

Branch Communicator

August 2007

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
Treasurer Joyce Beach
Township Manager
John Andruchek 544-4283
Sewage
Donna Kroh 544-1764

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 1958 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 59 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. There were 8 traffic citations issued and 3 criminal arrests.

Correction: It was incorrectly reported last month that officers with 3 or more years of service will be given a \$300.00 annual allowance for uniforms and equipment. The correct amount is \$200.00

The report covered the period 7/1/07 to 7/31/07

New Arrival

Toby Robert Durlin made his first public appearance at 9 lbs 7 oz and 20 inches long on August 22nd. Mother Tara Durlin, nee Bertasavage and son are both doing well.

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.

A Bridge, so Far

Construction of the Strossertown Bridge has begun. A by-pass has been constructed while the old bridge is being demolished. Construction is expected to take 90 days to complete, depending on weather. The Contractor has until June 08 to complete the job but expects to be finished before the batch plants close in November.

Sewage Line extension

A request to extend the sewage line in Phoenix Park during the new bridge construction was reviewed by the Township Engineer. The cost estimate for servicing the 6 residents came out at \$58,500.00 including engineering and legal fees. The Supervisors rejected the request as too costly.

Phoenix Park Drainage Problem

The problem of blocked drains presented to the Supervisors in the last meeting has been solved. A crushed pipe blocked the storm drain. The residents paid to have a new pipe installed to the property line and the Supervisors completed the connection from the road.

Responsible Individual

Complaints were lodged during last months Supervisors meeting concerning deviations from approved subdivision plan. The Supervisors announced that enforcement of all subdivision plan will be the responsibility of the Building Inspector. That office is currently held by John Andruchek.

All future applicant for building permits will be advised that driveway exits, set back lines, water run-off abatement, and other conditions specified in the sub-division plans will be enforced. Failure to comply will result in legal actions against violators.

Current homeowners deviating from approved plans will be notified of violations and instructed to come into compliance or face legal actions.

New Ordinances

Two new ordinances were enacted by the Supervisors. A driveway ordinance will govern conditions required to have a driveway

exit onto a township road and a timbering ordinance will regulate timbering operations in the Township. These new ordinances will be numbered by the secretary. Copies will be made available to the Planning Commission and the Building Inspector. Residents and interested parties may view the ordinances at the township office.

Township Vehicle Accident

A township vehicle was in a property damage accident. A camping trailer legally parked off the side of the road was struck with some \$4800.00 in damage. The owner appeared before the supervisors questioning the payment of damages.

He was informed that the township liability was limited to the amount of his deductible on his insurance coverage. He questioned the increases he would suffer in future years due to increased premiums. The Solicitor informed the resident that the township was protected from a legal suit by law.

Bassininsky Lane Deed

There has been no action on the deed of dedication for this road. The paperwork was reviewed by the Solicitor. There were several corrections necessary. The information for correction was forwarded to the attorney for Bassininsky.

Grants

The Police received a grant for a new computer reporting system that will tie into the State Police recording system. Branch and Reilly Townships both contributed \$100.00 toward the cost.

A county grant application was forwarded for next year's consideration. If received the grant will be used to run a water line to the west end of the township.

Supervisor Meetings

The Supervisors will be attending a seminar on immigration law in Frackville on October 3rd.

The Annual Schuylkill County Township Supervisors convention will be held on October 15th.

Supervisors meetings cont'

Supervisor Jack Purcell reported on meetings he and Joe Wank attended with the Schuylkill Municipal Authority and the monthly meeting of the BCRSA. Purcell reported that he is opposed to a take-over of the BCRSA as it would not save the residents anything. He also stated that loss of the system would leave the townships still responsible for the \$17 million dollar loan and any potential revenue when the system is paid off. Supervisor Wank concurred with Mr. Purcell.

Heating Oil Contract

The Supervisors agreed to accept a contract with Reedy Oil for heating oil for the coming season at \$2.74 per gallon.

Road Masters Report

Supervisor Wank reported the Township workers repaired pot holes, operated the compost site and prepared the Llewellyn School playground for the school opening.

Financial Data

Income: Tax Revenues, \$17,326.80; General Receipts, \$2,324.39; Permits, \$2140.60; Other Income, \$700.00; Court Income, \$164.89. Total receipts \$22,656.68.

Expenses: Payroll expense \$9,045.07, Garbage \$6,393.61, Insurance \$2,710.29, Electric \$2,681.58, Engineering \$2,413.50, Truck & Equipment \$ 1,586.23, Utilities \$1,311.19, telephones \$1,097.99, tax collection \$ 929.60, Contractors \$694.20, payroll taxes \$569.99, Police \$340.00, Building Inspector \$304.75, Supervisors \$220.68, Solicitor,\$180.00, Sewage \$138.00, Office expenses \$102.80, Misc Expenses \$788.66.

Total expenses: \$31,508.14

Other: Bonds received: \$13,256.86, Transfers to Penn Invest Account \$13,256.86. Loan payments: Tax Anticipation loan: \$2,455.80, Road Repair Loan \$955.17, Building Loan \$360.12

Planning Commission

There was no meeting of the Planning Commission during August. It is unlikely that there will be a meeting in September as no business has been presented.

The Supervisors inquired as to the feasibility of requiring a sign-off by the township engineer prior to sub-division plan approval. They were advised that the new SALDO and the 2001 Sub-division Review fee schedule provided for such a review when determined necessary by the Commission. The Review schedule also provides that all necessary and reasonable engineering expenses for reviews determined to be required would be at the expense of the developer.

Judge Retention

Retention of judges will be on the ballot again in November. The PAClean sweep Organization will again be asking voters to vote NO on all judge retention questions.

Two years ago this operation turned out a state Supreme Court Justice for the first time in years and also nearly turned out another. In spite of this signal from the voters Judges still do not feel duty bound to support PA's Constitution. When it comes to pay raises for themselves or property tax reform the judges have ruled in their own favor or against the people.

You will have a say in November. A NO vote on all retention questions will get a message out. Maybe they will listen this time!

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *Sept 24th* . Planning Commission Sept 4th. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Sept 20th 4:30 PM.

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

Sewage Authority

Delinquent Responses

46 letters were sent to delinquent customers of the BCRSA. So far, 21 responses have been received with arrangements for payment on the accounts.

Schuylkill Municipal Authority Meeting

The outcome of a joint meeting with SMA, BCRSA and the Supervisors of Branch and Cass townships was discussed. Two of the Branch Supervisors made it clear to the Authority that they were against any plan to join with SMA. The Board tabled any further discussion for the present time.

Plant Operations

Effluent continues to be within specifications. Average daily treatment was 183,516 GPD with a high of 216,000 GPD and a low of 166,000 gpd. There were 3 grinder pump calls for the month, one was the result of grease build up, one clogged pump and one stuck float.

Engineers Report

The engineers are reviewing a sub division plan for the Con-dor pump station with a final report ready for the September meeting.

Preparation for the Court trial regarding Doli's claim against the Authority scheduled for Sept 13th.

Other Items

Tina Williams will be granted access to the bank accounts but no check writing authorization as Donna Kroh is still out .

All revenues will be deposited in the checking account rather than the savings account to prevent NSF penalties.

A service agreement for Preventive Maintenance with ITT Flygt was tabled for further study.

News letter Sponsors

Enbee Tax Service, Federal and State E-filing Service available
[544-6583](tel:544-6583)

Don's Classis Restoration & Auto Body Inc
[544-8209](tel:544-8209)

School is Open

Be alert for children at bus stops and in play grounds.