



CONTACT:

Wayne A Michel, President
Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad
610-562-2100

LGSR to cease train operations November 25, 2019

October 16, 2019 – Port Clinton, PA - Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway (LGSR) announced today that it was closing up shop in Jim Thorpe in late November of this year.

LGSR began offering passenger excursion rides out of Jim Thorpe 15 years ago. It immediately came in and cleaned out old equipment and brought a first-class operation to Jim Thorpe. Investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in facilities and equipment including its open air cars and its bike train, LGSR put Jim Thorpe on the map as a major tourist destination for rail fans.

LGSR along with its sister railroad, Reading Blue Mountain and Northern (RBMN), brought over a million people to Jim Thorpe over the last decade.

Recently the Jim Thorpe Borough Council sought to force LGSR to pay an amusement tax. Through its third party administrator the Borough Council brought a lawsuit seeking to recover close to \$100,000 in alleged back taxes for the years 2016-2018.

LGSR has made it clear to the Borough Council that it is not an amusement and it will not pay any so-called amusement tax.

Nonetheless, the Borough Council and the Mayor have made various public statements demeaning LGSR, RBMN and their owner, Andy Muller, Jr. Those statements are false and misleading.

Instead of responding to every inaccurate statement Mr. Muller has decided to take the passenger operations to towns that welcome the railroad with open arms.

In explaining the decision Mr. Muller made the following statement,

“RBMN is in the freight business. That is where we make our money. I have offered passenger excursion rides to local communities as a way of thanking them for their support over the years and to educate young and old in the glorious role railroads in this region played in our country’s industrial revolution. Since it is clear that the Mayor and Borough Council do not care about what we have done to assist Jim Thorpe over the last fifteen years,

a period in which Jim Thorpe Borough government has done NOTHING to assist the railroads, I have decided to focus our energies on communities that want to work with the railroads. While I feel terrible for our loyal employees, our repeat customers, and Jim Thorpe merchants who have supported our excursion trains, there is no reason for us to stay where we are not welcome.”

Refunds will be issued for all people who have already purchased tickets for the Santa trains. Closure of LGSR does not affect RBMN passenger operations from other locations to Jim Thorpe. RBMN plans to announce soon a new schedule of rides from other communities.