Susquehanna County Planning Commission



Watercolor by Kathleen S. Howell

Annual Report 2021

County Office Building 81 Public Ave Montrose PA 18801

2021 Annual Report

of the

Susquehanna County Planning Commission

County Office Building 81 Public Avenue Montrose, Pennsylvania 18801

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Patti L. Peltz, Director Carol Ainey, Deputy Director

Table of Contents

	Overall Goal of the Comprehensive Plan	2
_	Organization	2
_	Planning Commission Membership	3
	Planning Districts	4
	Powers and Duties of the Planning Commission	.6
	Meeting Attendance	8
1	2021 Meeting Chronology	9
-	Purpose of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance	12
-	Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Administration	13
	Subdivision and Land Development Activity	14
_	Types of Subdivisions and Land Developments	14
_	Subdivision and Land Development Activity by Municipality	14
	Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Plans Reviewed	16
_	Lot Sizes	16
-	Average Size of New Lots Created	17
	Types of Parcels as Assessed	18
	Activity by Municipality Map Book	18

OVERALL GOAL OF THE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Maintain and improve the general quality of life for county residents by developing and implementing plans to deal with problems from all facets of local life including the environment, land use and development, government services, the economy, transportation, and recreation.

ORGANIZATION

- The Susquehanna County Planning Commission has been in existence since August 10, 1964, created by resolution of the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners to direct all County planning programs.
 - On December 3, 1992 the Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance creating and establishing a Department of Planning and Development and a Planning Commission under the provisions of the
- Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 as amended by Act 170 of 1988. Under this ordinance overall direction is given by the County Commissioners with the Planning Commission acting in an advisory capacity to both the Department and the Commissioners. The Planning
- Commission is comprised of nine members appointed by the County Commissioners. The
 Department is headed by a Director of Planning and Development and is required to include sufficient
 staff to carry out the provisions of the ordinance which created the department.
- The ordinance outlines work areas in which both the Department and the Planning Commission shall function. It is intended that the scope of activity of both the Department and the Planning Commission be expanded to provide for the coordinated development of the County, to protect the
- general welfare and prosperity of its residents, and to uphold the goals and objectives of the County's Comprehensive Plan.
- The Planning Commission meets once each month, on the last Tuesday of the month. Occasionally the Commission will meet to accommodate special business of the County or to participate in training sessions. Also, separate committees of the Commission meet, as needed, to attend to their duties.
- Formal action can only be taken at the regularly scheduled meeting unless otherwise advertised.
- The Department of Planning and Development, housed in the County Office Building at 81 Public Avenue, Montrose, was staffed during 2021 by the Director and Deputy Director. Office hours are from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. Those seeking information on any facet of planning and development may visit at any time. No appointment is necessary.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

2021

Commission Officers

Rick Franks, Chairman Nancy Harvatine, Vice Chairman Robert Housel, Secretary

Commission Members

Chris Caterson
Matthew Curley
Nancy Hurley (January – September)
Loren Salsman (resigned)
John Ramsay
Katherine Shelly

Department of Planning and Development Staff

Patti L. Peltz, Planning Director Carol Ainey, Deputy Director

PLANNING DISTRICTS 2022

Matthew Curley

2087 Guiton Road

Montrose PA 18801 (570) 240-3217

mcurley@ugies.com

■ Term Expires Dec 31, 2022

Apolacon Township

Forest Lake Township Friendsville Borough

Little Meadows Borough

Middletown Township
Rush Township

Nancy Harvatine

34 Harv Farm Road

Thompson PA 18465 (570) 679-2273

harvfarm@nep.net

Term Expires Dec. 31, 2023

Forest City Borough

Gibson Township

Herrick Township

Uniondale Borough

Open

Term Expires Dec. 31, 2023

Auburn Township

Dimock Township

Lathrop Township
Springville Township

Springtine rottisinp

Hop Bottom Borough

Chris Caterson

4110 Turnpike Road Montrose PA 18801

(570) 278-1151

chris@littleandnelson

Term Expires Dec. 31, 2026

Bridgewater Township

Brooklyn Township

Jessup Township

Montrose Borough

Robert Housel

PO Box 5

Kingsley PA 18826

(570) 289-4191

bob@mastersconcrete.com

Term Expires Dec. 31, 2023

Clifford Township

Harford Township

Lenox Township

John Ramsay

202 Meadow Lane

Brackney PA 18812

(607) 748-5347

johnwramsay@gmail.com

Term Expires Dec. 31, 2022

Choconut Township

Franklin Township

Liberty Township

Silver Lake Township

Richard Franks

170 Franklin Street

Great Bend PA 18821

(570) 879-4376

richard.franks@nyuhs.org

Term Expires Dec 31, 2026

Great Bend Borough

Great Bend Township

Hallstead Borough

New Milford Borough

New Milford Township

Joseph Kempa

561 State Route 1008

Susquehanna PA 18847

(570) 756-3086

kempasurveying@yahoo.com

Term Expires Dec. 31, 2026

Harmony Township

Lanesboro Borough

Oakland Borough

Oakland Township

Susquehanna Borough

Katherine Shelly

903 Ridge Road

Thompson PA 18465

(570) 756-2429

kshelly@nep.net

Term Expires Dec 31, 2022

Ararat Township

Jackson Township

Thompson Borough

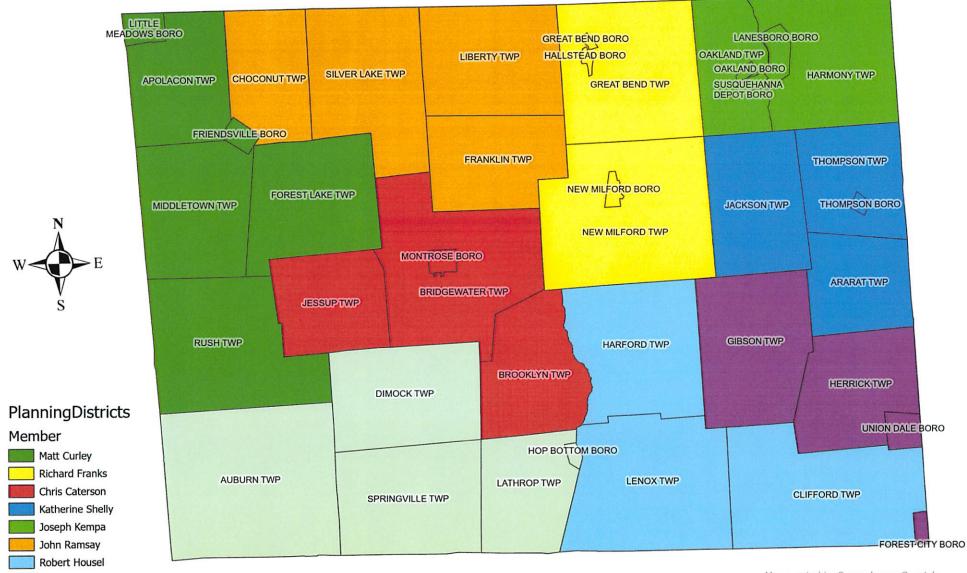
Thompson Township



Nancy Harvatine

Open

Susquehanna County Planning Commission Districts and Members



Map created by Susquehanna County's GIS and Mapping Department

Date Saved: 2/11/2022 8:09 AM

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Susquehanna County Planning Commission is made up of nine volunteers from throughout the County, appointed by the County Commissioners. The members of the Planning Commission provide a voluntary service to the community and receive no compensation for their time and effort. They can be reimbursed for any necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The Planning Commission meetings are advertised each year in January. All of the regular meetings are open to the public. The agenda for each meeting is posted on the County's web site (www.susqco.com) one week prior to each meeting. In accordance with Section 102.4 of the Susquehanna County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the Planning Director has been authorized, by resolution, to take action on certain types of subdivision and land development plans. These actions are then reported to the Planning Commission at the next regular meeting. All industrial or commercial development plans, major subdivision plans, land development plans, and any plan where the applicant is requesting a waiver of a requirement of the Ordinance are reviewed and acted upon at the regular monthly meeting. Every subdivision or land development plan is sent, as soon as it arrives in the Planning Department office, to the local municipality for their review and comments. No official action is taken by the Planning Commission on a plan until the Commission has received and considered the comments of the municipality or after 30 days following transmittal of the plan to the municipality.

An application for a subdivision or land development becomes public information upon receipt at a Planning Commission meeting. The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance details the method of accepting subdivision plans, which is consistent with Pennsylvania State law (the Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 of 1968 as amended). By law, the Planning Commission has 90 days from the date of official receipt to take action on a complete plan. The Ordinance contains a specific format to follow to determine when a plan has been officially submitted.

The County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance is available on the County's web site or on CD. It is available in printed form for a small fee to cover the cost of reproduction.

The Susquehanna County Planning Commission is charged with protecting the rights of all citizens and landowners of Susquehanna County with regard to their enjoyment and use of their land as they see fit, as long as it is done legally. This includes a landowner's right to subdivide or develop their land.

The single land use regulation tool that the County Planning Commission has available at this time is the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, which is governed by Pennsylvania State law (the Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 of 1968 as amended).

A planning commission assists the governing body in and assumes primary responsibility for developing the ordinances necessary to guide future growth. A planning commission can merely act as an advisor to the governing body (County Commissioners) in defining how the community should grow. However, the governing body may, by ordinance, delegate approval authority to a planning commission for subdivision and land development applications.

In practice most of a planning commission's time is devoted to administration of the subdivision and land development ordinance.

- A County may enact a zoning ordinance. In Pennsylvania all but a few zoning ordinances are enacted at the municipal level which provides the greatest local control over land use.
- The difference between subdividing and zoning is often misunderstood. Zoning regulates the specific types of uses allowed in a given area. A subdivision is the act of dividing land into 2 or more lots or parcels. Land Development regulations control how a particular use (such as a retail store or manufacturing plant) is physically placed on that particular parcel of land. Because the County has a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance only, the Planning Commission cannot, under its Ordinance, tell someone they cannot propose a specific type of development on a specific piece of land. The Planning Commission may only regulate how that specific piece of land might be developed with the proposed type of development, such as through setbacks and buffers, in order to mitigate the effect, it would have on neighboring property.

The Planning Commission invites and encourages all citizens and landowners of the County to attend its meetings. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 P.M. in the Conference Room of the County Office Building, 81 Public Avenue, Montrose. For more information you can call the Susquehanna County Department of Planning at (570) 278-5950, daily from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

MEETING ATTENDANCE 2021

The commission held eleven public meetings. Commission members had an average of 67% attendance at all meetings, amounting to 47.75 hours contributed to the County for this work. Not included in these hours is travel time to and from meetings and time spent at any separate committee meetings or site visits.

Meeting Attendance 2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chris Caterson	Х	Х		X	Х		X	Х		X		X
Matt Curley	Х	X	Х			х	х	Х				х
Richard Franks	х	Х	Х	X	х			X	X	Х	x	X
Nancy Harvatine	X		X	X	Х	x	Х	х	x	х	х	
Bob Housel	Х		Х	Х	х		Х	X	X	X	X	X
Nancy Hurley*												
John Ramsay	Х	Х	Х	X	Х	Х	Х	Х		х	х	
Loren Salsman	Х	х	Х	X	х	X	X	х	x		х	X
Kathie Shelly		х	Х	Х	X	х	X					
Length of Meeting	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.50	1.25	0.75	1.25	1.25	0	0.50	1.25	.50
Public Attendance	0	1	1	2	5	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Hours - Meeting	3.50	3.0	5.25	3.50	8.75	3.75	8.75	8.75	0	2.50	6.25	2.50

Total Hours contributed by Planning Commission members = 47.75 hours

^{*} Nancy Hurley resigned her position 9/29/2021 x = Attended Meeting

2021 - MEETING CHRONOLOGY - 2021

(Including items of interest brought forth during the meetings)

January

- No citizens attended the Commission's online meeting
- Reorganization / Election of officers for 2021
 - 3 Subdivision / Land Development plans were reviewed
- 1 Act 170 Review and Comment plan was reviewed
- 3 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission

February

- 1 citizen attended the Commission's online meeting
- 4 Subdivision / Land Development plans were reviewed
- 1 Act 170 Review and Comment plan was reviewed
- 6 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- The staff presented the 2020 Annual Report at the County Commissioner's regular meeting

March

- 1 citizen attended the Commission's online meeting
- 4 Subdivision / Land Development plans were reviewed
- 6 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- Staff attended the Economic Development Board monthly meeting
- No Act 170 Review and Comment plans were reviewed

April

- 4 citizens attended the Commission's meeting
- 2 Subdivision / Land development plan was reviewed
- No Act 170 Review and Comment plans were reviewed
- 9 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- Staff attended the Economic Development Board monthly meeting
- The Commission discussed online versus in-person meetings, and decided to return to inperson meetings starting in May.

May

- 6 citizens attended the Commission's regular meeting
- 5 Subdivision/Land Development plans were reviewed
- 2 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- 1 Act 170 Review and Comment plan was reviewed
- Staff attended the Safety Committee monthly meeting

June

- 2 citizens attended the Commission's regular meeting
- 1 Subdivision/Land Development plans was reviewed
- 1 Act 170 Review and Comment plan was reviewed
- 3 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- The Commission discussed stormwater requirements.

July

- 2 citizens attended the Commission's regular meeting
- 2 Subdivision/Land Development plans were reviewed
- 9 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- 3 Act 170 Review and Comment plan was reviewed
- The staff attended the Conservation District's Countywide Action Plan and Clean Water meetings.
- Staff toured Williams Central Compressor Station site
- Staff visited Brooklyn Township Building Commercial Land Development, for inspection prior to final approval

August

- 1 citizen attended the Commission's meeting
- 2 Subdivision/Land development plans were reviewed
- 1 Act 170 Review and Comment plan was reviewed
- 4 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- The staff attended the monthly meeting of the Susquehanna County Economic Development Board
- The Staff attended the Conservation District meeting

September

- No Planning Commission meeting was held, not enough members for a quorum
- Staff toured Eureka Wastewater Treatment Facility in Wysox
- The Staff visited a Telecommunications Tower Land Development in Harford Township, for inspection prior to final approval
- The Staff visited a Telecommunications Tower Land Development in New Milford Township, for inspection prior to final approval
- The Staff attended Susquehanna County Economic Development meeting

October

- No citizens attended the Commission's regular meeting
- 1 Subdivision/Land Development plan was reviewed
- No Act 170 Review and Comment plans were reviewed
- 7 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- The Staff attended the Convention of the Susquehanna County Township Officials.

November

- 1 citizen attended the Commission's regular meeting
- 2 Subdivision/Land Development plans were reviewed
- 5 Act 170 Review and Comment plans were reviewed
- 15 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- Staff attended GIS meetings
- Staff attended Susquehanna County Outreach meeting

December

- No citizens attended the Commission's meeting
- 1 Subdivision/Land development plan was reviewed
- 10 Staff approved plans were reviewed/concurred by Commission
- The staff visited the Susquehanna County Public Safety Facility Commercial Land Development for inspection prior to final approval
- The Staff visited the Endless Mountain Resort Commercial Land Development for inspection prior to final approval
- The Staff visited Blue Ridge School District Commercial Land Development for inspection prior to final approval
- The Planning Commission named a nominating committee for the proposed slate of officers for 2022

PURPOSE OF THE SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

103 Purpose*

This Ordinance has been adopted to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Susquehanna County by establishing regulations to allow for the proper and controlled development of the County, to provide for environmental protection and to insure the proper provision of community facilities. Regulations for specific types of development for which additional standards have been deemed necessary are intended to protect the rights of the residents of the County to enjoy clean air, pure water, and the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic value of the environment, and in particular to preserve and conserve the rural and natural features of the County. The basic tenet of subdivision and land development in the County is basing design on land capability and encouraging flexibility of design via the *conservation subdivision design* process. This will provide larger areas of open space within subdivisions and result in interconnected open space areas throughout the County.

* Susquehanna County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, adopted January 26, 2011, Page I-3

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE ADMINISTRATION

- The Susquehanna County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance governs all subdivision and land development activity in 33 of the 40 municipalities in the county. The Planning Director may approve minor subdivision plans and certain land development plans that do not include requests for waivers and are found to be in conformity with the ordinance. A report of those approvals is made each month to the Planning Commission for their concurrence. Major subdivisions, non-residential subdivisions and land developments, and any plan which includes a request for a waiver from one or more of the requirements of the ordinance are reviewed by the staff and presented for consideration to the Planning Commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting.
- When a plan is submitted to the planning department a copy of the map and application is immediately sent to the municipality in which the development is taking place. A "Municipal Report Form" is included in the package so that any comments on the plan can be easily submitted by the municipality to the planning department.

7 municipalities, listed below, govern subdivisions and land developments through their own ordinance and a municipal planning commission.

Clifford Township Liberty Township Silver Lake Township Thompson Township Forest City Borough Montrose Borough Susquehanna Depot Borough

- Subdivisions and land developments that occur in those municipalities having their own ordinance are submitted by that municipality to the County Planning Commission for review and comment.
- Certain municipalities have established their own planning commissions for a variety of reasons but do not govern their own subdivisions. Listed below are those municipalities having active planning commissions.

Herrick Township

Hop Bottom Borough

New Milford Borough

When reviewing a subdivision or land development plan local regulations must be taken into consideration, including zoning ordinances and building code regulations. Six municipalities have established zoning ordinances in order to further regulate development:

Forest City Borough Hop Bottom Borough Herrick Township Montrose Borough New Milford Borough Susquehanna Depot Borough

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

- During 2021, the Commission processed 157 subdivision and land development plans. These plans created 66 new lots/parcels of land given final approval. This represents an increase in new lots compared to 21 new lots in 2020.
 - Minor subdivisions decreased slightly this year over last year. Major subdivisions increased 33% while land developments decreased by 50% compared to last year.

TYPES OF SUBDIVISIONS / DEVELOPMENTS

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Addition Subdivisions	54	36	23	19	19	30	24	26	22	25	25	25	3	30
Land Developments (includes Commercial & Industrial)	27	16	19	27	40	45	38	36	23	25	33	28	16	8
Major Subdivisions	4	8	4	8	10	8	17	15	10	11	9	10	2	3
Minor Subdivisions	73	42	42	33	42	38	36	33	48	28	37	42	59	50
Mobile / RV Parks	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY BY MUNICIPALITY 2021

		-			NEW		
TAD / DCD	LAND	MAJOR	MINOR	ADD-	NEW	OTHER	R&C
TWP. / BOR.	DEV.	SUB	SUB	ONS	LOTS	PLAN	ACT 170
					2		
Apolacon Twp.			2	1	4		
Ararat Twp.			1		3		ļ
Auburn Twp.			3	2	6		
Bridgewater Twp.	1	1	6	4	1		
Brooklyn Twp.			2	2			ļ
Choconut Twp.				3	3		
Clifford Twp.			3	2	2		5
Dimock Twp.			2	1			
Forest City Bor.							<u> </u>
Forest Lake Twp.		1		1	2		
Franklin Twp.			11		1		
Friendsville Bor.	·						
Gibson Twp.	1		1	1	1		
Great Bend Bor.							
Great Bend Twp.			3		4		
Hallstead Bor.			1				
Harford Twp.			3	1	4		
Harmony Twp.			1		3		
Herrick Twp.			1	1	4		
Hop Bottom Bor.							
Jackson Twp.			1	1	1		
Jessup Twp.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1			
Lanesboro Bor.			1		2		
Lathrop Twp.			1		2		
Lenox Twp.	1		3	2	3		
Liberty Twp.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			-			
Little Meadows Bor.							
Middletown Twp.	-						
Montrose Bor.			2	1	1		3
New Milford Bor.	1	1		•	2		
New Milford Twp.	•	<u>'</u>	4	3	5		
Oakland Bor.							
Oakland Twp.		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	2			
Rush Twp.	1		2		4		
Silver Lake Twp.	I		4		4		4
	3		2	1	2		+
Springville Twp.	3			1			<u> </u>
Susquehanna Bor.							
Thompson Bor.					-		
Thompson Twp.					 		
Uniondale Bor.							
TOTALS	8	3	50	30	66 ion includes N	Simon Nimon E	12
Land Development inclu	ges Commer	cial and Indus	itriai M	inor Subdiviŝ	ion includes N	amor non-Re	sidential

Land Development includes Commercial and industrial Add-ons (Additions) include Lot-Line Adjustments

ndustrial Minor Subdivision Includes Minor Non-Residential onts Other Plan – Zoning Ordinance Amendment Total Subdivision Plans Reviewed = 157

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL & INSTITUTIONAL PLANS REVIEWED

American Tower New Milford Twp

Andre & Son Warehouse Bridgewater Twp

Blue Ridge School Distict New Milford Twp

CBH Investments Harford & New Milford Twps

Cellco Partners d/b/a Verizon Wireless Great Bend Twp

Cingular Wireless/AT&T Harford Twp

Clearwater Technology, LLC Jessup Twp

Dollar General Clifford Twp

Endless Mountain Resort Herrick Twp

Eureka Wastewater Treatment Facility Dimock Twp

Goose Ranch Ararat Twp

Gorick Ice Cream Trailer Great Bend Twp

Springville Twp Cinder Building Springville Twp

Susquehanna County Housing Development Corporation Hallstead Borough

Susquehanna County Public Safety Facility New Milford Twp

UGI Anderson Compressor Station Expansion Auburn Twp

LOT SIZES

- The average size of new lots created during 2020 was 17.42 acres which is once again larger than the past 30 years' average lot size (14.12 acres). One new lot over one hundred acres skewed the average lot size for the year. The average lot size without the 100+ acre lot was 15.81 which is still
 larger than the average size of all lots created in the past 30 years.
- In the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance adopted in 2005 and amended in 2006, 2008 and 2011, the minimum lot size for new lots served by on-lot sewage and on-lot water was set at 1.00 acre, having been previously set at 2.00 acres in 1990. Since 1999 we have been tracking the percentage of 2 acre lots and since 2006 the percentage of 1 acre lots. The number of 2 acre lots in 2021 decreased (11) from 2020 (15). 2020 was greater than the number in 2019 (10). While the number of 1 acre lots in 2021 (14) also decreased from 2020 (24) which was twice the number of 1 acre lots in 2019 (12).

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Agricultural	6576	6584	6592	6604	6622	6624	6633	6690	6705	6711	6753	6783
Commercial	1098	1105	1118	1113	1118	1130	1123	1077	1095	1112	1361	1356
Industrial	25	24	23	22	22	21	21	25	27	27	33	33
Lots (<10 ac)	2584	2843	2853	2834	2829	2826	2824	2811	2794	2739	2718	2704
Mining	9	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential	13240	13237	13231	13223	13217	13222	13206	13208	13206	13225	13216	13205
Trailers	796	778	758	752	735	736	734	736	734	726	678	649
Vacant (>10ac)	3270	3279	3287	3296	3309	3324	3322	3326	3309	3313	3384	3374
Totals	27868	27858	27870	27844	27852	27883	27863	27863	27839	27806	27767	27724

TYPES OF PARCELS (AS ASSESSED)

CLEAN AND GREEN PARCELS (AS ASSESSED)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Agricultural	5653	5679	5706	5720	5747	5766	5788	5854	5871	5885	5921	5928
Commercial	48	48	47	48	55	56	55	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial												
Lots (<10 ac)												
Mining												
Residential												
Trailers										_		
Vacant (>10 ac)	2,633	2643	2660	2673	2686	2697	2706	2716	2707	2715	2754	2752
totals	8334	8370	8413	8441	8488	8519	8549	8570	8578	8600	8624	8653

Susquehanna County Public Safety Complex

Although 2021 was a challenging year with the pandemic, the County Commissioners were pleased that the new Public Safety Complex was headed for completion.

This is a quick overview of the facility which has taken ten years of research to develop a complex that meets the needs of today and tomorrow. This facility needed to not only meet standard building codes, but needed to also meet requirements from AOPC, FEMA, PEMA, Center of Public Safety, and State requirements for continuing operation of Government.

This complex is approximately 42,000 square feet within three buildings covering 17 acres of land.

Building A which is the larger of the three will house several departments. The District Magistrate will move from New Milford to the new location. This space is over double the current location which offers the use as a Central Court and the backup facility for the main Courthouse. There is a large instructional area that can seat up to 150 people in a classroom setting. Many training events will be scheduled for employees as well as seminars on everything from mental health to EMS and firefighting. This area also gives the public access to a shelter in time of a disaster. Building A is the location of our 911 center which is completely updated to meet all the new regulations and requirements. The Emergency Operations Center is also located here with state-of-the-art technology to make sure we are prepared for any disaster.

Building B will be the home for the County Coroner with an expanded office, a private viewing room, as well as, additional capacity. Building B also has office space for the undercover detectives and a laser training room. The laser training room will be used for firearms training for multiple departments in the county government. The savings alone on ammunition will pay for the room in the first year. We also have had several inquiries for outside agencies to use the facility which will create an additional revenue stream to the County. Building B will also have a live scan fingerprint machine that will allow for improved efficiency and cost savings on processing fingerprinting. Finally in Building B, there are garages for the Emergency Operations, 911, and maintenance equipment to ensure operations in winter months and to protect the County's assets.

The third building is a 40 x 60 climate-controlled PPE storage facility. (Personal Protective Equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards.) The PPE building will hold over 125 skids of PPE material. This will allow the County to be a supplier to our first responders and has the possibility to be a location for the Northeast Task Force for a distribution center.

In 2021 the Commissioners received the PACA (Pennsylvania Aggregates & Concrete Association) award for excellence for the leading commercial building construction in Pennsylvania, submitted by Masters Concrete. This project was completely done without the use of local tax dollars. We received grants from the State and used Act 13 funds to pay for the project. The location was chosen for many reasons. In addition to meeting disaster recovery regulations, the County was also able to secure the 17 acres of land by donation. We were able to get a local business man to donate the 17 acres that was appraised at over 1.7 million dollars. This facility serves everyone from cradle to grave. As the County moves forward with the changing times and technology, projects such as the new Public Safety Building become necessary. This project was proudly done with no tax increases or debt creation for Susquehanna County residents!

We thank everyone involved in this much needed project for our community.

Written by:

Susquehanna County Commissioner Alan Hall