



**MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF
GREENCASTLE
March 4, 2024**

POLICE OPERATIONS / OIC, STRATEGIC PLANNING: I have regular briefings with OIC Keith Russell. Our law enforcement service is challenged by limited staffing requiring officers to often work alone responding to calls from citizens and visitors for police assistance. OIC Russell has been very proactive in advancing the Department to benefit Greencastle while providing public safety to our citizens and visitors.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING REPORT: Larry Pittman has issued his monthly report. February was calmer with three lengthy idling observations noted. I have been in discussions with a Norfolk Southern representative as their team is working on mitigation measures in the Borough. I anticipate a written report regarding the idling locomotives in our Borough and railroad bridge inspection frequency.

ATTENDANCE AT WATER AUTHORITY MEETING: I attended the GAFC Water Authority meeting on February 19 and thanked the members for serving. I brought to their attention the Food Processing Residual (FPR) concerns for wells in certain parts of Antrim Township. This is specific to certain types of animal waste distributed on farm fields from out of the area processing facilities. PA Representative Paul Schemel is working on legislation to further regulate certain food processing residual waste field applications.

CUMBERLAND-FRANKLIN COUNTIES BOROUGH'S ASSOCIATION: The Association held an adjourned meeting last week in Shippensburg due to lack of a quorum. Attorneys from Salzmann & Hughes presented a program about employee policies and procedures. The next Bi-county meeting will be held on April 30 in the Chambersburg area. I serve as President of the Association.

I am honored to represent Greencastle and attend many public events in the Greencastle, Franklin County, area. I encourage citizens and visitors to shop small and support our businesses like ELM Department Store who has been in business downtown for 80 years.

I taught several courses as a faculty member of the Pa. Borough's Association to newly elected officials in their "boot camp" with classes held across the Commonwealth.

ACTIVE ITEMS:

- Downtown parking inventory, new systems, private owner partnerships and directional signage for parking
- Recommendation for "parking with arrow" signs downtown

- Downtown truck traffic (letter authorized to PennDot requesting local truck traffic on Baltimore Street)
- Recruitment and Retention grant for newly hired police officer/s

Respectfully submitted, *Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor*