

2016 Montgomery Township Committee Reorganization Remarks – 1/07/16

Committeeman Rich Smith

Good Evening everyone. First I'd like to congratulate Christine Madrid and Mark Conforti on their successful election, welcome back Mark.

I'd also like to thank Chris Sugden for his three years of dedication to the Committee, we will miss your support and insight.

The question I ask myself all the time is "What do Montgomery citizens want the most", and from all the people I have talked with over the years its comes down to; great service from the Township departments, lower taxes, a roadway system that's in good condition with less traffic, and a vision for the future.

Ensuring that these goals are delivered is the responsibility of the Township Committee, and that is why you elected us. It also comes from planning, smart growth and hard work. Over the course of the next 3 years Montgomery will begin to see the results of the hard work the Township staff, our Professionals and this Committee have been working on over the past few years.

We have some very exciting plans and developments in the works that will contribute significantly to the tax base and help improve our roadway system. As the point person for all land, development and construction issues my focus and commitment over the next two years of my term will be to help guide these to reality. Let me describe a few:

The 206 & 518 corners – This is probably the most important intersection in our town. Three of the four corners are about to undergo some major changes that will dramatically improve our township in many ways. Exciting new retail and restaurants will be built with open green public spaces throughout, loop roads will be constructed to improve traffic flow and old buildings will be demolished and replaced with new ones. These mixed-use facilities will also include some residential and commercial space so that people can live, work, shop and eat in a village-like setting.

Belle Mead and Pike Run Plazas – After decades of waiting, the residents of Belle Mead will finally have new retail stores and restaurants right around the corner so they don't have to go to Hillsborough to shop. Two new retail centers will begin construction this year at Belle Mead Griggstown Road.

Montgomery Roads and Sidewalks – Last year we doubled the road maintenance budget and paved over 10 miles of roads through the Department of Public Works, subcontractors and the County and fixed hundreds of feet of sidewalks. More will happen this year too.

Cherry Valley Road – Over two years ago we made a commitment to fix what I believe is the worst road in the Township. We partnered with Princeton and expect to be in construction this summer.

206 & Cherry Valley Road - Western loop road – PSE&G has almost completed the first half of the loop road that will take more traffic off 206 and we are in discussions

with a land owner to finish the final portion and build a great new ratable facility within the next year.

Police Department and Township Building – One of the greatest assets we have in this Township is our police department and we need to provide them with the equipment and facilities necessary to allow them to perform their jobs to the best of their ability. Two years ago Captain Palmer gave me a tour of the police facility and I was shocked at what I saw. The space is almost thirty years old, is run down, worn out and technically obsolete. No one should be working in these conditions, especially our police force. I decided right then that it was time to bring it into the 21st century. For the past year we have been programming their new space and beginning in February we will be hiring a design firm to transform the police department and other public areas of the municipal building into a modern facility that meets the needs of the police and our citizens, and projects the current vibrant image of Montgomery Township. Construction will begin later this summer.

As you can see there are a lot of positive actions taking place that are addressing the top concerns of Montgomery citizens.

As I say every year at this meeting to the residents of Montgomery.... if you have an idea, a concern or a question.... we want to hear from you. Let's continue to work together and make the vision we all have for Montgomery a reality!