10/20/26 Merger Website Questions with Responses

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

1.) Who initiated the concept of a Mars-Adams Township merger?

It came up organically at a meeting of the Library Board with the Adams Township Board Chairman and Mars Borough Council President when funding commitments for a new library were being discussed. Chairman Ford was discussing the dedicated funds Adams has set aside and how Adams couldn't be expected to build and own a facility in another municipality, but that issue could be resolved if the two became one. Chairman Ford and President Fleming then discussed all the ways the municipalities already work together and said this should be discussed further.

2.) Was an accounting spreadsheet detailing the past 5 years of financial positions of both Mars Borough and Adams Township created? Available to the public?

Please see the 10/1 presentation on our merger webpage that outlines past figures and the current budget for Mars. Adams' budget is available on our website. The 10/1 presentation outlines the savings that come with the elimination of duplications, even with reducing Mars' tax rate to that of Adams.

3.) Was a second accounting spreadsheet projecting these same income & expenditures for the next 5-10 years created? Available to the public?

Our budgets are developed annually. Long term capital improvements fluctuate depending on many factors and municipalities need to be flexible. We do constantly look out for trends in revenue and expenses and estimate appropriately with our annual budgets.

4.) Why was the viability and growth of the Mars Library such an important issue for a merger? Did anyone pursue other avenues of funding for this institution?

A strong library demonstrates investment in education for all. Yes, through grant opportunities and even a partnership with NASA and space-based organizations.

5.) I also read a lot about how Adams Township can now help develop the town of Mars, which included statements about how Adams Townships doesn't have a "downtown". We do have a downtown, it's called Mars, PA, which Adams Township residents like us support. Development is happening at a pace that is decided by private investors.

Catalyst projects can launch greater private investment.

6.) The water authority was mentioned. We're not in favor of selling this to a private party. To that end, has anyone put together a financial plan that guarantees that this important facility stays solvent, without a merger?

It is not for sale and the board has stated this fact.

7.) The merger information mentions that Mars Borough resident taxes will go down. However, will those of us in Adams Twp. see our taxes subsequently go up?

A tax increase in Adams is not proposed as part of the merger.

8.) Lots of people we speak with share these same concerns.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

This merger is about looking forward and building long-term sustainability for our shared community. Stability is good, however, regular check-ins on infrastructure, codes, emergency planning, and shared services let us confirm what's working and improve what could work better.