

Branch Communicator

June 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 3772 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 46 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers.

The report covered the period 5/1/09 to 5/31/09

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.

Communicator Patrons

Mr. Jerry Rizzardi

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.

Help Wanted

There is an opening for a member to be appointed to the Zoning hearing board. This board is responsible for the conduct of hearing on the legality and validity of request for zoning changes and request for variances from the existing zoning ordinances. The board meets on an as needed basis. Qualifications are a willingness to serve and a logical mind. Any one interested should contact a township Supervisor.

Democracy works best when there is citizen involvement in the governing process. Volunteers are always needed to fill slots as current members resign. Most of the positions require only a few hours a month. If you are willing to devote some time to the township let someone know. We all then benefit.

Fire Police Standard Operating Guide

Captain James Orff of the Branch Township fire police requested the supervisors adopt the Schuylkill County Fire Police Associations standard operating guidelines. These guidelines set the objectives, requirements and duties of the township fire police as first responders in emergencies including fires, accidents, floods, hazmat incidents or public functions.

A motion to approve and accept the guidelines was made and passed.

Fire Police Badges

Because there are not enough badges for all of the members of the fire police the Supervisors were asked to purchase new badges. There was disagreement between the members of the Fireman's Relief fund on the legality of purchasing the badges so the Supervisors agreed to pay for 30 new badges at a cost of \$520.00 dollars.

Radios are also needed for the Captain and lieutenant of the fire police. Capt Orff will get a bid.

Vehicle Information

The box for the township's dump truck is beyond repair. The supervisors approved a motion to replace the box.

A request for bids for the purchase of a new

township pick-up truck was approved. Bids will be opened at the July meeting.

Reilly township request that Branch share the cost of two used Police cars to be purchased by Reilly. The cost to Branch will be \$2,000.00. The police Blazer will be one of the current police vehicles to be replaced.

International Property Maint Code

The township is looking into enacting an ordinance regulating property maintenance of all property, buildings and structures in the township. Such an ordinance will make it easier for the township to take action on homes and buildings that have fallen into disrepair and have become a health or fire hazard.

This ordinance will regulate and govern the condition and maintenance of all township property and buildings providing the standards for utilities and facilities to insure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use and provide the township with condemnation and demolition authority for structures deemed unfit for human habitation..

The solicitor will look into the drafting of this ordinance and present it for enactment by the supervisors at the July meeting.

Solicitor's Report

The current waste haulers contract with Dave Evans is due to expire on December 31st. The solicitor was directed to prepare a bid solicitation for the next meeting to begin the process to assure the uninterrupted continuation of garbage collection.

The solicitor will also look into the energy pool program being offered by On Demand thru the Sch Chamber of Commerce.

ATV Problems

A township resident presented a complaint to the supervisors concerning the illegal use of ATV's on his property. The supervisors will look into their limited ability to deal with these problems as advised by the State Police. A previous session with the barrack's commander of the State Police informed the supervisors of the difficulty of enforcing these problems.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Jan 1 - Jul 6, 09

Income		
Court Income	3,682.84	
General Receipts	115,269.95	
Licences	100.00	
Other Income	7,874.96	
Permits	1,674.00	
Tax Income	232,231.10	
Total Income	360,832.85	
Expense		
advetizing	633.90	
Auditors	1,494.43	
Building Inspector	825.35	
Contractors	4,084.59	
dues	17,274.36	
Electric	19,965.04	
Engineering	4,282.50	
Fire Companies	75.00	
Garbage	45,262.68	
Insurance		
Health Insurance	7,558.74	
Insurance - Other	26,767.54	
Total Insurance	34,326.28	
Interest expense	379.72	
Misc	2,477.40	
Office Expense		
Bank Charges	64.25	
Office Expense - Other	1,819.08	
Total Office Expense	1,883.33	
Payroll Expenses	58,718.78	
Payroll Taxes		
Unemployment tax	50.00	
Payroll Taxes - Other	19,438.11	
Total Payroll Taxes	19,488.11	
Police	1,737.83	
postage	224.55	
Road Work	8,826.04	
Sewage	1,227.81	
Solicitor	6,090.53	
Supervisors	1,324.38	
Tax Collections	15,088.91	
Telephones	3,102.39	
Truck & Equipment	16,974.00	
truck Loan	1,440.48	
Utilities	5,732.71	
Total Expense	272,941.10	
Net Income	87,891.75	

Planning Commission

A request for a variance was received from Leonard Chestakoff to allow the construction of a single family residence on property located in an S-2 zoned district. The property is located on Black Diamond Road in the Steins Mill area. This request is for a change in permitted use only and not a sub-division. After discussion with the property owner and comments by board members a motion to recommend approval of the request to the Zoning hearing board was made and agreed to.. The assistant secretary was directed to forward a letter of approval to the Zoning Hearing Board.

A letter was received from Attorney Harry Crosswell, representing Pioneer Pole Building, thanking the Commission for its input at the meeting to discuss a solution to the problems confronting the property on Church Road.

Chairman Bell advised the Commission of potential plans for development by Ed Bassininski and the purchase of property on Springwood Avenue.

Good Intent Hose Co events

The Good Intent Hose Company will be holding a Boot Drive on Rte 209 on the 3rd of July.

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

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

Delinquencies and Cost Reduction

These two subjects were the main discussions at the June Meeting. Delinquencies were down slightly to \$65,305.88, due in the main because it is the time water company shut-offs can be initiated. There were 39 payment plans put in force, 20 liens filed, 52 letters of intent sent, ten final notices of water shut-off and two water shut-offs initiated.

Comcast's telephone services will be used for the office, the plant and the fax line that will save about \$100.00 per month. Inclusion of the direct lines for the pump stations was declined as there would be no savings for these emergency warning lines.

By joining the energy pool offered by the Chamber of Commerce there will be a savings of about 1 cent per kilowatt on the electric bills, saving several thousand dollars each year.

Grease trap inspections are to be set up on a quarterly basis with the inspections to be conducted by township sewage enforcement officers. In the case of Branch Township this will be Light-Heigle. Cost of the inspections are to be billed to the trap owners. A form for weekly self inspections will be developed by the authority for use by trap owners.

The copy machine needs to be replaced. This is a piece of equipment used by the Authority, the township and the police so the cost of replacement will be shared by each of the users.

The Branch SEO will be asked to cite a township resident for failure to connect to the sewage system. The resident had originally requested a lateral connection to the rear of his property which would have crossed a section of another's land. The resident now wants the authority to install a lateral coming out of the front of his property at authority expense. The authority has refused this request .

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)



Celebrate Independence Day
But remember what it cost to found the nation and the sacrifices made by the founders. Honor Them by protecting liberty and justice for all.