

VOL. BARTO FIRE COMPANY COMMUNITY INFO FOR PROPOSED NEW FIREHOUSE

As many of you are aware, the Vol. Barto Fire Company is in search of land to possibly erect a new fire station. This decision is not one that we have made lightly, and the following document is an attempt to educate the residents of Washington Township as to why this is needed, and the planning and reasoning behind the request. We have asked the Township Supervisors for their assistance in helping to identify land for this purpose, and we are meeting with the Township Engineer as a first step.

In order to accommodate the rapid growth of the township in the near future, a new fire station is needed. We believe that acquiring land along Barto Road, central to the hub of the township, is crucial in order for us to provide a balanced response to emergencies in and around Washington Township.

Reasons a new fire station is needed:

- Current station has already been expanded twice, and cannot be expanded again because of underground mine shafts on the current property. Over the years, there have been several shaft collapses in the area, including one directly behind our current station while a member was mowing the grass.
- Current station limits the length and height of the trucks. In the past, we have been forced to build the trucks to fit the station, while still providing enough equipment storage and sufficient water tank capacity.
- Current station has limited work and storage space, even with the expansion of 10 years ago.
- The largest population density is projected to be in the areas of the township which are zoned HDV, PRD, and R2, which centers the growth around the current Municipal Building and Barto Road. (see attached zoning map)
- Better access to the Route 100 Corridor
- With the decline in volunteers, it is very likely that at least 2 out of the 3 fire departments which protect Washington Township will merge services and membership in the future. This practice is already occurring in several municipalities in Berks County. This fact makes it even more critical that a new, larger station, central to the township along Barto road, be planned for. The 3 stations that cover Washington Township also cover portions of District and Pike Townships to the west, making the location of the proposed station even more crucial to have quick access these additional coverage areas.

Additional functions of a proposed new fire station:

- Currently, the Barto Fire Company is the designated EOC, or Emergency Operations Center of the Township. What this means is, that in the case of any type of disaster, such as severe flooding or tornado, the Fire Station is the place where all of the emergency planning and response is coordinated.

- During such an incident, Municipal, Fire, EMS, EMA, and police officials, as well as County Government officials, need to be in close communication with each other for the coordination of services in a time of disaster. Having the Firehouse co-located, or located within close proximity with the Municipal offices and Maintenance buildings, offers the ability to quickly and efficiently communicate with each other, face to face if needed.
- Local EMC (Emergency Management Coordinator) offices and necessary space could be included in the plans for a new station, further consolidating emergency services resources.
- A new station could be designed to function as a disaster shelter, to provide short-term shelter to anyone displaced by a disaster, until services such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army could provide for more permanent arrangements.

Benefits to the Community:

- The community now supports 1 or 2 fire departments instead of 3.
- The consolidated manpower pool ensures a more robust response when the fire department is called upon.
- In future planning, more capabilities can be explored with the use of less overall equipment, saving costs. Example: Current truck count of 7 overall trucks between 2 of the departments could be consolidated to 6, included in which could be an aerial device (ladder truck), thereby giving us an additional capability within our department.
- The existing Barto firehouse could be remodeled for use by the US Postal Service. With the population growth in the Township, additional space will be needed for an expanded Post Office facility.

We are planning for the long term fire protection of the township, with the best interests of the residents and business owners in mind. This planning and decision making process is taken very seriously by us, and resident feedback and questions are encouraged and welcome. We are available at the station on Monday nights from 7:00 until 9:00 to answer any questions, or to meet with us and discuss anything. You can also email the fire station at bartofire22@dejazzd.com, and someone will return your inquiry as soon as possible. We would like to thank the residents and business establishments of Washington Township for their past support, and ask for your continued support in this time of change.

Thank you.

The Officers and Membership of the Volunteer Barto Fire Company

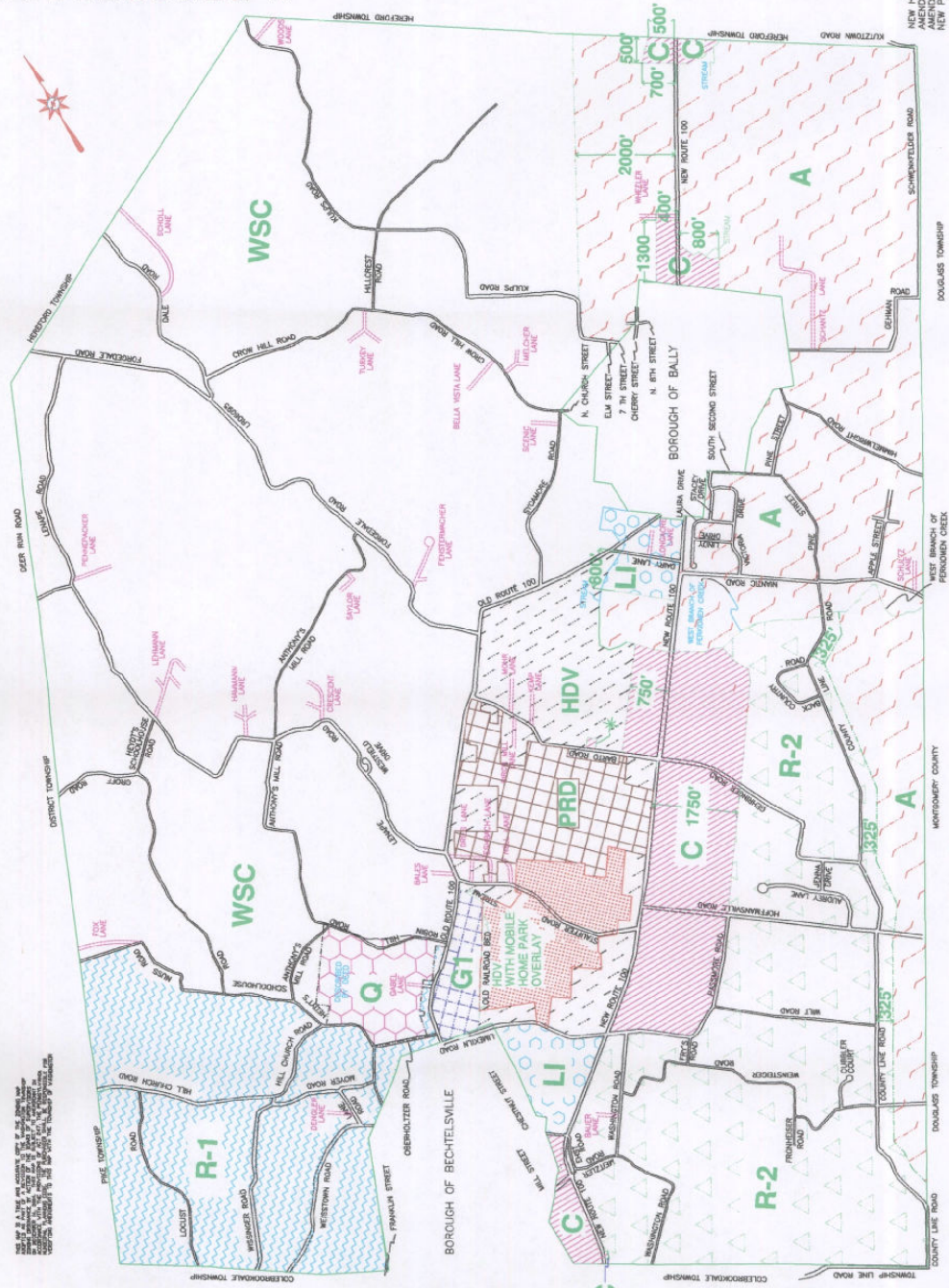
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BERKS COUNTY ZONING MAP HERFORD TOWNSHIP

LEGEND

SYMBOL	ZONING DISTRICT
	A AGRICULTURAL
	WSC WATERSHED CONSERVATION
	R-1 RURAL RESIDENTIAL
	R-2 SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL
	HDV HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
	C COMMERCIAL
	LI LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
	GI GENERAL INDUSTRIAL
	Q QUARRY
	HDV WITH MOBILE HOME OVERLAY
	PRD PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
	PRIVATE LANES
	PUBLIC ROADS

* PIN 539904606996
 PRD PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
 DISTRICT CONSISTS OF
 PIN 539904604236
 PIN 539903415830
 PIN 539806398754
 PIN 539906397852
 PIN 539903407395
 PIN 539806396706
 PIN 539903308573
 PIN 539903417413
 PIN 539902588919
 PIN 539903405822
 PIN 539903418927
 PIN 539903306391
 PIN 539904521560

HDV WITH MOBILE HOME OVERLAY
 DISTRICT CONSISTS OF
 PIN 539802580383
 PIN 539806481029
 PIN 539806371688



NEW HDV WITH MOBILE HOME OVERLAY DISTRICT 09/26/2000
 AMENDED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 01/10/2002
 AMENDED WSC DISTRICT 09/27/2003
 NEW R-1 DISTRICT 07/27/2004
 AMENDED LI LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT 12/16/2004