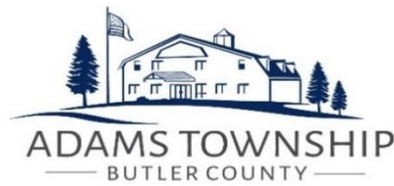




Possible Municipal Merger Between Mars Borough and Adams Township

**Fourth Joint Public Informational Meeting
July 28, 2026**

Welcome / Introductions



MARS:

Council:

Mike Fleming, *President*

John McWilliams, *Vice President*

William Lambert

Eric Pomeroy

Bradford Price

Jim Garrity

Jana Snavelly

Mayor:

Gregg Hartung

Solicitor:

Chris Reese

ADAMS:

Supervisors:

Russell Ford, *Chairman*

Ronald Shemela, *Vice Chairman*

Darryl Brandon

David Goodworth

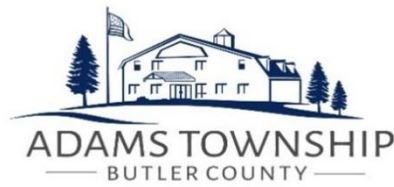
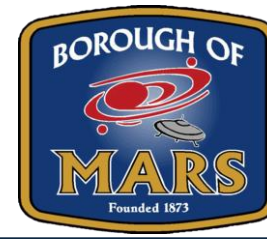
Ronald Nacey

Solicitors: Mike Gallagher

Sean Gallagher

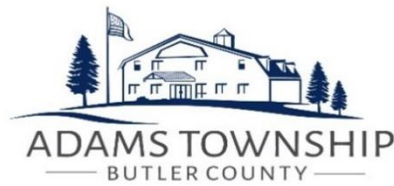
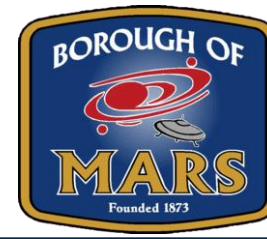
Township Manager: Mike Tylka

Agenda



1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Ballot Question Confirmed
3. Communications / PR
4. Recent Questions and Answers
5. Public Questions & Comments
6. Upcoming Meetings & Closing

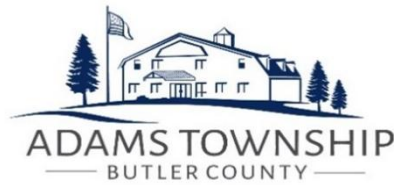
Ballot Question Confirmed



The question below is officially on the November 3rd Ballot.

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?

Communications / PR

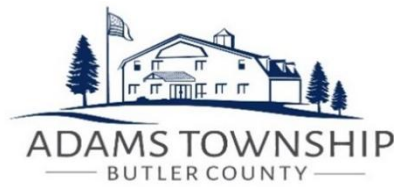
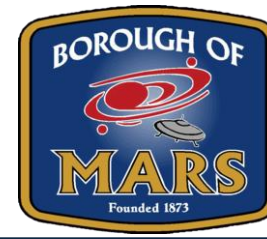


- Two radio interviews conducted with KDKA
- Meeting with Rotary occurred
- Butler Business Matters articles out yesterday
- ‘Let’s Talk Merger’ short video series launched
- QR Code launched for FAQs, to be posted around town
- Adams HOA Meeting planned for Sept. 21st at 6pm

Invite a guest speaker to your coming group meetings!

- Event attendance and more

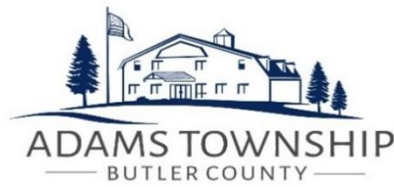
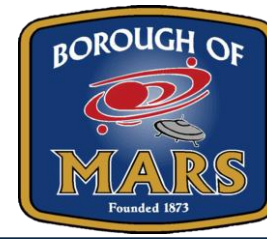
Recent Q &As



Comments and questions are in **blue** and responses are in ***red italics***.

These questions were submitted on the merger website since the last public meeting on 6/2/26.

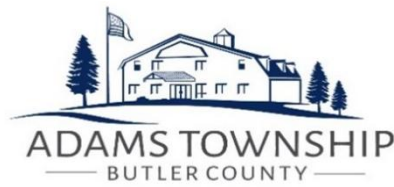
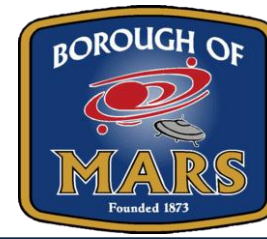
Recent Q & As



What will happen to the two separate water systems? Is the sewage treatment currently shared?

The Mars Water System's ownership would be transferred to the new Mars Township. Operations of both would continue as-is. Yes.

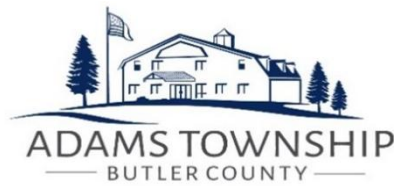
Recent Q & As



In the joint agreement, Sec 4, paragraph C: the elected positions of Borough Council members will be eliminated as of the date of the agreement. Sec10, says that there will be a three-member advisory committee for two years. An advisory has voice but no vote. When will the voters living in the current Mars be able to vote for township supervisors and other elected officials? When the ordinances in Sec 9 are voted on, will Mars be represented in the vote?

In 2027, Mars residents would be eligible to vote in the Primary and General Elections on the Township Supervisor seat that opens at the end of 2027 and gets seated at the start of 2028. Elections for the rest of the positions would follow when terms expire in the regular cycles. The advisory board would have input on ordinances, and the ordinance votes can be expected before and after the Effective Date depending on the topic. The governing body of the municipality is the only body permitted legally to pass ordinances.

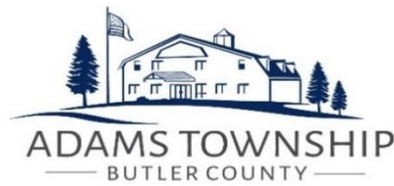
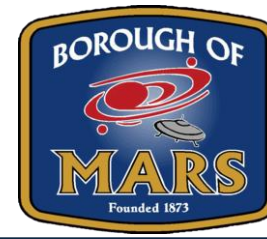
Recent Q & As



Is there a big reason why the township needs to be renamed? Can both the city of Mars and Adams Township not just exist together and share the same resources/budget/infrastructure? What is the estimated cost of changing name?

Attendees at early public meetings pushed for the name for the merged entity to be Mars Township given that Mars is the most commonly used name when referring to the area. We do work together on many items, but formally merging eliminates a number of redundant costs. An estimated cost to a name change has not been assigned, but can be done in stages to keep the cost negligible as in changing cars, uniforms, signs, etc. when they'd naturally be replaced.

Recent Q & As

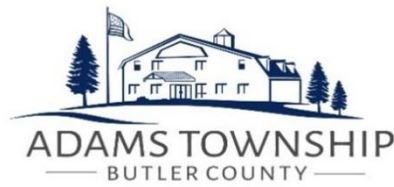
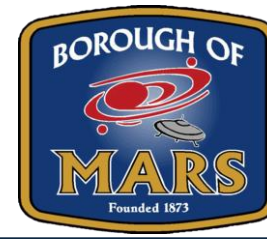


What is in it for Adam's Township residents? It sounds like Adam's twp will supply money and resources to support Mars Borough and lose our Twp name. I have yet to hear anything that benefits Adams Twp residents.

Adams Township and its residents will benefit from:

- 1. Expanded staffing in Police, Public Works, and Administration,*
- 2. Additional Public Works and Police equipment and trucks,*
- 3. Additional three parks and recreation facilities,*
- 4. Ownership of several buildings and properties,*
- 5. Ownership of Mars Water plant and related infrastructure (approx. \$10 million valuation),*
- 6. Consolidation of Mars' 35% ownership of the Breakneck Sewer Authority*
(approx. \$200 million valuation in total),
- 7. Expanded resources for infrastructure,*
- 8. Joint planning and expanded grant opportunities; and*
- 9. A Downtown core.*

Recent Q & As

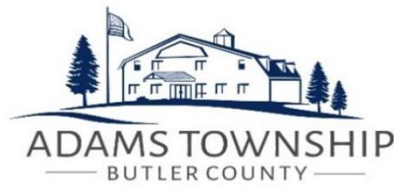
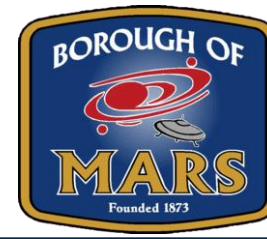


1. I'm undecided on the merger. I keep reading "we've run the numbers" but can you tell me where I can see the numbers you've run? Where have they been posted or have they not been posted at all? I think that's important for transparency.

Please take a look at Slides 15-17 from the 1/22/26 Public Meeting Presentation posted on the Merger Webpage.

Link: [1.22.26-Public-Meeting-Presentation.pdf](#)

Recent Q & As

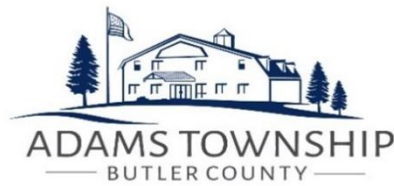


2. Which specific buildings in Mars Borough are "public" buildings and is there a willingness to privatize them so that the town might develop more new business more quickly?

Please take a look at Exhibit A of the Joint Merger Agreement dated 6/22/26 posted on the Merger Webpage. All Mars' properties are included. Decisions related to properties would be made after the final decision on the merger is made by the public this November. If it is to move forward, a committee of members from both elected bodies would review possible uses of all properties and look for efficiencies which may include the sale of properties.

Link: [Joint-Merger-Agreement-Final-6-22-2026.pdf](#)

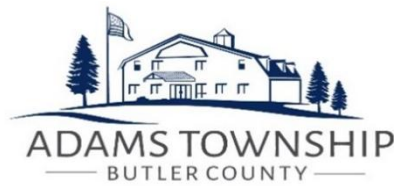
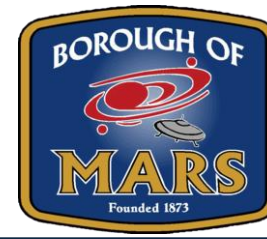
Recent Q & As



3. It has been stated repeatedly that Adams will maintain the 3.75 millage rate post-merger. That may be true on the day of the merger, but where are the financial projections of the merged entities that show projected revenue and costs for the next several years. I assume such projections would be part of "running the numbers".

Adams Township has not raised the municipal tax millage rate since 1994. Please refer to Slide 17 of the above-mentioned presentation for projected annual efficiencies within the Mars budget.

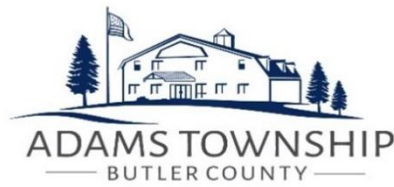
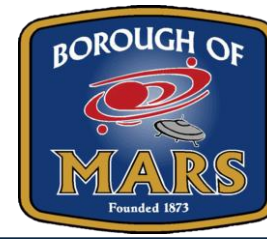
Recent Q & As



1. If the merger goes through is the name Mars Township set for sure? I hate to see Adams lose their history. Would another name be considered? Why not keep Adams Township and call Mars Boro area "Mars - Village of Adams Township". Keeping both names and history.

The name of the proposed merged municipality is Mars Township given resident feedback at early public meetings, as the Mars name is used by a majority of residents for their mailing address, as Mars is used by all for their school district, and given its uniqueness in comparison. There are several other Adams Townships even in Pennsylvania. There exist numerous subdivisions and even our park named after John Quincy Adams that we do not foresee being changed to remove the Adams name. We don't believe history gets erased with the name change of the local government, and that in doing so we set our community up for a stronger future while maintaining numerous homages to the past. The type/form of municipal government must be included in the legal name, and as we do not want to change our form of government from a Township, Township must be included. We can't include words that denote another form of government like town, city, borough, etc.

Recent Q & As



1. In traveling through The Borough of Mars, what I most notice is some of the poor road conditions. Will you require the Borough to make improvements to their roads before Adams Township would later have to use our tax dollars to then have to make the necessary improvements. I think a merger is most beneficial to Mars Borough and their residents, and that Adams Township and their residents will be looking at more of a burden to maintain the added territory. Are State or Federal grants available?

Both municipalities currently receive a Liquid Fuels funding allocation from the State. The funds currently going to both would post-merger go to one entity. This value is calculated off lane miles and thus would not change with the merger. This source is primarily what is utilized today for paving and would continue to be utilized as one united bucket.

Mars' assets would become the Township's if the merger is passed. Another manner of funding is liquidating duplicative assets to fund infrastructure work, thus some of Mars' former assets could be utilized to make road and sidewalk upgrades. Any improvements they'd do now would simply lessen the cash asset coming over.

Yes, we will be seeking grant funding for merger related items including infrastructure and will do so moving forward for areas such as their business district.

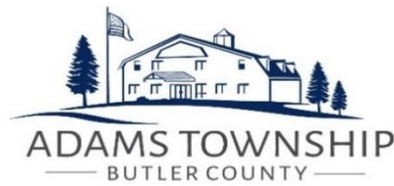
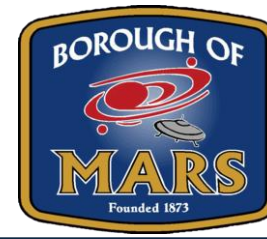
Recent Q & As



	Mars Summary 2026 Budget		With Estimated Efficiencies & Tax Changes		Differences	
	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
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)

Public Questions & Comments

Upcoming Meetings & Closing



- **HOA Meeting:** Monday, September 21st at 6pm, Adams Township Municipal Building
- **5th Public Meeting:** ~~Thursday, October 1st~~ at 6pm, location TBD *to be rescheduled due to Steelers Game
- **6th Public Meeting:** Thursday, October 29th or Monday, November 2nd at 6pm, location TBD

Thank you for your attendance!

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