

March 19, 2026

Mayor Shane Evans and City Council
City of Milton
1139 Smith Street
Milton, WV 25541

Dear Mayor Evans,

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District (GHPRD) regarding the City of Milton's nonpayment of legislatively mandated park district levy funds.

Senate Bill 569, passed on March 5, 1983, and effective July 1, 1983, establishes the requirement for certain governing authorities to levy funds in support of park districts. Specifically, on page 11 beginning at line 41, the Act states:

“Levies for support, maintenance and operation. In order to ensure adequate support for the maintenance and operation of the park district, the following governing authorities shall, upon written request by the park district, levy annually as follows within the respective taxing districts of the governing authorities...”

Further, beginning at line 67, the Act specifies the levy amounts applicable to the Town of Milton:

“The Town of Milton, for the first year of the act and annually thereafter; Class one, one and three-tenths cents; class two, two and six-tenths cents; class three and four, five and two-tenths cents.”

Both Senate Bill 569 and subsequent amendments enacted under **House Bill No. 3004**, passed on **March 11, 2011**, include the following requirement regarding the handling of park district funds:

“All money collected or appropriated by the foregoing governing authorities for Park District purposes shall be deposited in a special account of the Park Board and shall be disbursed by that board for the purpose of operating the Park Board.”

The amendments contained in House Bill No. 3004 did not remove or alter the Town of Milton's obligation to levy and remit the above-referenced funds and reaffirm the statutory framework established under Senate Bill 569.

As of today, March 19, 2026, the City of Milton has not made payment to GHPRD since March 2025. At this time, GHPRD believes the outstanding balance owed to be approximately **\$54,000**.

We respectfully request that this past-due balance be remitted no later than **April 17, 2026**. If payment is not received by that date, GHPRD will have no alternative but to seek legal counsel to pursue collection of the funds owed under state law.

GHPRD values its relationship with the City of Milton and the investment it has made in serving Milton residents. April Dawn Park offers more amenities per square foot than any other GHPRD facility and continues to receive ongoing improvements and maintenance. Recent investments include construction of a roof over the pump house at the request of the City of Milton, the ordering of additional playground equipment for the rear area of the park, and updates to the splash pad computer system in recent years. GHPRD believes the park is well maintained and remains committed to providing high-quality recreational facilities for the Milton community.

Sincerely,

Kathy McKenna
Executive Director