

Press release on new township manager

August 21, 2019

EDITOR: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, contact Kennett Township Supervisor Scudder Stevens at (484) 368-2075 or scudder.stevens@kennett.pa.us

Kennett Township Supervisors name Eden Ratliff new Township Manager

KENNETT TOWNSHIP _ The Kennett Township Board of Supervisors has hired Eden R. Ratliff as its new Township Manager, effective September 23.

“The board is looking forward to working with Eden,” Supervisor Chair Scudder Stevens said. “Eden has the skills, background and foresight to lead our great township into the future.”

For the past three years, Ratliff has served as borough manager and chief administrative official of the Borough of Greencastle in Franklin County, PA. Some of his duties there included creating and administering municipal operating budgets; developing a strategic vision for the borough; implementing a comprehensive asset management program for utility operations; and serving at times as chief administrative official, zoning officer, water authority manager, borough secretary, chief code enforcement officer and treasurer.

Ratliff also previously served for two years as borough manager and chief administrative official for the Borough of Ford City near Pittsburgh. At Ford City, he managed long term projects, created and administered annual municipal budgets and negotiated a non-uniform Collective Bargaining Agreement.

A graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Ratliff has a Masters degree in Employment and Labor Relations. Ratliff is currently completing a Masters degree in Public Management at Johns Hopkins University.

Ratliff will begin his duties on September 23, 2019.

“During the transition, Eden will be working with Alison Rudolf, our interim township manager,” Stevens said. “Alison has done a wonderful job on an interim basis.”

Rudolf took over the position in May after the former township manager was dismissed. The dismissal took place after bank officials discovered suspicious transactions in township bank accounts on April 25, 2019. Investigations by the Chester County District Attorney’s office and forensic accountants are continuing.

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Bio of new township manager

Eden R. Ratliff

Eden R. Ratliff is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has a Masters degree in Employment and Labor Relations and a Bachelors degree in Political Science with a minor in Economics. He is completing a Masters degree in Public Management and is scheduled to graduate in December 2019 from Johns Hopkins University.

For the past three years, Eden has served as borough manager and chief administrative official of the Borough of Greencastle in Franklin County, PA. Some of his duties include creating and administering municipal operating budgets; developing a strategic vision for the borough; implementing a comprehensive asset management program for utility operations; and serving at times as chief administrative official, zoning officer, water authority manager, borough secretary, chief code enforcement officer and treasurer.

For two years, Eden was borough manager and chief administrative official for the Borough of Ford City near Pittsburgh. At Ford City, Eden managed long term projects, created and administered annual municipal budgets and negotiated a non-uniform Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Eden's volunteer activities include being a member of the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps, the Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs and chair of the Franklin County Council of Governments Legislative Affairs Committee.

An Eagle Scout, Eden grew up in West Chester and is married to Gabby Ratliff.

Eden R. Ratliff, M.A.

EDUCATION

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Master of Arts: Employment and Labor Relations (with honors)

Bachelor of Arts: Political Science **Minor:** Economics (with honors)

Johns Hopkins University

Master of Arts: Public Management

Expected Graduation: December 2019

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Borough Manager/Chief Administrative Official *Borough of Greencastle, Pennsylvania*

October 2016- Present

- Create and administer municipal operating budgets with \$4.5 million in combined revenue in accordance with Borough's strategic priorities.
- Serve as Chief Administrative Official, Zoning Officer, Water Authority Manager, Borough Secretary, Chief Code Enforcement Officer, and Treasurer.
- Created Assistant Borough Manager position and mentored subsequent hire teaching modern local government management principles.
- Negotiate Act 111 Collective Bargaining Agreement achieving provision to allow management to adjust Officer contributions to control increasing healthcare costs.
- Developed strategic vision with measurable outcomes with Borough Council and community utilized in guiding government direction. Strategic vision and outcomes heavily utilized in creation of annual operating budget.
- Implement comprehensive asset management program for utility operations design to support long-term capital improvement budget.
- Completed comprehensive rezoning initiative and property maintenance code overhaul.
- Completed utility rate study and rate structure analysis to enhance revenues while reducing rate increases for minimum water and sewer consumers.
- Implementation of transparent financial reviews enabling community access and educated engagement with government accounting.
- Created and implemented new stormwater utility to support Borough's stormwater infrastructure costs and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer program including Chesapeake Bay Sediment Reduction requirements. Program included individual parcel mapping of impervious area to calculate all stormwater bills, development of credit and appeals program, and execution of public engagement program. Stormwater Utility assesses \$630,000.00 annually in fees.
- Renegotiate debt service agreements to garner protection from interest rate hikes realizing savings of \$30,000.
- Secured in excess of \$200,000 of grant monies to fund road improvement programs.
- Developed a community farmers market to offer neighborhood social event and draw traffic to downtown Greencastle.
- Public participation in government increased substantially after administering a innovative government transparency initiative including public affairs radio program, local newspaper blog, targeted press releases, and website overhaul designed to inform and engage the public.
- Developed and implemented capital improvement budgets, asset replacement plans, and vehicle replacement schedules not previously existing.
- Manage land development in Borough and land development projects within expanding water system.
- Maintain Borough's A1 Moody General Obligation Bond rating.
- Project Manager for Borough Office safety enhancement construction project totaling \$250,000.00.
- Supervise 19 Borough employees with 5 direct reports.

Radio Show Host (Volunteer)
WRGG 93.7FM/ Greencastle, Pennsylvania

January 2017- Present

- Host weekly show “Evenings with Eden” where the discussion centers on the happenings of the Greencastle government.
- Answer questions from live callers asking about community affairs.

Borough Manager/Chief Administrative Official
Ford City Borough, Pennsylvania

March 2014- April 2016

- Managed long term projects that impacted the borough such as street paving or construction.
- Created and administered annual municipal budgets in accordance with Borough’s strategic vision.
- Negotiated elimination of \$581,000 debt owed to the Economic Development Administration for 2009-grant default.
- Negotiated non-uniform Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Filed unit clarification petition with Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board to have Borough Secretary removed from union as a confidential employee.
- Financed \$2.2 million water plant project with combination of debt service and federal grant funding.
- Secured \$3,100,000 at 1% interest from Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.
- Obtained \$1,000,000.00 in state and federal grant funding for various projects including road paving, ADA ramps, water treatment plant, and state Early Intervention Program.
- Outline vision and strategy to attract businesses and redevelop business community through meetings held with local for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations.
- Negotiated early retirement/buyout of the police union eliminating contractual legacy costs in accordance with Act 111 and Act 600.
- Negotiated \$20,000 reduction in fines with the Department of Environmental Protection accumulated from a previous Department of Environmental Protection Consent Order Agreement.
- Supervise 12 Borough employees with 4 direct reports.

Southern District Coordinator/Deputy Political Advisor
9th Congressional District, Indiana

April 2016- May 2016

- Managed campaign efforts in southern part of the 9th congressional district in accordance with campaign strategy.
- Oversaw disbursement and implementation of campaign signs throughout the congressional district.
- Assisted with the construction, disbursement, and implementation of call and walk lists.
- Served as a deputy political advisor providing daily updates on the political climate and provided recommendations to counter act as necessary.
- Attended political events with the candidate.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Chair- Franklin County Council of Governments Legislative Affairs Committee
- Member- Franklin County Metropolitan Planning Organization Long Range Transportation Plan Sub Committee
- Member- Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Member- Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
- Member- Greencastle Area Development Corporation
- Eagle Scout- Boy Scouts of America
- Member- Uwchlan Ambulance Corps