

Branch Communicator

July 2010

Supervisors Meeting Notes

Telephone Numbers

Supervisors:

John Purcell 544-5890
Robert Yeager 449-5226
Joseph Wank 544-3183

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 Krasinski 544-1764

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 3108 miles in patrolling the townships using 3 police vehicles. 65 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. They attended 5 hearings at District Judges offices. 7 Traffic citations were issued and there was 1 Criminal Arrest. 5 Traffic accidents were investigate including one with a fatality, The report covered the period 6/1/10– 6/30/10

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.

Burning Ban

A burning ban is in effect in the County. The recent rains have had some affect on the dryness but the hot weather still poses a fire threat.

Garbage Assessments owed

There is good news and bad news on the unpaid garbage assessments. Kim Krasinski, of BCSRA, at the request of Branch Township worked on the unpaid garbage taxes. She found the total number of people who had not paid garbage taxes was only 75, down from the previously reported 85. The bad news is that the unpaid taxes amount to \$33,464.75. Kim will assist the township in sending collection letters to those individuals owing back taxes. If there is no efforts on the part of the individuals owing money to pay up, lien actions will be taken by the township to enforce payment. Suggestions to stop garbage collection of those not paying was rejected as these people would wind up throwing their garbage in the bush or placing theirs with a neighbors. Kim did her usual great job on assisting the township tax payers and hopefully will lower the cost of garbage to all of those who are now paying for those who don't pay.

New Police car

Branch/ Reilly Police force will soon be operating a new police car. The townships were able to purchase the new vehicle under the State's piggy back program that allows such purchases at a discounted price. The cost will be shared jointly by Branch and Reilly Townships. The new car will replace several of the older police vehicles who's upkeep are costing more than the value of the cars.

Letters of Appreciation

Letters and certificates of appreciation were sent to Admiral Lescavage and to several members of the Memorial Day Committee for their long term service to the township in honoring our veterans. Good work to all.

Road Masters Report

A new drain pipe was installed on the Silverton Road. Due to the County burning ban there were no burns at the compost site. As soon as the asphalt batch plant is certified by Penndot the township will begin clearing up some road problems. This action is expected to begin within two weeks.

The meeting was relatively quiet with a short agenda and little citizen input.

Commentary

I was in Viet Nam when the "Pentagon Papers" were released. These papers cited the problems reported on the war effort and how we were losing the war. I had traveled in-country from Ben Hoa in the south to Dong Ha in the north as part of my job of insuring reliable communication for the Army and Marine to call for air strikes by the Air Force and to coordinate activities and intelligence. I was well aware of the ability of the Army and Marines to kick butt. My contacts with the ARVIN convinced me that the puppets our government installed to rule the Viet Nameese People were not liked nor supported by the peasants nor the lower ranks in the Army. Our government lost that war in spite of the bravery and ability of the troops.

The release of the reports of the efforts by our government in Afghanistan this week provides a similar picture as did the Pentagon Papers. Our forces kick butt in every meeting with the Taliban forces. Unfortunately we also cause considerable collateral damage that promotes hatred of America and the government we have installed in Afghanistan. Some one who released these reports will be found and face the US Courts as did Daniel Ellsworth. But our government will not face up to the truth.

The US House of Representatives today passed the War Funding bill and it will now go to the President for signature. The war will continue, our treasury will be depleted, our debt will increase and our brave young men and women will continue to face death and disfigurement and the end we will lose.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Jul 1 - 30, 10

Income		
Court Income	105.31	
General Receipts	2,171.83	
Permits	63.48	
Tax Income	6,224.01	
Transferred from Pennvest	<u>14,000.00</u>	
Total Income	\$22564.63	
Expense		
advertising	222.37	
Building Inspector dues	131.12	
Electric	40.00	
Insurance	2,850.24	
Health Insurance	4,657.67	
Insurance - Other	<u>239.10</u>	
Total Insurance	4,896.77	
Misc	153.29	
Office Expense	765.16	
Payroll Expenses	9,932.88	
Payroll Taxes	718.75	
Police	705.04	
Road Work	232.84	
Sewage	174.00	
Solicitor	180.00	
Supervisors	147.12	
Tax Collections	1,650.52	
Telephones	295.01	
Truck & Equipment	662.01	
Utilities	<u>294.01</u>	
Total Expense	24,051.13	
Net Income	-1486.50	

The Sewage Authority is still in business. The merger with Schuylkill County Municipal Authority has not yet been completed. Payments should continue to be made to BCRSA. Those with payment plans should continue to keep current or face water shut-off . . . Authority contracts for services will continue on a month to month basis and insurance is scheduled to stay in effect until October unless the Authority terminates sooner.

Delinquencies are down slightly to \$75,790.00 9 new lien actions will be taken against non-payers. 3 liens have been satisfied Those delinquents who face lien actions or water shut-offs are reminded that the water company still assess a monthly loss of revenue charge and the legal costs of liens are added to the total amount due by property owners.

A Cass resident who had paid to have a service lateral on a vacant property had requested the refund of the tap-in fees paid. The position of the Authority is that the laterals were provided and are still an asset to the property. There for no refund will be provided.

Plant operation is still well with-in specifications with treatment ranging from a low of 116,000 gpd, a high of 263,000 gpd and an average of 177,000 gpd.

Authority membership attendance by Branch Representatives has fallen off with only one Branch member in attendance for this meeting. Cass's full membership attendance allowed for business to be conducted by a quorum.

Planning Commission

No new business was presented to the Commission so there was no July meeting.

Other Notes

The closing of Pritz Auto will mean the reduction of revenue from the people who worked there. The loss of the local services tax and the one percent income tax will affect both the township and the Minersville School District. How this lost income will be made up won't be seen until next year.

School Begins August 30th

Watch out for the school buses and the kids being picked up. It's that time of year again so be careful!

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *August 16th* . Planning Commission August 3rd . Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority , if it still exists, meeting will be Thursday August 19th 4:30 PM .

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

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available
544-6583

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

Patrons:

Jerry Rizzardi
Pothering Generators

Phoenix Park Happenings

The Phoenix Park fire company will be sponsoring weekly bingo games. The games will be held on **Mondays starting at 6:30PM at the Fire Company**. All are invited to play.