

Community Update
September 14, 2021

- Good evening. I am Mayor Bob DeFillippo and on behalf of the Township Council, I would like to welcome you to tonight's Roxbury Township Council meeting.
- Before we get started, I ask that you please join me in a moment of silence in remembrance of the lives lost on September 11, 2001. I ask that you also remember their families and the first responders who ran toward that horrible scene of death and destruction 20 years ago.
- Thank you.

COVID

- The COVID report for Roxbury tonight tells us that confirmed cases of Covid-19 have jumped once again. Climbing from 2,725 to 2,842 confirmed cases since our last meeting on Aug. 24. 117 new cases.
- The increase is sadly not surprising, given that families and friends have been gathering to enjoy the good weather and school has started.
- The new cases continue to be largely among the unvaccinated and we again urge everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated as the best way to bring this new surge of the virus under control.
- We also continue to see some breakthrough cases and we again urge everyone, especially the most vulnerable -- elderly and children, to wear masks indoors and to socially distance in large crowd.
- As a reminder, it continues to remain necessary for people to wear masks in Township buildings.

IDA

- The rain from the recent tropical storm, Ida, soaked our town and the wind knocked down some power lines, but for the most part, spared Roxbury the severe damage and in some cases death and destruction that other New Jersey communities suffered.
- I ask that we keep those who were killed, hurt, or left homeless by the storm in your thoughts and prayers.
- Our EMS Director and Fire Chief Bob Hackett tells us that Fire Company #1 pumped out one basement and assisted with a few trees and downed wires.
- The downed wires resulted in some isolated power outages. Power was restored, in general, after a short time.
- So, while we seemed to have escaped the worst of Ida, it is possible that some residents did have issues from the storm, such as water damage. If you did, please contact the Township Manager John Shepherd's Office to let us know.
- Morris County has been declared part of the Major Disaster Declaration for Tropical Storm Ida.
- While not included as part of the initial Federal declaration, once damage assessments were submitted by the towns, Morris County was included.
- If anyone in Roxbury has sustained damage related to Tropical Storm Ida, we encourage them to contact us, so we can direct them to FEMA once we have that contact information.

Helping Others

- We have a reputation in Roxbury for neighbors helping neighbors around town. It is one of the things that makes Roxbury a great place to live, work, and raise a family.
- But the challenges of the past few weeks and the damage suffered by surrounding towns has shown that we can also be good neighbors to our surrounding municipalities.
- After receiving a request for assistance from Manville Borough – a community 43 minutes south of us that was devastated by Ida -- Roxbury agreed to send help.
- Manville is a small town – just 2.5 square miles – and has about 10,000 residents. It is located in *Somerset County*. The Raritan River, which forms one of the borders of Manville, overflowed its banks and flooded many homes and businesses. Restoration efforts are ongoing with the town needing to assess the structural integrity of damaged structures.
- That's where we can help. Last week Roxbury's Rod Schmidt, our Construction Official, along with officials from the State and other towns, reported to Manville to assist with damage assessment of buildings.
- Mr. Schmidt concentrated on the assessment of building foundation integrity. Additionally, he assisted residents with confirming that their natural gas connection was safe so they could reconnect natural gas service.

- I am told that Rod has offered to return to Manville in the future to provide further assistance in the field or for issuing permits for all the restoration work that will be taking place in the next few months.
- Thank you, Rod, for helping out in Manville and for representing Roxbury's willingness to lend a hand to help others.
- Thank you all, again, for joining our meeting tonight.
- Now, back to our agenda.