

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Long term projects and costs

On Tuesday, we published projected local government spending for 2022, a total of \$111 million for Pottstown borough and the school district combined.

Earlier this fall, the borough and school district laid out their planned infrastructure spending over the next 10 years. The borough anticipates spending \$39 million, of which 70 percent the borough hopes, and we emphasize, *hopes*, will be covered by county, state, and federal grants.

The school district, having spent more than \$78 million for renovations and new construction of school buildings in the last 20 years, antici-

pates a relatively modest \$7.4 million for equipment and building envelope maintenance.

Regrettably, none of this will go for green infrastructure.

Infrastructure costs a lot to build and maintain, but the big spending

goes for employee salaries and benefits. For example, as the bottom of this page shows, taxpayers are liable for \$27 million just to cover health benefits for retired police officers and their families. (*More next week.*)



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

| Pottstown Borough 10-year physical needs summary         |                     |                    |                     |                        |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Project  | Cost                | General Fund       | Grants              | Federal Covid Stimulus |
| Stormwater Arch Rehabilitation                           | \$7,500,000         | \$1,000,000        | \$5,500,000         | \$1,000,000            |
| South Charlotte, Evans, and Franklin bridge replacements | \$20,000,000        | \$4,000,000        | \$16,000,000        | 0                      |
| Keystone Boulevard Extension                             | \$6,000,000         | \$1,500,000        | \$4,500,000         | 0                      |
| Moser Road bridge repairs                                | \$300,000           | \$100,000          | \$200,000           | 0                      |
| LED streetlight conversion                               | \$700,000           | \$100,000          | \$600,000           | 0                      |
| Repave five public parking lots                          | \$300,000           | \$300,000          | 0                   | 0                      |
| Municipal Airport coating painting and apron paving      | \$180,000           | \$180,000          | 0                   | 0                      |
| Memorial Park bridge replacement                         | \$425,000           | \$75,000           | \$275,000           | \$75,000               |
| Other projects   | \$3,000,000         | \$2,500,000        | \$500,000           | \$1,025,000            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$39,000,000</b> | <b>\$7,400,000</b> | <b>\$27,500,000</b> | <b>\$2,100,000</b>     |
| Pottstown School District 10-year physical needs summary |                     |                    |                     |                        |
| Mechanical Electrical Plumbing                           | \$3,314,000         | \$3,314,000        |                     |                        |
| Building Envelope (7 years)                              | \$4,098,050         | \$4,098,050        |                     |                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$7,412,050</b>  | <b>\$7,412,050</b> |                     |                        |

Liability for projected health insurance costs of retired police officers... \$27,281,726