

Petersburg Borough and the Petersburg Medical Center

It is clear from the Charter (Article 9); the writers of these documents intended the Petersburg Medical Center to be managed differently than a department of the Borough. While the Petersburg Medical Center is viewed as a component unit of the Petersburg Borough by our financial auditors, the Borough Charter clearly indicate the Medical Center should be as autonomous as possible, with the Borough Assembly responsible for establishing formal policies where necessary using the ordinance process (Article 9.05). In addition, the Charter states the medical center shall be operated by a hospital board of seven members elected at large, with it being their responsibility to make operational decisions.

The buildings and land currently occupied by the Medical Center are owned by the Petersburg Borough, with the Medical Center responsible for ongoing maintenance and repairs. Unlike many other communities, the Petersburg Borough contributes very little funding to the Medical Center. The Borough does not levy a property tax nor a lease charge to the Hospital, but nor does it provide operating or capital funds except in rare circumstances.

While the Borough is not responsible for the Hospital's operations, it is important to note the Hospital has a major impact on the Petersburg economy and quality of life. This impact includes the direct value of many well paid and stable local jobs, as well as the of having access to comprehensive health care in the community. Federal organizations like the US Forest Service and the US Coast Guard evaluate communities based upon a comprehensive list of factors, including the availability of health care. A major change in this availability could have impacts on federal jobs in our community.

In summary, the Borough and the Petersburg Medical Center have a complex and mutually beneficial relationship. Any changes should be carefully vetted by the Assembly, Hospital Board and the Community.