



Leet Township Newsletter

194 Ambridge Avenue
Fair Oaks, PA 15003
724-266-2280



Winter 2025

Visit our website: leettownship.org.

UPDATE: HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT, BUDGET, TAX RATE & GRANTS

On October 22, 2024, the Board of Commissioners met in a public meeting to vote on the proposed land development plan for a new QVSD high school. This project ended up being very complex and controversial for our small, quiet Township as well as the entire QV community. The Commissioners have relied on the extensive groundwork and review done by the Planning Commission, which recommended that the Commissioners approve the project subject to 15 conditions. We were guided by very qualified and credentialed professional engineering and legal experts who were retained by the Township to review the project.

In addition to the 15 conditions enumerated in detail in our last Newsletter, two more were required by the Commissioners. First, QVSD must install 8 to 10 slope monitoring devices called inclinometers along the retaining walls for a period of two years. These devices will be regularly checked by the Township's geotechnical engineers in order to detect any possible movement. Second, QVSD will construct a pedestrian walkway in a northerly direction along Camp Meeting Road to a point across from the Pilgrim Drive entrance to Quaker Heights pending the Township securing an easement. QVSD has already planned a pedestrian walkway from the south beginning on Beaver Street.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the project, with some of the conditions requiring third-party approvals, mainly from several governmental entities. This decision was not made lightly but on the basis that the project met the objective requirements of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). Commissioners take an oath of office when elected to uphold the law, and the rule of law is followed here. The project met the requirements of the Township's SALDO. By law, a project cannot be held up just because there are third-party approvals outstanding. No building permit can be issued or construction allowed until these permits are secured. This is estimated to take approximately another six months. If any plan revisions need to be made for the third parties and the plans change, then the matter will need to come back to the Township for review and approval.

Finally, please remember that the Commissioners are not the School Board—it was not the Township Commissioners' role to say where the high school should be built, how much it should cost, or what the tax increase will be. This has already been determined by the majority of voters who elected and re-elected candidates to the School Board over the past number of election cycles. This is how a representative democracy is supposed to work.

The Commissioners adopted the municipal budget for 2025 on December 9, 2024. The main challenge facing the Township was the problem of attracting and retaining police officers. Nationwide, there is a shortage of recruits, and there are many officers retiring or leaving the profession entirely. Recently, only one or two candidates have applied for a full-time or part-time position, with some being deemed unqualified by our Civil Service requirements. In order to maintain a viable and adequately staffed police department, we have budgeted for another full-time officer mainly because hiring and retaining part-time officers is extremely difficult.

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Leet was one of only a few municipalities in our region that did not offer family medical coverage, which put us at an extremely competitive disadvantage. Family medical coverage is very expensive, and our pension costs will rise dramatically in 2025. The above costs of the sixth full-time officer, increased pension, and family healthcare costs are about \$200,000. We have also experienced a significant drop in earned income revenue (1/2% tax on wages). All these factors caused a projected deficit. We are required to have a balanced budget. Our staff is very small – (6) police full-time officer positions, (3) public works employees, and (2) office staff positions. The only way to significantly reduce expenses is by eliminating positions to balance the budget. This would have caused a serious disruption of services. The only option was to increase the property tax by 1.4 mills from 7.7 to 9.1. The last time the tax rate was increased was in 2018. The tax increase computes to a \$140 increase on each \$100,000 of assessed property value. In order to partially ease the hardship on some, we are offering the option of making (4) periodic tax installment payments rather than one lump sum. Instructions on how to do this will be in the tax bill that you will receive in the mail on March 15th from Jordan Tax Service.

To end on a more positive note, we have been awarded two large government grants: 1.) \$168,000 has been allocated to purchase a backhoe and leaf machine to replace equipment that was more than 20 years old. Also, a carport will be built at the rear of the police station to keep the patrol vehicles out of the weather, and 2.) a \$220,000 grant for renovations to the public works garage – including a new roof, garage doors, and structural repairs. Receipt of these grants will significantly improve the Township's future financial condition.

Sincerely, Leet Township Commissioners

Martin C. McDaniel

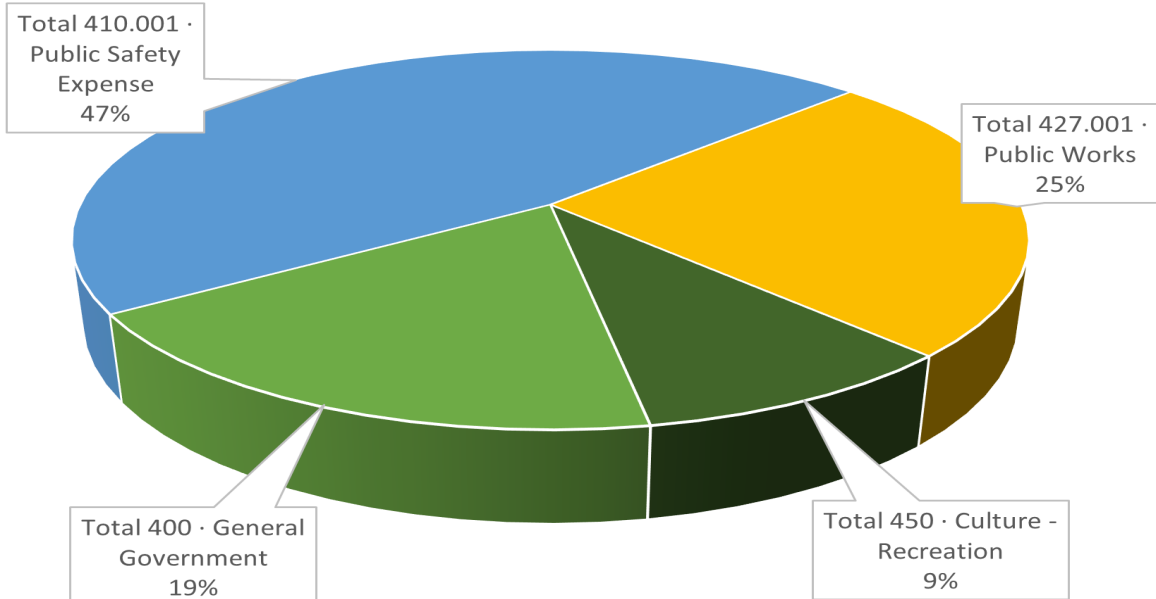
Dan Peluso

Rody Nash

Donna Adipietro

Martin P. Zimmer

Leet Township 2025 Department Expenses



Leet Township & Quaker Valley School District Real Estate Tax Collection

Jordan Tax Service
 Attn: QVSD TAX
 102 Rahway Road
 McMurray, PA 15317
 724-731-2300

Municipal Real Estate Taxes	Due Date
2% Discount	March 15th– May 15th
Face	May 16th– July 15th
Penalty	After July 15th
Turned over to Delinquent Tax Collector	December 31st
Municipal Real Estate Tax Installments	Due Date
No Discount	5% Penalty for Delinquent Payments
25%	April 30th
25%	June 30th
25%	August 31st
25%	October 31st
School Tax	Due Date
2% Discount	July 1st– Aug. 31st
Face	Sept. 1st – Oct. 31st
Penalty	After Oct. 31st
School Tax Installments (No discount)	Due Date
1st Payment	July 31st
2nd Payment	Sept. 30th
3rd Payment	November 30th
4th Payment	Jan. 31st

Allegheny County

2025 ACT 77-Senior Citizen Tax Relief

Application for 2025 will be available in February of 2025.

Primary Residence Tax Discount

The Allegheny County Treasurer’s Office administers Act 77, Senior Citizen Tax Relief, which entitles qualified senior citizen homeowners to a flat 30% discount on the real estate tax on their primary residence.

Qualifications

The applicant must meet ALL three requirements:

- **Property Ownership: 10 years**
 Must have owned and occupied a primary residence in Allegheny County continuously for the past 10 years. A property owner who has moved within the past 10 years and has continued to own and occupy the new property as a primary residence shall be eligible.
 - **Age: 60+**
 Must be age 60 or older, or, if married, either spouse must be age 60; or be a widow or widower age 50 to 60 years; or permanently disabled and age 18 to 60 years. The applicant must meet the required age by the end of the year of application.
 - **Income: ≤ \$30,000**
 Gross household income must be \$30,000 or less. For calculating income use only 50% of your Social Security Benefit, SSI, and Railroad Retirement Tier 1 Benefits (except Medicare benefits); plus, all other income must be added in at 100%.
- Program Features: Flat 30% Discount**
 Flat 30% discount of the real property tax, with a maximum of \$650 reduction per year, on their primary residence for each year you are eligible. Additionally, receive the 2% discount by paying your county taxes in full by April 30th. You may also choose the installment option, which allows eligible taxpayers to pay their GROSS county taxes in two equal installment payments, with the first payment due by **April 30th** and the second by **September 30th**. Once approved, you DO NOT need to apply again. You will continue to receive tax relief as long as you are the property owner/occupant and your household income does not exceed \$30,000.

Leet Township Senior Citizen Property Tax Relief (Must meet eligibility requirements)

This ordinance provides a 25% discount on the gross or face amount of Township real property taxes for Senior Citizen residents who meet the eligibility requirements.

Participation in Program:

- Resident must be a single person aged sixty or older; a married couple, either spouse aged 60 years or older; an unmarried widow or widower aged 50 years or older or a disabled person 18 years of age or older;
- Resident must be the long-time owner/occupant, at least 10 years;
- The property owned must be the primary personal residence of the person(s); and
- The person’s household income may not exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00).

Contact Jordan Tax Collection for more information on this program.



LEET TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

194 Ambridge Ave Ambridge, PA 15003
PHONE: (724) 266-6142 FAX: (724) 266-8071

Chief Brian M Jameson

Police Department News

- ⇒ On November 6th, 2024, the Leet Township Police Department hosted Dr. Donald E. Sheffield, Ed.D., who provided training for “Building Community with Cultural Competency.” All Leet Township officers attended, as did Commissioners Marty Zimmel, Donna Adipietro, and Township Manager Betsy Rengers. Officers from the surrounding communities were also invited to attend. We had 18 people in attendance.
- ⇒ Chief Brian Jameson, Patrolmen Charles Galzarano, James Lema, Emergency Management Coordinator Dave Volk, Fire Chief Nathan Turner, and Township Commissioner / Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Donna Adipietro participated in a disaster drill round table exercise with Encompass Health on December 17th, 2024. The exercise went as planned when everyone involved had a hands-on training exercise dealing with a disaster scenario and its effects at Encompass Health. The drill was successful as it gave 1st responders, Emergency Management, and Encompass personnel the opportunity to work together to solve problems.
- ⇒ Officer John Adams was hired as a full-time member of the police department in April 2024. He resigned from his position on January 1, 2025, to accept a full-time job in Beaver Borough. We recently conducted tests and will be replacing Officer Adams as soon as possible. John has chosen to remain a part-time officer with Leet Township, with the agreement of the Board of Commissioners. We thank him for his service and wish him the best of luck in his new role.
- ⇒ On January 13 and 14, Officer Charles Galzarano participated in and completed a two-day narcotics investigation course hosted by the Leet Township Police Department in collaboration with Law Enforcement Seminars.

Watson Institute Donation



On January 30, 2025, Barry Bohn, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Watson Institute, presented a \$3,500 check to Martin McDaniel, the President of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners, and Brian Jameson, the Leet Township Police Chief. This generous donation will be used to purchase a solar-powered Traffic Logix 12” Evolution Radar Speed Warning Sign, which will be installed on Camp Meeting Road.

Leet Township expresses gratitude to our partner, the Watson Institute, for their efforts in supporting our community and enhancing public safety.

Pictured L-R: Chief Brian Jameson, CEO Barry Bohn, and President Martin McDaniel

Special Needs Notice for First Responders

As I've mentioned before in other newsletter articles, there are two main concepts of emergency management. One is to plan for, respond to, and help recover from disasters. The other is that everything begins with the lowest level of a community, which is the individual/household, and would escalate, if necessary, to the local municipality, mutual aid agreements, county, state, and finally, the federal level. What this means is that every household should be as prepared as possible for emergencies.

To ensure that every household in Leet Township is prepared for emergencies and that our first responders are well-equipped to respond, we have revised and simplified a form called **The Special Needs Notice for First Responders**.

This form is to notify the Leet Township Police Department and the Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire Department of households that may have residents with special needs who may need assistance in the event of an emergency. For example, residents may not be ambulatory or require oxygen or special equipment.

This form is confidential and will be kept on file with the police and fire departments. The form can be found on the Leet Township website under "Township Services" and then "Forms/Permits." You can download the form and email it to:

Chief Brian Jameson at bjameson@leettwp.org or mail it to:
Leet Township
194 Ambridge Ave
Fair Oaks, PA 15003
Attn: Chief Jameson

You can also stop by the township building to complete the "Special Needs Notice for First Responders" form in person.

As first responders, we want to make sure everyone can leave their homes, if necessary, during an emergency, and this form will help identify those who may need assistance.

It is also highly recommended that residents sign up for our Rave Alert system. You can find a link to RAVE on the home page of the Leet Township website. This system will send alerts via phone call, text, email or all three in the event of emergencies or other important notifications.

Thank you, and have a safe 2025!

Dave Volk
Leet Township Emergency Manager




Join our Emergency Notification System: RAVE


To receive emergency notifications and announcements from Leet Township sign up for RAVE alerts:


Go to leettownship.org and click on "sign up now" and then follow the prompts to enter your information.








**WINTER
FIRE SAFETY
TIPS**


 **INSTALL & TEST ALARMS**
Carbon monoxide alarms should be tested at least once a month.

 **PLUG SPACE HEATERS DIRECTLY INTO OUTLETS**
Never use an extension cord or power strip.

 **HEAT YOUR HOME SAFELY**
Keep anything that can burn 3 feet away from a fireplace, wood stove, or space heater.

 **KEEP CHIMNEY & VENTS CLEAN**
Hire a qualified professional to clean and inspect your chimney and vents at least once a year.

 **NEVER USE CANDLES FOR EMERGENCY LIGHTING**
Always use flash lights and stock up on extra batteries.

 **USE FIREPLACE SAFELY**
Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen when using your fireplace.

Once again, the department would like to thank everyone who generously donated to the 2024 Fund Drive. The donation will help defray some of the cost of equipment repairs and the recent purchase of a new breathing air compressor.

In other news, the Fair Oaks Fire Department Auxiliary has dissolved, and any future fund-raising events will be coordinated by the department itself. We are still maintaining the food pantry located in the parking lot adjacent to the station.

The department is always looking for volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming a firefighter can visit the station on Monday nights. Meetings and training start at 7 PM at 190 Ambridge Avenue.

Stay Safe and check your Smoke Alarms and CO2 detectors to ensure they are not reaching their end of life and have fresh batteries installed.

Fair Oaks Fire Department Food Pantry

The Fair Oaks Fire Department operates a small food pantry for residents in need and is currently seeking non-perishable food items. We kindly ask you to consider donating non-perishable food or gift cards from a grocery store of your choice. If you're donating non-perishable food items, feel free to place them directly into the food box located in the Fair Oaks Fire Department parking lot, located at 190 Ambridge Ave, Fair Oaks, PA 15003. For gift cards or large food donations, please hand them over to a department member for proper distribution.

Thank you for your help!

**Leet Township Public Works
Andy Wanto, Foreman
724-266-8072**

Winter Weather/Snow Events

Winter has finally arrived! Our Public Works team is dedicated to working around the clock during snow events to ensure that our roads are salted and plowed for all residents. To assist us in this effort, please park your vehicles in your driveways during snow events. This will enable the Public Works Department to clear your roadways more efficiently.

Additionally, please check that your mailboxes and supporting posts are in good condition and capable of withstanding the force of snow pushed from the roads. The Township does not replace or repair mailboxes that are damaged or fall due to the force of plowed snow unless they are directly hit by the plow.

If a snowplow damages your mailbox, please contact the Leet Township Public Works Department at 724-266-8072. The Foreman will investigate the situation. Thank you for your cooperation!

Snow Removal from Sidewalks

Property owners are reminded of their duty to clear snow and ice from sidewalks during winter. This ensures the safety of everyone who uses these paths and is mandated by law under Section 302 of the Property Maintenance Code.

Thank you!



Leet Township Code Enforcement Reminders

- ⇒ Please do not leave garbage cans or bags at the curb during the week. Garbage cans should be stored at the side or back of the residence, placed out the night before pickup after 6 p.m., and returned to the house once collection is complete.
- ⇒ Leet Township does not allow trailers of any type to be stored in driveways, yards, or parking areas. Trailers may be kept in garages or screened areas out of public view.
- ⇒ Leet Township mandates that all properties remain safe and sanitary. Ensure that the yard and porch are free of clutter and debris and that pathways are unobstructed.
- ⇒ Any alterations to your property may require a zoning and/or building permit. Before you begin a project, be sure to contact the Manager's Office at 724-266-2280 x1 to see if permitting is required. This will save you time and money!

Keep Leet Neat-Township-wide Clean-up

Saturday, April 26, 2025
10 am to 12 noon

Leet Township Municipal Building
194 Ambridge Ave
Fair Oaks, PA 15003
Gloves, vests, and bags provided.
Refreshments served.

Camp Meeting Rd./Allegheny County Road Maintenance

Please be aware that Camp Meeting Road is owned and maintained by Allegheny County. Maintenance includes fallen tree branches, snow removal, pot holes and all other issues.

To report maintenance issues on Camp Meeting Road, please call
1-800-FIX-ROAD.
(1-800-349-7623)

Leet Township Meeting Dates/Times

Leet Township Board of Commissioners

Martin C. McDaniel, President
Dan Peluso, Vice President
Rody Nash
Donna Adipietro
Marty Zimmel

2025 Meeting Schedule

All meetings held at:
Leet Township Municipal Building
194 Ambridge Ave
Fair Oaks, PA 15003.

January	13 (R), 27 (WS)
February	10 (R), 24 (WS)
March	10 (R), 24 (WS)
April	14 (R), 28 (WS)
May	12 (R), 27 (WS)
June	9 (R), 23 (WS)
July	14 (R), 28 (WS)
August	11 (R), 25 (WS)
September	8 (R), 22 (WS)
October	13 (R), 27 (WS)
November	10 (R), 24 (WS)
December	8 (R), 22 (WS)

**All meetings are open to the public: Regular sessions (R) will begin at 7 PM prevailing time, and Workshop Sessions (WS) will begin at 5 PM.

Leet Township Municipal Authority

Gary Augustine, Chair
Elaine Macurak, Vice Chair
Fred Kellinger, Secretary
Bill Wanto, Treasurer
Matt Sample, Assistant Secretary

2025 Meeting Schedule

All meetings held at:
Leet Township Municipal Building
194 Ambridge Ave
Fair Oaks, PA 15003.

Meetings start at 4 p.m. and are open to the public.

February 4
April 1
April 10
June 3
August 5
October 7
December 2

The government is us; we are the government, you and I.

Theodore Roosevelt

Looking for a way to conveniently dispose of your household hazardous waste safely, easily and responsibly?

Residents have access to Waste Management's At Your Door Special Collection Service

This service is in addition to your waste and recycling service from Waste Management. No additional cost to participate. Visit www.WMAtYourDoor.com or call 1-800-449-7587 for more information.

