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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **West Whiteland Township, Exton, PA – Ribbon Cutting at New Public Works Garage**

The ribbon cutting ceremony for West Whiteland Township's new public works garage was a true celebration of a long-awaited project coming to completion. On Monday, February 24, Township supervisors and staff, local elected officials, and volunteers gathered to commemorate the official opening of the facility that represents the dedication, collaboration, and vision of many individuals.

The 39,000 square foot complex at 121 Valley Creek Boulevard will serve as the new professional home to the Township's 12 Public Works employees. According to Township Manager Pamela Gural-Bear, who kicked off the ceremony and welcomed attendees, "These new facilities have been designed to foster innovation, to break down silos, and to create an environment where great ideas can flourish along with housing the equipment needed to provide high quality services to our community."

Township Supervisors Raj Kumbhardare (Chair), Brian Dunn (Vice Chair) and Jo Ann Kelton thanked the many members of the project team for their dedication, creativity, and hard work. Kumbhardare enthused, "Reaching a major milestone like this can only be achieved through incredible teamwork. I am honored to work alongside some of the best, and want to publicly acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our staff, consultants, and those at Heim Construction (Roy Heim, Michael Wright, Rory Donnely, and Scott Kriebel), Schrader Group – Courtney Anspach – our lead Architect, JMR Engineering – Scott Deisher, special consultant and project manager – Jeff Glisson, and our Public Works team for the amazing teamwork on this project."

The new modern and efficient workspace provides the Public Works Department with the tools and resources they need to do their jobs even better, with its design focus on improving efficiency, promoting safety, and meeting the needs of the growing community. According to Supervisor Dunn, "This new facility stands for more than just a building; it is an investment in the services and infrastructure that keep our township running smoothly. From maintaining our roads and parks to responding to emergencies and ensuring clean water, our public works team plays a vital role in our everyday lives."

Specifically, the Public Works Department maintains 70 miles of township roads, the sewer and stormwater systems, 10 parks, traffic lights, and Township vehicles, in addition to providing emergency services such as snow plowing. Noted Supervisor Kelton, "This brand-new campus benefits all; our residents will continue to rely on the services provided while keeping the equipment under one roof, and our team will have a nice facility to continue their mission of serving the community."

The building of the new facility is a testament to the Supervisors' vision and belief in the future of the community, and to sustainable practices. "This facility was designed with keeping sustainability in the forefront – a passion of mine. It is an all-electric building with a soon-to-be-built solar array which will supply the electric for this building and since the Township building is only 1.9 miles away, it will be a source of energy and savings for that building as well," stated Kumbhardare.

Supervisors also expressed their appreciation to a funding partner on the project – the State of Pennsylvania for the \$2.3 million dollars from RACP, Redevelopment assistance Capital Grant Program.

Other local elected officials were also in attendance to acknowledge West Whiteland's accomplishment in opening the new facility. State Representative Kristine Howard and Chester County Commissioner Marian Moskowitz extended their support and congratulations. State Senator Carolyn Comitta was unable attend due to illness but sent her best wishes, and her Chief of Staff, Michael Hartman, spoke on her behalf.

The opening of the new facility marks the conclusion of a project that was originally conceived over two decades ago. Concerted efforts in the past five years made it a reality, from finding the right location, design – and redesign – of the facility, obtaining the funding, and, finally, building it. As the doors officially open, the Township Supervisors hope it serves as a reminder of what can be achieved when a committed group works together toward a common goal. This is a win for the community, benefiting employees, residents, businesses, and visitors to West Whiteland Township.

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