Pottstown has a proud heritage, great architecture, a real downtown, an efficient street system, and a population that reflects the racial diversity of our country.

What it doesn’t have is financial resources. It takes a lot of money to maintain our streets and buildings, which will increase our appeal to the middle class people we need to sustain and improve our community.

Here are some issues we need to address in 2019 to best manage our resources for the common good.

**Commentary by Thomas Hylton**

**TOPICS FOR 2019**

**POTTSTOWN IS HEAVILY TAXED** - Our school district ranks 6th of 500 school districts in local tax effort. Borough taxation isn't much better. Getting taxes under control is a critical issue.

**GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** - Nearly 40 percent of Pottstown's total land area is paved over for buildings, streets, and parking lots. We can improve our environment by replacing asphalt with more trees and plants.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** — Code enforcement is intended to make our buildings safe. But inconsistent and overzealous code enforcement may actually discourage investors from fixing up our neglected buildings.

**CRIME** — Lots of people think Pottstown is crime ridden. It isn’t. We’ll be fighting that perception again this year.

**PHILANTHROPY** — Pottstown needs a lot of investment, and there's plenty of private money available, if people are willing to contribute.

**VISUAL APPEAL** — Pottstown’s appearance is vitally important, for our quality of life and to attract new residents and businesses to our borough.