



**MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF
GREENCASTLE
February 3, 2025**

January was a busy month working with Chief Batistig and Administrator Faight meeting for regular briefings. I'm also reviewing DRAFT policies authored by the Chief. A citizen donated an additional \$3,000 toward a future drone program. This program will include operational policies and procedures when they are deployed. On January 23rd, I attended the ribbon cutting and tour of the G-A School District ACE (Academy for Character Education) Building located between the middle and high schools. The G-A School Board now meets in this building which houses all administrative offices. I also attended the monthly G-A Old Home Week meeting on January 27, with Chief Batistig and Manager Emilee. Last week, I participated in interviewing police applicants for part-time positions. I informed OHW President Garon Gembe suggesting a letter for a food truck to be used the entire week by the Scouts as the new ordinance prohibits such use. That letter is on your agenda this evening.

Congressman Joyce visited GPD and the Borough office on January 30th. A good discussion was had by all. We appreciate our congressman's support for our law enforcement team and all aspects of public works by our staff.

On January 16, Chief Batistig, Administrator Faight, and I met with new Pa. Representative Chad Reichard. I believe our discussion was an eye opener to Representative Reichard regarding what our police personnel experience, yes here in Greencastle. We also met with Franklin County Commissioner's Chair Dean Horst, January 24. Council member Mike Stenger will be taking Chief Batistig around to additional businesses and industries as we continue our get-acquainted tour with the Greencastle Police Department.

I serve on the faculty of Leadership Franklin County. On January 8, I presented with four other community leaders to the 2025 class. Topics included infrastructure, economic development, MS/4, public safety funding, Old Home Week, and environmental concerns.

CORPORAL RIHL HISTORIC MARKER: I am pleased that this is an agenda item for removal / replacement of this marker that has been unreadable for quite a period. We did place a smaller writing on the marker last year as we did not receive any response from the civil war organization that was responsible for placing the marker at its present location.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING: Citizen Larry Pittman advises extended low idling locomotives on three occasions in January.

Respectfully submitted, *Ben Thomas, Jr.* -- Mayor