



MAYOR'S REPORT
BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE;
THE FULL COUNCIL; AND CITIZENS
PRESENTED: 04 JANUARY 2021

This information is presented as a follow-up to the Mayor's Report dated December 7, 2020 and subsequent information presented by Asst. Borough Manager Emilee Little entitled "2021 Expense Allocation of Dental Costs." **I request reconsideration by Council for dental costs to be paid by employees in 2021 that will affect some 15 employees with families reducing their take home pay by \$896.64 when these expenses are shared by multiple budgets.**

Such reconsideration is permitted in the Pa. Borough Code, § 1312. "*Modification of budget and supplemental appropriations and transfer.*" Please rescind having employees pay for their dental health care in 2021.

I advocate for all our dedicated employees. Asst. Borough Manager Emilee's Dec. 6 Dental Costs Analysis was quite revealing regarding the families of employees as I tried to point out in my Dec. 7 report that was written before I reviewed Emilee's Report. I looked at all budgets holistically as all include municipal and utility operations for the Borough of Greencastle. I recommend this action based on the following facts:

1. The total dental costs savings in the 01. General Fund (GF) for 2021 will be \$6,586.37.
2. Council may have had the understanding that the 01. General Fund savings for the year would be \$15,186.24. This is incorrect.
3. The residue costs are shared in the Water Authority 06. Fund; Sewer 08. Fund; and Storm water Fund 09. These funds for 2021 are balanced.
4. Council's decision effected Water Authority employees where three families receive dental insurance.
5. Council has budgeted \$80,000 for a future Borough Manager split in multiple funds. If a Manager is hired at \$80,000, he or she would be brought in at the top of the pay scale given the size of Greencastle. If the starting Manager's wage was \$70,000, this would more than make up the \$6,586 costs for dental in the General Fund.
6. As stated, this decision effects 15 families. They are the ones that, most likely, needs this nearly \$900 the most.
7. These employees are, most likely, different than private sector employees. They are the ones that were called out for the pre-Christmas snow storm and mitigated

the event. Our water system is a seven day a week operation even though Council does not manage water operations. This decision still will have an economic loss for them. Our sewer system is also a seven day a week operation. All employees are subject to urgent call-out. Our police patrol 24/7; worked all of the holidays; and have stepped up filling late night shifts and filling in for sick officers who have contracted COVID. They've been involved and investigating serious activities and crimes with multiple criminal arrests successfully undertaken.

8. Finally, the 2020 General Fund 01. appears to have a year-end surplus of over \$250,000. A 2021 GF deficit is projected just as 2020 projected a deficit of \$32,000 that never came to fruition. I am hopeful, that with sound fiscal management in 2021 the estimated deficit will be much less.
9. \$6,600 in the General Fund is insignificant for a \$1,782,000 budget. I believe the loss of \$900 for fifteen families is significant.
10. Finally, it appears that some members of Council misunderstood my, and the Public Safety Committee's request for \$10,000 in 2021 to support new police software. As stated in my December 7, 2020 written report to Council, I am actively seeking grant funding for this endeavor subject to a Cost / Benefits Analysis by Chief Phillippy. That was approved by majority. In other words, if \$10,000 is secured by a grant (if the Analysis suggests continuing with the purchase in 2021), the GF costs would be \$0.00 thus freeing up another \$10,000 to support all employees.

As we begin a new year, let us remember those we've lost in 2020 from COVID or other causes. We pray for those who are suffering and for the families and friends who are in mourning.

A special thanks to our Rescue Hose Company personnel and health care providers. Over the New Year's holiday they responded to over 30 calls for assistance including a barn fire and several overdose calls.

Ben Thomas, Jr.
Mayor