

Branch Communicator

April 2005

Supervisors Meeting Notes

Telephone Numbers

Supervisors:

Robert Keifer 544-2249
Joseph Wank 544-3183
John Purcell 544-5890

Township Offices

Branch Police 544-2901
Township Garage 544-3557
Secretary
Joanne Schultz 544-4283
Sewage
Donna Kroh 544-1764
Township Manager
John Andruchek 544-4283

Police Report

The Police officers worked a total of 342 hours. They traveled 2468 miles using 4 police vehicles. 50 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 6 officers.

There is no news about the receipt of the new police vehicle.

The report covered the period 3/1/05 to 3/31/05

Primary Election Day Tuesday May 17th

Polls will open at 7PM and remain open until 8PM.

Both Branch East and Branch West precincts are located in the Township Building.

The Branch Communicator is a privately published newsletter to provide residents of the Township with information on governance by their elected and appointed Township officials. Opinions expressed are those of the Publisher and do not reflect the opinions of Sponsors nor officials. Questions and comments should be directed to Norm Bertasavage 544-6583.

Fire Company News

The annual fund drive of the Good Intent Hose Company is underway. The envelopes have all been mailed out. Please return your contributions as quickly as possible.

The Phoenix Park Fire Company will hold it Chinese Auction on Sunday, June 12th. Donations are requested.

The majority of the funding for these voluntary fire fighters comes from your contributions. With the expanded role of all first responders in Homeland security equipment needs and training requirements also increase. Help those who help us.

Strossertown Bridge Update

The Supervisors have received assurances from the county that the grant to replace this structure will be restored. At a special meeting held on April 5th, the Supervisors authorized Karen Parrish to submit application for an additional grant of \$50,000.00. Without this additional funding the replacement of the bridge is not going to happen, according to Supervisor Wank.

Also at this special meeting, The Supervisors approved a resolution for the transfer of a liquor license for a new restaurant-bar to be located in the McNulty building on Rte 209.

Support Our Troops

Many of us have little magnetic ribbons that show we support our troops. Now the Branch Township AMVET's ask that your active support be given for the Memorial Day observance. They need people to help put on the Parade and Ceremony on Monday May 30th. Needed are Honor Guards, a bugler to play Taps, a flag raising detail, Firing Squad, and other help: Boy and Girl Scout marchers, Fire Company participants, and other organizations to be in the line of March for the Parade. If you are willing to help, please call me at 544-6583 or Harry Paul at 544-3118.

Compost Site

Residents are reminded that the compost site is for grass, leaves and branches. No logs or

Construction materials are to be brought to the site.

The Walking trail

Work on the walking trail running has resumed. Porcupine Pat is directing the effort to finish this facility which will run along the old railroad bed south from Llewellyn toward Silverton.

Election News

District Magistrate Judge Charles Moran appeared at the meeting to ask for support for his re-election. He stated that this was the first time it was appropriate for judicial candidates to campaign. Until the time the office is open, the judicial code prohibits candidates from declaring for the office. Moran, a Minersville resident, seeking his 5th term cited his experience and service in office.

Supervisor Wank also announced his candidacy for reelection in the May 17th Democratic primary. At this time there is no announced Republican candidate to oppose him.

Whoever your choice, get out and vote on May 17th.

Road Masters Report

The township work force is still reduced to 2 men. They have been working on playground problems, operating the Compost site and preparing for grass cutting and other duties.

There is to be no road program this year as most of the township roads were overlaid and repaired last year as part of the sewage project.

Solicitors Report

There has been no response from Gordon Land Company regarding the rumored sale of land under consideration for zoning change and development. The position of the Supervisors is to require that any sale carry with it the

Sewage Authority News

Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Authority was held on April 12th to vote on application for a \$250,000.00 loan. This loan is more of a bridge loan to pay contractors amounts due. The loan will be repaid from funds due on the PENNvest loan which will be received after the final inspection by DEP.

New Authority member David Stoppi was introduced at this meeting.

Punch Lists Questions

Two Cass Township Supervisors were in attendance at the regular Authority meeting. They questioned the Authority on several items including outstanding punch list items. They were informed that the Doli and Mazzuca Contractors had been contacted. A meeting with the Doli representative is to be scheduled within the next few days. A list of items presented by Cass township will be checked against work already completed by the contractors and the remaining items will be addressed. Mazzuca has already scheduled some work on that contracts punch list items. However, Metro has basically indicated that they will not be returning to the job. Hold back money of around \$25,000.00 will be used by the Authority to complete outstanding items from this contract.

The use of Police officers from both Branch and Cass was discussed in the delivery of shut-off notices to customers. When a certified letter of intent is refused by a customer, the police may be used to either present the letter or to attend the actual water shut-off.

A resolution was passed to bill customers who have received

Notice of Violation for any costs associated with actions by the Sewage Enforcement officers.

Final Inspection

The final inspection of the BCRSA was conducted 4/15/2005. The DEP representative, the Engineer, Plant operators and Authority members were present. Final performance standards, used to project operations against actual performance of the system from Branch Township were needed to complete the inspection. HRG, the original Branch engineer, was contacted to provide these standards. Also the Continuing Education Plan for the plant operators are needed. When these items are received and approved, final payment of the loan from PENNvest will be made.

Other items

There are approximately 140 hook-ups to be made to the system by customers. For the most part, these customers have paid the Tap-in fees and are paying the monthly fees. As of last week, there were 1360 bills being mailed accounting for 1393 EDU's.

17 Letters of intent were mailed to customers last month. This resulted in contact by 11 persons to make partial payments, 4 customers paid up and 2 didn't respond.

The new part-time employee was introduced at the meeting. She will be working from 5 to 10 hours per week.

Warranties on Grinder pumps provided by Mazzuca will expire in September 2005. Others will expire in September 2006. Any not installed because the customer has not yet hooked up will be the responsibility of the homeowner.

liability for the inclusion of the Planning Commission's recommendation for access.

Planning Commission

The Bassinsky development may require a revised plan to correct the problem with the cul-de-sac that has been encroached upon.

Nothing but rumors have been circulating regarding the Gordon Land Company's proposed plans for development in the West West Terrace area.

A motion was made to write a letter to the Supervisors requesting that hard copies of the SALDO plan be made for each member of this Commission.

Living Wills

The Terri Schiavo court battle captured the attention of many. Agree or disagree, the courts ruled that 1) you have the right to refuse treatment, 2) a spouse has superior status over parents and 3) written instructions are better than verbal instructions.

A living will is your instructions as to treatment when you can't make the decisions. That can be to take heroic medical measures or withhold treatment.

A living will provides for treatment and appoints a decision-maker. If you don't have a living will and would like one, call me for an appointment at 544-6583.

News letter Sponsors

Enbee Tax Service, Federal and State E-filing Service
available
544-6583

Don's Classis Restoration & Auto Body Inc
544-8209

Branch Concrete Co
544-6141

Direnzo Coal Company
544-4743

HB Excavation
544-3407

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *May 30th*. Planning Commission May 3rd. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be May 19th at 4:30 PM.