

Debra Thompson

From: Aulbach Mac1 <gaulbach@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Property Development Fund

To: Petersburg Borough Assembly Members

My name is Gary Aulbach and I am representing myself.
Thank you very much for allowing me to share my thoughts.

At the last Borough Assembly meeting I was very surprised to hear the city manager say that the Petersburg Borough does not have a building maintenance fund. Instead, the Borough uses the funds from the Borough Property Development Fund to take care of building maintenance. I would like to ask the Borough to end this practice and to either start a building maintenance fund with resources from the General Fund, or bring back the Facilities Maintenance Department which was in existence under community development for many years and was ended shortly after the current city manager arrived. At that time, I believe the three employees of the Maintenance Department were dispersed one each to the Manor, Parks and Rec. and Public Works. Finance director Jody Tow would have records of the budgets for the Maintenance Department as well as when it was disbanded. The Property Development fund has also been around a long time but it was called the Land Development fund and those funds were designated to purchase lands or develop land. The name of that fund was changed to Property Development Fund and the restrictions for use were broadened. The disbanding of the Maintenance Department did not save money, it merely put the wages, materials etc. into different departments and makes it harder to keep track of total expenditures as well as there not being any reserves built up to pay for large unseen expenditures like the current plumbing problem at the Parks and Rec. building. It is my opinion that had things been kept the way they were with a Maintenance Department, and the funds in the Land Development Fund had been left alone, the Borough would now have the funds to pay a contractor to open up one of these small subdivisions. If limitations are not put on "How" the money in the Property Development Fund are spent, the Borough will never be able to "Develop" any of its properties. It was like pulling teeth to get the assembly to approve \$100,000.00 of that fund to extend just 3 services to existing lots but more than \$500,000.00 of that fund flew right out the door to fix a sewer line in a facility. How much money would now be in that fund had it not been changed some 10 or 15 years ago?

Thank you for your time.
Gary Aulbach