

January 2006

## 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



There was no report available for the January meeting. The officers were reappointed. They are Chief Wenner, Officers Wilinsky, Kavanaugh, Pyle,

Klink, and Hoban. All were given a 50 cent per hour rate. (What they earn now is not much more than they could make flipping hamburgers and is a lot more uncomfortable, difficult and dangerous) Give them the respect they deserve.

### Good Intent Pierogi Sale

The Good Intent Hose company will sponsor a home made Pierogi sale. There will be potato, cheese, cabbage and sour kraut pierogis available. \$4.50 per dozen. Order by 2-13, Pick up 2-23. Call the Hose company and leave message.

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 di-

### DEP Endangers Again

Treatment of imported raw sewage is being proposed in three townships, including Branch, by a proposed revised permit application. The DEP has received a request from Blackwood, Inc to import raw sewage sludge, treat it and spread it over land located in Branch, Reilly and Tremont townships.

A hearing on this application will only be held if residents call the DEP and a number deemed "sufficient" request the hearing. Norm Bertasavage is circulating a petition calling for a public hearing. Township residents can call him at 544-6583 to sign the petition. The DEP's phone number is 621-3118. Make that phone ring before February 1st!!!

### Memorial Day Committee

An organizational meeting for the AMVETS Memorial Day Committee will be held at 6:30PM on Thursday, February 9th at the Union Church in Phoenix Park. Anyone interested in helping is invited to attend. You don't have to be an AMVETS member or a veteran, just willing to help continue a tradition. For more information call Harry Paul at 544-3118 or me at 544-6583.



### Reorganization News

The Supervisors reorganized, reappointing Bob Keifer as chairman, John Purcell as vice-chairman and Spook Wank as road master. The supervisors will continue to be paid \$1,000.00 annually for meetings and will be paid an unchanged rate of \$9.00 for township employment. All other township workers will receive a 72 cent an hour raise.

The following appointments were made: David Bell was reappointed to the Planning Commission, Laine Gehres was moved from the Zoning Hearing Board to the Planning Commission replacing Beverly Whetstone and James Spangler was named to the Zoning Hearing Board replacing Gehres.

Harry Ebling will continue to be both the

earned income tax collector and the delinquent tax collector. Jerry Rizzarda is the Vacancy chairman. Fred Thompson Agency is the Insurance provider. Leight-Heigle and Associates will continue as sewage enforcement officials. The Miners Safe Deposit Bank will continue as the financial institution for the township. Gino DiNicola was retained as solicitor. \$400.00 was allocated to Fire Prevention week to be matched by the fire companies.

### Strossertown Bridge

The money allocated for this bridge has not yet been located. However, contact with project managers at PENNDot have indicated that the time lapse since the project approval was given may require additional information to be given. This sounds like more delay and more cost for a bridge serving 7 homes.

### Christmas Tree Collection

The township will continue to pick up Christmas trees thru the end of January. Put trees out as normal garbage any day of the week and in a day or two township workers will take them for disposal.

### Supervisors Vs Sewage Authority

The Branch Township Supervisors and Brian Canfield, a member of the Cass Township Supervisors attended the monthly meeting of the BCRSA to ask some questions. The Supervisors believed that they were entitled to information on major decisions of the BCRSA. The Supervisors were bluntly informed that copies of BCRSA's minutes were made available to them and that would be the only notification of pending actions that the supervisors were entitled to. As to input from the Supervisors prior to any decisions by the BCRSA, they were reminded that they appointed members of the Sewage authority to act and that would be the extent of their input.

### Road Master's Report

Keeping up with normal winter projects has been the focus of the township workers

# Sewage Authority News

## Reorganization !!!!

The reorganization meeting brought about surprising change and a contentious meeting with Supervisors. John (Huddy) Yaworsky resigned from his position as chairman and as a member of the Sewage Authority. Cass township Supervisors must now appoint a replacement for Yaworsky.

John Andruchek, a Branch Township member was appointed to replace Yaworsky as chairman. Jim Thomas, a Cass Township member was appointed vice chairman. Dave Sekellick was re-appointed treasurer with Andy Studlack as assistant treasurer. Paul Hertz was re-appointed as Secretary with Donna Kroh as assistant secretary. The other members are Dave Stoppi and Richard Yutko.

The board also approved a pay increase of \$1.00 per hour for the assistant secretary.

Alfred Benesch Co was retained as Engineers and Applied Water Management as plant operators. Dave Ratigan will continue as Solicitor for the Authority.

## Engineers Report

The engineers reminded the Authority that the annual Chapter 94 report will be due to DEP in March. Their fee for preparation of this report will be \$2,200.00. A motion was made and seconded to have Benesch complete the report.

They are also reviewing the as-built drawing from Doli for Contract C-003 for deviations from the original contract. This time will be kept separate from normal billing so that engineering fees can be deducted from the hold back amount currently unpaid to Doli.

## Plant Operations Report

The plant operated with an average daily flow of 193,387 GPD. This is an increase of about 20% from the yearly average. This increase was explained as due to an increase of 40 hook-ups to the system. There are still some 30 hook-ups to be com-

pleted. The effluent readings were all good.

There was one grinder pump call due to moisture in the control box. One grinder pump was re-installed at a trailer where the water had been previously shut off by the owner.

It was pointed out that the contract for services by Applied Water Management expires in March. The company will submit a bid for continuing service and the board will look at alternatives to the current contract.

## Other Notes

A resident asked the Authority to insure that the black plastic environmental barriers used by contractors in the township be removed now that the sewage projects have been completed and approved by the DEP.

An invoice dispute with Jack Purcell concerning work done that was a benefit to the Authority but not requested by the Authority was settled by compromise.

Water Shut off's by Blythe Water for non-payment had been halted by the Water Company due to policy. With spring coming, the program will be once again enforced. The Authority will be requesting water shut off beginning in February so that the legal process can be completed.

A program of partial payments will not be continued if those owing back payments have not made arrangements by the end of February.

All customers of the BCRSA are reminded that direct debiting for payment is available. People can request this service by contacting the Sewage Authority, not the Bank!

There has been no response from Reilly Township on any progress with it's plans. BCRSA is firm in it's position that Reilly would be accepted as a bulk customer only. The residents in the Steins Mill Area would be ceded to Reilly in any plan as a bulk customer.

## No Solicitor's Report

No word has been received on the request to sell two strips of land behind the former Jackson Motors on Route 209.

## Planning Commission

No meeting in January. Nothing has been done concerning the plans of Gordon Land Company's to subdivide property in West West Terrace.

Rumors of development of land owned by Pioneer Pole Buildings off Church Road persist. No action has taken by the owners to present a plan to the Commis-

sion.

No other information has been offered concerning any other new developments or subdivisions in the township.

## Happy Valentines Day



Give him a big hug. Remember men like to be romanced too!

## News letter Sponsors

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

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

**Rushanan & DeStefano Real Estate Sales & Appraisals**  
544-9520

**H B Excavating**  
544-3407

**Up Coming Events :** The next supervisors meeting will be *February 20th*. Planning Commission February 7th. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be February 16th 4:30 PM. Supervisors Reorganization Meeting