

Outgoing Mayor Carpenter's Reorganization Meeting Speech
01/02/2019

Good evening and Happy New year!

Recognize Guests...

I'm pleased to report that the state of Bernards Township has never been better.

MQ Redevelopment

- *Terminated Redevelopment status of property*
- *Formally terminated the proposed development plans that were first proposed in the fall of 2017*
- *LSRP has noticed the State that the site has been fully remediated*

Affordable Housing Settlement

The biggest challenge Bernards faced in 2018 was Affordable Housing. We dealt with the issue head on and arrived at a settlement with our adversaries at the Fair Share Housing Center. The settlement includes inclusive zoning solutions at:

Dewey Meadow ~220

Mountain View ~280

Total New ~500

Total New Affordable ~100

As it stands right now the town will not need to create any additional affordable housing opportunities until 2025.

Thanks to Bruce McArthur, Pat Monaco, Tom Timko, David Schley, David Banish, Jon Drill and the best municipal attorney in the state, John Belardo. Our staff and professionals dug in on this issue and helped us make the very best of a very bad situation.

While dealing with these issues we kept our eye on the ball and hit it out of the park.

Finances

Reduced the Tax Levy from 2017 level

Remained Debt Free

Strong Reserves serve as working capital and emergency fund

Project Sunset & pivot to infrastructure

Infrastructure

Our capital budget more than doubled this past year.

Pedestrian Bridges:

Lafayette Ln.

Southard Park

Lyons Rd.

Stonehouse Rd.

Safety

Bernards continues to be recognized as one of the safest places to live in the United States.

This is thanks to Chief Shimsky and the entire Police Force. To all the men and women of the BTPD I say, on behalf of all the residents of Bernards Township, thank you!

Succession Planning

Long term vision enabled us to replace several supremely competent people by cultivating successors and promoting from within:

Out

- *Bruce McArthur -Admin*
- *Terri Johnson -HR*
- *Pat Monaco -DPW*
- *Brian Bobowitz -COP*
- *Denise Szabo -Clerk*

In

- *Pat Monaco - Admin*
- *Jorge Casacuberta - DPW*
- *Emily Kesselmeier - HR*
- *Chief Mike Shimsky - COP*
- *Rhonda Pisano - Deputy Clerk*

Finally

It has been an honor to serve on the Bernards Township Committee for the past 13 years and it has been a privilege to serve as Mayor this past year. We accomplished a great deal this year. It has been fun and a real pleasure. I wish everyone the most happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Thank you.