

-----  
Pennsylvania Public |  
Utility Commission |  
Bureau of Investigation |  
& Enforcement Petition |  
to Request the |  
Commission Open a |  
Section 529 | Docket No.: P-2024-3051313  
Investigation Into the |  
Acquisition of Rock |  
Spring Water Company |  
|  
In-Person Public Input |  
Hearing

Pages 221 - 345

Main Meeting Room  
Ferguson Township  
Municipal Building  
3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA

Tuesday, September 30, 2025  
Commencing at 1:00 p.m.

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Docket No. P-2024-3051313

Hearing Date: September 30, 2025

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>FOR IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>IN EVIDENCE</u>
Public Exhibit 1	297	297
Holsopple Packet		

Judge

①

Apple Yahoo!

in centre county pa. who is responsible for fire hydrant... More Information on Chapter 7 - Fire Hydrant Assessm...

Brochures, & Agreements

Open Records (Right-To-Know) Requests

Employment

Request for Proposals

2020 Census Results

Agricultural Preservation

Agricultural Security Area  
Seven Year Review - 2024

C-NET

Centre Region Involvement

Coffee & Conversation

Economic Development,  
Growth, and Innovation  
Strategic Master Plan

Ordinance Assessment  
Survey

Pennsylvania Municipal  
League

Press Release Archive

Strategic Management  
Planning Program (STMPP)

Strategic Plan

Sustainable Pennsylvania  
Certified Gold Community

Tom Tudek Memorial Park  
Trust

# 7 - Fire Hydrant Assessment for Operation

## Ordinance Assessment Survey

### Chapter 7 - Fire Hydrant Assessment for Operation

Chapter 7, Section 2 - Fire Hydrants

In 1990, Ferguson Township adopted an ordinance found in Chapter 7, Part 2 Fire Hydrants, addressing the installation, operation, and ongoing maintenance of fire hydrants in the Township. The ordinance includes an "Assessment for Operation," otherwise referred to as the "Fire Hydrant Fee Assessment."

Fire Hydrants are installed in Ferguson Township in three different ways:

1. By petition of the majority of property owners along a street
2. By resolution of the Board of Supervisors
3. By a developer as required through land development regulation

Once the hydrant is installed, the Township performs the "Assessment for Operation" to recoup the costs of operating and maintaining the fire hydrants. The assessment is levied only to property owners within 780 feet of any fire hydrant. The fee amount set annually by the Board of Supervisors, is applied to the linear feet of property fronting a public street. Revenue generated by the assessment is kept in a fund specific to the operation and maintenance of fire hydrants only. Hydrants are serviced annually by the State College Borough Water Authority.



21

2





3

In Pennsylvania, the colors on a fire hydrant's bonnet and caps indicate its water flow rate, following the *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard*: blue for 1,500+ GPM, green for 1,000–1,499 GPM, orange for 500–999 GPM, and red for under 500 GPM. The barrel color also matters; public hydrants typically have white bonnets/caps and red barrels to signify they are connected to the municipal system, while private hydrants are painted entirely red.

**Here's a breakdown of the colors and their meanings:**

- **Blue bonnet/caps:** Indicates a very high flow rate of 1,500 GPM or more, considered excellent.
- **Green bonnet/caps:** Signifies a good flow rate of 1,000 to 1,499 GPM, ideal for residential areas.
- **Orange bonnet/caps:** Represents a medium flow rate of 500 to 999 GPM, which is marginally adequate.
- **Red bonnet/caps:** Indicates a low flow rate of less than 500 GPM, considered inadequate.

**Additional Information:**

- **Barrel Color:** For public hydrants connected to a municipal water system, the barrel is painted red, and the bonnets and nozzle caps are painted a different color (e.g., white, per some local regulations).
- **Private Hydrants:** Private hydrants, regardless of their water flow, are painted entirely red to distinguish them from public hydrants.
- **Inoperable Hydrants:** Unusable hydrants are wrapped and marked as such, and permanently

**The Proper Painting of Fire Hydrants - Mueller...**

NFPA Standard 291 recommends that bonnets...



Mueller Co.

**Township of Plumstead, PA FIRE HYDRANT REGULATIONS**

Marking of Fire Hydrants. The bonnet and nozzle caps of public fire hydrants shall be...

eCode360

**Is There Meaning Behind the Color of a Fire...**

Red indicates a water-flow capacity of fewer than 500...



WSRB

Show all



Future

enter search term...

Township of Ferguson, PA > Part 2 FIRE HYDRANTS

## Part 2 FIRE HYDRANTS

§ 7-201 Installation of Fire Hydrants.

§ 7-202 Assessment for Installation.

§ 7-203 Assessment for Operation.

§ 7-204 Collection of Assessments.

§ 7-201 Installation of Fire Hydrants.

[Ord. 449, 3/19/1990]

1. The Board of Supervisors may install fire hydrants along the streets (as defined in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance [Chapter 22]), or portions thereof, within the Township in accordance with one of the three following procedures:
  - A. A petition of the surface property owners of a majority of the lineal feet frontage along any street, or portion thereof, within the Township may request the installation of fire hydrants, by petition, on a form provided by the Township, and the Board of Supervisors decides to install fire hydrants in accordance with such petition.
  - B. The Board of Supervisors may, by resolution, decide to install fire hydrants along any street, or portion thereof, within the Township.
  - C. A developer who includes fire hydrants in a subdivision or land development plan shall install the fire hydrants and shall be responsible for the expense of such installation.

§ 7-202 Assessment for Installation.

[Ord. 449, 3/19/1990]

In the event that the fire hydrants are installed in accordance with § 7-201, Subsection 1A or B, above, each property owner whose property is within 780 feet of any fire hydrant within the Township shall be assessed, for installation, of an amount determined by the Board of Supervisors by resolution, which assessment shall be levied against all similarly situated property owners based upon a front foot basis. In the case of a lot fronting on more than one street which is subject to assessment, then the assessment shall be determined only on the longest side of the lot subject to assessment. No such assessment shall be levied against farm land or land used as an aviation field or against other property not benefitted thereby. Vacant lots between built up sections of the street, whether tilled or untilled, shall not be deemed to be farm lands.



2024

envelope must be enclosed if return receipt required.

**NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

If applicable, your enclosed tax bill includes a tax reduction for your homestead and/or farmstead property. As an eligible homestead and/or farmstead property owner, you have received tax relief through a homestead and/or farmstead exclusion which has been provided under the Pennsylvania Taxpayer Relief Act, a law passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly designed to reduce your property taxes.

pd. 7/10/2024  
1,857.84

	Homestead		Farmstead		New Amount After Your Exclusions
	Exclusion (Adjustment)	Percentage Approved	Exclusion (Adjustment)	Percentage Approved	
Original Before Tax Relief					
Assessed Value	40,540	3,312	0	0.00	37,228
Amount of Total Tax	2,064.42	168.66	0		1,895.76

**AVAILABILITY OF INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN**

Act 25 of 2011 was passed by the PA Legislature to provide an installment payment plan option for small businesses (as defined by the Act). The State College Area School District, by their authority, have elected to extend this option to all property owners. Please see the attached payment coupons for the applicable payment dates and amount due for each of the three coupons. If your tax statement does not have coupons attached, the tax office records indicated that you were ineligible to take part for the current tax billing. **IF YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INSTALLMENT PLAN, YOU FORFEIT THE DISCOUNT OPTION AND INSTALLMENT DUE DATES APPLY.** If a taxpayer fails to make the second and third installment on time in the current year, they are ineligible to take part in the installment plan for the next school fiscal tax year.

The tax office is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the tax office should additional arrangements be necessary to accommodate your specific needs. Failure to receive notice shall not relieve any taxpayer from the payment of any taxes imposed by any taxing district and such taxpayer shall be charged for his taxes as though he had received notice. Name or address changes must be made on the coupon provided below and require a signature of all legal owners. If additional space is needed, please use the reverse side of the correction coupon.

**RETURN THIS COUPON WITH 2nd INSTALLMENT**

**RETURN THIS COUPON WITH 3rd INSTALLMENT**

Billing Date: July 01 2024 Control#: 2424-5 186-10  
2024 SCHOOL REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE  
STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FERGUSON TOWNSHIP

Billing Date: July 01 2024 Control#: 2424-5 186-10  
2024 SCHOOL REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE  
STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FERGUSON TOWNSHIP

**Taxpayer:**  
HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
**Parcel #:**  
24-006A,013-0000  
**Make Check Payable To:**  
FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TAX OFFICE

**Taxpayer:**  
HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
**Parcel #:**  
24-006A,013-0000  
**Make Check Payable To:**  
FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TAX OFFICE

Include addressed stamped envelope if return receipt required

Include addressed stamped envelope if return receipt required

631.86	On or Before	10/1/2024
695.05	10% Penalty After	10/1/2024

632.04	On or Before	12/1/2024
695.25	10% Penalty After	12/1/2024



**RETURN THIS COUPON WITH 1st INSTALLMENT**

**RETURN THIS SECTION FOR NAME/ADDRESS CHANGES**

Billing Date: July 01 2024 Control#: 2424-5 186-10  
2024 SCHOOL REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE  
STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FERGUSON TOWNSHIP

**Current Name/Address**  
HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
4337 WEST WHITEHALL ROAD  
PENNA FURNACE, PA 16865

**Taxpayer:**  
HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
**Parcel #:**  
24-006A,013-0000  
**Make Check Payable To:**  
FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TAX OFFICE

**Parcel #:**  
24-006A,013-0000  
**New Name or Address (Please Print):**

Include addressed stamped envelope if return receipt required

631.86	On or Before	8/1/2024
	<b>INSTALLMENT OPTION ENDS AFTER</b>	8/1/2024

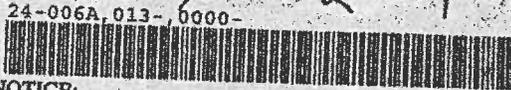
**This form must be signed to change the tax record.**



NOT NEGOTIABLE

Return this portion to your Tax Collector  
ONLY if a correction to your mailing  
address is required.

Sent 4/20/2024 # 186-02 (2424-6) 2024 R



Address Verification

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
C/S/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
4337 WEST WHITEHALL ROAD  
PENNA FURNACE PA 16865

NOTICE:

Failure to receive notice shall not relieve any taxpayer from the payment of any taxes imposed by any taxing district, and such taxpayer shall be charged with his taxes as though he had received notice.

You are required to make any necessary changes or corrections in the information spaces provided and return to your tax collector.

This form must be signed to change the tax record.

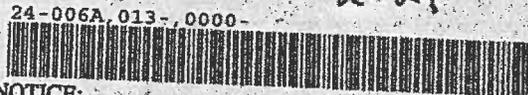
\$ 311.48

Detach Here

I certify I am the Owner of Record/Authorized Signature Date

Return this portion to your Tax Collector  
ONLY if a correction to your mailing  
address is required.

pd 3/5/24 # 186-02 (2424-7) 2024 R



Address Verification

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
C/S/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
4337 WEST WHITEHALL ROAD  
PENNA FURNACE PA 16865

NOTICE:

Failure to receive notice shall not relieve any taxpayer from the payment of any taxes imposed by any taxing district, and such taxpayer shall be charged with his taxes as though he had received notice.

You are required to make any necessary changes or corrections in the information spaces provided and return to your tax collector.

This form must be signed to change the tax record.

\$ 169.73

Detach Here

I certify I am the Owner of Record/Authorized Signature Date



made to the Centre County Tax Collector. For questions call (814) 355-6721. Statement and self-addressed stamped envelope must be enclosed if return receipt is required.

**2016** **NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF** Pd. \$1619.94  
 If applicable, your enclosed tax bill includes a tax reduction for your homestead and/or farmstead property. As an eligible homestead and/or farmstead property owner, you have received tax relief through a homestead and/or farmstead exclusion which has been provided under the Pennsylvania Taxpayer Relief Act, a law passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly designed to reduce your property taxes.

**CALCULATIONS FOR ACT 1 - HOMESTEAD FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION**

	Original Before Tax Relief	Homestead		Farmstead		New Amount After Your Exclusions
		Exclusion (Adjustment)	Percentage Approved	Exclusion (Adjustment)	Percentage Approved	
Assessed Value	40,540	2,528	100.00	0	0.00	38,012
Amount of Total Tax	1,762.39	109.90				1,652.49

**AVAILABILITY OF INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN**  
 Act 25 of 2011 was passed by the PA Legislature to provide an installment payment plan option for small businesses (as defined by the Act). The State College Area School District, by their authority, have elected to extend this option to all property owners. Please see the attached payment coupons for the applicable payment dates and amount due for each of the three coupons. If your tax statement does not have coupons attached, the tax office records indicated that you were ineligible to take part for the current tax billing.

**IF YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INSTALLMENT PLAN, YOU FORFEIT THE DISCOUNT OPTION**  
 If a taxpayer fails to make two or more payments on time in the current year, they are ineligible to take part in the installment plan for the next school fiscal tax year. The tax office is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the tax office should additional arrangements be necessary to accommodate your specific needs. Failure to receive notice shall not relieve any taxpayer from the payment of any taxes imposed by any taxing district and such taxpayer shall be charged for his taxes as though he had received notice. Name or address changes must be made on the coupon provided below and require a signature of all legal owners. If additional space is needed, please use reverse side of the correction coupon.

**RETURN THIS COUPON WITH 2nd INSTALLMENT**

**Billing Date:** July 01 2016 **Control#:** 2416-5 221-9  
 2016 SCHOOL REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE  
 STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 FERGUSON TOWNSHIP

**Taxpayer:**  
 HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S

**Parcel #:**  
 24-006A.013-.0000-

**Make Check Payable To:**  
 FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TAX OFFICE

Include addressed stamped envelope if return receipt required

550.77	On or Before	10/1/2016
605.85	Penalty After	10/1/2016



**RETURN THIS COUPON WITH 3rd INSTALLMENT**

**Billing Date:** July 01 2016 **Control#:** 2416-5 221-9  
 2016 SCHOOL REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE  
 STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 FERGUSON TOWNSHIP

**Taxpayer:**  
 HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S

**Parcel #:**  
 24-006A.013-.0000-

**Make Check Payable To:**  
 FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TAX OFFICE

Include addressed stamped envelope if return receipt required

550.95	On or Before	12/1/2016
606.04	Penalty After	12/1/2016



**RETURN THIS COUPON WITH 1st INSTALLMENT**

**Billing Date:** July 01 2016 **Control#:** 2416-5 221-9  
 2016 SCHOOL REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE  
 STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 FERGUSON TOWNSHIP

**Taxpayer:**  
 HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S

**Parcel #:**  
 24-006A.013-.0000-

**Make Check Payable To:**  
 FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TAX OFFICE

Include addressed stamped envelope if return receipt required

550.77	On or Before	8/1/2016
	ELIGIBILITY ENDS	8/2/2016

**RETURN THIS SECTION FOR NAME/ADDRESS CHANGES**

**Current Name/Address**  
 HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
 4337 WEST WHITEHALL ROAD  
 PENNA FURNACE PA 16865

**Parcel #:**  
 24-006A.013-.0000-

**New Name or Address (Please Print):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



2016

CENTRE COUNTY  
TAXES FOR JANUARY 1 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2016

Payable To:	VALUATION	TAX	Mills	Tax Amount
CENTRE COUNTY TAX OFFICE WILLOWBANK OFFICE BUILDING 420 HOLMES STREET BELLEFONTE, PA 16823-1488 OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 - 5:00 MON. THRU FRI. PH: (814) 355-6805	40,540	COUNTY GENERAL COUNTY DEBT	6.65 1.19	269.59 48.24

Tax Bill

R

\*TOTAL TAX\* 317.83\*

pd 4/11/16  
CK803

Taxes are due and payment is requested from:



HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
4337 WEST WHITEHALL ROAD  
PENNA FURNACE PA 16865

IF PAID BY APRIL 30 -2% PAY  
FROM MAY 1 THRU JUNE 30 PAY  
ON OR AFTER JULY01 +10% PAY  
LAST DAY TO PAY DECEMBER 31, 2016

311.48  
317.83  
349.61

PARCEL: 24-006A,013-,0000- 222-07  
Located at: 4337 W WHITEHALL RD

@10633

Paid in full

Date Tax Collector

STATEMENT & STAMPED ENVELOPE MUST BE ENCLOSED WHEN RETURN RECEIPT IS REQUIRED

# 222-07 (2416-6)

GENERAL

Discount of two percent allowed if the whole amount of tax is paid within two months after the date of tax notice.  
Payment at face amount if the tax is paid during the two months following the end of the discount period.

# 222-07 (2416-7)

\*\*\* STATEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES \*\*\*

MAR 01, 2016

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TAXES FOR JANUARY 1 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2016

Payable To:	VALUATION	TAX	Mills	Tax Amount
FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TAX OFFICE FERGUSON TWP MUNICIPAL BUILDING 3147 RESEARCH DRIVE STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801 MON-THU 8AM - 5PM, FRI 8AM - 4PM PHONE (814) 238-4651 FAX (814) 238-3454	40,540	TOWNSHIP GENERAL APPORTIONED LIGHT APPORTIONED FIRE	2.422	98.19 0.00 0.00

Tax Bill

R

\*TOTAL TAX\* 98.19\*

pd 4/11/16  
CK802

Taxes are due and payment is requested from:



HOLSOPPLE, RICHARD A & TRUDI S  
4337 WEST WHITEHALL ROAD  
PENNA FURNACE PA 16865

IF PAID BY APRIL 30 -2% PAY  
FROM MAY 1 THRU JUNE 30 PAY  
ON OR AFTER JULY01 +10% PAY  
LAST DAY TO PAY DECEMBER 31, 2016

96.23  
98.19  
108.01

PARCEL: 24-006A,013-,0000- 222-07  
Located at: 4337 W WHITEHALL RD

@2217

Paid in full

Date Tax Collector

STATEMENT & STAMPED ENVELOPE MUST BE ENCLOSED WHEN RETURN RECEIPT IS REQUIRED

Taxes

2016



2

## MEMORANDUM

**Subject:** Rock Spring Water Company Customer Meeting  
**Location:** Fairbrook United Methodist Church, Whitehall Road, Ferguson Twp., Centre Co., PA  
**Date/Time:** February 27, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
**Attendance:** PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC), PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Rock Spring Water Company (RSWC), John Lichman - State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA), PA State Representative Mike Fleck, PA State Representative Scott Conklin Staff Member, RSWC Customers (Township has an attendance log)  
**Moderator:** Mark Kunkle, Ferguson Township Manager  
**Discussion:** The meeting was arranged by Ferguson Township for the Water Company, PUC and PADEP to receive feedback about the current condition and customer service of the Rock Spring Water Company  
**From:** Mark Glenn, GDF

Mr. Kunkle asked the RSWC to provide the current status of the system and offer a long range strategic plan for system operation and improvement.

Owners Roy Campbell and Bonnie Jacobs provided background on the expansion of system through the years. The RSWC attorney stated that the system is difficult to maintain because of limited financial resources and the age of the distribution system (50-70 years). Water loss is currently 70% and evidently the majority of the customers are metered. However, it was mentioned that many of the meters are over 30 years old and may be under-registering or not matching the remote reader values. The permitted capacity of the well is 230 GPM or 330,000 GPD. Evidently, the well runs constantly to keep up with water loss and system demand. A new spring, a private well and larger mains are future possibilities for system improvements, but nothing definite was provided by RSWC.

Over 100 RSWC customers were in attendance with about 20 customers expressing dissatisfaction with the current system condition and customer service. Most customers complained about low pressure because of leakage and frequent outages due to main breaks. Many stated that there is little or no communication with RSWC about main breaks or system maintenance. Several were concerned about the system running out of water and the effect on their property values. Questions were directed to state representatives about sources of grant funding for system repairs and replacements. Rep. Fleck said that large grant funding from the state for these purposes was unlikely.

Township fire personnel stated that RSWC fire hydrants (10) provide virtually no fire protection due to low flow and undersized mains. Ferguson Township discontinued assessing hydrant tax charges several years ago for this reason. The Township Fire Commissioner stated that this area of Ferguson Township has a low fire rating. A system of tankers is planned for fire emergencies in western Ferguson Township.



SCBWA has provided leak detection to RSWC as needed. Information on the Kocher/Nixon well field was provided. Recent testing revealed little or no impact on monitor wells near the RSWC well, contrary to a statement by Roy Campbell. SCBWA gave information on their lost water history (10%) and the constant vigilance needed to find and repair leaks. SCBWA outlined their recent main replacement history and the resources devoted to this task. No statements were made about a system take-over.

PADEP (John Hamilton) stated that the 70% RSWC water loss was unacceptable and violated a 2006 consent order. PADEP would not approve any new source water development until lost water was corrected. DEP stated that ongoing regulations will continue to tax the limited resources of the RSWC system. Funds for system replacement could be available through Pennvest, but grants are limited under the program. Although, RSWC is a for-profit system, loans are available upon application. PADEP stated that in the last quarter, 24 million gallons of water were produced by RSWC with only 7 million gallons registered as metered consumption. This amounted to a 70% loss of water.

The PUC gave an overview of the July 2013 RSWC water rate approval process. It was noted that very few complaints were registered with the PUC and the PA Bureau of Consumer Protector through this process, despite notices to individual customers. This prompted complaints from several in the audience that, indeed, complaints were registered. PUC proceeded to process the rate increase on the basis of the filing but included a condition that the current owners entertain offers or make active attempts to sell the water company. RSWC officials vaguely indicated that they have made attempts to do so. They stated that several current stockholders want to sell the water company. PUC also stated that a condition was included to reduce lost water over a period of 5 years from 70% to 25%. Given the age, condition and resources of the system, this reduction is very unlikely.

PUC also stated that the current rates are very low and almost exactly match those of the SCBWA system of \$3.95/1,000 gallons or \$15-16 per month for an average residential customer. This was compared to the cost for the largest water company in the state (PA American Water Company) with an average residential customer cost of \$55/month. To improve or replace the system, PUC stated that rates will certainly have to increase, regardless of who owns the system. Earlier in the meeting, either the Township or RSWC stated that the cost to replace waterlines is \$1 million per mile.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the apparent consensus was that the majority of customers are dissatisfied with the operation of the Rock Spring Water Company. It was agreed that a committee of interested customers should be formed to explore ways to improve the system, research possible new ownership and investigate the cost and extent of system improvements. The Township will coordinate these efforts with the committee and the RSWC. Another customer meeting will be scheduled at a later time.



The process of assessing a property's value for school taxes is typically done through a local property assessment or tax assessment. Here's how it generally works:

**Determine Market Value:** The assessor estimates what the property would sell for on the open market.

**Consider Key Factors:**

- **Location:** Proximity to schools, businesses, and amenities.
- **Lot Size and Land Use:** Acreage, zoning, and usable land.
- **Buildings and Improvements:** Age, size, condition, and quality of construction.
- **Utilities and Services:** Availability of water, sewer, electricity, and internet.
- **Fire and Emergency Protection:** Distance to fire stations, fire hydrants, and insurance ratings.
- **Neighborhood Characteristics:** Safety, traffic, and overall demand in the area.

ChatGPT - Check important info for mistakes.

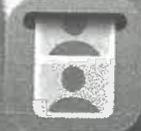
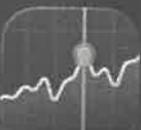


Photo Booth



Stocks



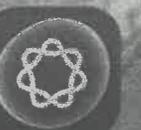
Weather



Arize FCU



NewsBreak



Playground



Vanguard



Apple Store



Pinochle Classic



Calculator



Spotify



PRINT



Express Scripts



Support



Contacts



iTunes Store



Outlook



myChevrolet



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\$1.99 WELCOME OFFER [CLAIM](#)

COMMUNITY

# Will your fire hydrants work in an emergency? They won't for some area residents

By Bret Pallotto

Updated February 13, 2018 8:41 PM Gift Article



A fire hydrant with a red top is pictured on Horseshoe Circle on Saturday. Abby Drey [adrey@centredaily.com](mailto:adrey@centredaily.com)



Playing article  
Powered by **Trinity Audio**

1.0x

01:30

04:10



2

## MEMORANDUM

Subject: Rock Spring Water Company Customer Meeting  
Location: Fairbrook United Methodist Church, Whitehall Road, Ferguson Twp., Centre Co., PA  
Date/Time: February 27, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
Attendance: PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC), PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Rock Spring Water Company (RSWC), John Lichman - State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA), PA State Representative Mike Fleck, PA State Representative Scott Conklin Staff Member, RSWC Customers (Township has an attendance log)  
Moderator: Mark Kunkle, Ferguson Township Manager  
Discussion: The meeting was arranged by Ferguson Township for the Water Company, PUC and PADEP to receive feedback about the current condition and customer service of the Rock Spring Water Company  
From: Mark Glenn, GDF

Mr. Kunkle asked the RSWC to provide the current status of the system and offer a long range strategic plan for system operation and improvement.

Owners Roy Campbell and Bonnie Jacobs provided background on the expansion of system through the years. The RSWC attorney stated that the system is difficult to maintain because of limited financial resources and the age of the distribution system (50-70 years). Water loss is currently 70% and evidently the majority of the customers are metered. However, it was mentioned that many of the meters are over 30 years old and may be under-registering or not matching the remote reader values. The permitted capacity of the well is 230 GPM or 330,000 GPD. Evidently, the well runs constantly to keep up with water loss and system demand. A new spring, a private well and larger mains are future possibilities for system improvements, but nothing definite was provided by RSWC.

Over 100 RSWC customers were in attendance with about 20 customers expressing dissatisfaction with the current system condition and customer service. Most customers complained about low pressure because of leakage and frequent outages due to main breaks. Many stated that there is little or no communication with RSWC about main breaks or system maintenance. Several were concerned about the system running out of water and the effect on their property values. Questions were directed to state representatives about sources of grant funding for system repairs and replacements. Rep. Fleck said that large grant funding from the state for these purposes was unlikely.

Township fire personnel stated that RSWC fire hydrants (10) provide virtually no fire protection due to low flow and undersized mains. Ferguson Township discontinued assessing hydrant tax charges several years ago for this reason. The Township Fire Commissioner stated that this area of Ferguson Township has a low fire rating. A system of tankers is planned for fire emergencies in western Ferguson Township.



SCBWA has provided leak detection to RSWC as needed. Information on the Kocher/Nixon well field was provided. Recent testing revealed little or no impact on monitor wells near the RSWC well, contrary to a statement by Roy Campbell. SCBWA gave information on their lost water history (10%) and the constant vigilance needed to find and repair leaks. SCBWA outlined their recent main replacement history and the resources devoted to this task. No statements were made about a system take-over.

PADEP (John Hamilton) stated that the 70% RSWC water loss was unacceptable and violated a 2006 consent order. PADP would not approve any new source water development until lost water was corrected. DEP stated that ongoing regulations will continue to tax the limited resources of the RSWC system. Funds for system replacement could be available through Pennvest, but grants are limited under the program. Although, RSWC is a for-profit system, loans are available upon application. PADEP stated that in the last quarter, 24 million gallons of water were produced by RSWC with only 7 million gallons registered as metered consumption. This amounted to a 70% loss of water.

The PUC gave an overview of the July 2013 RSWC water rate approval process. It was noted that very few complaints were registered with the PUC and the PA Bureau of Consumer Protector through this process, despite notices to individual customers. This prompted complaints from several in the audience that, indeed, complaints were registered. PUC proceeded to process the rate increase on the basis of the filing but included a condition that the current owners entertain offers or make active attempts to sell the water company. RSWC officials vaguely indicated that they have made attempts to do so. They stated that several current stockholders want to sell the water company. PUC also stated that a condition was included to reduce lost water over a period of 5 years from 70% to 25%. Given the age, condition and resources of the system, this reduction is very unlikely.

PUC also stated that the current rates are very low and almost exactly match those of the SCBWA system of \$3.95/1,000 gallons or \$15-16 per month for an average residential customer. This was compared to the cost for the largest water company in the state (PA American Water Company) with an average residential customer cost of \$55/month. To improve or replace the system, PUC stated that rates will certainly have to increase, regardless of who owns the system. Earlier in the meeting, either the Township or RSWC stated that the cost to replace waterlines is \$1 million per mile.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the apparent consensus was that the majority of customers are dissatisfied with the operation of the Rock Spring Water Company. It was agreed that a committee of interested customers should be formed to explore ways to improve the system, research possible new ownership and investigate the cost and extent of system improvements. The Township will coordinate these efforts with the committee and the RSWC. Another customer meeting will be scheduled at a later time.



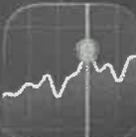
The process of assessing a property's value for school taxes is typically done through a local property assessment or tax assessment. Here's how it generally works:

- 1 **Determine Market Value:** The assessor estimates what the property would sell for on the open market.
- 2 **Consider Key Factors:**
  - **Location:** Proximity to schools, businesses, and amenities.
  - **Lot Size and Land Use:** Acreage, zoning, and usable land.
  - **Buildings and Improvements:** Age, size, condition, and quality of construction.
  - **Utilities and Services:** Availability of water, sewer, electricity, and internet.
  - **Fire and Emergency Protection:** Distance to fire stations, fire hydrants, and insurance ratings.
  - **Neighborhood Characteristics:** Safety, traffic, and overall demand in the area.

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Photo Booth



Stocks



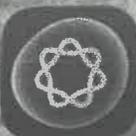
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COMMUNITY

## Will your fire hydrants work in an emergency? They won't for some area residents

By Bret Pallotto

Updated February 13, 2018 8:41 PM  Gift Article



A fire hydrant with a red top is pictured on Horseshoe Circle on Saturday. Abby Drey [adrey@centredaily.com](mailto:adrey@centredaily.com)



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Mobile Access to water  
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**BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN**  
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Email : [sales@firetruckmall.com](mailto:sales@firetruckmall.com)

Website: [www.firetruckmall.com](http://www.firetruckmall.com)

15410 US Highway 231,

Union Grove, AL 35175

Stock #: 19714

Price: \$365,000

**2026 Osco International Tandem-Axle Tanker**



## TRUCK DETAILS

### General Specs

Stock#: 19714

2026

Osco Fire Body

\*\*\*NEW BUILD\*\*\*

HV607 Tandem Axle International Chassis

2 - Door Commercial

GVWR: 64,000

Cummins L9 450 HP Diesel Engine

Allison EVS Automatic Transmission

Additional equipment not included with purchase unless otherwise listed. Mileage readings may not be real-time and should be confirmed.

### Apparatus Information

This fire truck is a very new piece of apparatus, and rare on the used fire truck market today. Feel free to touch base with us to get the full history on this rig, and we will be glad to pass it along, but with minimal time passed since it was produced, this vehicle will have many years remaining to serve at its next fire department!

### Pump - Tank

Berkeley B3ZRMS 750 GPM Pump

3500 Gallon Polypropylene Tank

#### WATER PUMP SYSTEM:

Berkeley B3ZRMS PTO driven centrifugal pump

750 GPM Max Discharge

65 PSI Max Pressure

1 - 2.5" discharge on driver side between cab and tank with valve and 2.5" fitting

1 - 2.5" discharge on passenger side between cab and tank with valve and 2.5" fitting

1 - 1.5" Pre-connect discharge on driver



Adapters Enabling Connections to Fire Co. Equipment and Water tanks if needed plus existing Fire Hydrants

12:22 PM Wed Sep 17

100%

fire hydrant adapters

fire hydrant adapters

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Fire Hydrant Hose Adapter | In Stock. Ships Today.

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John M. El... & more



20% OFF

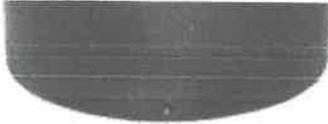
Wal-rich 2604002 Fire Hydrant Adapter

\$29.22 \$37

AF Supply & more



# Water Storage



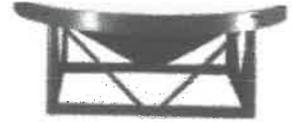
**10000 Gallon Vertical Water Storage Tank**

Norwesco Part# 43132  
141" L x 141" W x 160" H  
FOB CA, OH, TX  
\$13,500



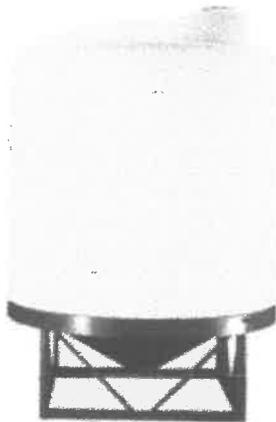
**10000 Gallon Vertical Water Storage Tank**

Snyder Part# WB100  
144" L x 144" W x 161" H  
FOB CA  
\$14,226



**10000 Gallon Cone Bottom Tank**

Norwesco Part# 44459  
142" L x 142" W x 180" H  
FOB MN, TX  
\$14,500



**10000 Gallon Cone Bottom Tank**

Norwesco Part# 44103  
141" L x 141" W x 180" H  
FOB MN, TX  
\$15,400



**10000 Gallon Full Drain Cone Bottom Tank with Stand**

Endurapias Part# THC10000KW  
144" L x 144" W x 202" H  
FOB ND, TX  
\$20,300



**10000 Gallon Holding Tank**

Norwesco Part# 45686  
356" L x 101" W x 107" H  
FOB MN  
\$23,100





## Preventing oak wilt disease

Fortunately, there are very effective ways to minimize the chances of your oak trees getting oak wilt:

- Never prune oak trees from **April 1 through October 31** — when beetles are active.
- Never allow individuals who work on your trees to climb them using boots with spikes or spurs that inflict sap-bleeding wounds in the tree.

## Ferguson Township Ordinances and Resolutions addressing oak wilt disease

**Ordinance 1023 stipulates fines** for anyone (resident, contractor, etc.) pruning oak trees without a permit during **April 1 through October 31** or climbing oak trees with boot spurs or spikes at any time of the year except for the purpose of removing the entire tree.

Sometimes there is no way to prevent oak trees from being wounded, particularly when storms break off live branches. These naturally occurring wounds could attract sap beetles and result in an oak wilt fungal infection. **Therefore, Resolution 2016-32 includes helping private property owners shoulder the cost of abating an oak wilt infection on their property.**

Abatement includes removal of the infected tree, proper disposal (chipped then burned or composted) of the wood, treatment of all oak trees within a 100- to 150-foot radius of the infected tree, and possibly trenching around the infected tree to break root grafts through which the fungus can spread. Wood from an infected tree should never be moved to unaffected areas, even for firewood, so as to prevent beetles in the wood from dispersing the fungus into a new patch of trees.

Residents with oak trees on their properties are advised to be aware of the signs of oak wilt described above, especially leaves at the top of a tree turning brown and falling off altogether.

*Please report any tree related concerns to any member of the Township Tree Commission or to Ferguson Township Arborist Lance King.*

*You'll find the Tree Commission members' contact information at the Ferguson Township website:  
<http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Tree-Commission/>*

*Ferguson Township Arborist Lance King can be contacted at (814) 238-4651, or at [lking@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:lking@twp.ferguson.pa.us)*



Township of  
**FERGUSON**  
Pennsylvania

# Help reduce the effect of oak wilt disease on your oak trees

## How Ferguson Township is reducing the risk

It is now illegal to trim oak trees in Ferguson Township between April 1 and October 31 without a free permit. The Township put this limitation into place to reduce the risk and the spread of oak wilt disease, which could decimate oak trees in your neighborhood unless it is controlled. Oak trees pruned between **April 1 and October 31** are more likely to become infected with oak wilt and die. Infected trees can then spread the disease to other trees around them. Two incidents of oak wilt-infected trees occurred in 2016 on Cherry Ridge Road in Park Forest Village. The infected trees were removed and oak trees within a 200-foot radius of the dead trees were treated with fungicide.

## Causes, symptoms and prevention of oak wilt disease

Oak wilt is a fungal disease transmitted by sap and bark-feeding beetles. These beetles are especially attracted to trees with open cuts, or wounds, from which sap bleeds. Fungal spores on or in the beetles are deposited in the sap while the beetles feed. The fungus grows out of the sap and into the tree, where it quickly spreads throughout the tree and into the roots. Symptoms of fungal infection generally consist of leaf discoloration (browning), leaf wilt, and the brown leaves falling off altogether. Infected trees can then spread the oak wilt fungus to neighboring trees through connections between tree roots. Prevention is essential because there is no permanent cure; once infected, a tree will die.

