

## CHAPTER 25

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

#### INTRODUCTION

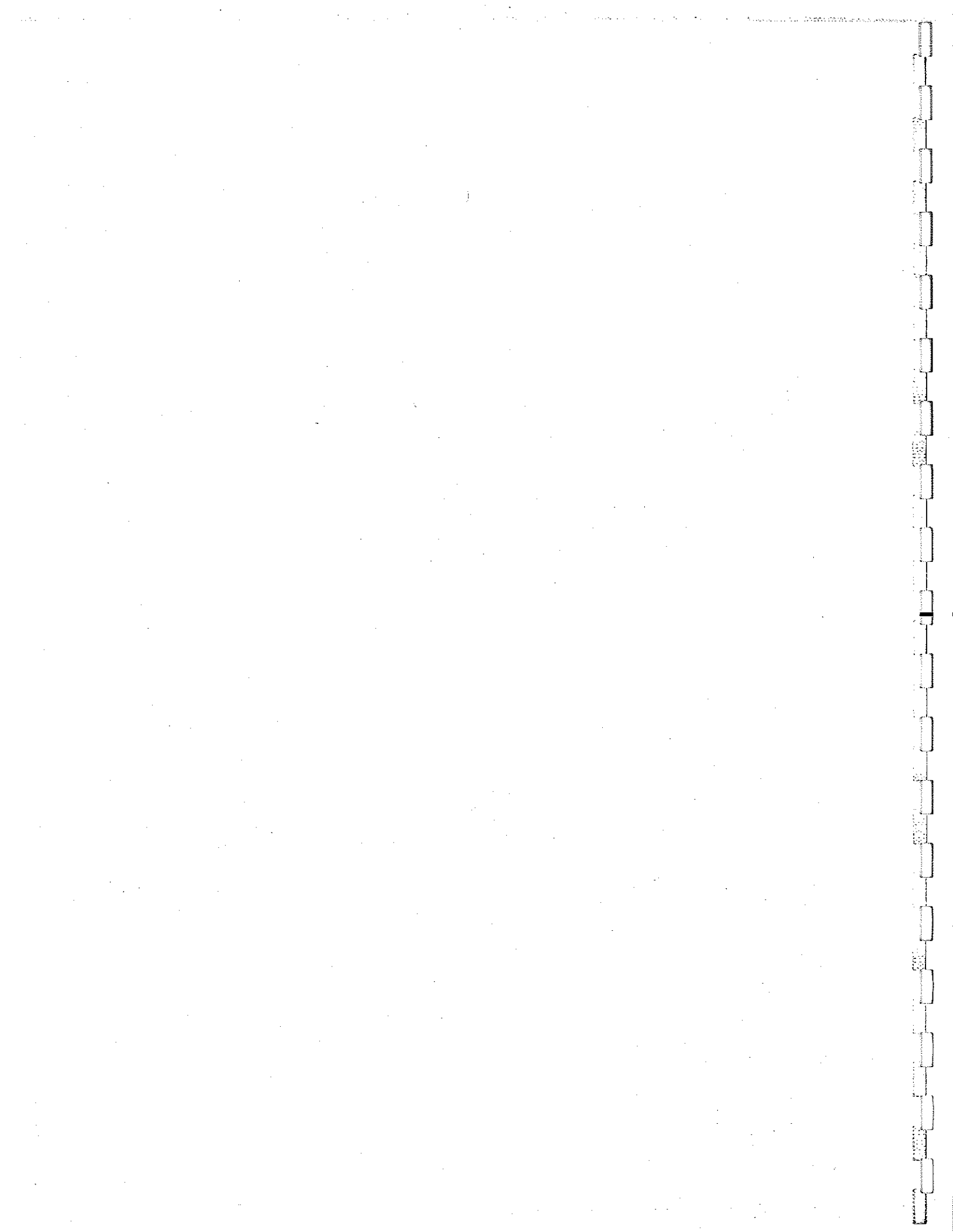
Community facilities are considered to be public buildings and structures that house programs and activities essential to municipal government operations and provide necessary services to residents of the area. Public services include activities ranging from police and fire protection to libraries and recreation programs. The extent to which facilities and services are available in any one municipality is dependent on many factors including population, tax base, the circulation system and regional location.

Facilities and public services can be provided in any number of ways depending on the needs of the population, the philosophy of municipal officials, financial resources available, and whether these are offered regionally. Financing for such facilities and services can be provided through available funding or through contracts with private or quasi-public entities, thereby tailoring activities and expenditures for specific needs. Ultimately, a joint approach to providing such facilities and services allows for several municipalities to share in the cost of these facilities and services.

The community facilities which have been mapped include, among others, the St. Lawrence Borough Building on St. Lawrence Avenue, the Exeter Township Building just off Route 422 and the Amity Township Building on Weavertown Road. The Exeter Community Library is located on Prestwick Drive in the Township. Post offices are located along Old Swede Road (Route 662) in Douglasville and St. Lawrence Avenue in St. Lawrence.

M. Luther Lausch Elementary Center is located on Elm Street in St. Lawrence Borough. Lorane and Jacksonwald Elementary Schools are located in Exeter Township along Rittenhouse Drive and Church Lane, respectively. The Exeter Senior and Junior High School educational complex is located between 37<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Streets in Exeter Township. Reiffon Elementary School has been built east of those schools. The Amity Primary Center and Amity Intermediate Center are located off Weavertown and Old Airport Roads in Amity. The Monocacy Kindergarten Center is located on East Main Street in Douglasville.

The Exeter Township garage is located adjacent to the Township building in the central portion of the Township. Amity Township also maintains a garage adjacent to its municipal building in Weavertown.



The Reiffon Fire Company is located on Business Route 422 in Exeter Township. The Stonersville Fire Company is located in Stonersville in Exeter Township and the Amity Fire Company is located on Pine Forge Road in Amity Township. The Monarch Fire Company is located on Route 422 in Amity Township. The Mt. Penn Fire Company is located at the St. Lawrence/Mt. Penn boundary on Butter Lane.

Religious resources available in the municipalities include the St Catherine's Roman Catholic Church, Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Schwarzwald United Church of Christ, Reformation Lutheran Church, Grace Baptist Church, Exeter Friends Meeting House, Lorane Chapel, Love Faith Chapel Christian Assembly, Exeter Bible Church, Daniel Boone Bible Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church in Exeter Township. The St. Paul's United Church of Christ, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hope Church, and St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church and Chapel are located in Amity Township. The Community UCC is located in St. Lawrence.

### **School Districts**

St. Lawrence Borough and Exeter Township comprise the Exeter School District, while Amity Township is part of the Daniel Boone School District. The Exeter School District has four elementary schools and two secondary schools, a Senior and Junior High School. 2003-04 enrollment in the school district was 4,076, compared to 1999-00 enrollment of 3,751.

The Daniel Boone School District is comprised of Amity and Union Townships and the Borough of Birdsboro. The school district has a kindergarten center, two elementary schools, and intermediate center. The High School and Middle School are both located near Birdsboro. 2003-04 enrollment in the school district was 3,503, compared to 2,842 in 1999-00.

Some concerns facing the school districts include a lack of classroom space, increased enrollment at the elementary level, and projected building maintenance and improvement projects. The need for additional facilities will be directly related to the rate of growth in the Borough and the Townships. Consideration is being given to feasibility of construction of additional school facilities at the Laush site in St. Lawrence. The Exeter Senior High School is undergoing additions and renovations. A new middle school is being constructed along Weavertown Road in Amity Township. A new elementary school is proposed to be constructed along Monocacy Creek Road in Amity Township because of the continued population growth in the school district.

## **Police Protection**

Exeter Township and Amity Township both have their own police forces, headquartered in their respective municipal buildings. Exeter Township provides police service to the Borough of St. Lawrence.

## **Ambulance Service**

Ambulance service to the Townships and the Borough is provided by Exeter Township Ambulance Association, which has a station adjacent to the Exeter Township Building. Birdsboro, Pottstown and Oley Ambulance Associations also provide additional ambulance coverage to areas in Amity Township based on location.

## **Library Service**

The only library in St. Lawrence, Exeter and Amity Area is the Exeter Community Library, which is open to people with a Berks County library card. However, libraries are available in nearby Birdsboro and on Perkiomen Avenue in Reading.

## **Fire Protection**

Two fire companies are located in each Township, the Reiffon and Stonersville Volunteer Fire Companies in Exeter Township and the Amity and Monarch Volunteer Fire Companies in Amity Township. The Mt. Penn Fire Company is located in the Borough. These fire companies are volunteer companies, and a continuing concern of volunteer companies is sufficient number of volunteers to allow them to provide adequate fire protection. Fire companies provide mutual assistance to each other in fire emergencies, but it may be necessary for the fire companies and municipalities to work more closely together in the future to assure continued adequate fire protection.