

Chapter 5: Community Facilities and Services

Chapter 5 of this Comprehensive Plan provides special attention to the community facilities and services within Exeter Borough including those relating to local government, emergency services, parks and recreation, education, libraries, health care services, and solid waste management. These community facilities and services are essential to the existing and future residents of Exeter Borough and should be carefully planned in an effort to maintain an effective level of service. Map 5 of this Comprehensive Plan depicts the locations of some of the more prominent community facilities and services that are located within Exeter Borough.

Section 5.A: Local Government

Local government exists for the purposes of providing community services and public facilities to the residents of a municipality in an effort to maintain the public health, safety and general welfare. The following profile provides a description of the municipal facilities, personnel and services that are available to the community.

Municipal Government: Exeter Borough operates and functions as a municipal government under the Borough Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Governing Body: The residents of the community elect a Mayor plus seven (7) persons to serve as the Exeter Borough Council for a term of four (4) years. Duties include: governing and execution of municipal legislative; providing executive oversight and administrative actions for the powers to ensure sound fiscal management; coordinate emergency management services; and to secure the health, safety and general welfare of all residents within the community.

Administration: There is one (1) full-time employee that assumes the responsibilities of manager, secretary and treasurer responsibilities plus one (1) part-time employee to provide administrative assistance and secretarial services as a day-to-day operation at the Exeter Borough Building.

Public Works: There are four (4) full-time employees and one (1) part-time employee that are assigned to maintain the public roads, municipal building, parks and recreation areas, recycling operation and other community areas that are owned by Exeter Borough.

Planning Commission: Exeter Borough Council appoints five (5) residents to serve as members of the Exeter Borough Planning Commission for a term of four (4) years. Duties include the review of applications involving subdivision plans and land development plans, as well as assist with the development of municipal plans and ordinances. The Planning Commission serves as advisors to the Borough Council under the authority of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

Zoning Hearing Board: Exeter Borough Council appoints three (3) residents plus one (1) alternative to serve on the Exeter Borough Zoning Hearing Board for a term of four (4) years per appointment. Duties include the review of all variance and special exception applications submitted under the zoning provisions of Exeter Borough. The Zoning Hearing Board is considered as a quasi-judicial committee, which has the authority to make independent decisions under the authority of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

Auditor: Exeter Borough Council appoints a consulting firm to serve as the Exeter Borough Auditor on a year to year service contract. Duties include reviewing municipal financial records on a periodic basis.

Tax Collector: The residents of the community elect one (1) person to serve as the Exeter Borough Tax Collector for a term of four (4) years. Duties include collecting municipal real estate taxes on properties within Exeter Borough.

Park and Recreation Board: Exeter Borough does not have a Park and Recreation Board.

Historical Commission: Exeter Borough does not have a Historical Commission.

Municipal Consultants: Exeter Borough Council appoints municipal consultants to provide legal, zoning, code enforcement, and engineering services, as well as other special duties that may be required by Exeter Borough. The consultants are paid for their respective services on an as needed basis.

Municipal Building: The Exeter Borough Building is located at 1101 Wyoming Avenue. The municipal building is designated for administrative offices, community services and public meetings.

Public Works Buildings: Exeter Borough has a Public Works Building and Recycling Center located at 399 Slocum Avenue, which are utilized by the Public Works Department as garages for the storage of trucks, equipment, supplies and materials as well as a community recycling center.

Trucks and Major Equipment: Exeter Borough currently has a small fleet of trucks and a wide variety of equipment that are utilized by the Public Works Department for maintenance, recycling and other community services. Exeter Borough also has a cooperative agreement with other municipalities for shared equipment. A complete inventory of all trucks and major equipment is maintained by the Exeter Borough Public Works Department.

Municipal Budget: The Exeter Borough Council adopts a municipal budget each year in order to account for revenues and expenditures. Further discussion on the municipal budget has been included under Chapter 6 (Fiscal Impact and Economic Development) of this Comprehensive Plan.

Section 5.B: Police, Fire and Ambulance

Police Protection

Police protection is a vital public service that benefits the entire community. The traditional role of the police involves law enforcement, order and community service. Law enforcement involves the application of legal sanctions that have been passed into law by local, county, state and federal levels of government. Order involves the handling and management of disputes that arise from a variety of situations. Community service is a variable factor that is dependant upon the size of the department and the needs of the community.

The Exeter Borough Police Department operates out of the Exeter Borough Building, which is located at 1101 Wyoming Avenue. The Exeter Borough Police Department is currently in a transitional phase, which will ultimately include a police chief plus two (2) full-time officers and other part-time officers who are capable to provide 24 hour coverage, 7 days per week and 365 days per year. The Pennsylvania State Police (Troop P), which is located in Wyoming Borough, is also available to assist the Exeter Borough Police Department. The following table represents a summary of the calls to service by the Exeter Borough Police Department between 2013 and 2017.

Exeter Borough Police Calls for Service (2013 - 2017)							
Classification of Activity or Response for Police Service	Total Number of Responses by Year					5 Year Average	Percentage of Total
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Assault							%
Burglary							%
Criminal Mischief, Suspicion							%
Death via Natural Causes, Suicide or Homicide		Documentation for this Chart has been requested and is still pending					%
Disorderly Conduct						%	
Drugs, Alcohol and DUI						%	
Sex Offence						%	
Theft, Fraud and Forgery							%
Traffic Accident or Collision							%
Traffic Violation							%
Police Assistance, Referrals and Legal Obligations							%
Other Administrative and Miscellaneous Services							%
Cancelled Calls, False Reports and 911 Disconnections							%
Total Service Calls							100.00 %
<i>Source: Exeter Borough Police Department (August 2018)</i>							

Funding to support the Exeter Borough Police Department is provided through public revenue sources secured by Exeter Borough via real estate taxes, assessments, grants and other revenues. As part of the 2018 municipal budget, Exeter Borough allocated \$ 404,109.96 from its general fund in order to support 23.9 percent of the budget of the Exeter Borough Police Department. The remaining _____ percent of the operating costs were received from donations, fund raisers and grants, Based upon the calls for police service within Exeter Borough that have been responded by Troop P of the Pennsylvania State Police between 2013 through 2018, the following observations can be made:

- (1) The Exeter Borough Police Department will need to operate as a complete full-time staff in order to provide adequate police coverage 24 hour coverage, 7 days per week and 365 days per year.
- (2) During this 5-year time period, a total of _____ service calls or _____ service calls per year were assigned to Troop P of the Pennsylvania State Police.
- (3) During this 5-year time period, a total of _____ calls to service have been in response to violent or serious crimes, which include: assault; burglary; criminal mischief; disorderly conduct; domestic dispute; drug and alcohol violations; homicide and man slaughter; and theft. These violent or serious crimes represent _____ percent of the total calls to service and have a general occurrence rate of _____ times during a calendar year.
- (4) During this 5-year time period, a total of _____ calls to service have been in response to non-violent crimes as well as general services and duties, which include: traffic accidents and violations; referral and assistance; responses to false alarms and reports; civil surface duties; legal proceedings; and miscellaneous services and duties performed by the Pennsylvania State Police. These non-violent crimes, general services and duties represent _____ percent of the total calls to service and have a general occurrence rate of _____ times during a calendar year.
- (5) During this 5-year time period, a total of _____ calls to service were the result of cancelled calls, false alarms and 911 disconnections. These types of responses represent _____ percent of the total calls to service and have a general occurrence rate of _____ times during a calendar year.
- (6) Administrative duties and miscellaneous service calls include a wide variation of activities including: community relations; public safety and education; missing persons and animals; removal of debris from the cartway; crisis intervention; training; warrants; and reports. These miscellaneous services and duties are often overlooked but are essential for the community.
- (7) Community Survey **(Results are Pending)**
- (8) Regional Coverage **(Results are Pending)**

Cooperation between the Pennsylvania State Police and other emergency management services within the region is considered excellent. All communications are tied with the Luzerne County Emergency Management Services (911 Communication Center) who dispatches the police calls. The Pennsylvania State Police also provides assistance to neighboring municipalities as the primary enforcement agency or to provide coverage and assistance.

Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services

Fire protection and emergency response services are a basic public safety service that is essential to any community. The Exeter Fire Department (Hose Number 1) is located at 1405 Susquehanna Avenue has first-call responsibilities within Exeter Borough and also provides assistance to other communities within the region.

The Exeter Fire Department was established as a volunteer department that currently provides: fire protection; search and rescue; extrication and vehicle rescue; confined space rescue; trench rescue; fire police functions; forest and brush fire response; and other emergency response services within the community. There are currently 40 volunteers who have received various degrees on training to provide fire fighting and emergency management response services. The Exeter Fire Department encourages all volunteer members to take part in training and certification programs.

In 2017, the Exeter Fire Department responded to a total of 439 calls, which included calls within Exeter Borough as well as regional calls (outside of Exeter Borough). All communications are tied with the Luzerne County Emergency Management Services (911 Communication Center) who dispatches the calls to the Exeter Fire Department. The following is an inventory of the apparatus that is currently available to the Exeter Borough Volunteer Fire Company.

Funding to support the Exeter Fire Department is provided through public revenue sources, contributions and donations. In 2018, Exeter Borough contributed \$135,469.04 or 8.0 percents of its general funds in order to support the Exeter Fire Department. The remaining funds to support the operating costs were received from donations, fund raisers and grants.

Exeter Borough does not charge its landowners or residents a user fee or special tax assessment for fire protection or emergency response services. Revenue sources that are generated from contributions, donations and grants cannot be guaranteed from year to year. Trained volunteers, dependable vehicles/equipment and stable financial resources are essential components for a volunteer fire department to efficiently function within the community.



Ambulance Service

The Exeter Borough Ambulance Association (EBAA) is a privatized or for-profit regional ambulance service that provides primary ambulance, basic life support and emergency medical services to Exeter Borough as well as the Wyoming Valley of Luzerne County. The EBAA operates out of a station house located at 1091 Wyoming Avenue in Exeter Borough.

The EBAA is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The professional staff members are certified paramedics with support staff. The emergency medical technicians and paramedics provide basic and advanced life support ambulance services, non-emergency transports, standby services, and community outreach programs.

The EBAA staff utilizes ambulances that are fully equipped for basic and advanced life support transport. Transportation services are typically designated to the hospitals and medical centers within the Wyoming Valley of Luzerne County. All communications are tied with the Luzerne County Emergency Management Services (911 Communication Center) who dispatches the calls to the EBAA.

The EBAA is funded by a combination of revenue sources that includes membership subscriptions, insurance reimbursements, patient billing, donations and fund raisers. Exeter Borough does not provide an annual contribution to the EBAA.



Emergency Operations Plan

Exeter Borough has prepared and adopted an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The purpose of the EOP is to prescribe those activities to be taken by municipal government and other community officials in accordance with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code. The scope of the EOP includes all activities in the entire emergency management cycle, including prevention, preparation, response and recovery phases. The EOP is applicable to all response organizations acting for or on behalf of Exeter Borough. A copy of the EOP is available at the Exeter Borough Building.

Section 5.C: Parks and Recreation

The planning for both passive and active recreation opportunities is a vital component to any community planning effort. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have coordinated efforts to prepare an Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Master Plan (2004) and a Regional Comprehensive Plan (2011) to provide guideline and direction to its local municipalities.

Currently, there are a total of 10.92 acres of land that can be classified as public parks and recreation areas plus 8,765 linear feet of trails within Exeter Borough. The following chart provides an inventory of these existing facilities.

Existing Park and Recreation Facilities within Exeter Borough				
Facility Name	Land Area	Type of Facility	Primary Ownership and/or Maintenance	General Classification or Facility Description
Lehigh Street Park	0.38 acres	Neighborhood Park	Exeter Borough	Active Recreation with Site Improvements
Thomas Street Park	1.03 acres	Neighborhood Park	Exeter Borough	Active Recreation with Site Improvements
Donna's Way Natural Park at Hick Creek	0.46 acres	Nature Preserve	Exeter Borough	Passive Open Space and Nature Preserve
West Side Trail	8,765 linear feet 4.02 acres	Community Trail	Exeter Borough and Luzerne County	Passive Open Space
Exeter Little League and Junior Football	8.03 acres	Private Park with Community Uses	Privately owned and maintained	Active Recreation with Site Improvements
<i>Source: Exeter Borough and Luzerne County</i>				

Pursuant to the guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Exeter Borough should have a minimum of 8 acres of land per 1,000 residents that is devoted to active parks and recreation areas. Therefore, Exeter Borough should have 44.46 acres of park and recreation land. As a result, Exeter Borough currently has a park and recreation deficit of 33.54 acres of land.

There are also other recreation areas that are privately owned and/or maintained within Exeter Borough, including: the Four Season Golf Course; Fox Run Country Club and Golf Course; Wyoming Area School District; Wyoming Area Catholic School; the Susquehanna River; Scovell Island; and Wintermoot Island.

Section 5.D: Education and Libraries

Educational facilities and services are indirectly related to municipal planning efforts since the projected growth and development of a municipality has an impact on the school district. Therefore, it is imperative to coordinate future planning efforts between Exeter Borough and the Wyoming Area School District.

Wyoming Area School District

The Wyoming Area School District (WASD) was established to provide educational opportunities (Kindergarten through 12th grade) to students within an area encompassing 26 square miles within portions of Luzerne County that include: Exeter Borough; Wyoming Borough, West Wyoming Borough, West Pittston Borough and Exeter Township. The total population of these municipalities is estimated at 20,386 persons (2016 Census Estimate) of which 2,325 students (2017 Enrollment) attend the WASD. The following educational centers are located within the WASD:

Wyoming Area Kindergarten Center: 50 Penn Avenue, Exeter Borough

JFK Elementary School: 50 Penn Avenue, Exeter Borough

Wyoming Area Primary School Center: 55 10th Avenue, Wyoming Borough

Wyoming Area Intermediate School Center: 100 Montgomery Avenue, West Pittston Borough

Wyoming Area Secondary School Center: 282 Memorial Street, Exeter Borough

The faculty and staffing includes a variety of professionals and several volunteers, who perform their respective duties out of these educational centers and administrative offices. The WASD also owns and maintains a variety of athletic facilities and recreation uses including: softball fields; baseball fields; football fields; soccer fields; field hockey fields; practice fields; basketball courts; track and field facilities; walking and exercising facilities; tennis courts; weight training facilities; and a variety of playground facilities. Some of the athletic fields and recreation uses are available to the residents within the WASD. The educational buildings and athletic fields are available to the residents of WASD provided that they are not being utilized by the students for curricular or extra-curricular programs. The WASD also has a Community Education Program that offers various classes throughout the year.

Based upon the population estimates and projections for the WASD, the student enrollment is expected to remain stable with minimal growth through the year 2040. Therefore, the educational facilities should be sufficient to accommodate the existing and projected student enrollments through the year 2040.

Private Education

There are several private educational opportunities located within Luzerne County. The Wyoming Area Catholic School is located at 1690 Wyoming Avenue in Exeter Borough. The facility provides education opportunities to students (Pre-K through 8th grad) within the Wyoming Valley.

Higher-Learning and Advanced Education

There are 26 institutions that offer advanced educational opportunities within a 50 mile radius of Exeter Borough. Some of the more prominent institutions include: Kings College; Wilkes University; Luzerne County Community College; Penn State University (Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Hazleton); Scranton University; Bloomsburg University; Marywood University; and Misericordia University. There are also several medical education and technical training opportunities within the Wyoming Valley.

Community Libraries

The Luzerne County Library System (LCLS) was established in 1984 as a community library. Currently, the LCLS includes 10 community libraries that serve 320,000 residents within Luzerne County. The LCLS has a staff that includes librarians, support staff and volunteers. The operating expenses are supplemented through local, state and federal funds as well as private donations and user fees.

Section 5.E: Health Care and Hospitals

Exeter Borough is not a direct provider of community health care services. There are several regional hospitals and medical centers that are located within close proximity to Exeter Borough, including: Geisinger Medical Centers (Wilkes-Barre and Scranton); Scranton Regional Hospital; Mercy Hospital; Wilkes-Barre General Hospital; First Hospital of Wyoming Valley; Moses Taylor Hospital; Tyler Memorial Hospital; and Lehigh Valley Hospital. In addition to these major facilities, there are a variety of public and private health care providers that offer health care services to the residents of Exeter Borough.

Section 5.F: Solid Waste Management

Solid waste management includes the collection, disposal and/or recycling of household waste, hazardous waste, sewage sludge, agricultural waste and/or industrial waste. In addition, the reclamation of contaminated areas, such as Superfund sites or Brownfield sites, are vital issues that must be addressed as part of a solid waste management plan. Although certain issues are typically addressed at the federal, state or county levels, Exeter Borough must plan for solid waste disposal and recycling.

Solid Waste Disposal

The Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (PA Act 101 of 1988) has placed greater emphasis upon county-wide solid waste management plans versus municipal solid waste management plans. As part of this requirement, Luzerne County has prepared and updated a Municipal Waste Management Plan to account for solid waste disposal and recycling efforts.

There are no solid waste disposal facilities (landfills, resource recovery facilities or transfer stations) located within Exeter Borough. However, there are several solid waste disposal facilities located within 100 miles of Exeter Borough. Most of these facilities have sufficient capacity to accommodate municipal waste from the municipalities within Luzerne County. Exeter Borough contracts its solid waste disposal with a licensed hauler who is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste in accordance with the provisions established by Luzerne County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Recycling

The Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (PA Act 101 of 1988) established certain goals and objectives for recycling including: reduce the amount of municipal waste generated within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; 25 percent of waste generated; procure and use recycled and recyclable materials in state governmental agencies; and educate the public as to the benefits of recycling and waste reduction. The benefits of a municipal recycling and solid waste reduction plan include reduced pollution risks; conservation of natural resources, energy and landfill space; and reduced disposal costs.

Exeter Borough has a successful recycling program that involves the collection, processing and transfer of recycling products (paper, cans and bottles) to lawful markets and/or disposal sites in accordance with the provisions established by Luzerne County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 5.G: Planning Implications and Issues

Chapter 5 provides a description and analysis of community facilities and services in Exeter Borough. The following planning implications and issues shall apply:

- (1) Municipal facilities and services have been managed efficiently over the past twenty (20) years. Additional staffing, equipment and basic services may need to be considered or improved upon in order to accommodate future growth and development.
- (2) Municipal finances are being utilized to their full capacities on community facilities and services that are essential for a municipal government to survive under unstable economic conditions. In order to continue as a fiscally responsible municipality, Exeter Borough should consider establishing a capital improvements fund as part of the budget for future needs and investments.
- (3) Police protection within Exeter Borough is considered sufficient with respect to response times and crime rates over the past five (5) years. The Police Department is working its way through a transitional period and will be challenged considering the crime rates over the past five (5) years. This level of service should be closely monitored as growth and development occur within Exeter Borough and the surrounding region.
- (4) Fire protection and emergency response services are considered sufficient with respect to response times and calls to service. The Exeter Fire Department needs to be improved in order to be an excellent model for fire protection and emergency management services within the community. Funding opportunities need to be secured and volunteerism needs to be promoted to establish stability for this essential service.
- (5) Ambulance and health care services are considered basic and sufficient with respect to response times, regional coverage and services. This level of service should be monitored as the needs of an aging community become more relevant over the next 10 to 20 years.
- (6) The Community Survey reflected the residents expect a high level of police, fire, ambulance and emergency management services. Municipal expenditures are considered very tight and challenging to manage considering the needs of a suburban community. This level of service should be monitored as the needs of an aging community with minimal growth expectations are factored into the equation of what is “adequate” or “inadequate” by the community.
- (7) Exeter Borough does not dedicate significant resources towards needs for parks, recreation and open space within the community. This is reflected in the amount of land available designated as park and recreation areas as well as the funding provided within the municipal budget.
- (8) Exeter Borough needs to provide more emphasis on: the existing condition of the parks and recreation facilities; the need to acquire additional land to provide active and passive recreation opportunities; the need to add or replace equipment considering public safety; and to actively pursue viable funding opportunities.

- (9) Exeter Borough should consider passive recreation opportunities along the Susquehanna River and/or other undeveloped areas that could become a community asset and scenic resource.
- (10) Educational facilities and services are adequate considering the existing student population within the Wyoming Area School District (WASD). However, the population projections of the municipalities within the WASD are expected to see minimal growth from new development. The projections formulated by the WASD and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will need to be closely monitored to determine the sustainability of the WASD through the year 2040.
- (11) Exeter Borough and the WASD should consider partnership opportunities relating to education, recreation, public safety and maintenance issues within the community.
- (12) Health care and medical services within the Wyoming Valley are considered adequate.
- (13) Solid waste disposal and recycling services are considered acceptable given the residential density and land use composition of Exeter Borough.
- (14) Exeter Borough should consider regional or multi-municipal partnerships in order to efficiently provide and manage community facilities and services through the year 2040.

Section 5.H: Community Facilities and Services Plan

The community goals, objectives and policies that are relative to community facilities and services are contained within Chapter 2 of this Comprehensive Plan. Exeter Borough has determined that a strategic plan should be considered for implementation over the next 10 to 20 years. The following plan for community facilities and services has been established for this Comprehensive Plan:

- (1) Continue to effectively provide community facilities and services, which meet the needs of the landowners and residents while staying within the fiscal budget limitations of Exeter Borough. The Exeter Borough Council should continue to develop a reasonable budget each year considering the recommendations contained within this Comprehensive Plan and the overall needs of the community.
- (2) The Exeter Borough Building is geographically located in a centralized setting of Exeter Borough. The building currently has sufficient area for office space, meeting rooms, storage and other community services. Exeter Borough should continue to maximize the utilization of the building in order to support other community and non-profit organizations.
- (3) Monitor population, age, household and social trends in order to plan for future community facilities and services. Although there is limited room for new growth and development, Exeter Borough should experience some a moderate growth rate (0.33 percent per year) through the year 2040. Based upon a median age of 44.4 years of age (2010 Census), younger residents must help to shape the future of Exeter Borough as a vibrant community.
- (4) Continue to maintain and improve the Exeter Borough Website in order to provide the residents of the community with information concerning meetings, announcements, codes, ordinances, maps, emergency response services (police, fire and ambulance), refuse and recycling collection, parks and recreation facilities, community services and other vital news. The municipal website could serve as community tool for providing information to the residents and business owners.

- (5) Continue to improve communications between municipal officials and residents within the community. As part of this effort, Exeter Borough could prepare a summary report of all municipal meetings and publish the summary report as an alert on the Exeter Borough Website. This information will increase public awareness of issues within the community.
- (6) Continue to evaluate administrative staff levels and needs in order to provide a high level of service to the residents within the community. If the population projections are accurate, there will be 559 new residents occupying an estimated 244 new housing units in Exeter Borough by the year 2040. Borough Council should coordinate efforts with the Manager to prioritize administrative needs and expenditures as part of the budget process on an annual basis.
- (7) Encourage volunteerism to develop a sense of community, increase public awareness, and to utilize the diverse skills, knowledge and ideas of the local residents. Exeter Borough in conjunction with Exeter Proud should provide periodic alerts via press releases or social media in order to establish a list of volunteers who could provide their assistance within the community.
- (8) Implement a capital improvements program to anticipate and plan for future financial needs including buildings, vehicles, computers, roads, storm sewers, equipment, parks, and other facility or infrastructure improvements. The capital improvements program should be utilized as a framework for financing needed capital improvements incurred each year over a 5 to 10 year period of time. Borough Council should prioritize these community needs on an annual basis as part of the budget.
- (9) Explore the use of cooperative agreements with other municipalities for the purchase of materials, equipment and services in an effort to be more efficient and cost effective. This task should be considered as a continuous process that is dependant upon current circumstances.
- (10) Initiate dialogue between representatives of the Wyoming Area School District and/or the adjacent municipalities concerning the feasibility of joint or regional projects. As part of this process, explore grants or other funding sources that can assist the community with the implementation of certain projects.
- (11) The Exeter Borough Police Department should continue to coordinate coverage responsibilities with Troop P of the Pennsylvania State Police and the adjacent municipalities. The Community Survey provided verification that police protection, coverage and response is an essential service within the community. Exeter Borough should continue to evaluate local and regional police coverage options considering the level of service, response times, cost and the reported crime activities on an annual basis
- (12) Exeter Borough has evaluated local and regional police coverage options over the past 10 to 20 years. Borough Council has determined that a local or municipal police department provides the most effective option for public safety considering the needs of the community 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and 365 days per year.
- (13) The total number of violent or serious crimes remained low over the past five (5) years, which is consistent with most suburban or urban municipalities. Based upon the statistical correlation between population and crime, it is anticipated that the calls to service may increase over the

next 10 to 20 years. The Exeter Borough Police Department should be prepared for spikes in criminal activity which will have an indirect impact on response times, vehicles, equipment, training and general administration. It is recommended that the calls to service be evaluated each year to determine if any trends develop.

- (14) The Exeter Borough Police Department responds to an average of _____ calls to service each year that are classified as cancelled calls, false alarms or 911 disconnects. Police coverage within Exeter Borough could be improved if the officers on duty are available to respond to calls that require their presence. The Exeter Borough Police Department could develop a public education program to inform the residents within the community of the importance of understanding and maintaining their security systems. This information could be issued in the form of a brochure or a link could be established on the Exeter Borough Website.
- (15) Exeter Borough should continue to support the Exeter Fire Department. As part of the 2018 municipal budget, a contribution of \$135,469.94 was made from its general fund in order to support a portion of the budget of the Exeter Fire Department. Additional funds were received from donations, fund raisers and grants. Trained volunteers, dependable vehicles/equipment and stable financial resources are essential components for a volunteer fire department to efficiently function within the community. Exeter Borough should consider establishing a local emergency services tax to provide financial support to the Exeter Fire Department.
- (16) Establish and maintain dedicated links on the Exeter Borough Website to the Exeter Borough Police Department, Exeter Fire Department, the Luzerne Regional Emergency Management System and other emergency response agencies servicing the community. This effort should be coordinated with the local and regional emergency response agencies.
- (17) Schedule periodic tours of commercial, industrial and institutional facilities with select emergency management personnel. This should provide vital background information for police, fire and ambulance personnel to respond to an emergency at these facilities.
- (18) Publicize the efforts and accomplishments of the Exeter Borough Police Department, Exeter Fire Department and other emergency responders within the community. A positive image for the emergency management personnel is vital when the respective departments conduct fundraisers or when they perform other duties.
- (19) Continue to coordinate efforts with the Luzerne County Emergency Management Services (911 Communication Center) to notify emergency response services of new roads, road names, business uses and street addresses. Input from the emergency management personnel concerning emergency response issues is vital during the planning phase. As part of this effort, a base map showing all roads within Exeter Borough should be updated on an annual basis and forwarded to all emergency response agencies.
- (20) Exeter Borough currently does not have a Park and Recreation Board. Exeter Borough Council should appoint five (5) residents to serve on the Exeter Borough Parks and Recreation Board. The principal duties of the Park and Recreation Board should be outlined within the Exeter Borough Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- (21) Prepare, adopt and implement a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. This planning effort should include: a complete of inventory of existing facilities; an assessment of community needs; an evaluation of recreation programs; a safety inspection of equipment and infrastructure; a review of finances, fees and budgetary constraints; and recommendations to be implemented by Exeter Borough.
- (22) Exeter Borough should consider the feasibility of acquiring land along the banks of the Susquehanna River for the purposes of providing local flood controls, riparian buffer, open space and passive recreational opportunities to the public. This land acquisition project is consistent with other regional planning efforts for the Susquehanna River, Luzerne County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Exeter Borough should continue to seek alignment and interagency cooperation regarding the development of goals and objectives for the properties along the Susquehanna River. A Strategic Master Plan should also be completed to implement these community goals and objectives.
- (23) Establish a cooperative relationship with the Wyoming Area School District (WASD) and other educational facilities within the community. By maintaining a positive relationship with these educational centers, a cooperative partnership can be developed that provides a variety of benefits to the residents within the community.
- (24) Encourage the development of advanced communication technology to enhance educational opportunities and accessibility among businesses, government, schools, libraries and the residents in the community. The WASD does provide programs to benefit the residents of the community. The Exeter Borough Website should identify these opportunities and programs.
- (25) Continue to establish a cooperative agreement for parks, recreation, education and cultural activities between Exeter Borough and the WASD. The purpose of this agreement is to provide recreation programs and facilities through the efforts of both groups.
- (26) Continue to establish public relations between students and residents by coordinating community service and/or civic duty projects with the WASD.
- (27) Schedule periodic meetings with the WASD to discuss how student population increases or decreases will be managed over the next 20 years. As part of this effort, a regional assessment on how the educational facilities and services that will need to be completed to determine how the projected growth and development within the municipalities of the WASD will need to be resolved. These meeting should include representation from each municipality within the WASD.
- (28) Continue to evaluate affordable methods for solid waste disposal and recycling efforts by the residents and landowners within Exeter Borough.