

Branch Communicator

April 2009

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/Treasurer Joyce Beach
Township Manager 544-4283
John Andruchek 544-4283
Sewage
Tina Williams 544-1764
Kim Karzinsky 544-1764

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 2959 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 62 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. They attended 5 hearings at District Judges offices. 8 Traffic citations were issued.

The report covered the period 3/1/09 to 3/31/09

Wings and things

The Good Intent Hose company of Llewellyn is serving Wings every Tuesday from 6PM until all are gone. They will also serve clams and peel and eat shrimp. Come out and support the Hose company while enjoying a tasty dinner.

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.

The April meeting was a very short one I've been told. (Maybe because I wasn't there) But Joyce Beach provided me with a copy of the agenda and the bills as well as a brief summary of what took place. Thanks Joyce!

Timbering on the Gumboot road

A meeting with the supervisors and Chris Kauffman of Fort Jackson Logging was held on April 14th to discuss problems with the operation. Several items were discussed and a written understanding of the expectations of the township was presented and signed by the Fort Jackson firm.

Central Schuylkill COG Meeting

Supervisors met with the proposed Central Schuylkill Council of Governments on April 21st to discuss membership. The COG will offer access to assets that will be shared among the members, joint purchasing of materials and supplies that should offer lower prices because of bulk purchases and administrative advantages that should benefit tax payers in all member communities. Branch Township will host the June meeting of the COG at 7PM on the 16th. A draft ordinance outlining the duties and responsibilities of members will be presented at that meeting for discussion and acceptance by the potential members. Councils of Governments have been operating with success in the County and around the state for some time. If done properly membership in the Central Schuylkill COG will benefit our citizens.

Chamber of Commerce Energy Pool

Energy Pools are the latest of the initiatives to reduce costs. The Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce has proposed an energy pool that will buy electricity in bulk and distribute that energy to members of the Pool at cost. With the cost of electricity to greatly increase with the removal of the caps by the state this is an other cost reduction program being looked at by the Township Supervisors. Joining the pool will require membership in the Schuylkill Chamber of commerce.

It's Garbage

The current garbage hauler's contract runs out in 2010. The supervisors instructed the solicitor to begin soliciting bids for a new contract.

County Commissioners Meeting

The Supervisors were advised by telephone that the township will host a Commissioners meeting in 2010. The exact date will be determined later.

Annual Fund Raising Drive

By now every township household should have received a letter from the Good Intent Hose Company requesting donations. The members of this organization are First Responders active in the protection of lives and property within the township. As volunteers they devote hours to training and equipment maintenance as well as sponsoring educational program. They deserve our support. You are urged to send your contribution as soon as possible. Times are tough but disasters take place in good times and bad so preparations for responding are necessary without regard to the economy.

Memorial Day

On May 25th the Branch Township AM-VETS will host its annual Memorial Day celebration honoring our veterans. It is something that is necessary in a time when the same government sending our young in harms way is also branding them as potential terrorist. Give a hour of you time to show your appreciation of our veterans past and present.

Happy Mothers Day

To all the township's mothers my best wishes for a Happy Mothers day. Mothers are the ultimate volunteers devoting their lives to their children. It is right that they are honored on May 10th for their year long devotion to there children.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Income	
Court Income	534.28
General Receipts	74,705.85
Other Income	200.00
Permits	395.00
Total Income	<u>75,835.13</u>
Expense	
advetizing	434.70
Building Inspector	139.09
Contractors	97.50
dues	1,834.18
Electric	3,333.76
Engineering	356.00
Garbage	7,543.78
Insurance	6,663.20
Misc	30.68
Office Expense	100.70
Payroll Expenses	8,049.94
Payroll Taxes	3,464.02
Police	76.02
postage	14.70
Road Work	105.00
Sewage	204.33
Solicitor	100.00
Supervisors	220.71
Tax Collections	3,376.89
Telephones	459.79
Truck & Equipment	266.75
truck Loan	360.12
Utilities	<u>1,340.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>38,571.86</u>
Balance	\$37,263.27

Planning Commission

No April meeting held because no business was presented for consideration.

Primary Election Day

May 19th is Primary Election Day. It is the day you get to chose who in your political party will represent you in November. It is also a chance for you to let your party leadership know how you feel about their direction. Polls open a 7AM and remain open until 8 PM. Get out and vote!

India, the worlds largest democracy has been voting since April 16th and poll there will not close until May 13th. The 750 million eligible voters will go to one of the 828,801 polling places to cast their vote. These polling places are in cities,

jungles, and mountains.

Some will have only one or two voters in that district. Others will have thousand of voters standing in line suffering from 100 plus degree weather, pouring rain, or blowing snow to cast their vote. You have it easier.

These elections are for municipal officials who have the most direct contact with the people. Do your part.

Cost Reduction

This months meeting focused on cost reduction. Several areas being looked at are telephone and energy costs. Pump stations need phone lines to signal problems and to summon maintenance crews to resolve the problems before they can ruin equipment. A meeting was held with a representative of Comcast. Initial information seems to help reduce the \$440.00 monthly telephone charges by 40%. Action on this will be taken when a formal proposal is received.

A meeting with the Chamber of Commerce concerning energy Pooling was also held. A large part of the Authority's electric bill is due to operation of the pump stations. Energy pooling may help reduce these costs.

Changing from monthly mailing of billing cards to annual mailing of billing coupons is being looked into. This would cut the monthly cost of printing and mailing the current billing cards. The down side of this is that customers would no longer receive the cards as a reminder to pay the monthly bill. This would increase delinquencies. The current system calls for reminder letters to accounts delinquent 3 months.

Speaking of Delinquencies, 10 new payment plans were established. 20 more letters of intent to have water shut off for non-payment of sewage bills were sent. Hopefully this will result in more people paying their bills.

Grease Trap Problems

Blockages caused by grease build-up are another source of expense to the Authority. Restaurants are required to have and maintain grease traps and maintain records of inspections. A quarterly inspection by Authority personnel will be instituted. Restaurants were originally to be charged on the basis of an EDU for so many tables so they are enjoying a break at only 1.5 EDU's.

News letter Sponsors

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

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

Jerry Rizzardi

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *May 25th* . Planning Commission May 5th . Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday May 21st 4:30 PM.

Note: Branch Communicators are available on line at www.normbert.com/