

Branch Communicator

July 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 2334 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 73 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 of-ficers.

There were 4 traffic citations, 2 non-traffic citations and 2 felony arrest .

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

County's SNAP Program

The County Emergency Management Agency announced a new program to assist people with special needs in the event of a disaster. There is a web site available to collect information on handicapped and special needs residents at www.scema.org. Joyce Beach has some brochures available at the township office with more information. I will also be available to those with special needs but no computer access.

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 Bert-savage 544-6583.

Strossertown Bridge

The successful bidder for the bridge has said they will hold a pre-construction meeting some time in August. This may mean that construction will start this year.

Bassininski Lane Dedication

The township has yet to receive a deed of Dedication for Bassininski Lane. Until this happens, the township will not be responsible for maintenance of this street.

South Gate Development

Mrs. Doyle, representing the Friedens Lutheran Church, advised the Supervisors of violations of the approved South Gate sub-development plan. At least one of the property owners, required by plan to use a flag lot drive way, has exited onto the un-maintained township road. In doing so, they have also displaced survey marker stakes on the Church's property.

She also raised the question of who in the township is responsible for the enforcement of approved sub-division plans and building permits. Failure to prevent developers from ignoring plans as submitted to the township for approval has been an on-going and costly problem for the township.

At one time it was the duty of the township's building inspector to monitor adherence to approved lot plans as to setback lines, building heights, and other stipulations made by the Planning Commission in approving plans. The inspector issued a building permit and was responsible for reviewing a drawing showing the location of all buildings constructed on a property. This does not appear to currently be the case.

An individual or company must be responsible for insuring compliance with sub-development plans and building permits. Without this the process of planning sub-developments and issuing building permits is an exercise in futility. Developers and lot owners can submit plans and then do as they please. The Supervisors must act to correct this flaw.

Mark's Junkyard

While there is sympathy for Mr. Marks, who is currently in the Veterans Hospital, the eyesore and health hazard remains.

The township solicitor has been notified that the agent for Bill Marks, purported owner of the junk yard, is not willing to pursue legal action to force the Madonna Company into compliance or to sue for breach of contract.

The township has to inform Mr. Mark's agent by letter that the clean-up must be pursued. The Supervisors instructed the solicitor to send a letter to the agent demanding action.

Phoenix Park Drainage Complaints

Several Phoenix Park residents complained to the Supervisors about drainage problems. Citing problems with drainage and storm damage following sewer construction, they asked the supervisors to look into the problem. It is suspected that a terra cotta pipe was crushed by heavy equipment during the sewage project.

Supervisors Wank and Purcell will meet with the residents in Phoenix Park to try to determine where the problem lies and suggest remedies.

Police Uniform Allowance

Police Chief Wenner addressed the Supervisors on the need for a uniform allowance for the township's 3 Police officers. He requested an annual uniform allowance of \$100.00 for each officer with at least 3 years service with the township. The Supervisors agreed to a motion to pay each officer as requested by Chief Wenner.

Road Masters Report

The township workers performed routine maintenance, grass cutting and storm damage inspections.

Solicitors Report

The solicitor reported on two ordinances to be advertised prior to adoption. One ordinance regulates timbering operations in the township. The Second regulates drive-ways. These may be viewed at the township office.

Sewage Authority

Financial Information

During the period 5/20/07 to 6/16/07 township expenditures totaled \$90,589.23. Insurance costs of \$2,655.39 for healthcare. Contractor payments were \$4,54.70. Payroll of \$7,567.06, Garbage collection at \$6,393.61, Engineering costs of \$2,546.00, Tax collection costs of 1,913.25. Loan repayments and interests totaled \$56,839.18 Office expenses were \$1,087.03. Truck and equipment expenses were 861.75. Utilities at \$3,937.06 made up the bulk of the expense with Electric costs of \$2,685.33 and telephone bills of \$687.73 the leading utilities cost..

Revenues were \$41,349.52 from tax receipts, General fund receipts were \$3,561.42, Permits totaled \$820.80 and \$1057.00 in contractors licenses and other income for total revenues of \$46,788.74. \$40,000.00 of the deficit was withdrawn from the PA Invest account.

The Tax Anticipation loan was paid off. Other township indebtedness is the \$38,000.00 plus balance on the loan for street repair and the \$16,000.00 plus balance on the AMVETS building purchase loan.

Good Intent Annual Fund Drive

There is still time to contribute to the Good Intent's annual fund drive. Remember, the money raised goes to help township residents. Mail your check to the Good Intent Hose Company #1, Post office, Llewellyn PA 17944.

Grease trap problems reported at last months meeting were investigated by board members. It appears that a regular schedule of trap cleanings is carried out by the owners and that the traps are of the proper size. The board will continue to monitor this problem

The request to move the Shultz tie in from the curb to the property line is awaiting a decision from the solicitor.

A request for sewage service after the Strossertown bridge is complete from Andrew Stoppi was rejected

A hearing on the Mennig connection will result in the unpaid monthly fees being reduced by 25% for the purposes of the hearing. This will reduce the EDU assessment from 2 EDU's to 1.5 EDU's for now.

Two delinquencies claims of medical necessity will be examined by the solicitor prior to any action being taken.

The Authority agreed to pay a share of the property tax assessed against the Cutler property for the portion taken for the system.

The annual inspection proposal by ITT Flygt for preventive maintenance was tabled for more discussion. The proposed fee of \$4,900.00 for the pump stations seemed too high.

Plant Operations

The daily average flow for June was 183,967 GPD, up slightly from last month. High for the month was 211,000 and a low of 166,000 GPD. All effluent parameters were within specifications. There was only 1 grinder pump call in June which required the replacement of a tank seal. One lift station alarm required that the station be powered down and reset.

Total U.S. Iraqi war dead as of 7/31/07

3655 U.S soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Air Force members have died in Iraq so far. There have been 7 reported contractor deaths, however over a thousand contractors employed in the service of the United States forces in Iraq have died. Not a single one of our brave Congressional Representatives have been lost due to enemy action.

From a military standpoint, the war on Iraq was won by April 2003. What the US is losing is the Occupation. Occupation forces, whether Nazi's in France, Israeli's in Palestine or us in Iraq always face resistance. Even when political and economic integration of the indigenous populations exists there remains a core group against the occupation.

When a civil war between indigenous groups is on-going during occupation, security for military forces and locals resigned to the occupation is almost impossible to attain. We have a current force level in excess of 170,000. 10 times that amount would be required to improve, not eliminate, threats to security.

In the mean time, we have crumbling roads and bridges, no coherent health care program and a increasing debt to suffocate future generations. Congratulation to the U.S Congress.

3655, 3656, 3670,.....

News letter Sponsors

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

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

Phoenix Park News

The township requested a new flag pole from Alcoa Engineered Products. The new flag pole has been received and installed.

Many thanks to Alcoa for their generosity in providing the pole free of charge.

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *August 27th* . Planning Commission August 7th. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be August 16th 4:30 PM.

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