

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
President and Committees
of the Board of Commissioners
of the
TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON



For Year Ending January 6th, 1919

COMMISSIONERS
of the
TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON
PENNSYLVANIA



Commissioners

CHARLES F. MEBUS, President
HORACE BOWMAN, Vice-President
DAVID F. BENNINGHOFF
THEODORE EDWARDS
PENROSE HALLOWELL
H. P. ROBINSON
JACOB ROEHM

Secretary

E. RAYMOND AMBLER

Ass't to Secretary

NICHOLAS BAGGS

Solicitor

HARRY S. AMBLER, JR.

Supervisor of Highways

PHILIP ROUSE

Chief of Police

H. S. LEVER



Finance Committee

BOWMAN, ROBINSON, EDWARDS

Highway Committee

ROBINSON, HALLOWELL, BENNINGHOFF, ROEHM

Police Committee

EDWARDS, BOWMAN, ROEHM

Fire Department

BENNINGHOFF, ROEHM, HALLOWELL

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Commissioners meet on the second Friday of each month
at 8 P. M.

Meetings are open to the Public



FOR GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Call the Secretary, Bell, Ogontz 704

Office Hours 9 a. m. to 3 p. m.

Saturdays, 9 a. m. to 12 noon.

Holidays Excepted



FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE

Call Police Department Bell, Ogontz 729
Keystone, Jenkintown 137

Office Always Open



FOR ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF FIRE

Call Police Department

Which will direct the nearest Fire Company
to proceed immediately to the fire.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

January 6, 1919.

Commissioners of the Township of Abington,
Gentlemen:—

The reports of your committees show in detail the business transacted during the year 1918.

At no time during the past five years have the revenues of the Township been adequate to carry out all the needed improvements. It follows therefore that the increased cost of everything required by the Township during 1918, made the administration of its affairs more difficult than ever. The Highway Department worked not only under the handicap of excessive costs, but it also had to contend with the uncertainties of obtaining materials when wanted. The U. S. Fuel Administrator's rulings alone delayed the application of asphalt road oils from May to July. Some roads had to go without any attention as there were no funds or labor available to cover all the highways.

The new rates for fire protection, to be paid the Springfield Consolidated Water Company, as fixed by the Public Service Commission, increased the annual cost from \$1320 to \$12,388.51. This decision was made almost in the middle of the year, long after the annual budget had been fixed by your Board as provided by law. The payment of this charge would have meant practically the abandonment of all highway work in the middle of the year as there was no other appropriation from which the money could be taken. The Board considered the new rates excessive and decided to appeal from the decision of the Public Service Commission together with the 44 other municipalities similarly affected. No final decision has yet been made.

I again call your attention to the desirability of obtaining funds for beginning a permanent road improvement program. Automobile traffic has more than doubled since 1916 and the size and weight of loads carried by trucks is ever on the increase.

Building new macadam roads for present traffic requirements is a waste of money (except for minor streets); and keeping those we have in repair, is very expensive. I therefore suggest that you seriously consider laying concrete road paving where reconstruction becomes necessary.

I beg to express my appreciation for the faithful manner in which the Township has been served, during the trying times of the last year of the great war, both by the officers and the employees.

Respectfully,

CHARLES F. MEBUS,
President.

REPORT OF POLICE COMMITTEE

Charles F. Mebus, President,
Commissioners of Abington Township,

Dear Sir:—

Your Police Committee beg to submit the annual report for the year 1918, as follows:

REPORTS TO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Persons killed and reported to Coroner:	
Amusements	2
By trolley	3
Accidental drowning	2
	7
Attempted suicides	1
Persons hurt in accidents reported to this department:	
By automobiles	11
Run over by wagon	1
Hit by trolley car	7
Falling off trolley cars	1
Accidental shooting	1
Amusements	2
	23
Dangerous wires reported to companies	7
Dangerous holes in highways and bridges reported to Road Engineer	19
Fires reported	13
Telephone poles blown down and reported to companies	8
Trees blown down and reported to Road Engineer	12
Dogs killed by officers	78
Stolen automobiles recovered	5
Strayed teams recovered	2
Leaking mains reported to Water Companies	5
Street lights reported out	1125
Prisoners photographed, measured and finger-prints taken ..	22
Value of stolen goods recovered	\$5,650.00
During the year 255 arrests were made and classified as follows:	
Automobiles	67
Arson	1
Assault and Battery	19
Assault and battery and threats	1
Aggravated assault and battery	3
Attempt larceny of auto	1
Alien having a gun	4
Attempt larceny and trespass	2
Burglary	2
Committed to poor house	8
Concealed deadly weapons	4
Cruelty to animals	2
Common scold	1
Drunk and disorderly	1
Disorderly conduct	22
Desertion	1
Dangerous alien enemy	1
Drunk	29

REPORT OF POLICE COMMITTEE—Continued

Enticing minors	4
Embezzlement	1
Enticing minors for immoral purposes	1
Felonious entry and larceny	4
Failing to register	2
Forgery	1
Homicide	1
Insane	6
Impersonating an officer	1
Incorrigible and larceny	1
Larceny of auto	6
Larceny	9
Malicious mischief	7
Non-support	2
Pickpockets	6
Runaway boys	3
Reckless driving	4
Suspicious	22
Violation of game laws	1
Vagrancy	4
	— 255
Lodgers accommodated	17
Meals served to prisoners	605

Statement of expenditures will be found in the report of the Finance Committee on page 11.

The Officers of the Department have faithfully performed their duty during the year in all its branches.

We desire to express our thanks and appreciation to you, the President, and all members of the Board, for the courtesy extended us during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

THEO. EDWARDS, Chairman.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Charles F. Mebus, President,
Commissioners of Abington Township,

Dear Sir:—

Your Health Board report that during the year 1918 the following cases were reported by physicians:

Chicken Pox	25	Mumps	8
Diphtheria	13	Pneumonia	8
Erysipelas	1	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5
German Measles	11	Scarlet Fever	1
Influenza (Estimated)	425	Scarletina	1
Measles	212	Typhoid Fever	4
Meningitis T. B.	2	Whooping Cough	95

Statement of expenditures will be found in the report of the Finance Committee on page 11.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK E. CHESTERMAN, President.

REPORT OF HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Charles F. Mebus, President,
Commissioners of Abington Township,

Dear Sir:—

During the year 1918, 500 feet of Mount Carmel avenue, North Glenside, and 1800 feet of Welsh Road, Crestmont, were resurfaced.

On Rosemore avenue, Glenside, and Welsh Road, Crestmont, Brick and Belgian Block gutters were laid. This is a permanent improvement. We also purchased Belgian Blocks for gutters on Keswick avenue, Glenside, which will be laid during 1919.

The bridge at the intersection of Fitzwatertown and Moreland roads, Crestmont, was replaced by constructing a Concrete Bridge with Wing Walls.

Cinders were placed on Terwood Road, Decatur and Ferndale avenues.

25,000 gallons Barber Asphalt Oil was applied and covered with Slag chips as a surface treatment on the following roads:

Runnymede Avenue	Jenkintown Road
Washington Lane	Mount Carmel Avenue
Fox Chase Road	Roberts Avenue
Cedar Road	Lenox Road

Woodland Road

The maintenance of our Roads suffered greatly, due to the excessive increase in prices of materials and labor.

The Ashes were collected by this Department, throughout the Township, with satisfaction to all, and at a cost of \$2,900.05 to this Department.

Statement of expenditures will be found in the report of the Finance Committee on pages 13, 14, and 15.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID F. BENNINGHOFF,
Chairman of Highway Committee.

REPORT OF FIRE COMMITTEE

Charles F. Mebus, President,
Commissioners of Abington Township,

Dear Sir:—

As chairman of the Fire Department of Abington Township, I desire to submit the following report for the year 1918:

During the year there were 75 fires reported by the Abington, McKinley, Weldon and Edge Hill Companies; 12 of which were field fires and 13 woods fires. Of the fires reported Abington responded to 11, McKinley to 26, Weldon to 24 and Edge Hill to 14.

In the majority of cases, the Chiefs were unable to obtain data from the owners of the property on fire as to value of property on fire, loss to same, and amount of insurance, if any. It seems that owners of property are very reluctant about giving this data to the fire companies and too great stress cannot be laid on the importance of giving this information to the Chiefs of the companies at the fires. Of the fires on which figures were obtainable, we submit the following data:

Value of buildings on fire \$33,000.00; value of contents \$6,200.00.

Damage to buildings \$17,150.00; damage to contents \$3,000.00.

There were no deaths resulting from fires during the year, nor were there any serious accidents.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID F. BENNINGHOFF,
Chairman of Fire Department.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

of the Accounts of W. Howard Wilson, Treasurer, and the Commissioners
of Abington Township, Montgomery County, Penna.

From the first Monday of January 1918, to the first Monday of January, 1919.

DEBITS

Balance	\$ 12,220.66
Tax duplicate, 1918	\$98,510.33
Discount	\$3,725.54
Allowances	645.29
Unseated Lands	1,368.75
	5,739.58
Net Tax Duplicate, 1918	92,770.75
Penalty 5 per cent. on uncollected taxes \$5,985.47	299.27
Interest on Bank Balances	169.06
License fees (Hotel) 1917, 1918	120.00
Amount received from Secretary	43,625.77
Amount received from County on Unseated Lands	821.60
	\$150,027.11

CREDITS

Vouchers issued	\$140,678.66
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TREASURER'S COMPENSATION

3 per cent. on \$92,770.75	\$2,783.12
3 per cent. on 299.27	8.98
1 per cent. on 43,625.77	436.26
1 per cent. on 169.06	1.69
1 per cent. on 120.00	1.20
Expenses allowed \$294.33	
Expenses paid 294.33	
	\$3,231.25
Paid on account of Compensation	3,140.99 190.26 140,868.92
Balance due the Township	\$9,158.19

UNPAID BILLS

Springfield Consolidated Water Company	\$1,320.00
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There is, however, included in the General Account, a Garbage Contract deposit, made by L. B. Lukens, in December 1918, cash amounting to \$150.00. This deposit is on account of 1919 Garbage Contract.

AUDITOR'S REPORT—Continued

LIABILITIES

Balance Loan 1906	\$ 32,000.00	
Balance Loan 1907	60,000.00	
Balance Loan 1911	35,000.00	
Balance Loan 1912	150,000.00	
Balance Loan 1913	25,000.00	
Balance Loan 1915	10,000.00	
Temporary Loan, Glenside National Bank, Note Oct. 1, 1918	5,500.00	
Unpaid Bill	1,320.00	
		\$318,820.00

CASH ASSETS

Sinking Fund, 1906 Loan	\$ 788.10	
Sinking Fund, 1907 Loan	4,373.42	
Sinking Fund, 1911 Loan	8,693.13	
Sinking Fund, 1912 Loan	2,281.72	
Sinking Fund, 1913 Loan	2,718.63	
Sinking Fund, 1915 Loan	1,002.28	
Due from Treasurer	9,158.19	
		\$ 29,015.47

WE, the undersigned Township Auditors of Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, do hereby report that we have audited, settled and adjusted the accounts of the Board of Township Commissioners of Abington Township, and of W. Howard Wilson, the Township Treasurer, for the Year beginning the First Monday of January, 1918, and ending the First Monday of January, 1919, and find that the above statement of the list of receipts, expenditures, credits and debits, is a true and correct account of said settlement and audit and we find said accounts correct as above stated.

E. J. DONOUGH,
ENOS E. SHUPP,
E. W. JENKINS,
Auditors.

Abington, Pa., January 24, 1919.
Attest:—E. RAYMOND AMBLER, Secretary.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Charles F. Mebus, President,
Commissioners of Abington Township,

Dear Sir:—

Your Finance Committee beg to submit the following report which gives in detail, the expenditures on the various appropriations for the year 1918.

Respectfully submitted,
HORACE BOWMAN, Chairman.

OFFICE EXPENSES

Appropriation	\$2,350.00	
Transferred thru Ordinance No. 129	400.00	
		\$2,750.00
Expenditures: (All paid)		
Auditing	145.90	
Advertising	166.10	
Furniture	64.50	
Postage	65.44	
Printing	318.15	
Stationery	77.93	
Stenography	77.00	
Miscellaneous Supplies	110.39	
Typewriter	725.00	
Telephone	115.67	
Legal	32.80	
Coal	233.40	
Light	369.05	
Laundry	8.80	
Soap, Towels and Toilet paper	71.71	
Repairs to Building	78.29	
Repairs to Lawn Mower	2.00	
Sprinkler and Hose for lawn	13.30	
Water Cooler	20.50	
Flags and Repairs to pole	35.18	
Total expenditures		2,731.11
Balance unexpended		\$ 18.89

SALARIES OF SECRETARIES AND JANITOR

Appropriation	\$2,040.00	
Transferred thru Ordinance No. 129	360.00	
		\$2,400.00
Expenditures: (All paid)		
		2,390.17
Balance unexpended		\$ 9.83

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—Continued

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Appropriation		\$16,500.00
Expenditures: (All paid)		
Salaries	\$11,735.00	
Dues of Associations	15.00	
Coal	34.50	
Auto Equipment	1,645.78	
Food for Prisoners	95.30	
Ice	1.30	
Automobile Insurance	127.06	
Gasoline and Oils	1,238.56	
Printing	45.05	
Uniforms	233.60	
Telephone	922.25	
Water	58.25	
New Ford Cars	408.00	
Officers Traveling Expenses	35.31	
Total expenditures		\$16,594.96
Overdrawn		\$ 94.96

BOARD OF HEALTH

Appropriation		\$1,500.00
Expenditures: (All paid)		
Salaries	1,040.00	
Postage	9.00	
Printing	46.25	
Chemicals	165.31	
Expense of Inspections	6.50	
Miscellaneous	4.50	
Total expenditures		\$1,271.56
Balance unexpended		\$ 228.44

ROAD LIGHTS

Appropriation		\$8,500.00
Expenditures: (All paid)		8,440.75
Balance unexpended		\$ 59.25

FIRE HYDRANTS

Appropriation		\$1,800.00
Expenditures		375.00
Balance unexpended		\$1,425.00

(There remains unpaid, a bill in amount of \$1,320.00
of Springfield Consolidated Water Co.)

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—Continued

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Appropriation	\$2,100.00
Expenditures: (All paid)	
Salary	\$ 60.00
Postage47
Edge Hill Fire Company	500.00
Abington Fire Company	500.00
McKinley Fire Company	500.00
Weldon Fire Company	500.00
	<hr/>
Total Expenditures	\$2,060.47
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended	\$ 39.53

GARBAGE

Appropriation	\$1,500.00
Expenditures: (All paid)	1,419.82
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended	\$ 80.18

LEGAL

Appropriation	\$600.00
Expenditures: (All paid)	600.00
	<hr/>

SIDEWALKS

Appropriation	\$600.00
Transferred by Ordinance No. 129	600.00
	<hr/>

CONTINGENT

Appropriation	\$3,000.00
Transferred by Ordinance No. 129	380.00
	<hr/>
\$2,620.00	
Expenditures: (All paid)	
Law books	\$ 24.00
Special Investigation Reitter case	25.00
Card Index File and Cards	335.20
Real Estate York and Susquehanna Roads	2,044.89
	<hr/>
Total expenditures	2,429.09
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended	\$ 190.91

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—Continued

HIGHWAYS

Appropriation\$30,258.00

Expenditures: (All paid)

Abington, District No. 1:

Bradfield avenue	\$ 5.40	
Bockius avenue	6.00	
Eckard avenue	6.00	
Edge Hill road	21.00	
Guernsey avenue	6.00	
Highland avenue	9.00	
Horace avenue	6.00	
Huntingdon road	38.80	
Susquehanna road	1,384.25	
Woodland road	1,321.31	
Terwood road	193.50	
Hampton road	16.20	
Removing snow	32.55	
		3,046.01

Saw Mill Hill, District No. 2:

Cedar road	508.39	
Ford road	38.00	
Fox Chase road	1,243.27	
Greenwood avenue	34.90	
Meetinghouse road	653.21	
Susquehanna road	94.75	
Washington Lane	471.37	
Removing snow	11.75	
		3,055.64

Weldon, District No. 3:

Edge Hill road	21.60	
Fairhill avenue	112.05	
Geneva avenue	35.50	
Highland road	13.05	
Jenkintown road	68.00	
Keswick avenue	1,125.03	
Lynnewood avenue	180.73	
Menlo avenue	10.60	
Mt. Carmel avenue	67.40	
Oakdale avenue	47.75	
Roberts avenue	817.40	
Rosemore avenue	516.27	
Sylvania avenue	94.50	
Stewart avenue	24.53	
Tyson avenue	382.52	
Removing snow	55.85	
		3,572.78

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—Continued

McKinley, District No. 4:

Cedar road	306.89	
Cypress avenue	17.50	
Fox Chase road	1,199.05	
Greenwood avenue	27.50	
Jenkintown road	1,282.50	
Lenox road	342.72	
Meetinghouse road	136.36	
Ogontz avenue	15.75	
Osceola avenue	73.70	
Summit avenue	13.75	
Tulpehocken avenue	28.75	
Willow avenue	5.50	
Removing snow	10.10	
		3,460.07

Crestmont, District No. 5:

Davisville road	9.00	
Decatur street	172.50	
Fairview avenue	69.53	
Ferndale avenue	78.75	
Fitzwatertown road	951.35	
Welsh road	4,476.99	
Township Line	6.60	
Removing snow	6.00	
		5,770.72

North Glenside, District No. 6:

Central avenue	80.65	
Cricket avenue	94.16	
Edge Hill avenue	17.78	
Bradfield road	13.20	
Jenkintown road	7.50	
Mt. Carmel avenue	1,255.91	
Spruce avenue	2.75	
Fitzwatertown road	8.28	
Removing snow	9.00	
		1,489.23

Noble, District No. 7:

Center street	21.00	
Grove street	46.65	
Noble street	51.00	
Runnymede avenue	833.27	
Spring street	12.00	
Upland avenue	12.00	
Washington Lane	464.84	
Removing snow	9.00	
		1,449.76

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—Continued

Salaries	2,820.00	
Maintenance of Autos	2,167.28	
Repairs to machinery	37.05	
Tools and Equipment	89.58	
Miscellaneous	12.02	
Printing	22.50	
Demurrage charges	45.72	
Labor York Road	8.00	
State Aid Routes (1917)	122.71	
Labor removing Ashes	1,835.05	
	7,159.91	
Total expenditures		29,004.12
Balance unexpended		\$ 1,253.88

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT

Balance unexpended from 1917	\$ 312.99	
Transferred from 'Switchville Bridge Account'	328.90	
Interest on Balances in Bank	18.97	
		\$ 660.86
Expenditures: (All paid)		
Welsh Road (Gutters)		600.00
Balance unexpended		\$ 60.86

SWITCHVILLE BRIDGE ACCOUNT

Balance unexpended from 1917	\$ 328.90
Transferred to 'Permanent Improvement Account'	328.90

INTEREST ON TEMPORARY LOANS

Appropriation	\$1,000.00	
Transferred thru Ordinance No. 129	220.00	
		\$1,220.00
Expenditures: (All paid)		1,212.79
Balance unexpended		\$ 7.21

SALARIES OF TOWNSHIP COMMISSIGNERS

Appropriation	\$ 420.00
Expenditures: (All paid)	380.00
Balance unexpended	\$ 40.00

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Appropriation	\$ 425.00
Expenditures: (All paid)	416.43
Balance unexpended	\$ 8.57

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—Continued

TEMPORARY LOANS

Appropriation	\$10,000.00
Expenditures: (All paid)	10,000.00

TREASURER'S COMPENSATION

Appropriation	\$ 3,300.00
Expenditures: Paid on account to date	3,040.98
Balance unexpended	\$ 259.98
(\$190.26 still due Treasurer)	

TREASURER'S EXPENSE

No appropriation	
Expenditures: (All paid)	\$ 294.33

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS—PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

Appropriation	\$22,857.00
Expenditures: (All paid)	
Interest on Permanent Loans,	
1906	\$1,400.00
1907	2,400.00
1911	1,400.00
1912	6,160.00
1913	1,250.00
1915	500.00
	<u>13,110.00</u>
State Tax 1917 and 1918	2,636.67
Sinking Funds:	
1906	1,611.25
1907	1,605.00
1911	878.25
1912	2,404.58
1913	343.75
1915	267.50
	<u>7,110.33</u>
Total expenditures	22,857.00



The Robinson Press
Hartboro, Pa.