

ATTENTION PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP, PEN ARGYL AND WIND GAP BOROUGH RESIDENTS

If you have deep pockets, unlimited resources, and no concern for what your future township tax and trash collections costs will be, please disregard this letter. However, if you are concerned about your personal financial impact and the economic impact to the entire Slate Belt community due to the potential closure of Waste Management (WM) landfill in Plainfield Township, please read on.

The WM landfill is projected to be at full capacity in 2029, which has led them to approach Plainfield Township with a request to rezone 211 acres adjacent to the existing landfill, 80 acres of which would be used for a landfill. This will allow WM to continue to accept trash that is generated by the unfortunate throw away society we have all become.

Plainfield Township currently has approximately \$15 million from WM payments set aside in a trust fund that can only be used after the landfill is closed. Uncertain and concerned about the financial impact of landfill closure, the Township Supervisors commissioned an independent firm to conduct a Landfill Closure Analysis. This report clearly indicates that without ANY (ZERO) capital improvements within the township between 2025 and 2038, the trust fund will be depleted by 2038, and residents would face major tax increases in 2038 and again in 2039. Tax increases that would equate to 230% above 2024 tax rates. An increase from 7.5 mils to 24.7 mils. It is absolutely unrealistic to image a township the size of Plainfield performing ZERO capital improvements for the next 13 years, especially when there is already several million dollars of road improvements under consideration, many of which are due to the ineffectiveness of township administration prior to 2024. That being said, it is easy to understand that the trust fund will be depleted earlier than 2038 and tax increases will be enacted sooner than projected and at even higher rates!

WM has been an excellent corporate citizen in the Slate Belt, donating millions and millions of dollars over the years to support our emergency services, youth sporting activities, Slate Belt YMCA, Slate Belt Rising, scholarships, and numerous other organizations. All that community financial support will disappear if rezoning is denied. The small minority of people that are pushing for the landfill to close have been misrepresenting the facts while promoting a one-sided story which fails to mention all of this community support. They do not have a plan to replace all of the funding provided by WM. The entire Slate Belt community, including Wind Gap and Pen Argyl boroughs will also suffer MAJOR economic impact should the landfill rezoning and expansion be denied.

For the Blue and White Foundation, WM has given \$213,179 in EITC since 2001. And through their Bridge Foundation, they have provided a total of \$972,082 to Monroe, Northampton, and Lehigh county schools since 2010.

Residents of Wind Gap and Pen Argyl will need to start paying for their trash removal if/when the landfill is forced to close, with costs projected to rise exponentially above the \$410/year Plainfield Township resident will be paying in 2026. Plainfield residents will also incur these much higher costs which will be driven primarily by the high cost of trucking trash long distances to other landfills.

Granting the WM request will allow our Supervisors to renegotiate a new host agreement with potentially higher revenue for the township, and time to PLAN for the future, and eventual closure of the expanded landfill area in 20 years. Time that will be beneficial to work on and develop an effective financial strategy and economic growth plan to enable the area to prosper after the landfill closure, rather than forging ahead without a plan and subjecting the residents to excessive tax increases. Rezoning will allow us all to maintain our standard of living, rather than being taxed into poverty.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MINIMIZE YOUR TAX INCREASES, FUTURE TRASH BILLS AND STAND OF LIVING?

1. Obtain a copy of the Landfill Closure Analysis by visiting the township office and/or visit the Township website at Plainfieldtownship.org to read the report.
2. Attend Township Supervisor meetings which are held at either the Township Municipal building or Plainfield Fire House at 6 pm on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of each month.
3. Write letters of support to encourage our Supervisors to approve the rezoning request.
4. Sign in and speak out at the Supervisor meetings to have your voice heard.

Example Plainfield Township Tax Bill:

<u>Property Assessed Value</u>	<u>2024 tax bill@ 7.5 mils</u>	<u>2039 tax bill @ 24.7 mils</u>	<u>Tax Increase</u>
\$60,000	\$450	\$1,482	+ \$1,032 or 230%
\$100,000	\$750	\$2,470	+ \$1,720 or 230%

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW, SPEAK UP AND HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD. THE FINAL VOTE ON OUR FUTURE IS COMING VERY SOON.

Thank you,
Concerned Citizens of Plainfield Township