



Possible Municipal Merger Between Mars Borough and Adams Township

**Third Joint Public Informational Meeting
June 2, 2026**

Welcome / Introductions



MARS:

Council:

Mike Fleming, *President*

John McWilliams, *Vice President*

William Lambert

Eric Pomeroy

Bradford Price

Jim Garrity

Jana Snavely

Mayor:

Gregg Hartung

Solicitor:

Chris Reese

ADAMS:

Supervisors:

Russell Ford, *Chairman*

Ronald Shemela, *Vice Chairman*

Darryl Brandon

David Goodworth

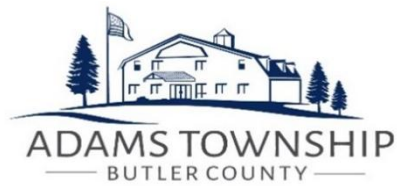
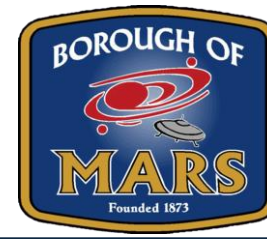
Ronald Nacey

Solicitors: Mike Gallagher

Sean Gallagher

Township Manager: Mike Tylka

Agenda



1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Recap of Activities to Date
3. Review of Joint Agreement
4. Benefits Summary
5. Next Steps / Timeline Review
6. Public Questions & Comments
7. Closing

Recap of Major Activities to Date



- 1. Public Resolutions Passed by Both** *(Jan. 5th)*
- 2. First Meeting** *(Jan. 22nd)*
 - *Why, Benefits, Timeline, & Finances Discussed with Q&A*
- 3. Second Meeting** *(March 24th)*
 - *DCED Presented, Summary of Benefits & Timeline Discussed with Q&A*
- 4. Merger Website Up with Q & As** *(Launched Jan., updated continuously)*
- 5. Meeting with Mars Business Owners** *(May 14th)*
- 6. Joint Agreement Agreed Upon** *(May 18th)*

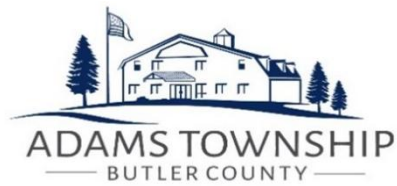
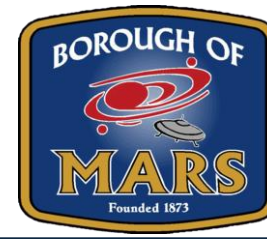
Review of Joint Agreement



1. Recitals / Background

- Merger authorized under Pennsylvania Municipal Consolidation or Merger Act.
- Mars & Adams already share services (fire, EMS, sewer, library).
- Merger concept emerged through discussions about a new downtown library.
- Both governing bodies unanimously approved exploring merger (Jan. 5, 2026).
- Proposed outcome: **Mars Borough merges into Adams Township, renamed Mars Township.**
- Voter approval required in November 2026 election.

Review of Joint Agreement



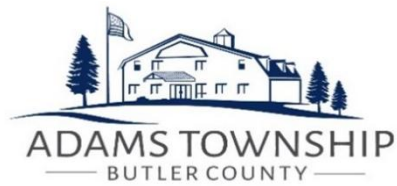
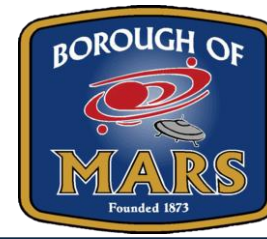
2. Referendum

- **Ballot Question (Nov. 3, 2026):**
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 Mars Township, a Pennsylvania Township of the Second Class, effective January 1, 2028?

3. Territories, Effective Date & Legal Effect

- Mars territory becomes part of Adams boundaries.
- Resulting municipality: **Mars Township (Second-Class Township).**
- Existing Adams ordinances/codes remain governing framework.
- Effective date of merger: **January 1, 2028** (if approved by both electorates).
- Agreement serves as the legally required merger document.

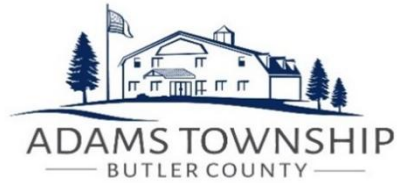
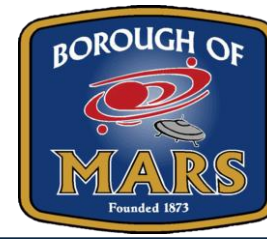
Review of Joint Agreement



4. Governance

- Mars Township governed under **Second-Class Township Code**.
- Adams Board of Supervisors becomes governing body.
- Mars elected offices eliminated (Mayor, Council, Tax Collector, etc.).
- Mars residents participate in 2027 supervisor elections.
- Joint zoning work planned during 2027.
- Mars authorities, boards, commissions, and professional contracts abolished.

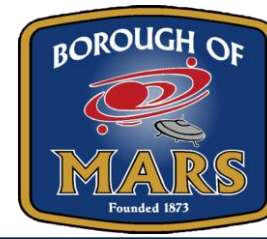
Review of Joint Agreement



5. Infrastructure & Services

- Adams-style municipal services extended throughout merged municipality.
- Services include:
 - ✓ Public Works
 - ✓ Police
 - ✓ Planning/Zoning/& Code Enforcement
 - ✓ Parks & Recreation
 - ✓ Administration
- Sewer systems remain through existing providers.
- Mars water system and accounts transfer to Mars Township with continuity of service.

Review of Joint Agreement



6. Employees & Appointed Officials

- Mars full-time administrative and public works employees offered positions.
- Mars police officers offered positions under Adams police agreement.
- Part-time/seasonal Mars positions eliminated.
- Mars appointed officials/service providers eliminated; duties absorbed by Mars Township.
- No new Mars full-time positions after agreement date.
- Existing Adams positions protected from elimination at merger.

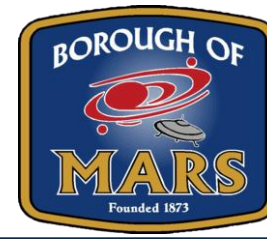
Review of Joint Agreement



7. Assets, Liabilities & Property

- All assets/property of both municipalities transfer to Mars Township.
 - Including Mars' 35% ownership of the Breakneck Creek Sewer Authority (*approx. \$200 million valuation in total*)
- Real estate conveyed through quitclaim process.
- Roads, rights-of-way, and municipal property become Mars Township assets.
- All liabilities/debts assumed by Mars Township.
- Mars agrees to maintain balanced budgets and limit new debt.
- Post-referendum contracts extending beyond effective date restricted unless mutually approved.

Review of Joint Agreement



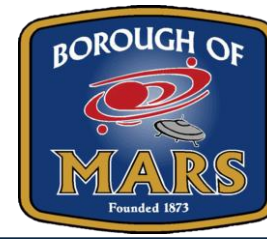
8. Taxes & Assessments

- Taxes must be **uniform across the merged municipality**.
- Adams tax structure/rates become standard.
- Existing Mars unpaid taxes, liens, fines, and assessments transfer to Mars Township for collection.

9. Ordinances

- Adams ordinances, laws, and township code govern merged municipality.
- Mars ordinances repealed on effective date (*certain Mars provisions can be adopted by Adams leading into the merger*).
- Certain Mars provisions (especially zoning) may remain temporarily (up to 6 months).
- Existing lawful nonconforming uses retain status subject to zoning rules.

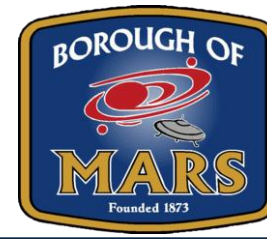
Review of Joint Agreement



10. Miscellaneous / Transition Provisions

- Commitment to good-faith implementation.
- **2-year advisory council** of Mars officials to assist transition (2027–2028).
- If merger passes:
 - ✓ Adams continues downtown Mars library project.
 - ✓ Fire District encouraged to align name with Mars Township.
- Agreement intended only for Mars, Adams, and resulting Mars Township.

Benefits Summary



- **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

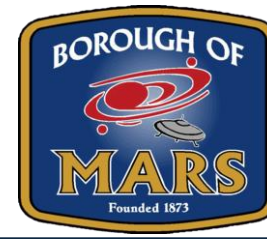
Benefits Summary



- **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
(approx. \$200 million valuation in total)
- ✓ Expanded resources for infrastructure
- ✓ Joint planning and expanded grant opportunities
- ✓ Downtown core

Next Steps / Timeline Review



- A draft of the Joint Agreement is already posted on the merger website for review.
- Joint Agreement Consideration:

Adams:

Public Hearing: June 8th at 6:30 P.M.

Board Vote: June 22nd at 7 P.M.

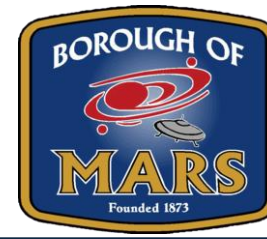
Mars:

Public Hearing: July 6th at 7 P.M.

Council Vote: July 6th at 7 P.M.

Must pass in both to move forward

Next Steps / Timeline Review

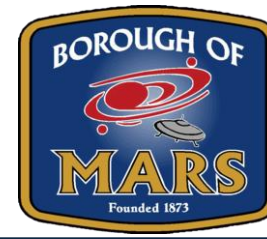


- **End of June / Early July 2026:** If approved, agreement forwarded to County and put on the ballot
- **June – October 2026:** Additional public meetings, information distribution, and outreach

The next public meeting is tentatively on Tuesday, July 28th.

- **November 3, 2026:** Public votes on the question in the November General Election
- **2027:** Transition planning / joint work / Supervisor election
- **January 1, 2028:** Merger effective date with Adams becoming Mars Township

Public Questions & Comments



Thank you for your attendance!

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

- ✓ More Information
- ✓ A Place to Submit Thoughts (*Questions & Comments*)
 - ✓ Presentations
 - ✓ Future Updates