



TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

ELEMENT

of the

MASTER PLAN

Prepared for:

The Long Hill Township

Planning Board

12 December 2017

Master Plan Committee and

Kevin O'Brien, P.P., A.I.C.P.

Shamrock Enterprises, Ltd.

NJ License #5348

**LONG HILL TOWNSHIP
PLANNING BOARD RESOLUTION**

**Adopting the Community Facilities
Element of the Long Hill Master Plan**

WHEREAS, the Long Hill Township Master Plan was adopted in 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board determined that a complete rewriting of the Master Plan was warranted; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board instructed the Master Plan Committee formed by the Mayor and Township Committee to study all Elements of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan Committee met on multiple occasions between January 2017 and November 2017, and drafted the Community Facilities Element to replace the 1996 version of the Community Facilities Element; and

WHEREAS, the Long Hill Township Planning Board has given considerable thought to the prior Element based upon public comment and has prepared a new Community Facilities Element of the Master Plan with the assistance of the Master Plan Committee and Board Planner Kevin O'Brien; and

WHEREAS, the Community Facilities Element has been discussed by the Planning Board at several meetings and a noticed public hearing was held on 12 December 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Planning Board hereby adopts the December 2017 Community Facilities Element of the Master Plan, as referenced above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning and Zoning Administrator/Secretary be directed to send a copy of the adopted report with this resolution to the Morris County Planning Board and to the clerks of each adjoining municipality.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Those in Favor:

Those Opposed:

I, , Planning Board Secretary of the Township of Long Hill in the County of Morris, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Planning Board at a regular meeting held on the 12 December 2017.

Dated: 12 December 2017

Planning Board Secretary

THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Community Facilities Element of the Master Plan is to show the existing and proposed location and type of various community facilities in the Township, and their relation to surrounding areas.

This Master Plan element includes an inventory of the Township's existing community facilities, and recommendations for changes and additions to the community facilities in light of current and expected future needs of the Township. Recreation facilities and the Township's sewage treatment plant are addressed separately in the Recreation Element and the Utilities Element of the Master Plan, respectively.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES

An inventory of the Township's existing community facilities is set forth below. The locations of these community facilities are shown on the map attached to the Master Plan.

Town Hall/ Library Complex. The Town Hall and library are located in connected buildings on Valley Road, which were opened in 2003 and 2005, respectively. The Town Hall/library complex is next to, and shares parking with, Matthew G. Kantor Park, and is across Valley Road from Township land that is proposed for additional Township recreational facilities.

- The Town Hall building houses a large public meeting room for public Township Committee meetings and the Township's municipal court, as well as conference rooms and office space for various Township departments. The Town Hall building has office space in excess of the current needs of the Township departments that are housed there.
- The Library Complex is over 15,000 square feet. In addition to shelf space for library collections, the library building contains public reading and study areas, computers and meeting rooms that are available for public use. In recent years, the library building has averaged over 120,000 visits per year. Currently, there is no anticipated need for expansion to the library building.

Police Department. The Police Department has been at its Mercer Street location in Stirling since 1977. In 1993, the building was expanded by adding a second floor. The Police Department building is adequately sized for current and expected Township needs. However, it is subject to

occasional flooding, including 5 severe flooding events since 1995 which have required temporary relocation of the Police Department.

Fire Companies. The Township is served by two volunteer fire companies: the Stirling Fire Company, which has a firehouse located on Somerset Street and the Millington Fire Company, which has a firehouse located on Long Hill Road. Together, these fire companies operate 6 major fire and rescue vehicles. The Township's fire companies have mutual aid agreements with fire companies in neighboring towns. The firehouse buildings are adequately sized and located to meet the Township's current and expected needs. Adequacy of the fire companies' existing ladder trucks and garages would need to be considered in the event of a future increase to the Township's current zoning height restrictions.

First Aid Squad. The Long Hill First Aid Squad is a volunteer-run organization, which has three ambulances and operates from a building located on Valley Road. This building is adequately sized and located to meet the Township's current and expected needs.

Public Works. The Long Hill Public Works Department facility is located in Stirling south of Valley Road, next to the Township's wastewater treatment plant. This facility includes garages, office space and outdoor storage yards for the Township's Public Works department. The Public Works Department building was built in 1996. This building does not have sufficient capacity for housing all of the equipment and vehicles currently owned by the Public Works Department. Also, the Public Works facility is in a flood-prone location, and has experienced 6 major floods since its opening in 1996, including flooding of the South Warren Avenue access to the facility.

Schools. The Township Board of Education operates three schools: Gillette School on Valley Road (serving pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and first grade, and also housing the Long Hill Township School District offices), Millington School on Northfield Road (serving grades 2 through 5) and Central School on Central Avenue (serving grades 6 through 8). Public school students from the Township attend Watchung Hills Regional High School in Warren. A private K-8 school operated by St. Vincent de Paul church in Stirling was closed in 2016. The population of school age children in the Township is expected to be flat or have modest changes in the coming years. (See School Capacity Background Study attached to the Master Plan.) The Township's schools are adequately sized and located to meet the Township's current and expected needs.

Senior Center. The Long Hill Senior Center building is located on Valley Road next to Gillette School, and is owned and operated by the Long Hill Township Senior Citizens Club. The building was opened in 2003 and includes a kitchen and meeting/event facilities which can seat approximately 140 people.

Millington School House / Old Town Hall. The Millington School House / Old Town Hall is a historic, Township-owned building located on Long Hill Road in Millington. This building has recently undergone a partial renovation. Potential future uses of this building include meeting space for community groups.

Community Center. The Long Hill Community Center is located off of Valley Road next to the Public Works facility. The Community Center is owned and operated by a private, volunteer organization. The Community Center building was built in 1970 and contains a large gym/meeting room space that is available for community functions.

Houses of Worship. There are seven houses of worship located within the Township: Gillette Chapel and Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Gillette, Meyersville Presbyterian Church in Meyersville, St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, the Shrine of St. Joseph and First Presbyterian Church in Stirling and All Saints Episcopal Church in Millington.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Township Committee should continue to evaluate the risk of potential future flooding at the current Police Department location versus the costs of relocating the Police Department to new or existing facilities. If the Police Department is relocated, preference should be given to potential locations that are in or near the Downtown Valley Commercial District.
2. The possibility of expanding the Public Works facility at its existing location should be explored, to the extent practical given flooding issues at that location.
3. The potential acquisition of space to house a museum dedicated to collecting and displaying historical memorabilia related to Long Hill and its constituent communities should also be explored. There are several historic and other properties in the Township that may be suitable locations for such a museum, as well as grant and other funding sources that may be available to support property acquisition for a museum.
4. Township recreation programs currently use indoor spaces at various locations, including the Township schools, the library, the Millington School House and All Saints Church. Efforts should be made to identify a dedicated Township or privately-owned facility to house these recreation programs.
5. Other major changes to the size, number or location of the Township's community facilities are not anticipated as of the date of this Master Plan. However, to the extent that changes to the Township's community facilities are desired in the future, the changes should be consistent with the goals set forth elsewhere in this Master Plan.

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