



THE TOWNSHIP OF
EXETER BERKS COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

NEWS RELEASE

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Township Moves Towards Acquiring Promenade Shopping Center, Considers Recreation Options

Promenade Shopping Center to House Township Operations, Become Focal Point of Exeter Township

Exeter Township, PA – The Exeter Township Board of Supervisors voted to accept an offer of \$2,537,500 to purchase land located at the Promenade Shopping Center, subject to the Township Solicitor negotiating and drafting an Agreement of Sale.

It is the intent of the Township to relocate the Administration, Police Department, Highway Department, District Justice, Fire Station, and Ambulance Station to this central location; all have outgrown their current accommodations. The Board of Supervisors will also consider options for a community recreation center on the site.

Township Manager John Granger has been in contact with the current tenants of the property, and they will continue to be involved in the development process. There will be no changes to their lease agreements or rental payments.

Promenade Shopping Center Imagined as Town Center

The Promenade Shopping Center has been largely vacant for the past 10 years, the main building having been vacated by Giant Food Stores in 2008 when it relocated to Exeter Commons. The Board of Supervisors has a vision for the future of the Township, and the acquisition of Promenade Shopping Center moves the Township forward in its plans for encouraging economic development. The Township hopes to pave the way for further development of the long under-utilized section of Perkiomen Avenue where the Promenade is located.

The change has already begun, as demonstrated by the Township's investment in streetscape beautification along Perkiomen Avenue, and the road and curbing improvements currently underway by PennDOT. Sheetz recently broke ground on their multi-million dollar facility on Perkiomen Avenue, which includes significant landscaping and sidewalk installation – a requirement of the Township in order to ensure the facility fit into the vision to improve the aesthetic of the area.

The Township anticipates this to be just the beginning; with the Township leading the way it is anticipated that additional development of vacant sites along Perkiomen is on the horizon.

Central to the plans for the Promenade site will be a discussion on the inclusion of a community recreation center. Including a recreation center within the Township facilities would serve to create additional opportunities for the community to interact with Township officials and allow for an expansion of recreation programming to reach more youth, senior citizens, and other residents.

Timeline for the Project

The Board of Supervisors took the first step in the purchase process by voting to accept the offer. The Township Solicitor will work to negotiate and draft an Agreement of Sale. Once finalized, the Township will issue a request for proposals from architectural firms to begin design plans. The planning process is anticipated to take approximately two years; construction is not likely to begin until 2021.

About Exeter Township

Exeter Township supports the growth, development and safe keeping of township's 25 square-mile area of Berks County. The township provides police, fire protection, emergency, infrastructure, and many other services to the more 25,000 residents and hundreds of businesses. It also is home to many parks, recreational areas, trails and greenways with access to the Schuylkill River. The township, which was founded in 1741, also boasts the Daniel Boone Homestead as well as other historic sites. For more information about Exeter Township, please visit exetertownship.com.