

FORWARD TOWNSHIP

Winter 2023-2024



2023 Wrap Up

The Board of Supervisors would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents and business owners a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

With the “ringing in” of a New Year, we say goodbye to outgoing Supervisor Chairman Melvin Musulin and hello to incoming Supervisor Susan Oliver-Stough. The staff and returning Supervisors have been working hard to assure a smooth transition for Susan Oliver-Stough as she takes her seat as an elected official of our Second-Class Township.

The Township ended Fiscal Year 2023 on a very positive note, with the Township using an end of year surplus to retire the outstanding note obtained in 2017 for the construction of the municipal office building. The Township applied for four grants during Fiscal Year 2023, one for guiderail installations on Spithaler School and Leisie Roads, another for the replacement of the 2005 Peterbilt plow truck, a third for the purchase of a mini-excavator, and the last for drainage work on a portion of Glade Run Road.

2023 saw the Township finally complete the PEMA/FEMA project involving the purchase (with 100% grant money) of a flood-prone property on Valencia Road and demolition of all structures on that property. The property is now a permanent Township green space.

The Township was successful in procuring grant funds from the County Conservation District to upgrade the drainage and road surface on Tunnel Road, complete drainage work on Creek Road, and finish the Radar School Road upgrade of the road surface and drainage facilities.

Lastly, more grant funds were received from the County Commissioners to enable the Township to replace an undersized culvert pipe on Nursery Road near Lamplight Trail. These funds came from County ARPA money.

For 2024, we are looking forward to more great things! The Supervisors have established a 15-member Zoning Committee to do a “deep dive” into the need for zoning in the Township. As part of this Committee’s work, public hearings will be held in the spring of 2024 where the Committee will present its work to the public and solicit feedback. Finally, the Road Master and Manager are planning to again undertake more road improvement projects with State Liquid Fuel Funds in 2024 with tar and chipping and paving planned.

We wish outgoing Supervisor Mel Musulin the best of luck as he leaves the Board, and we welcome Susan Oliver-Stough to the Board and wish her nothing but the best in her new role as Supervisor and in governing the Township.

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

Chapter 15-409 Section 2 of the Township Code prohibits parking of vehicles on Township roads or rights-of-way at any time. This includes vehicles, trailers, house trailers, mobile homes, or equipment.

The Township Public Works Department always requests your cooperation in this matter, but especially during periods of snowfall and winter road maintenance.

SNOW REMOVAL PRIORITIES



We hear the same local meteorologists that you hear forecasting a mild winter with less far less snowfall predicted than our typical seasonal averages. However, we still need to prepare for the weather and the road condition challenges that winter usually brings! Residents typically call the office asking when our Public Works employees will get to a particular road or street

after a snow or ice event. Road Master Charles Behm has determined the Township’s priorities for snow removal and winter road maintenance (salting) to be as follows:

1. Major or Arterial Roads.
2. School Bus Routes.
3. Neighborhood Roads.
4. Cul-de-Sacs.

The Township has nearly 40 miles of roads to maintain and must approach winter maintenance in an organized and systematic fashion to address all roads as quickly as possible. While the Township's Road network is spread out, our Road Master has studied the Township's Road system extensively and established an efficient approach to plowing and salting to have the roads receive the attention they deserve as quickly as possible. Essentially, the Road Master has divided the Township Road system into three (3) subsystems for winter maintenance, with one employee assigned to each of these subsystems. Distances from the Township stockpiles and truck bed capacity also play a role in the assignment of a truck to a particular subsystem.

Your patience is always appreciated, but especially during snow removal and antiskid/salt spreading activities. While we want to clear your road as quickly as possible and keep you safe in your travels, we also want to keep our Public Works Department employees safe and make sure they return home to their families safely at the end of a winter maintenance shift.

EVANS CITY VFD

Evans City Volunteer Fire Department is the designated fire service provider of our Township. Mutual Aid back up is provided by our neighboring fire departments Callery VFD and Connoquenessing Boro Volunteer Fire Company. Our Evans City VFD President Aaron Walker advises all residents to have their chimneys cleaned this winter season before using a fireplace, especially if the fireplace has not been used for several years. We have several outstanding chimney cleaning companies in our area. Mr. Walker also advises that drivers need to exercise extra caution this time of the year as traffic increases, daylight hours decrease, and road conditions worsen with precipitation. And always obey traffic laws for stopped school buses! If you are not already a member of the Evans City VFD, consider joining! If you are unable to join and commit time to the fire department, consider making a donation to help them with their operational budget for 2024. Contact the ECVFD at Station20Info@gmail.com for donation and membership information. REMEMBER, ALWAYS CALL 911 FOR ANY EMERGENCY.



THINK SPRING

Mark your calendars, Spring Clean Up Day will be Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 8 AM until 1:00 PM at the Forward Township Municipal Building.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES (EMS)



During the fall of 2023, the Township spent a considerable amount of time examining the requests made by our EMS providers for financial assistance to aid them in meeting their operations budgets. Forward Township has three EMS providers designated by the County 911 Center to serve our Township. These providers are Quality EMS, Harmony EMS, and Butler Ambulance Service. The current membership and financial challenges being faced by virtually all EMS providers across our

Commonwealth are well documented, and the challenges faced by our three providers hit close to home. The Supervisors studied this issue extensively and concluded that some form of financial assistance needs to be provided to our EMS providers to help sustain their operations. One option being considered by the Supervisors is to use Township Local Service Tax revenue for this purpose and make it available in the form of a grant. This will be studied more in early 2024.

However, the Township also would like to help our EMS providers increase membership subscriptions by encouraging all



Township property owners with a residence or business on their property to become membership subscribers of the EMS provider for their area. Please refer to the map below to learn which EMS provider serves your area. The Township will have membership applications for all three providers available at the Township office for pick up, mailing, or electronic mailing for you to complete and return to the EMS provider. Your membership will not only help the EMS provider financially but will also benefit you the subscriber should you need their assistance at your residence or business. Currently, our providers report that only about 13% of property owners with residences/businesses on their property have memberships!



Why should you help? Do you know that your insurance only pays for EMS service if you are transported to a hospital? And they only pay about 75% of the actual transport cost. Our EMS providers do not get paid for responding to traffic accidents and fires, being stationed at sporting events, for patients refusing service or transport to the hospital, for patients who have passed away, and so on. There is a cost of readiness that our providers must meet, and this is where memberships come into play!

You can look at the map provided with this newsletter to determine who your designated provider is. Contact them directly for a membership application OR contact us and we will have them available for pick up or mailing (including electronic).

Butler EMS

<https://www.butlerambulance.com/>

106 1st Street, Butler, PA. 16001

Harmony EMS

<https://harmonyems.org/>

102 Mennonite Lane, Harmony, PA. 16037

Quality EMS

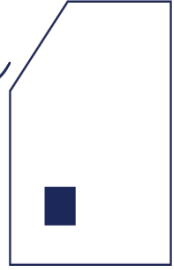
<https://qualityems.org/>

222 Brickyard Road, Mars, PA. 16046

Forward Township

BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

EST. 1854



Board of Supervisors

Mark Wilson

Steve Buehler

Susan Oliver-Stough

Municipal Office Hours

Monday – Friday (*Except Holidays*)

7:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Township Address:

207 Ash Stop Road

Evans City, PA 16033

Township Phone & Website:

724.538.9251

<https://forwardtwpbutlerco.us/>

Important Dates of 2024

Board of Supervisors

2nd Tuesday of each month at 7PM

January 2, 2024 – Reorg

January 9, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

February 13, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

March 12, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

April 9, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

May 14, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

June 11, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

July 9, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

August 13, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

September 10, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

October 8, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

November 12, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

December 10, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

Planning Commission

4th Tuesday of each month at 7PM

January 23, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

February 27, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

March 26, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

April 30, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

May 28, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

June 25, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

July 23, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

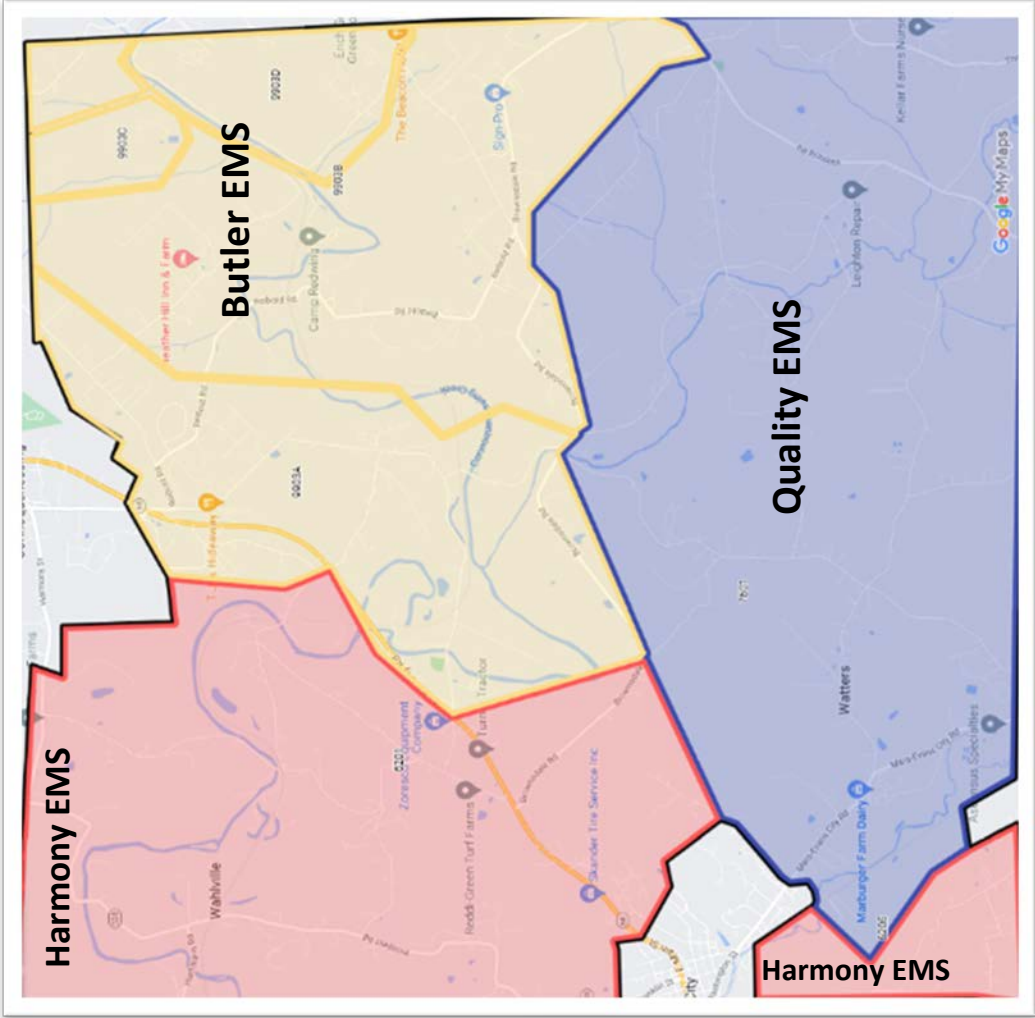
August 27, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

September 24, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

October 22, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

November 26, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

December 23, 2024 – Monthly Meeting



Harmony EMS

Butler EMS

Quality EMS

Harmony EMS