

# OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

## RIGHT TO KNOW LAW

Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law, US Citizens have a right to access and copy certain documents classified as public records.

### RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER:

Deb Shaffer, Secretary/Treasurer

Phone: (724) 378-3739

[twpoffice@independencetwp.comcastbiz.net](mailto:twpoffice@independencetwp.comcastbiz.net)

Fax: 724-378-8792



### General

All documents deemed public records shall be available for inspection, retrieval, and duplication at the Municipal Building during established business hours 8:00 am – 4:00 pm with the exception of weekends and holidays.

### Requests

Requests shall be made in writing to the township Open Records Officer on a form provided by the township.

### Fees

- Paper copies shall be .25 per page.
- Certification of a record is \$1.00 per record.
- Specialized documents including, but not limited to, blueprints, color copies and non-standard sized documents shall be charged the actual cost of production.
- If mailing is requested, the cost of postage will be charged.

The township shall require prepayment if the total fees are estimated to exceed \$100.00.

**Response**

The township shall make a good-faith effort to provide the requested public record(s) as promptly as possible. The Open Records Officer shall cooperate with those requesting records to review and/or duplicate original township documents while taking reasonable measure to protect township documents from the possibility of theft, damage, and/or modification. The Open Records Officer shall review all written requests for access to public records. As soon as possible, but no later than five business days after receiving a written request to access public records, the Open Records Officer shall respond to such requests in writing consistent with Act 3 of 2008, the Right-to-Know Law. If access to a record is denied, the response shall include reason for denial as stipulated in Act 3 of 2009, the Right-to-Know Law.

**Contact Information for Appeals**

If a written request is denied or deemed denied, the requester may file an appeal in writing to Terry Mutchler, Executive Director, Office of Open Records, Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, Plaza Level Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225. Appeals of criminal records shall be made to the District Attorney of Beaver County. Anthony Berosh, District Attorney, 810 Third Street, Beaver, PA 15009, 724-773-8550.

**Appeals Process**

The appeal shall be filed within 15 business days of the mailing date of the townships response or within 15 business days of a deemed denial. The appeal shall state the grounds upon which the requester asserts the records is a public record and shall address any grounds stated by the township for delaying or denying the request.