



General Services



January-2021
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General Services

- Direct the following County wide functions
 - Emergency Services
 - 911
 - Hazardous Material Response
 - Lehigh County Emergency Response Team
 - Assets
 - Facilities and Engineering
 - Equipment
 - Real Estate Land Acquisition & Sales
 - Farm Land Preservation
 - Capital Plan Development
 - \$130M plan this year (2021 – 2025)
 - Property leasing

General Services

- Direct the following County wide functions
 - Bridge
 - Maintenance & Engineering
 - Replacement
 - Infrastructure Planning
 - Funding Initiatives
 - Public Works
 - Sterling Raber Farmland Preservation
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Trails and Trail Development
 - Livable Landscape

General Services

- Direct the following County wide functions
 - Employee Services
 - Parking
 - Mail
 - Duplicating
 - Fleet Management & Maintenance
 - Record Archiving
 - County Liaison Supporting...
 - Lehigh Valley Airport
 - LANTA
 - Lehigh County Conservation District
 - Lehigh County Authority
 - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
 - Lehigh Valley Transportation Study
 - Penn State Extension
 - Lehigh County (Historical Society, Burnside Plantation, Velodrome, Zoo)

General Services

■ Emergency Services

- When you make a call, and hear seven words!
 - Nine one one, what is your emergency?
- The system is County wide support for public safety and was recently regionalized with Norco
 - This regionalization project with Norco was an extension of the city consolidation project mandated by the PA Legislature
- Since my time at the County, I am proud to say that we have built our support assets in Emergency Management (non 911) by \$1.5M
 - Bearcat, Cascade, Command Center, Paratech, Drone

General Services

■ Assets

- Of course you think about the Courthouse and Government Center, but...
 - Coca Cola Park
 - Jail
 - County Correction Center (work release)
 - Detox
 - Cedarbrook (Both Allentown, and Fountain Hill)
 - Hamilton Financial Center
- These assets have been, or are under review for renovation, replacement or upgrades

General Services

■ Bridges

■ Transportation Grid

- This may be one of the most important elements of General Services - maintain the grid
 - Grid is the engine that drives the Lehigh County economy
- By the numbers
 - 46 bridges, four that span the Lehigh River
 - 14 structurally deficient and 6 functionally obsolete
 - Operating Budget of \$750k/year for maintenance
 - Capital Budget of \$1.0M/year for renovation or replacement
 - Funded via PA State Act's
 - Federal Transportation Improvement Program (\$65m/5 years)
 - Last seven years, no local taxpayer money was spent on bridges

General Services

■ Bridges

■ Transportation Grid

- Where are we...
- I am a voting member of the Transportation Study
 - This is the committee that assigns priorities to projects and ensures the funding is available to complete the project
 - How much money? \$500+ million in the next four years, \$1+ billion in the next 12 years, and an additional \$1 billion through year 2045... We have been averaging about \$2.5B!
 - Problem: cuts in funding
 - Our unmet projects list has grown to \$4.0B
 - By 2040, our freight traffic will double, for every truck you see, there will be two trucks and for every two cars, there will be three
 - What can we do...

General Services

■ Bridges

■ Transportation Grid

- Where are we...
- Funding problem versus Planning Problem
 - The back story
 - \$4.2B of funding was removed from the State Motor Vehicle License Fund (Gas tax revenue) to support State Police
 - State reduced the infrastructure budget by 4%
 - Federal gas tax hasn't changed since 1993
 - Federal Act to support infrastructure sunsets in 2021
 - Vehicle gas efficiency has decreased available funding

General Services

■ Bridges

■ Transportation Grid

- Where are we...
- Funding problem versus Planning Problem
 - So, what is on the radar
 - Tolls for Interstates
 - \$5 car registration fee
 - User fee versus gas tax
 - Tax increases at local municipalities
 - Dock door tax
 - Legislative action to ensure MVLF is for infrastructure only
 - Do you have any ideas for me?

General Services

■ Public Works

■ Trexler Nature Preserve – Leaser Lake

- You know, we are one of only about five Counties in PA that do not have a State Park or Lake
- This means we have to locally fund our assets

■ Trails

- People want this recreation opportunity

■ Farmland Preservation

- Approaching 26k acres preserve
- 2021 budget was \$2.0M local and \$2.0M State

■ Why do this? Improves house value!

General Services

■ County Liaison

- Locally we need to maintain clean water and pristine land; therefore, the regulations are directed by the State DEP through our local Conservation District
- Conservation District regulates the rules of development and the pendulum swings constantly
- Balance is our goal!

General Services

■ County Liaison

- Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code legislative action requires each municipality the authority to manage their territory.
- Good and Bad
 - I am a proponent for County planning
 - Allows us to manage growth
 - Keeps municipalities as good neighbors
 - Permits infrastructure planning to support growth
- LVCP is responsible for monitoring; however, no authority to restrict growth

General Services

- Lehigh County
 - LC – one of the fastest economic growth counties in the country
 - My goal is prosperity for our residents!

General Services

■ Finally

- I am the Capital Planner for the County
 - Our capital plans are designed to maintain the asset base of the County
 - Funding Options include
 - Grants, Financing, Cash, Reimbursements
 - Asset Base is ~\$600M
 - Not unusual to spend \$19M/year
 - With a large dollar amount attributed to finance
 - To finance or not to finance...

General Services



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Then, after lunch...

Ta-Dah!!

