

# Branch Communicator

February 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 3352 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 67 Incidents, Assists, special assignments or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. They attended 4 hearings at District Judges offices. There were 4 traffic citations, 2 non-traffic citations and 2 criminal arrests.

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

### Fish or Crab Dinner

The Good Intent Hose Co Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a Fish or Deviled Crab dinner Friday March 13th from 3PM to 6 PM. Eat in or take out. Donation \$8.00, advance ticket sales only. **For Ticket information call Susie @ 544-3929 or Dorothy @ 544-5651.** Platters will include french fries, green beans, cole slaw and dessert.

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.

### Special Election

The Special Election to replace Senator Jim Rhoades will take place on March 3rd. Here are some reasons to **vote for Steve Lukach:**

- 1) Dave Argall Didn't vote to rescind automatic Legislative pay raised.
  - 2) Dave Argall didn't return his pay increases to the treasurer.
  - 3) Dave Argall didn't do anything for health insurance.
  - 4) If Dave Argall is elected a second special election will be necessary to fill his vacated house seat. This will waste more Schuylkill County tax dollars.
  - 5) If elected to the senate Argall will go from the 3rd ranking republican legislator in the house to the lowest ranking legislator in the Senate, losing Schuylkill County's and Northeast PA clout in state government.
  - 6) Steve Lukach has experience in local government, county government as well as being a 35 year volunteer fireman and member of civic organizations that will serve all of us.
  - 7) Steve Lukach hasn't been a position to raise taxes so Argall is flat lying..
- On March 3rd it will be your choice; more of the same at a higher price or fresh vision.

### Police Information

Included in the police report are items such as "Referrals to other agencies, special assignments, and assists to other law enforcement agencies".

Referrals are those complaints or investigations that are not necessarily criminal complaints and are therefore referred to agencies such as Area Agency on Aging, Children and Youth services, or other social services agencies that deal with these problems.

Special assignments are those that require criminal investigation not handled by the State Police. Our township cops are not equipped to conduct forensic investigations but must handle complaints that can not be solved by issuing a citation.

Assist to other law enforcement agencies covers those assignments for arrests, serving of papers and other things that come from other jurisdictions.

### County Commissioners Meeting

The County Commissioners take some of their meetings on the road through out the year. The Supervisors were asked by a township resident to submit an invitation to the County to hold one of their meetings in Llewellyn this year. That request to issue the invitation was approved and will be sent to the county.

### Ordinance enforcement questioned

A resident brought up the subject of a lack of township enforcement of it's own ordinances. In this case referring to the timbering ordinance. It was pointed out that a timbering permit wasn't requested until an operation was more than half completed. Further that the ordinance requirements for boundary and basal areas were honored in the breach rather than the establishment.

A lengthy discussion of the defects of enforcement of and penalty for violation of township ordinances ensued. In the particular question of the timbering ordinance the township supervisors cited actions that they had taken when notified of the problems. A meeting with forestry officials and the company doing the timbering revealed the lack of the state's clear definitions in it's regulations that compound the problem.

It was suggested that all township ordinances be reviewed as to the provisions for enforcement and penalties for violations to insure the costs of enforcement are borne by those who benefit from the permitted actions and that penalties are sufficient to deter those who would accept the penalty as a cost of doing business.

### Auditor Positions

All three auditor positions will be up for election this year. There will be a 6 year, a 4 year and a 2 year position open.

### Vacancy Chairman Position

Jerry Rizzard, current vacancy chairman accepted nomination to continue in that position for the next year.

## Financial Data

Jan 1, '09 - Feb 19, 09

Income	
Court Income	827.04
General Receipts	36,063.98
Other Income	1,857.85
Permits	765.80
Tax Income	<u>19,032.84</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>58,547.51</u></b>
Expense	
advertising	199.20
Building Inspector	250.83
Contractors	3,737.09
dues	500.00
Electric	6,419.10
Engineering	2,286.00
Fire Companies	75.00
Garbage	15,087.56
Insurance	7,286.20
Misc	649.33
Office Expense	
Bank Charges	64.25
Office Expense - Other	<u>360.00</u>
<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>424.25</b>
Payroll Expenses	17,295.01
Payroll Taxes	3,920.70
postage	42.00
Road Work	4,564.53
Sewage	275.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	441.60
Tax Collections	2,402.18
Telephones	802.19
Truck & Equipment	9,374.32
truck Loan	360.12
Utilities	2,826.50
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>79,398.71</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-20,851.20</b>

# Sewage Authority

## Meeting With Pennvest

Members of the Authority and Rep Neil Goodman met with representatives of Pennvest. Federal Law prohibits Pennvest from increasing the payback of the sewage loan. IRS provisions for issuance of Bonds allows a payback period based on the life expectancy of the assets and Pennvest can not alter its terms. Therefore, the Authority will have to continue to meet its mortgage obligations, and since the EDU rates are also restricted it is only a matter of time until the Authority is in bankruptcy.

## Delinquencies Increase

The delinquencies have increased to over \$75,000.00. 144 letters addressed to those more than 3 months in arrears were mailed. 17 of those resulted in partial payment and 7 in full payments of amounts due. Those still not paying, including those payment plans that are not current, will see water shut off notices beginning in March. Non-current payment plans will receive no further notice of water cut off.

Water cut-off by Blythe water Company are charged a fee for the cut-off and the restoration of water. In addition, the Authority is charged a "lost revenue" fee of \$1.00 per day which is tacked onto the amount due the Authority.

The Authority is looking into the possibility of publishing the names of all delinquents as an attempt to induce payment.

## Billing Cycle changes

Some customers have seen a 1/2 billing cycle bill. As of March everyone will be on the same billing cycle.

## Fire Police Designation

The township fire police will see a new Captain and a new lieutenant installed. The Supervisors accepted the listing of officers and member and designated them as the township fire police.

Prices for new badges will be solicited and presented to the supervisors for consideration.

## Planning Commission

There was no business to be conducted in February so there was no planning commission meeting held.

If any business is received the scheduled March meeting will be moved to the 4th so to not conflicted with the special election being conducted in the township building on March 3rd.

## Trust your Government

Trusting government to protect you is a sure way to ruin. In little ways and big ways government fails us more often than not.

The reason new fire police badges are required is that a new state law calls for the badges to be bigger. Next year the Supervisors will be required to change all the street signs making them bigger. That will require more taxes.

Pay your mortgage, pay your taxes, educate your children and the government will reward you and your grand kids with higher debt.

A war in Afghanistan will fight terrorism by making more people hate us and kill off more of our brave young people.

Yeah, your government will protect you in ways you could never imagine!!!

## 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)

## 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.

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

Note: Branch Communicators are available on line at [www.normbert.com/](http://www.normbert.com/)