

The Town Crier

Abington Township and Rockledge Borough News

March 2022

Volume 1, Number 2

Contact us at atrochair@gmail.com

ATRO www.atrogop.org

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Welcome

Welcome to our second edition of the Town Crier. Each month we will endeavor to cover a couple topics relevant to our friends and neighbors in Abington and Rockledge. We invite you to get involved. Please share this with your neighbors and friends and encourage them to subscribe. If you have an idea, submit it; if you want to write an article let us know. For 2022 Candidate information visit www.atrogop.org (thank Vico)

2022 Election

Petition Period. This has been needlessly confused by decisions by the partisan (5-2 Dem Majority) PA Supreme Court. Their latest decision announced March 2 announced that committee people must circulate petitions between March 2 and March 15. Committee people please look for a letter from MCRC. Between now and March 15 petitions are circulating for candidates for PA Governor, PA Lt Gov., PA US Senate and House of Representatives and local committee people. **Hey, PA General Assembly take back control of our elections!**

People who want to run for office must gather a specified number of signatures on an official petition and submit it to the PA Department of State to qualify and get on the ballot.

The remaining 2022 races: PA State Senator, PA State House of Representative and GOP State Committee will have a petition period announced by a separate court announcement.

The PA Primary will be May 17. Please sign the petitions for our candidates.

School District

BUDGET. Remember that the district plans on raising our taxes. The school budget is out of control. There will be no educational improvement with these increased taxes. That is never even discussed. Please contact the school directors and demand they get the budget under control.



Feb 22 Meeting over 30 people commented mostly on the continued mask mandate in Abington. Fully 2/3 of the people who spoke requested/demanded that the School District trust parents to make the best decisions for the health of their children. One woman spoke eloquently about her concerns and stated that she spoke for 60 other families and had their names on a list to share with the directors. The directors were not interested in her list of friends and neighbors. Following this important comment section, the directors denied these parents' reasonable requests and tied the hand of the Superintendent by not allowing him any flexibility with masking.

Not two days later the **9 – 0 Democrat** Board realized the (Political) **Science** had changed. The (Democratic Polling) **Data** changed; amazingly, mask mandates across Dem control areas evaporated ... but not in Abington School District! After one day of noncompliance by students, the school district caved. The **superintendent defied the school directors** vote and changed the masking policy. Viola, a special meeting of the board was announced to change the vote just made Feb 22!

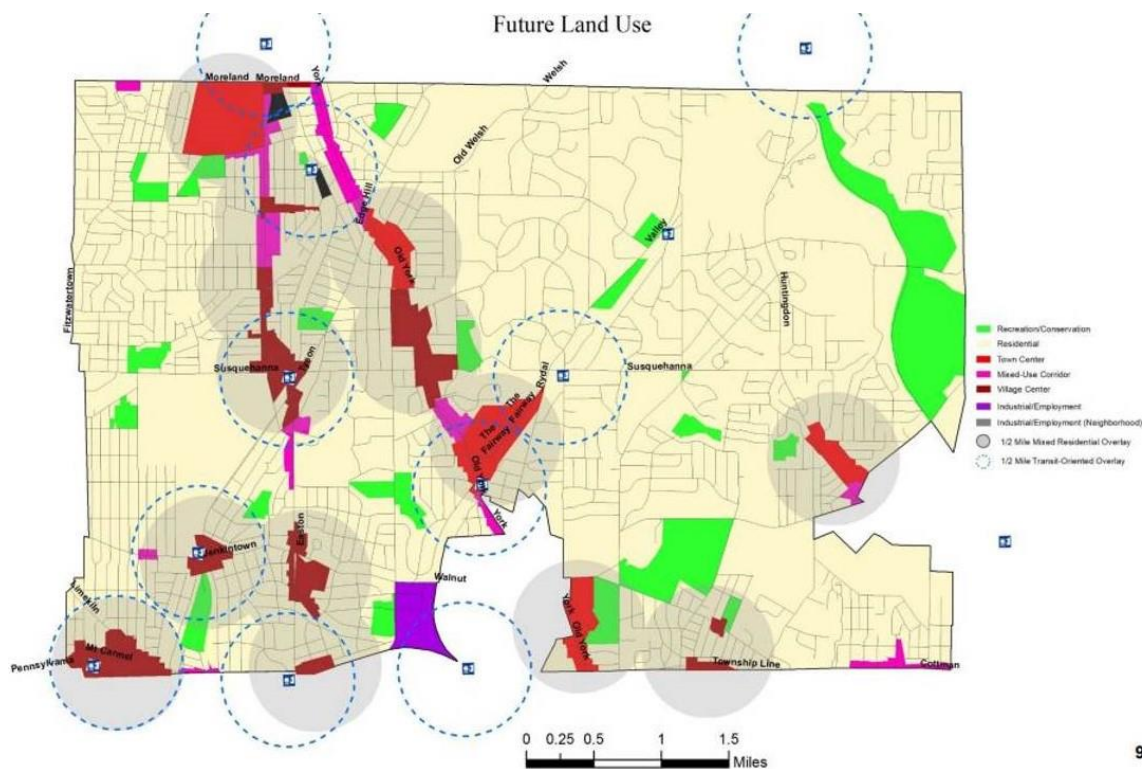
March 3 Special Meeting. The board reversed course and made masks optional. Check out these pix, our school directors are all masked up for the meeting, no masks as soon as the cameras are off! They think we are idiots. I forget, what's the word for this? **Remember they kept our kids in masks even outside!**



Township

Taxes: The commissioners **increased our township tax by 27.4% this year**; since Feb 2, 2018, the township **tax has increased over 43.6%**. They lied when they stated the tax increased 22% this year. Twp mills 2018=3.483, 2021=3.931, 2022=5.002. Check my math, you won't be pleased! FYI Our Township is 14 -1 Dem majority. They don't care about your household budget.

Speaking Rights. This is how our board treated residents at the last meeting: the whole meeting was 17 minutes long. There were three people with the courage to speak before their royal highnesses. The board president interrupted the first two speakers and cut off the third speaker. I bet money that he didn't listen to a word that these people said.



Township

Zoning: Lora Lehman has produced an outstanding synopsis of what the Township Commissioners are hoping to do to our neighborhoods. Look at where you live on this map. If you're in one of the circles, **BEWARE!**

The Township is currently working on a Comprehensive Plan that is about creating a "vision" of our Future Land Use (zoning). Unfortunately, it does not reflect anything that residents have requested. In conjunction with the Plan, we have been promised that all new requests for zoning will be consistent with the "vision" being created. In fact, the newly formed **Comprehensive**

Plan Consistency Committee is designed to do just that. It will receive text and map amendment requests and look to see if they are consistent with this Plan. So, the *vision* being created matters; once passed, future citizen comments and concerns will carry less weight.

Abington residents, for the most part, want neither dense, nor tall development, nor more traffic. We can all guess how this will affect our school taxes. **Grey circles** drawn around our neighborhoods are within 1/2 mile of any commercial center; the proposed *vision* will allow the addition of multi-family units there. If within ¼ - ½ mile of any train station (or possibly even a bus station) they may also have commercial uses allowed. **Dotted blue lines** around nearly every train station mean they can add residential and commercial. The train station circles are Transit Oriented Districts where, beside denser development (commercial and residential,) we may get to help pay the builders - often state or federal funds are available as an incentive to build near transit centers.

For more info <https://abingtoncitizens.com/page/ResidentialExplosion.html>

Commissioner Mike Thompson (Dem Ward 6) is running the Comprehensive Plan team. Comments may be made at VISION2035@ABINGTONPA.GOV

Rockledge

Mayor Jim Caffrey

Borough Council has approved the Hometown Heroes Banner project to recognize and honor Rockledge Veterans past and present. Banners will display the service person's photograph, their name, branch of the Military and the era of service. Banners will be displayed from May through Veterans Day. For more information on the program, contact heroes@verizon.net or call Anne at 215-855-1743.

Great news out of Rockledge. The two pictures are **Chief Mike Schmaltz**, **Mayor Jim Caffrey** and **SEPTA Officer Krowe** and **Rockledge PD Officer Jaworski**. Officers Rowe and Jaworski received Rockledge Life Saving Award for their quick, professional work resuscitating a patron at a Rockledge Restaurant who collapsed. These awards were presented At the Feb 28 meeting. Outstanding work Officers Krowe and Jaworski.

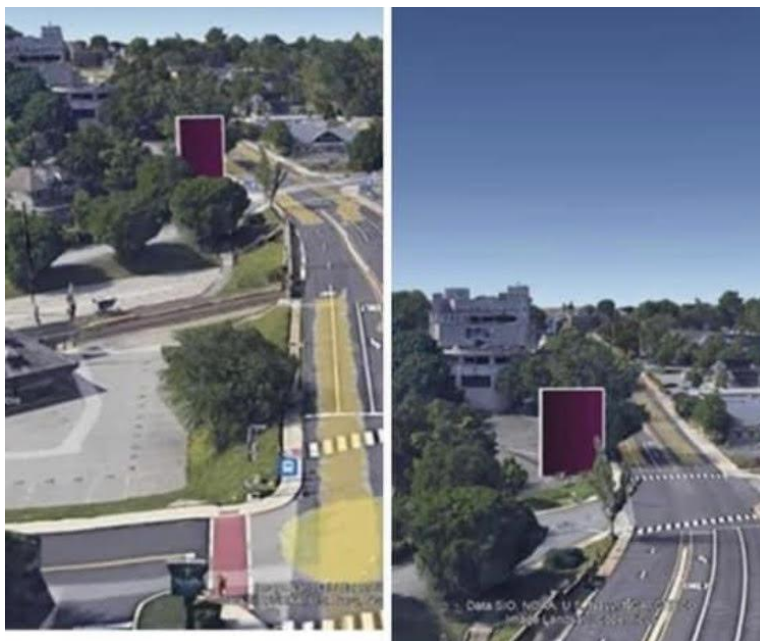




This picture shows Mayor Caffrey swearing in new **Rockledge Police Officer Mitchell Meed**, proudly witnessed by Officer Meed's mother. [Photos courtesy of Kait Metzinger]

Five-Story Electronic Billboard Proposed: 610 Old York Rd.

Pete Morse



The Jenkintown borough is considering the old Strawbridge lower parking lot to put a gigantic 45 feet high Electronic Billboard (nearly 5 stories high).

There was a meeting in the Jenkintown Borough Hall on Summit Avenue on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, to hear a new proposed ordinance permitting the construction of a monument type of Billboard at the corner of Rodman, Spring, and Old York Road. This ordinance was defeated at the meeting but was sent back for rework. Some of the council members felt the sign was too large.

Since that ordinance was defeated, the borough is now considering a monopole design (one large telephone type of pole) with an electronic sign at the top. Every town, borough, etc. in PA must permit this type of albatross. However, after contacting State Representative Ben Sanchez' office, and reviewing in detail the Municipal Planning Code where this is clearly specified- there is still no place where it has been found to say a billboard must be permitted.

State Representative Ben Sanchez, and Commissioner Stuart Weingrad both spoke against the ordinance as well as neighbors on Spring Ave and other areas. Towards the end of the meeting the Borough council decided to continue the hearing on the monopole Billboard until 7PM Wednesday March 23, 2022 at the Jenkintown Borough Hall on Summit Avenue.

This will be a disaster for both Jenkintown and Abington residents if permitted to be installed. Currently two borough council members - Alexandria Khalil, and David Ballard favor ANY type of Billboard on that site. The other members want something smaller.

Please plan to attend and speak out. Our neighbors on Spring Ave need our help and we do not want any Billboard's on OLD YORK ROAD- Abington or Jenkintown.

For more information, please contact Pete Morse pemorsejr@yahoo.com.

My Thoughts

Chris Mudge

Many of us only vote in the presidential elections. I know. I was among that group until recently. But then I started seeing that it all starts with local politics. We had the opportunity to elect Republicans for multiple local positions in 2021, including school board, ward commissioners, and tax collector. Sadly, only 33% of registered Republican vote. Many races were close enough that a better turnout could have made all the difference. Whatever the reasons for the low turnout, we cannot afford a low turnout in 2022. There is too much at stake. **Get to the polls, take your Republican family, encourage your Republican friends!**

Town Crier Staff:

Bill, Brad, Judi, Joanne, Kathy, Michele, Chris, Dolly, Vico, Mary Lou, Joe