

STREET LIGHTS

Where street lights have been installed within the Township, the costs associated with the operation of the street lights is borne by the property owners whose property is adjacent to or in close proximity to the street lights.

North Huntingdon Township is a First Class Township and therefore governed by the First Class Township Code which is a set of governing rules which have been enacted by the Pennsylvania Legislature. The following language, taken from the First Class Township Code, governs the installation of street lights which are attached to utility poles.

Section 1562. Article XIII.

Lighting Assessments. On the petition of the owners of a majority of the lineal feet frontage along any street or highway, or portion thereof, in any village within the township, to enter into contracts with electric, gas, or other lighting companies to light and illuminate the streets, highways, and other public places in said village with electric light, gas light, or other illuminant.

The township commissioners shall annually assess, or cause to be assessed, the cost and expense of the maintenance of said lights by an equal assessment on all property benefited by such lighting in proportion to the number of feet the same fronts on the street, or highway, or portion thereof to be lighted. The township commissioners may provide for an equitable reduction from the frontage of lots, at intersections, or where, from the peculiar or pointed shape of lots, an assessment of the full frontage would be inequitable. No such assessment shall be made against any farm land, but vacant lots between built-up sections, whether tilled or untilled, shall not be deemed to be farm lands: Provided, however, that the assessment per front foot against vacant lots shall be only twenty-five per centum (25%) of the assessment per foot front against property with improvements thereon. All such assessments for street lighting shall be filed with the township treasurer, who shall give thirty days' written or printed notice that the assessments are due and payable, stating the due date to each party assessed, either by service on the owner of the property, or by mailing such notice to the owner at his last known post office address.

Alternatively, ornamental street lights can be installed where there are underground utilities servicing a neighborhood. The following language, taken from the First Class Township Code, governs the installation of ornamental street lights.

Section 1502. Article XIII

Ornamental Standards for Street Lighting. On the petition of the owners of seventy-five per cent of the lineal feet frontage along any street or highway or portion thereof in any village within the township to provide for the furnishing and installation of ornamental standards for street lighting with fittings and underground wiring thereof along such street or highway or the portion thereof affected, and to enter into contracts with electric, gas or other lighting companies to furnish and install such standards with the fittings and wiring therefor.

The township commissioners shall assess or cause to be assessed the cost and expense of the furnishing and installation of said standards, fittings and underground wiring by an equal assessment on all property benefited by the furnishing and installation of such standards, fittings and underground wiring in proportion to the number of feet the same fronts on the street or highway or portion thereof to be lighted. The township commissioners may provide for an equitable reduction from the frontage of lots at intersections, or where from the peculiar or pointed shape of lots an assessment of the full frontage would be inequitable. No such assessment shall be made against any farm land, but vacant lots between built-up sections, whether tilled or untilled, shall not be deemed to be farm lands. All such assessments for the cost of furnishing and installation of such standards, fittings and underground wiring shall be filed with the township treasurer, who shall give thirty days written or printed notice that the assessments are due and payable, stating the due date to each party assessed, either by service on the known post office address.

If you are interested in the installation of street lights in your neighborhood or have any questions concerning street light assessments or related inquiries, please contact the Township Manager.