

Branch Communicator

July 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 3163 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 65 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 4 officers. They attended 2 hearings at District Judges offices. There were 6 traffic and 2 criminal arrests.

The report covered the period 6/1/09 to 6/30/09

Communicator Patrons

Mr. Jerry Rizzardi

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.

New township Pick-up truck

The township purchased a 2001 Dodge pick-up truck equipped with snow plow and spreader. The cost was \$7,200.00

New police vehicles

The Branch-Reilly Police force have two new police cars thanks to the generosity of Mr. DeNaples. He donated the vehicles to Reilly Township for use by the police force. The two townships split the cost of equipping the vehicles as police cars, lights, sirens, special equipment.

Dilapidated buildings

A letter was sent to Senator Dave Argall for assistance in pursuing action for several township buildings. 3 structures on Willing Street are in bad shape with refuse, etc and providing refuge for vermin. Taxes are being paid on the properties so letters were sent to the owners demanding clean-up of the buildings.

Senator Argall has introduced a bill, S-900 to make the condemnation of dilapidated structures more effective.

The township is also looking at a Property Maintenance Ordinance to assist in preventing buildings from falling into a state of disrepair. I read the Cass Township ordinance which is to be used as a model for Branch's ordinance. I suggested that as written the model is too open to interpretation that can lead to arrogance and abuse. Something needs to be done but caution must be taken in drafting laws so that enforcement is both reasonable and justified.

Branch Township Fire Police

The question of radios for the Captain and lieutenant of the Fire Police was discussed. There has been one radio already donated and the cost of a second radio will run to nearly a thousand dollars. The request to purchase the additional radio was tabled for now.

New garbage collection bids

Advertising for a new collection contract has begun. Bids will be opened at the August meeting.

Sch County Act 167 plan

Phase I of the act that deals with identification of flood plane areas was discussed. The township had previously identified likely areas of flooding and plans to mitigate such flooding. These will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Police Grant Application

A grant to pay for a full time officer for both Branch and Reilly townships has been applied for. This grant will pay the additional cost for full time officers for 3 years. The townships will be required to pick up the costs in the 4th year and there after. The alternative would be to pay for minimal police coverage by the State Police. This way the cops are ours and will provide more protection and coverage for citizens.

2010 Budget

Unlike our state legislators the township supervisors are preparing for the 2010 budget. A preliminary budget meeting will be held in September.

New Air Conditioners

The township building is equipped with 3 Air Conditioners. Two are old and broke, one is old and inefficient. The supervisors voted to replace all three.

Township Copy Machine

The copy machine used by the township, the sewage Authority and the police department has been replaced with a new one.

Sewage Authority Representatives

Discussion of the absenteeism of members of the Authority was addressed. Branch township and Cass both are to have 4 members. Over the last year several meetings lacked a quorum due to absent members. On one occasion no business could be completed and on another the business had to be delayed until an absent member was contacted and arrived. The supervisors agreed to request the Authority identify the absentee member and to request his replacement on the Authority.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Jul 1 - 29, 09

Income	
Court Income	266.61
General Receipts	29800.85
Other Income	1,447.00
Permits	562.00
Total Income	<u>37436.82</u>
Expense	
advertising	134.52
Building Inspector	126.74
Contractors	148.00
dues	52.00
Electric	3,253.40
Fire Companies	2,800.00
Garbage	7,543.78
Insurance	
Health Insurance	3,779.37
Insurance - Other	208.60
Total Insurance	3,987.97
Misc	288.44
Office Expense	1,240.00
Payroll Expenses	9,644.96
Payroll Taxes	2,880.02
Police	2,549.80
postage	23.06
Sewage	165.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	220.68
Tax Collections	1162.93
Telephones	512.76
Truck & Equipment	8197.81
Utilities	1,340.00
Total Expense	46451.87

Net Income -9,015.05

Transferred from Pennvest account \$12,200.00

Paying up

With no major repairs and an insurance check to cover part of the cost of a previous repair the Authority was able to pay the current expenses without having to dip into the reserve. Payment plans are bringing in some of the delinquent monies due. There are currently 45 payment plans in effect, 20 liens, 15 letters of intent to shut off water and 1 water shut off in the Authorities ongoing collection efforts. This has helped to reduce the delinquent dollars from over \$65,000.00 last month to \$60,200.00 this month. Now if people keep paying in a timely manner the reserve can be increased to help with future equipment replacements and maintenance problems.

Cost Cutting

Work on reducing operating costs continues. Switching to Comcast telephone service in all but two cases will reduce the phone bills. Joining an Energy Poll will help reduce electric charges. Looking into having grass cutting duties removed from the American Water contract will save further dollars.

Grease traps and grinder Pumps

The Authority discussed requirements for grease trap inspections and record keeping by owners required to have and use grease trap. Quarterly inspections of traps by an engineer was also discussed.

There were 3 grinder pumps calls for the month. One grinder pump failure was due to grease buildup. The resident was advised to use a degreaser to minimize buildup. Two other calls were the result of blocked pumps.

Supervisor Notes Con't

The Supervisors agreed to join the newly forming Council of Governments (COG). The cost will be \$100.00 annually. If this COG works it can help the township by giving access to equipment that the township usually rents, cut costs by savings in joint purchasing, and gaining information from the other members concerning operational matters.

Police Force

With the addition of officer John Zurat the police force is now up to 4 officers. Joe Wenner is the chief, Richard Clink and Bryan Pyle are patrolmen.

Planning Commission

There was no business to conduct in July

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

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

so no meeting was held.

School will soon be open

Schools will soon be opening and this means kids running around. As you drive keep in mind that kids don't always play safely. Make sure your driving takes that into consideration.

Labor Day

Labor Day holiday will be held on the 7th of September. It is the last holiday of the summer. Enjoy it but keep it safe.

News letter Sponsors

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

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