



MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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April 18, 2017

Tom Kneeland
Mayor
City of Gahanna
200 South Hamilton
Gahanna, OH 43230

Subject: Public Improvements to be funded from Johnstown Road TIF

Dear Mayor Kneeland:

As you are aware, the City and Township entered into an Infrastructure Funding Agreement dated August 24, 2016, for the Johnstown Road TIF, whereby the City agreed to pay a portion of the TIF service payments to the Township. Section 1 of the Agreement requires the Township to use those amounts to fund public infrastructure improvements benefiting or serving the TIF area, as described in the TIF ordinance adopted by City Council and as further identified by the Township.

Attached to this letter is a list of improvements that the Township has identified as qualifying public infrastructure improvements under the TIF ordinance. The most significant of these improvements is the proposed 9-1-1 Center, which will greatly enhance the safety of the residents and businesses within the TIF area by allowing greater coordination between Township fire and EMS services and City police services. We trust that the City will agree with the tremendous benefits of these improvements that will be realized by residents, property owners and business owners within the TIF area.

In the interest of maintaining and increasing cooperation and good relations between the City and Township, we request that City Council adopt legislation confirming the Township's interpretation that these improvements are public infrastructure improvements benefiting or serving the Johnstown Road TIF area.

We value the cooperative relationship that exists between the City and the Township and believe that these projects can be one more example of how our relationship benefits the citizens of the City and Township. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions regarding our request.

Very Truly Yours,

Joseph Spanovich

Richard Angelou

Lynn Stewart

Attachment

List of Public Infrastructure Improvements

1. 9-1-1 Center:

The proposed facility will be owned and operated by Mifflin Township (Fire Division) and be used primarily to house the Fire Department 9-1-1 MECC Dispatchers and possibly the Gahanna Police 9-1-1 Dispatchers based on the needs and interests of the City. The facility will also contain one or more of the following elements which are also designed for public protection and/or public training and education:

- 1) Backup Emergency Operations Center (EOC) use which is a space for officials and responders to work during local and regional disasters and emergencies.
- 2) Public safety training classroom and related support space for training citizens and local workers.
- 3) Temporary evacuation shelter for residents/workers who may be temporarily displaced during a major event or disaster.

The TIF properties will benefit directly from the services provided by 9-1-1 Centers who will operate more quickly and efficiently together than separately. TIF properties benefit directly by having access to fire and safety training not presently available to local businesses and residents due to a lack of appropriate training spaces. Residents within these TIF areas will also benefit by having access to a temporary emergency shelter as well as benefiting from the expanded capabilities offered by a backup Emergency Operations Center within the City and Township.

2. Firefighting Apparatus

The Fire Division is scheduled to replace a ladder truck in 2018-2019. This apparatus is critical to fire and rescue services delivery within the TIF area and will serve to maintain and enhance property values in, and enable further development of the TIF areas. There is only one such truck in our community which is located in the Rocky Fork Fire Station. The TIF properties will benefit directly by the use of this apparatus which is sent to every utility and fire emergency in Gahanna. It is particularly important for responding to multiple story homes and large multi-story apartment communities of which the current TIF area is comprised of. The ladder truck carries specialized equipment for dealing with utility emergencies, a complement of ground ladders used to rescue occupants and to access roofs for firefighting and ventilation operations.

3. Firefighting, Public Safety, Public Service and Industrial Training Facilities

The Fire Division is in need of training and practice (drilling) facilities for firefighters, paramedics and rescue technicians. Facilities include a multi-story drill tower and adjoin small structures to practice firefighting operations. Live firefighting is not required in such a facility although smoke will be utilized. These facilities generally serve multiple purposes and can be used by the City's police department, service departments and local industrial workers to meet their required safety training needs. These facilities can also be used to conduct hands-on training for civilians who may encounter a fire or utility emergency and in preparation for weather and regional disasters.

The TIF properties benefit directly by having well prepared, trained, and experienced public service and safety workers. As a result of limited tax dollars public safety departments are doing more work with less staff – necessitating cross-functional training and expertise. Training facilities provide the opportunity to develop this expertise which results in a positive outcome for citizens and local businesses and enhance the value of properties within the TIF areas.