

## **A New Firing Range for Mt. Lebanon FAQs**

### **Why does Mt. Lebanon need a new firing range?**

It is in the interest of the Municipality to provide a firing range that offers the best possible training for our police officers. Our current 40-year-old firing range at the public works facility is not large enough to accomplish this goal. Currently, officers need to travel beyond the South Hills for their qualification testing, which requires a 25-yard range. The new facility will enable our officers to train and qualify locally. The range could become a regional asset serving other police departments, if their municipalities enter into agreements with Mt. Lebanon.

### **Where will the firing range be located?**

The Commission considered various options, including renovating the existing range, and evaluated several locations. They decided to build the range at Mt. Lebanon Golf Course located on Pine Avenue on the sloped area next to the lower parking lot. The slope will be filled with earth excavated from the Mt. Lebanon Public Works facility and transported to the site to create a flat pad for the building. The lower parking lot will be expanded by seven spaces. The building will not interfere with golf course operations, parking or the garden plots.

### **How much will the facility cost? How will it be paid for?**

The cost estimate for the building and site work is \$1,500,000. The 2017 bond issue included the cost of the range, the ice rink repair, the public works facility, and a new (replacement) fire truck.

### **What is the design of the facility?**

The one-story, 5400-square-foot rectangular building will be unobtrusive, with colors complementing the existing golf course building. It will have six firing lanes, a lobby, restrooms, a scoring table, storage space and mechanical space.

### **How will storm water be managed?**

Drainage from the expanded parking area and roof drains will be managed on site in a facility located at the north end of the building. Storm water will not be directed to the golf course garden plots or the homes on Pine Avenue.

**How much noise will people be able to hear outside of the building?**

The building will provide maximum sound absorption with 12-inch-thick walls and an 8-inch thick concrete roof that meet firing range standards. A unique rubber pellet bullet trap made from tires and other recycled materials will prevent bullets from hitting the back wall. People might be able to hear the building's mechanical (HVAC) units.

**Will civilians use this range?**

Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department plans to offer its *Firearm Safety* (no weapons) and *Target Pistol* (.22-caliber weapons) classes at the range. *Firearm Safety* is a prerequisite for *Target Pistol*. Both classes are taught by NRA-certified instructors, and the lead instructor has taught for the Rec Department for 40 years. In addition, Mt. Lebanon High School's varsity and JV rifle team (15 members each) will use the range. The teams currently have to travel 40 minutes to the Dormont-Mt. Lebanon Sportsman club in North Strabane for their practices and WPIAL competitions. The teams use .22-caliber Olympic free-style rifles. They also use a ground mat, a shooting coat with sling and glove and a high-powered spotting scope. They will be transported to and from the range by bus, and the transportation and safekeeping of their rifles will be the responsibility of their NRA-certified coaches.

**Will the range be open to the general public outside of those participating in the Recreation Department Program?**

No

**Will there be much increase in traffic on Pine Avenue?**

The municipal traffic engineer has reviewed the plans and says there will be no significant increase in traffic.

**When will the project get under way?**

Mt. Lebanon's planning board has given this land development plan preliminary approval. The next step is for the planning board to recommend that the municipal commission give final approval. Once the commission grants final approval, the project will go out for public bid. The commission then will review the bids, and a contract will be awarded. This process could take several months, but the goal is to build the rifle range starting in early 2018.

**Who can I email or call if I have questions about this project?**

Assistant Municipal Manager Ian McMeans, [imcmeans@mtlebanon.org](mailto:imcmeans@mtlebanon.org), 412-343-3620.

\*\*\*

*Prepared by Mt. Lebanon's planning and public information offices, October 2017*