtual” blue flood sign program where photos, videos and flood data will be accessible.

Some other things I would like to focus on in 2023: more use of the wood chipper, new borough & streets buildings, dog park, streets maint/paving, new businesses, recycling, property maintenance, trucks on S Main St, bring back downtown fourth Fridays and promoting events such as Corvette Show, Lions BBQ, Pops at Pepper St, Holidays, etc.

In closing I would like to say that we are grateful for the protection services that our police and fire departments provide us to ensure that we have a safe community.

I hope you find the contents of this letter to be helpful and informative. Be sure to check out the borough website (muncyboro.org) and facebook page to get the latest news and updates. I wish you all a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year in 2023.

Sincerely,

Bill Scott, Council President