



Mars Borough and Adams Township

Joint Public Informational Meeting
January 22, 2026

Welcome / Introductions



MARS:

Council:

Mike Fleming, *President*

John McWilliams, *Vice President*

William Lambert

Eric Pomeroy

Bradford Price

Jim Garrity

Secretary/Treasurer (Former Council Member):

Christine Clutter

Mayor:

Gregg Hartung

Solicitor:

Chris Reese

ADAMS:

Supervisors:

Russell Ford, *Chairman*

Ronald Shemela, *Vice Chairman*

Darryl Brandon

David Goodworth

Ronald Nacey

Solicitors: Mike Gallagher

Sean Gallagher

Township Manager: Mike Tylka

Agenda



1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Purpose / Definition
3. Process / Timeline
4. Why?
5. Answers to Common Questions
6. Public Questions & Comments
7. Next Meeting & Closing

Purpose / Definition



- Elected officials have voted to explore a possible municipal merger
- Discussion started as part of planning for the future of the library we share



Process / Timeline – 2026



- Both passed resolution to explore merger (*January 5th*)
- Initial public meeting (*Tonight*)
- Future possible public meetings (*Through October*)
- Agreement formation (*February - June*)
- Elected officials in both municipalities vote on agreement and to set the merger question on the ballot (*June - July*)
- Public votes on the question in the November General Election (*November 3rd*)

Must pass in both to move forward

Process / Timeline – 2026



- Possible Ballot Question:

Shall the Borough of Mars, a Pennsylvania municipality organized under the Borough Code, be merged into the Township of Adams, a Pennsylvania Township of the Second Class, and with the Township being renamed _____ Township, a Pennsylvania Township of the Second Class, effective _____, 20____?

Yes _____

No _____

Process / Timeline – 2027



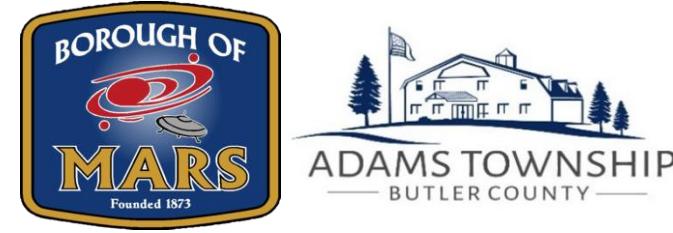
- If the public votes in favor of the merger in both municipalities:
 - ✓ 2027 would be spent preparing the merger and combining departments and resources
 - ✓ Analyze for further efficiencies and long-term planning
- Current thinking is that the merged government would take effect on January 1, 2028 (*this as official start*)

Why?



- Move to 24/7 local police coverage for Mars, additional officers for Adams
- Expanded staffing in Public Works, Administration, Zoning, and Code Enforcement for both municipalities
- Lower administrative costs
- Greater purchasing power

Why?



- Full time Parks, Recreation, and Event staff for Mars, ability to grow this role for Adams
- Further access to each others' parks and facilities
- Combined comprehensive planning
- Access to larger grants

Why?



- Access to further resources for Downtown Mars, Adams gains a Downtown
- Library remains in Downtown Mars
- Already work together on sewer, library, EMS, and fire and this furthers those partnerships

Why?



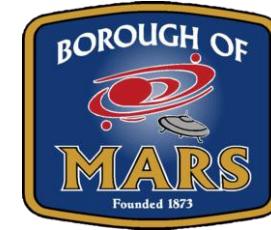
- Expanded tax base for Adams, Mars local taxes are aligned with that of Adams'
- Further infrastructure resources (*example: water*) and investment in Mars' roadways, Adams' residents travel through currently and will benefit from upgrades
- Ensure public interests of both will remain aligned as one community into the future

Answers to Common Questions



- **No changes to or involvement in this process:**
 - ✓ Post Office
 - ✓ Mailing Addresses
 - ✓ EMS
 - ✓ Fire
 - ✓ School District
 - ✓ Valencia Borough
 - ✓ Callery Borough

Answers to Common Questions



- **Staff:** All full-time Mars staff will be given the option to transition into a post-merger role and all Adams staff remain
 - ✓ Cost savings by sharing public resources (*not needing as many consultants, hiring out, etc.*)
- **Cost:** Commonwealth Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) encourages this action and we are eligible for grant funds to cover considerable portions of it

Answers to Common Questions



- **Name:** New name can be considered on the ballot with the merger question
- **Taxes:** Anticipation is that Mars residents are assigned Adams local taxes and rates
 - ❖ Current Municipal Millage Rate:
 - Adams 3.75
 - Mars 25.33
- **Debt:** No debt currently for either

Answers to Common Questions



Mars Summary 2026 Budget		
	REVENUE	
TAXES		
Property Tax	192,196.18	
Earned Income Tax	185,000.00	
Real Estate Transfer Tax	16,000.00	
Local Service Tax	5,700.00	
Fire, EMS, & Library Taxes	30,013.13	
LICENSES & PERMITS	21,400.00	
FINES	3,800.00	
INTEREST, RENTS & ROYALTIES	41,046.00	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	770,160.00	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES (DEPT. EARNINGS)	753,140.00	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	49,232.94	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	100,086.00	
		EXPENSES
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		317,540.80
PUBLIC SAFETY		452,088.97
PUBLIC WORKS - HIGHWAYS/ROADS/STREETS		304,272.40
PUBLIC WORKS - OTHER SERVICES (INCLUDING WATER)		972,869.30
RECREATION		94,549.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		0.00
INTERFUND OPERATING EXPENSES		0.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES		0.00
TOTAL	2,167,774.25	2,141,320.48
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		26,453.77

Answers to Common Questions



	Mars Summary 2026 Budget		With Estimated Efficiencies & Tax Changes	
	REVENUE		REVENUE	
TAXES				
Property Tax	192,196.18		32,156.95	
Earned Income Tax	185,000.00		185,000.00	
Real Estate Transfer Tax	16,000.00		16,000.00	
Local Service Tax	5,700.00		5,700.00	
Fire, EMS, & Library Taxes	30,013.13		0.00	
LICENSES & PERMITS	21,400.00		21,400.00	
FINES	3,800.00		3,800.00	
INTEREST, RENTS & ROYALTIES	41,046.00		41,046.00	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	770,160.00		770,160.00	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES (DEPT. EARNINGS)	753,140.00		753,100.00	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	49,232.94		49,232.94	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	100,086.00		20,086.00	
		EXPENSES		EXPENSES
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		317,540.80		188,188.98
PUBLIC SAFETY		452,088.97		369,086.62
PUBLIC WORKS - HIGHWAYS/ROADS/STREETS		304,272.40		333,173.70
PUBLIC WORKS - OTHER SERVICES (INCLUDING WATER)		972,869.30		787,185.13
RECREATION		94,549.00		94,549.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		0.00		0.00
INTERFUND OPERATING EXPENSES		0.00		0.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES		0.00		0.00
TOTAL	2,167,774.25	2,141,320.48	1,897,681.89	1,772,183.43
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		26,453.77		125,498.46

Answers to Common Questions



	Mars Summary 2026 Budget		With Estimated Efficiencies & Tax Changes		Differences	
	REVENUE	REVENUE	REVENUE	REVENUE	REVENUE	REVENUE
TAXES						
Property Tax	192,196.18		32,156.95		(160,196.18)	
Earned Income Tax	185,000.00		185,000.00		0.00	
Real Estate Transfer Tax	16,000.00		16,000.00		0.00	
Local Service Tax	5,700.00		5,700.00		0.00	
Fire, EMS, & Library Taxes	30,013.13		0.00		(30,013.13)	
LICENSES & PERMITS	21,400.00		21,400.00		0.00	
FINES	3,800.00		3,800.00		0.00	
INTEREST, RENTS & ROYALTIES	41,046.00		41,046.00		0.00	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	770,160.00		770,160.00		0.00	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES (DEPT. EARNINGS)	753,140.00		753,100.00		(40.00)	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	49,232.94		49,232.94		0.00	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	100,086.00		20,086.00		(80,000.00)	
	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		317,540.80		188,188.98		(129,351.82)
PUBLIC SAFETY		452,088.97		369,086.62		(83,002.35)
PUBLIC WORKS - HIGHWAYS/ROADS/STREETS		304,272.40		333,173.70		28,901.30
PUBLIC WORKS - OTHER SERVICES (INCLUDING WATER)		972,869.30		787,185.13		(185,684.17)
RECREATION		94,549.00		94,549.00		0.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		0.00		0.00		0.00
INTERFUND OPERATING EXPENSES		0.00		0.00		0.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES		0.00		0.00		0.00
TOTAL	2,167,774.25	2,141,320.48	1,897,681.89	1,772,183.43	Reduced Revenue:	Reduced Expenses:
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		26,453.77		125,498.46	(270,092.36)	(369,137.05)

Answers to Common Questions



- **Summary of Benefits to Mars:**

- ✓ Lower taxes
- ✓ 24/7 police coverage
- ✓ Further full-time staffing in Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Codes & Zoning, and Administration
- ✓ Expanded resources for infrastructure
- ✓ Library remains in Downtown Mars
- ✓ Joint planning and expanded grant opportunities
- ✓ Further access to Adams Park facilities

Answers to Common Questions



- **Summary of Benefits to Adams:**

- ✓ **Expanded staffing in Police, Public Works, and Administration**
- ✓ **Public Works and Police equipment and trucks**
- ✓ **Additional three parks and recreation facilities**
- ✓ **Ownership of several buildings and properties**
- ✓ **Water plant and related infrastructure**
- ✓ **Consolidation of Mars' 35% ownership of the Breakneck Sewer Authority**
- ✓ **Expanded resources for infrastructure**
- ✓ **Joint planning and expanded grant opportunities**
- ✓ **Downtown core**

Public Questions & Comments

Next Meeting & Closing



**NEXT PUBLIC MEETING: 6 pm on
Tuesday, March 24, 2026 with DCED at
TBD**

Visit the Merger Page of <https://adamstwp.org/> for:

- ✓ More Information
- ✓ A Place to Submit Thoughts (Questions & Comments)
- ✓ Tonight's Presentation
- ✓ Future Updates