

Branch Communicator

March 2008

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
Tina Williams 544-1764

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 2904 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 46 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. The report covered the period 2/1/08 to 2/29/08

Good Intent Hose Co event

A barbeque chicken sale will be held on April 11th from 11 AM to 1PM at Kane Steel. Tickets will be \$7 dollars.

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.

Compost site

Official opening of the Compost site will not be until early in May. Those needing to use the site should contact the township office.

Sludge Ordinance

The supervisors discussed enactment of a Sludge Ordinance modeled on that of other municipalities. The Solicitor was asked to make sure the draft would not be overturned by the courts as has been the fate of other attempts to regulate the spreading of sludge.

Black Diamond Road

The Supervisors will post the Black Diamond with a weight limit of 10 tons. This will hopefully slow the destruction of the black-top.

Cass Township Meeting

The Supervisors attended a work session with officials of Cass Township. Together they discussed common problems such as sewers, sludge and police. No actions were taken.

Mileage Re-imbusement

The IRS has increased the standard mileage re-imbusement to 50.5 cents per mile. The supervisors passed a required resolution adopting this standard for township travel.

DCNR Grant Applications

Applications for grants were submitted for the Phoenix Park Playground and for the former Breslin Property. Application for \$51,000.00 to upgrade the equipment and the site at the playground.

An application for \$12,800.00 was submitted for site work at the Breslin property located in Llewellyn at the corner of Bunting and Willing streets. These are not matching grants, the townships costs will be for the township workers labor and the use of the townships equipment.

Memorial Day Celebration

May 26th will be the date of the AMVETS annual salute to our Veterans. The parade will start at 8AM and will be followed by a program at the Llewellyn school.

An organization meeting will be held on April 22nd at 7PM in the Phoenix Park Union Church. Volunteers are welcome. Help is always needed.

Bid Opening

A single bid was received for the property at 31 Carnish Street in Phoenix Park. The bid was for \$2,000.00 The bid from Mrs. Naradko was accepted by the Supervisors. This action was good for the township in two respects: 1) it recovered the townships cost of demolition of the old structure and 2) it puts the property back on the tax rolls.

Voting Machine Demonstration

The Schuylkill County election Bureau will hold a demonstration for using the new voting machines prior to the April 22nd Primary Election. The Demo will be held on April 8th from 4PM to 7PM in the township building. Anyone who has not used the machines before or those desiring a refresher course in the new voting procedures is welcomed to attend.

Buglia Timbering Permit

At the last meeting the township engineers were requested to look at the permit to timber 64 acres in the Phoenix Park area. They were to report on the road usage and other matter pertaining to a timbering operations impact on the township. No report had been received at this meeting.

Road Masters Report

Until the batch plants open, cold patch will be used to fix pot holes. Church Road and the Dowdowntown road will be done first. Apparently the Chip and Stone practice is now frowned upon by PENNDOT and repairs to Church Road will have to wait for funds before an over lay can be done.

Sewage Authority

Solicitor's Report

In addition to the previously cited reports on the Sludge Ordinance and the sale of the Phoenix Park lot, the solicitor reported that research into ownership of the Marks Junk yard didn't show Mr. Marks as owner of that property.

Financial Data

Income: Tax Revenues, \$67,543.37; General Receipts, \$1,822.16; Permits, \$1,661.85, Other Income, \$6,719.68 Court Income, \$550.86 Total receipts \$78,297.92

Expenses: Payroll expense 33,148.49 Garbage \$21,698.18, Insurance \$16,772.99, Electric \$9,839.00, Engineering \$4,403.50, Truck & Equipment \$ 7,643.14, Utilities \$3,627.06 telephones \$2009.12, tax collection \$ 2,898.72, Contractors \$1,216.70, payroll taxes \$7,652.60 Police \$176.20, Building Inspector \$492.95 Supervisors \$664.14 Solicitor, \$3,045.09 Sewage \$327.00, Office expenses \$1,556.43 Misc Expenses \$586.84 Auditors, \$1,767.14, Advertising 72.32, Dues \$258.00

Total expenses: \$125,463.20

Other: Transfers from Penn Invest Account \$4,700.00. : Tax Anticipation loan: 40,000.00

This report covers receipts and expenditures for the **first quarter of 2008.**

Plant Operations

There was one grinder pump call for January and 5 in February. Effluent quality was good for both months. One of the grinder pump calls was due to a rag and 2 halves of a wiffle ball clogging the pump because a clean-out pipe was left uncapped.

The plant treated an average of 192,065 gallons per day in January and 214,207 per day in February. Plant operator Roy Miller will be leaving and a replacement operator is being trained.

Reilly Township

The problem with the Branch Dale - Steins Mill hangs on who will put the line in between the Reilly township boarder and the last manhole in Branch Township. The cost of this line is something between \$750,000.00 and 1 Million dollars. With an undetermined but low number of connections to the line there is no way to recoup the cost for which ever entity pays for the line. Unless the DEP can come up with grant money to pay for the connecting line there is no way either body will foot the bill for the installation.

Theft of Manhole covers

Two more manhole covers have been stolen. I was told that they are placed in the trunk of cars being junked to add more weight. This gives the thieves about 9 extra dollars and cost the Authority \$90.00 to replace.

You don't have to be crazy But

A recent article by a professor at North West University may explain why we get the politicians we do. By the current definition of insanity nearly half of the US population is suffering from some form of mental illness.

According to Professor Christopher Lane nearly one quarter of all Americans are taking some kind of medication for mental disorders. And this doesn't include those of us who are getting medications in our drinking water.

The "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" added 112 new mental disorders to its third edition (DSM-III). Fifty-eight more disorders appeared in the revised third (1987) and fourth (1994) editions.

Depression and "social anxiety pho-

bias" are among the more recent diagnosis added since 1980 for which medications are prescribed.

Given this level of depression and anxiety is it any wonder we keep electing politicians who don't seem to understand that the three major problems facing the United States are our Foreign Policy, our national debt and a lack of a coherent health care system.

These three problems are interlocked and drain our economy. To continue to borrow 12.5 billion dollars a month to pay for a war that can't be won while our national infrastructure crumbles is insanity.

Oh, by the way, the primary election will be held on April 22nd. The Republicans have little choice and the Democrats have a defining choice. Get out and vote!

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)

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *April 28th* . Planning Commission meeting (if needed) May 6th. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday April 17th at 4:30 PM.

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