

Pledge

- We are honored tonight to have with us VFW Commander John Lehnert to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Thank you, Commander.

Community Update

Nov. 9, 2021

- Good evening. I am Mayor Bob DeFillippo. On behalf of the Township Council, welcome to tonight's meeting.

Veterans Day

- I would like to open our Community Update tonight with something a little different and something that we should all take time to focus on. There is a reason we asked VFW Commander John Lehnert to lead us in the Pledge this evening.
- Thursday is Veterans Day -- a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served in our armed forces. It is the one day we as a nation stand united in respect for the men and women who have served to keep us safe.
- This day of remembrance started as a way to reflect on the heroism of those who died in our country's service. Originally known as Armistice Day, it fell on Nov. 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I.
- However, in 1954, the holiday's name changed to "Veterans Day" to include veterans of all wars, and to celebrate and honor them for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

- Thank you again Commander Lehnert for being with us tonight and for your service. Thank you also to all of Roxbury's veterans for your service as we honor all those who served to defend our country.
- And may God bless and keep safe the active members of our armed forces who are stationed around the world to keep us safe today.

COVID

- Turning now to our COVID report.
- I asked our Public Health Nurse Jim Craig to give us a status report on how the Township is doing considering the high number of cases we have been reporting over the past few weeks.
- Jim believes that our numbers have been consistent and perhaps a bit lower when you compare them to other parts of the country, as well as with neighboring communities with similar populations.
- With that said, over the past two weeks – since our last meeting, the number of confirmed COVID cases in Roxbury went from 3,033 to 3,127. That is 94 new cases in just two weeks, which seems unacceptably high.
- Jim believes what we are seeing are breakthrough cases in people whose immune systems are once again weakening after haven taken the original vaccinations many months ago.
- He also points out that people are beginning to spend more time inside as the weather turns colder, and he is seeing cases in younger people who have not, until recently, had an opportunity to get vaccinated.
- Also, Jim continues to see cases where infected people spread COVID through entire households.

- Finally, Jim states that some people simply will not follow quarantine and social distancing rules, such as returning to work or school before the end of the quarantine period or wearing a mask in doors and maintaining six feet between people.
- Recently, we were asked how much longer will masks be required in Township buildings, such as our senior center at Horseshoe Lake and at other Township programs and facilities.
- As much as we sympathize with those who struggles with masks, it would be reckless for us to lift the requirement now, especially for seniors – one of the most vulnerable groups to Covid.
- As we have said, we will continue to monitor the situation and as soon as it is safe, we will lift the requirement to wear masks in our buildings.
- Lastly, thank you to those of you who have been cooperating. Unfortunately, the quickest way to end the social distancing and mask wearing continues to be to socially distance and to wear a mask.
- We also continue to urge everyone who is eligible to get the first, second, and third vaccines, as well as the seasonal flu shot.

Election

- Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in town who came out and voted on Tuesday or through the other ways to cast a ballot.
- I would also like to congratulate all those who won and especially my running mates -- at-large Councilpersons Jim Rilee and Mark Crowley, and Ward 1 Councilperson Shawn Potillo for their election wins last Tuesday. It is an honor to serve with you and the other members of this Council.

- In addition, let me also thank our opponents for taking the time to run for office and for a well-fought campaign. It takes a lot of effort to run for office and it shows a level of commitment to the community that few would take on.
- Here are some interesting details about last Tuesday's election.
 - Roxbury is a community of about 24,000 people and about 19,000 of you are registered to vote. Not too bad.
 - On Tuesday, 8,909 of you voted, including voting machines, mail-ins, and early voting – or, if I have the math right, just about 46 percent of all eligible voters. Provisional ballots are not included in that number. Nevertheless, also not too bad.
 - Good for you Roxbury.
- A special thank you to Township Clerk Amy Rhead and our great Township staff for another well-managed election.
- Thank for you attention. Now, let us return to our agenda.

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