



YEAR IN REVIEW

Prepared by
Ryan Schall

Curwensville, Pa

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814-236-1840
www.curwensvilleborough.com

Executive summary

The borough has been working towards benefit of the town in many different paths, financial solvency, appearance, safety, transparency, and economic growth. Each of these paths have their own goals and ways to provide for the residents. Financial solvency leads to a government that is self-sufficient and provides for its residents. Nice neighborhoods with no blight, proper roads, and clean appearance are a central item to invite business and residents. Safety is pivotal. If people are not safe, they will relocate to another place that is safe to work and raise their family, we must have sound protection. The borough is actively working to utilize public work sessions for any items of discussion, not just large items but even small things. This allows for more public input and more public display of action. These are not items that are completed by one action, but they are items that must always be active.

Key achievements

- **Street Scape:** The first phase of street scape has been completed. Work has been started to proceed with phase two by applying for funding.
- **River Project:** The borough agreed to allow the project engineering to proceed. This was agreed at no expense to Curwensville borough. Engineering has begun with surveying and modeling of the river.
- **Paving projects:** In 2024 the process started to pave a large portion of South Side. This was completed this year. This is the first step of the capitol road maintenance plan to schedule paving and maintenance of roads.

General Government

The budget was reworked to expand the generic and miscellaneous expenses. There has been effort to make a collection of information that was used to make the budget. This allows for quick reference and the ability to utilize the information for the next budget.

Work has been started to create updated policies that will cover everything from personnel to equipment. All these policies are to provide clarity to people that work in the borough, that are on council, committees and boards. This work is imperative to create a standard that allows for consistency when newly appointed and elected people come to serve. Giving them a basis for how the government works, what equipment there is, when it is recommended for replacement, and how the money has been spent and why. The start is with a new purchase order policy and a revision of the employee handbook that is in review. Many more are in the works for next year.

The borough has started using Microsoft government account, this provides a database that the borough can store and share information as it has never been able to. The borough has also

moved to email accounts for most employees, council and the mayor giving them all new forms of connection.

Public Safety

Over the past few years, the constant repair costs of the one police car led the chief and mayor to source a used police car. This was purchased and at this point has given the police department two reliable cars. The prior chief applied for an LSA grant that if awarded is for the purchase of a brand-new police car that will be fully equipped with the grant money.

The borough has passed an ordinance creating a civil service board. This is a state requirement that a civil service board be in place if there are three or more full-time officers. The board's duties will be reviewing new hires and discipline issues as they come up. Their recommendations will aide council in making more informed decisions on police matters.

A new police contract was ratified by council. Setting a new five-year contract in place for the borough. Under the new contract one police officer was hired putting the current work force to a chief, a SRO, and two part time officers. Once the civil service board is completed this will remove the stipulations on how many officers the borough can have.

Public Works

With paving projects and street scape being completed the crew has repainted many crosswalks around town. They also painted new parking spots along State Street.

Irvin Park was given some care with dead tree removal, the small pavilion roof was replaced, and the lumber heritage sign was repaired from storm damage. This was all done along with the normal maintenance and upkeep of the park.

Road patches have been completed on North Street and Schofield Street, and Storm Water updates around town. Along with Spila Road had day lighting performed.

The crew is now using new time sheets that allow the borough to utilize that information when applying for grants and reimbursements.

A new garage door was installed on the maintenance building to improve safety and reduce heat loss.

Parks and Recreation

Thanks to a generous donation by the later Denny Borger, the borough has installed public Wi-Fi at Irvin Park that allows users to sit and enjoy its use. This can be professionals, students, higher

education people that want to be at the park while working or provide parents with some peace of mind if they use Wi-Fi location for their children.

Future work is to include live stream cameras on the river so that people can actively see the water and possible future work on the river project.

Ordinance and Code

Movement has been made to revise older ordinances to be clear and concise along with updating them to more modern times. There is active work to move ordinance and resolutions to the website providing more access for the residents to find them. Examples of this include such ordinances as livestock and amusement.

To consolidate fees and permits the council has created a single fee schedule that will reflect what there is and the amount it will cost. This provides people with a single location to find the information.

Events and Activities

Irvin Park had a high usage this year with not only pavilion use but other events. Curwensville Days being on the mainstays occurred, but we had many new or relatively new events occur. Some of these include the 1 in 6 Infertility Awareness 5K, Movie in the Park, Pike Power Wash Splash N Dash Pickleball Tournament, Bad Adventure Susquehanna River Trip, and Christmas in Curwensville.

Around town we had Home for the Holidays and Christmas in Curwensville. Both are great events that are spread all around town providing many activities for people to enjoy. If you enjoy history the has had many guided tours that detail some of the history of the State St area.

The Curwensville Historical Society Has been busy this year with guided historical tours around town, presentations at the maker space at the school, and moving to the new Patton House site.

With America reaching its 250th birthday the Historical society welcomed the Clearfield County bell to the museum showcasing it off.

Strategic Management Project and Planning

Provides matching grant funds to assist municipalities experiencing fiscal difficulties to develop comprehensive multi-year financial plans and establish short- and long-term financial objectives. The borough was able to have phases 1-6 completed utilizing no funds. This was worked through a partnership that the Department of Community and Economic Development has with the University of Pittsburgh. They were able to complete the first phases where they reviewed the

financials, operations, equipment, and statistics of the borough. From these recommendations have been provided. From those recommendations the borough has applied for grant funding to accomplish certain items that require outside assistance. Other items that have been recommended have been started and will be worked on by the borough. All the reports and information from this program are available on the website so that anyone can review the findings.

Conclusion

The achievements of the past year are a testament to the dedication and hard work of the administrative persons, council persons, the mayor, the police, the public works crew, the numerous committees and boards. With 2025 coming to an end, we look forward to continuing this hard work and completing even more items for the residents of the borough in 2026.