

# **INTRODUCTORY SECTION**

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# Township of Falls

BUCKS COUNTY, PA



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July 31, 2018

Board of Supervisors

Jeff Boraski  
Jeffrey E. Dence  
Brian M. Galloway  
Robert J. Harvie, Jr.  
Jeffrey Rocco

To the Board of Supervisors and the Citizens of Falls Township:

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Township of Falls, Bucks County, Pennsylvania for the year ended December 31, 2017 is hereby submitted.

This report presents the financial position of the Township of Falls as of December 31, 2017, and the results of its operations and cash flows for its proprietary fund types for the year then ended. The financial statements and supporting schedules have been prepared by the Township's Finance Department in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by Major & Mastro, LLC, Certified Public Accountants.

Management assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of the information contained in this report, based upon a comprehensive framework of internal control that has been established for this purpose. Because the cost of internal control should not exceed anticipated benefits, the objective is to provide reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of any material misstatements.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the enclosed data is accurate in all material respects and is reported in a manner designed to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the various funds of the Township of Falls.

The organization, form, and contents of this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the accompanying financial statements and the statistical tables were prepared in accordance with standards established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA), the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), and the Second Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require that management provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designated to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it. The MD&A can be found immediately following the report of the independent auditors.

## Financial Entity

The Township of Falls provides a full range of municipal services including police and fire protection, construction and maintenance of streets and storm sewers, recycling, residential solid waste pickup, zoning regulations, building inspections, park and recreational activities, and maintenance and replacement of street lights. In addition to general government activities, the governing body has a fiduciary responsibility for pension trust funds and agency trust funds. Contributions to Fire Companies, Rescue Squads and the Library serving Falls Township residents are funded through real estate tax levies.

### **General Information**

The Township of Falls is a Township of the Second Class under Pennsylvania law. The governing body of the Township is the Board of Supervisors which is comprised of five (5) members who are elected at large and serve six (6) year terms. The Board is empowered with legislative functions that include enacting ordinances and resolutions, adopting a budget, levying taxes, providing for appropriations, awarding bids and contracts, and making appointments to various boards and commissions. The chief executive officer of the Township is the Township Manager who is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Township Manager is responsible for implementing ordinances and resolutions of the Board, supervising the administration of all departments and boards, and preparing and submitting the annual budget and capital improvement programs for the Township.

The Township of Falls, incorporated July 27, 1692, encompasses approximately 26.5 square miles of the southeastern corner of Bucks County, Pennsylvania between the larger cities of Trenton, New Jersey and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (6 miles and 9 miles apart, respectively) and is bordered by Tullytown Borough, Middletown Township, Lower Makefield Township, Morrisville Borough and the Delaware River with the State of New Jersey on the opposite side of the river. The Township and neighboring municipalities are closely related in terms of both economics and physical development, and are served in some cases by the same highways, water lines and sewer lines. The 2010 U.S. Census reports a population of 34,300.

The Township is principally residential, commercial, and industrial in character. There are a number of major retail shopping areas in the Township, most notable of which are the Court at Oxford Valley and the Fairless Hills Shopping Center. Aria Health's Bucks County Campus, one of three major hospitals that serve the Lower Bucks County area, is located in Falls Township.

The Falls Township Police Department is a full service police agency, providing all police services within our community. The agency embraces the concept of Community Policing and emphasizes problem oriented policing. They work in partnership with the community, addressing all issues affecting our citizens. The department is also an accredited police department under the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association/Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission receiving the status in 2003. This accreditation was the first in Bucks County and the twelfth in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The department followed procedures for recertification in April 2015 and was able to retain the accreditation status for an additional three years. The Chief of Police and four Lieutenants oversee the operations of 46 full time police officers assigned to the Patrol, Detectives and Community Partnership Units and 7 civilian employees ranging from Animal Control to Clerical to Court Liaison. The department also has a fleet of 56 police vehicles.

The Falls Township Police K9 Unit was started in 2002. It consisted of Lt. Ward and his K9 partner Dante, then Sgt. Beauchmin and his K9 partner Jessie. Today, the K9 unit consists of four teams. They are: Ofc. Elmore and his K9 partner Monty along with Ofc. Fisher and his K9 partner Leo both explosives detection teams, and Ofc. Langan and his K9 partner Tag along with Ofc. Lundquist and his K9 partner Zico both narcotic detection teams. All K9s are patrol trained. Monty, Leo, and Tag are Belgian Malinois, and Zico is a German Shepherd. To date, they have successfully apprehended and tracked numerous felons as well as finding lost persons. They have participated in many successful searches and seizures. Throughout every year, the officers conduct several K9 demonstrations and go to schools to teach students about safety and law enforcement. Having a K9 unit in Falls Township has not only protected the public, but kept the officers safe as well.

The Pennsbury School District administrative offices are located within Falls Township. Pennsbury High School campus, east and west, and six grade schools serve the community with an approximate enrollment of 10,530. The district provides educational services to Falls Township and three neighboring municipalities. The school district has been named a model high school by the Federal Department of Education. Education from nursery school through the eighth grade is also provided by the Pen Ryn School, a private school within the Township's boundaries.

The Fire Marshal's department continually strives to achieve goals in fire safety and environmental concerns. The department is continuing to upgrade its operations by expanding its radio system for

emergency management and municipal use. This radio system is also used as a backup for the police department in the event the County's radio system goes down. An ongoing project in the department includes an Emergency Preparedness Planning and training of various hotel/motel and business operators in the event of an emergency. This project helps both the responders and the community by gathering and distributing contact information before emergencies happen and training entities in the procedures to follow until rescue services arrive. The department also uses the Fire Safety Trailer for community functions to promote safety awareness for children and adults. The trailer simulates smoke in a home and fire officials train citizens what to do in the event of a fire and how to exit the home. They also distribute fire related materials, smoke detectors and offer free safety inspections. This department is made up of the fire marshal, one part-time and two full-time inspectors, and one secretary.

Falls Township is served by three volunteer Fire Companies – Falls Fire Company, Levittown Fire Company and the Fairless Hills Fire Company. The Township is also served by two Rescue Squads – the Levittown Fairless Hills Rescue Squad and the Morrisville Rescue Squad. These agencies provide professional emergency services to Falls Township twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week as well as serving neighboring communities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, when requested. All agencies receive financial aid from tax dollars contributed by the Township (a total of \$533,000 in support for 2017) although tax funding covers only a portion of their operating costs. Most of the funding for operations comes from individual contributions via fund drives and other fund raising events. On average, one hundred individuals volunteer for the Fire Companies and seventy volunteer at the Rescue Squads.

The Falls Township Parks and Recreation Department oversees sixteen parks which contain playgrounds, athletic fields, tot lots, basketball courts, gardens, trails and pavilions encompassing over 408 acres. Our parks are also home to: the Challenger Field at the Levittown Continental Little League field located off of Mill Creek Road, which provides our special needs youths a fully accessible baseball field; an Inclusive Playspace on Phase I of the Township Community Park, which is completely accessible for anyone using a wheelchair or walker, allowing children of any ability to play; and, a boat ramp located in Quaker Penn Park, which provides area boaters access to the Delaware River. These parks and facilities are maintained by the Township's Public Works department, a Park Security staff patrols the Falls Community Park, and overall supervision is provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. This department also provides year round programs and activities for residents.

In addition to the aforementioned parks, the Parks and Recreation Department oversees operations at the Pinewood Pool. The pool was fully renovated in 2003, transforming a forty year old pool into a state of the art facility designed for the safety and enjoyment of all swimmers. This pool provides entertainment for the community at extremely reasonable prices while maintaining the finest amenities. A new water slide was installed on the pool property in 2010. The wading pool underwent complete re-plastering and tilework in 2014, and the main pool underwent that same process prior to the season opening in 2016.

#### **Economic Conditions and Outlook**

The Township of Falls' initial growth was due largely to the location of the United States Steel plant in the Township in March of 1951. On 3,800 acres of farm land, the steel plant, referred to as the Fairless Works, employed 9,000 to 10,000 individuals from Falls Township and its surrounding communities. To accommodate the migration of steelworkers to Falls Township, Danhurst Corporation developed 1,100 single-family homes and William Levitt developed 4,000 single-family homes increasing the township's population from 3,000 to 30,000 residents. The Danhurst development was named Fairless Hills and the Levitt development called Levittown. Land values rose rapidly, enticing farmers to sell their land to developers.

From 1950 through the 1970s, the township experienced significant commercial development due largely to the mill operations. The Fairless Hills Shopping Center, along with several strip malls, was built to accommodate the needs of the growing population. Unfortunately, in 1973, the steel making operations at the Fairless Works began a steady decline. The downturn had a devastating effect on the Township's economy.

In the southern portion of Falls Township, the Warner Company developed a 46 acre landfill and began operations in August of 1970. The Warner Company, through its subsidiary Geological Reclamation Operations and Waste Systems, Inc. (G.R.O.W.S.), was issued permits to operate a solid waste disposal facility in the Morrisville section of the Township. The facility, which was subsequently sold to Waste Management, Inc., has expanded to approximately 752.8 acres since operations began. These operations provide the Township, as the host community, with waste disposal tonnage fees and benefit the residents through refuse removal and recycling pick up at no charge based on Solid Waste Agreements negotiated by Township Officials.

In 1991, a Development Agreement was signed with Wheelabrator Falls Inc., a subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc., to permit the construction of the first recycling and energy recovery facility in Bucks County. Operations began in May of 1994 providing the Township with an additional revenue stream of per ton fees for refuse delivered to the plant.

Over the past twenty-two years, the Township has experienced renewed economic growth due to the redevelopment of the former Fairless Works site. Although the major steel operations are no longer continuing, the sections of land previously occupied by the mill are being subdivided and redeveloped into building lots with several large industries locating, or in the process of locating, at this site.

In 2004, a large portion of the former Fairless Works site was designated a Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone (KOIZ). This designation was approved by Falls Township, Pennsbury School District and Bucks County. As a KOIZ designated area, fifteen-year tax abatement is granted in an attempt to make the former mill site more attractive to businesses opting to relocate into Falls Township. United States Steel Corporation has renamed the site the Keystone Industrial Port Center (KIPC). Some of the companies now located there include: CSC Sugar, Reed Minerals, Air Products, Sika Corporation, Dominion Power, Toll Brothers, International Salt, Kinder Morgan, Excelon, A.L. Patterson, Abington Reldon, Hiossen, Mount Materials, Four Seasons Trucking, GMA Garnet, U.S. Steel Galvanizing, Kelly Pipe, Covanta, and Fox Railroad Construction.

One of the standards used by the financial industry to determine the financial condition of a municipality is an examination of the entity's ability to borrow funds. As of December 31, 1991, the Township could legally borrow up to \$5 million dollars. As of December 31, 2017, the Township is legally able to borrow in excess of \$60 million dollars. The Board of Supervisors has not incurred debt since January 1, 1992 and has no plans to borrow funds in the future.

#### **Long-Term Financial Planning**

The Township continues to maintain a long-term restricted savings account designed to be available when tipping fees from the landfill, operated by Waste Management, are no longer received. By December 31, 2017, the Township had approximately \$31,000,000 in the account with an additional \$2 million deposited in early 2018. With aggressive savings and competitive interest rates, it is anticipated that the interest earned can assist the General Fund with a revenue stream on an annual basis achieving the Township's goal of funding operating costs long after tipping fees have ceased.

The 2006 sale of the Township's Water and Sewer department created a \$15,000,000 receivable from the Township of Falls Authority (TOFA). In the years leading up to the sale, the cost of purchasing water and the sale of wastewater had become increasingly expensive. Coupled with the cost of operating expenses, it became apparent the best interest of the Township was to form the Authority to allow autonomy in increasing rates for customer billing. TOFA repaid the Township in full on September 21, 2011, well in advance of the balloon principle due date of December 31, 2011.

### **Relevant Financial Policies**

**Internal Control Structure:** Management of the Township is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure that is designed to ensure that the assets of the Township are protected from loss, theft or misuse, that transactions are executed in accordance with management's integrity, and to ensure that adequate accounting data is compiled to allow for preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that: (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the evaluation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

**Budgeting Controls:** The annual budget is the financial blueprint for Falls Township. By documenting the allocation of funds, the budget reflects the policies and projects that are priorities to the Township. As per section 3201 of the Second Class Township Code, the Township's fiscal year begins on the first day in January and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> of that calendar year. Generally, a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year is approved by the Board of Supervisors in mid-December. The Second Class Township Code permits the Board to amend the budget following any municipal election. The amended budget must then be adopted by February 15<sup>th</sup> and no proposed amended budget shall, before final adoption, be revised upward in excess of 10% in the aggregate or in excess of 25% of the amount of any major category. Activities of the general fund, special revenue funds, and capital projects funds are included in the annual appropriated budget.

The level of budgetary control (that is, the level at which expenditures cannot legally exceed the appropriated amount) is established by departmental classification.

The Township also maintains an encumbrance accounting system as an additional technique of budgetary control. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are liquidated.

### **Major Initiatives**

During 2017, the Township continued its participation in the Bucks County Consortium of Municipalities. The Consortium is comprised of all municipalities in Bucks County that employ professional management staff. The goal of the Consortium is to encourage inter-municipal cooperation in such areas as purchasing of materials and supplies, household hazardous waste collection and disposal, and personnel related matters.

Fiscal year 2017 marks the fifteenth year of the Township's participation in the NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) Phase II. This is a program mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Township continues to enforce all requirements associated in accordance with NPDES.

Also in 2017, the Township planned for the full depth reconstruction of Walton Drive (from Elbow Lane to Lions Drive) and the mill and overlay of the Mill Creek Parkway eastbound, Leshia Drive, Rice Drive, Andrew Drive, Laura Way, and Makefield Turn. Full depth reconstruction historically has consisted of new curbs, driveway aprons, various sidewalks, storm sewer pipes and the roadway itself. The Township is nearing completion of its goal, begun in the early 1990's, of the reconstruction of all Township-owned roadways. The Township anticipates completion of its road program within the next five years.

### **Other Information**

The independent auditor appointed by the Board of Supervisors for the year ended December 31, 2017 is the firm of Major & Mastro, LLC. The independent auditor's report on the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information is included in the Financial Section of this report. Major & Mastro, LLC has issued an unmodified opinion for the year ended December 31, 2017.

**Certificate of Achievement**

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Township of Falls for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. This was the nineteenth consecutive year that the Township has received this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, the Township published an easily readable and efficiently organized report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. The Township believes the current report continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement program requirements, and is submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

**Acknowledgements**

The preparation of the 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of the entire staff of the Finance Department. Members of the Administration, Code Enforcement, Zoning, Fire Marshal, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Police departments who assisted and contributed to the preparation of this report have my sincere appreciation for their contributions. Due credit should be given as well to the Board of Supervisors for their interest, support and leadership in planning and conducting the operations of the Township in a responsible and progressive manner. Without their support, the preparation of this report would not have been possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean E. Reukauf  
Finance Director  
July 31, 2017





Government Finance Officers Association

**Certificate of  
Achievement  
for Excellence  
in Financial  
Reporting**

Presented to

**Township of Falls  
Pennsylvania**

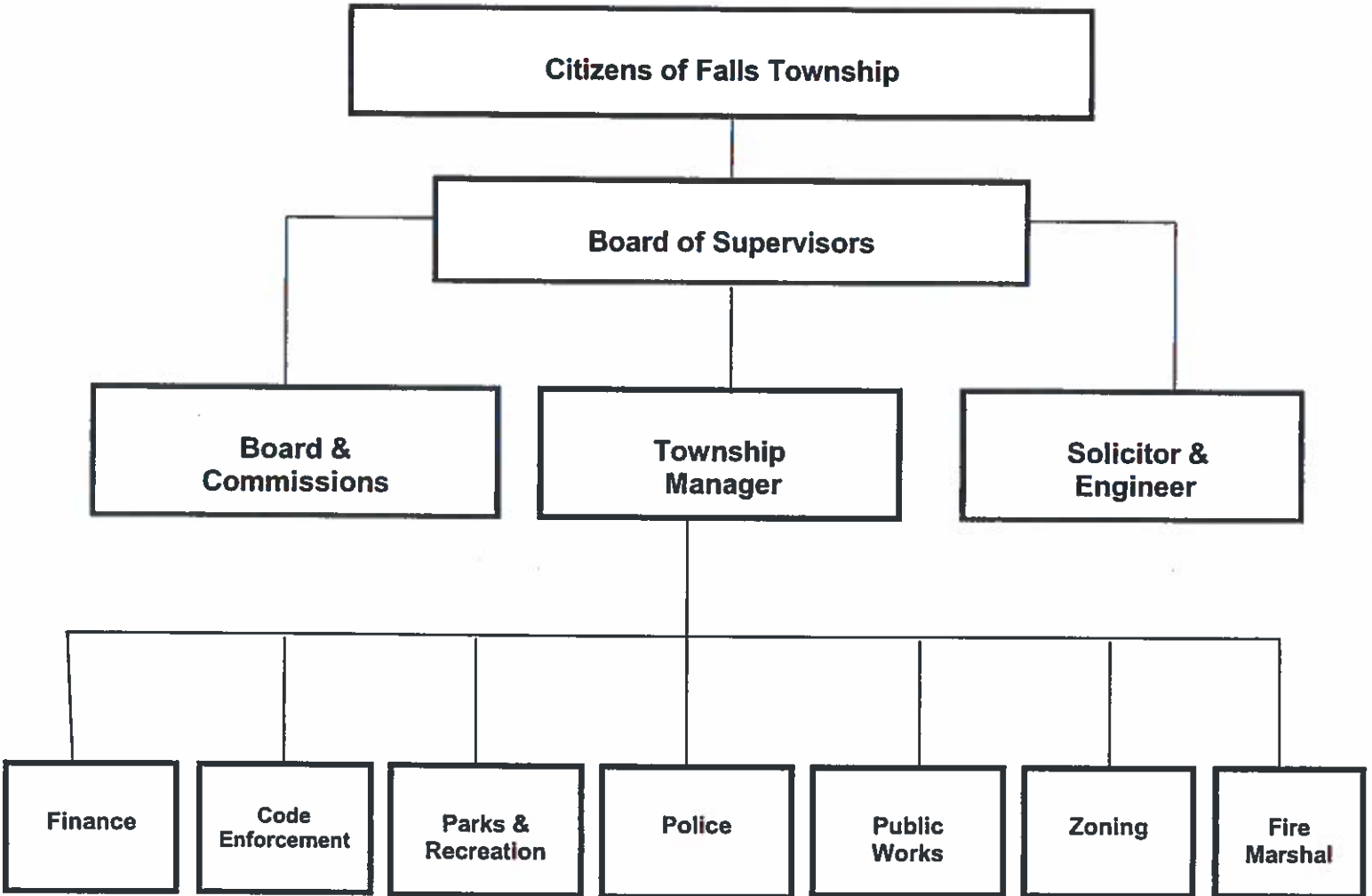
For its Comprehensive Annual  
Financial Report  
for the Fiscal Year Ended

**December 31, 2016**

*Christopher P. Morrill*

Executive Director/CEO

**Falls Township  
Organizational Chart**



**Appointed Citizen Advisory Boards and Commissions**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Board of Auditors</b>                             | <b>Cable Advisory Board</b>       |
| <b>Environmental Advisory Council</b>                | <b>Board of Appeals</b>           |
| <b>Disabled Persons Advisory Board</b>               | <b>Parks and Recreation Board</b> |
| <b>Planning Commission</b>                           | <b>Zoning Hearing Board</b>       |
| <b>Police Pension Committee</b>                      | <b>Shade Tree Commission</b>      |
| <b>Historic Preservation Commission</b>              |                                   |
| <b>Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee</b>       |                                   |
| <b>Community and Economic Development Commission</b> |                                   |

**2017 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Robert J. Harvie, Jr., Chairperson**

**Jeffry E. Dence, Vice Chairperson**

**Jeffrey Rocco, Secretary/Treasurer**

**Brian M. Galloway, Member**

**Jeff Boraski, Member**

**CURRENT EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS**

**Peter F. Gray, Township Manager**

**Michael P. Clarke, Esq., Township Solicitor**

**James C. Sullivan, P.E., Township Engineer**

**William Wilcox, Police Chief**

**Jean E. Reukauf, Finance Director**

**Richard Dippolito, Fire Marshal**

**Thomas Bennett, Zoning Officer**

**Jason R. Lawson, Public Works Director**

**Brian Andrews, Parks & Recreation Director**

**Todd Pletnick, Police Lieutenant**

**Henry Ward, Police Lieutenant**

**Nelson Whitney, Police Lieutenant**

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS  
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

