



CREST OF SPRINGETTSBURY  
INCORPORATED 1891

# SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Benjamin B. Marchant

January 14, 2020

Dear Springettsbury tax payer,

At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Township staff worked to develop a plan to fund and implement a water quality management program to achieve compliance with State and Federal mandates for a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). As a result, the Township has a plan to meet the minimum requirements in 2020 without adopting fees or raising taxes. However, more planning is necessary to prepare for the future costs of maintaining the existing storm sewer infrastructure to comply with the higher standards being recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The current Township NPDES permit (2018-2022) requires the reduction of 697,000 pounds of sediment annually from entering Township waterways by 2023. This can be accomplished in several ways, however construction projects that stabilize stream banks and repair floodplains tend to have the biggest impact. The initial estimate for achieving this mandate was \$9 per pound, or \$6 million total. Without any funding from the EPA or DEP to help pay for this extraordinary expense, the Township explored the feasibility of a fee-based program to generate the money to pay for it. A user-based fee offers the most equitable distribution of costs for such a program based on the total impervious surface area (asphalt and buildings) of each property or lot.

Fortunately, the Township received a very competitive proposal from a private contractor to achieve the minimum necessary sediment reduction for \$1,903,846 instead of \$6 million. Due to the lower than anticipated costs, the Springettsbury Township Board of Supervisors decided to fund this program from its budget reserves and hold off implementing a water quality fee for now. Township staff is directed to further study existing conditions of the public storm sewer system to better quantify the likely long-term operating and maintenance costs. In 2020, EPA and DEP will likely issue guidance about the additional requirements recommended for the next permit cycle (2023-2027). The Supervisors will use this time to review alternative funding options and ways the Township can create a sustainable long-term water quality management plan, which may or may not include a fee to Township property owners.

On behalf of the Springettsbury Board of Supervisors, I extend our sincere thanks to all those who participated in the public meetings in 2019 to discuss the funding plans for storm water management.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Marchant, C.M.

Township Manager