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Dear Petersburg Borough Assembly,

Thank you for taking time to read this letter of support for the Petersburg Mental Health Services we are so fortunate to have in our community.

While it is clear that in these tight economic times we must as a community pull together and find solutions to our budgetary shortfalls I feel that removing financial support for PMHS is going to undermine essential services and result in more expenses down the line.

PMHS is a great support to those in our community who rely on the resource for assistance during times of difficulty and crisis either long term or acutely. PMHS quietly assists some of our most vulnerable citizens to function and optimize their lives as contributing members of our community. This has a ripple effect not only upon the lives of those closest to the recipients but upon all of us who live in Petersburg.

I have been employed at the hospital for more than 30 years and well remember the days prior to having PMHS as a resource when patients came in for care at a time of crisis. The speed of intervention needed at such a time cannot be understood unless you have had to stand by helplessly waiting for someone professionally trained to come, if they could be available.

The improvement in the quality of mental health care since we have had such a high quality service has set the standard for what good care is.

Realizing the fiscal realities we are dealing with may I suggest that the assembly reconsider the thoughtful plan put forth by our city manager to realign the department head organization so that the electrical superintendent position is combined under the management of Karl Hagerman.

Karl seems to have proven himself to be an able manager and well able to safely and expertly assume new duties. While in an ideal world the current organization could remain it is we are far



from an ideal economic world and other entities such as the Forest Service and public media have been successfully making these type of changes for many years now.

Respectfully submitted,

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