

# Branch Communicator

November 2011

## Supervisor Notes

### Telephone Numbers Supervisors

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

### Township Offices

Branch Police 544-2901  
Secretary/ Treasurer 544-4283  
Joyce Beach  
Township Manager 544-4283  
John Andruchek  
SEWAGE Problems  
• SCMA 622-8240

### Police Report

The Police officers handled 52 incidents/complaint during October. They issued 6 traffic citations and attended 4 court hearings. During the month they traveled 2714 miles patrolling the two townships. This report covers the period 10/1 to 10/31/2011

### Sponsors

**Don's Classic Restorations**  
**544-8209**

Enbee Tax Service 544-6583

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

### Garbage Pick Up

The holiday will require that garbage will be picked up on Friday the 25th. So don't put your garbage out Wednesday night. Do it Thanksgiving evening so that your turkey bones don't sit for a week in your basement!

### Thanks a lot

Supervisor Joe (Spook) Wank wants to extend his thanks to all who voted for his re-election. Joe will be serving the township for 6 years more years.

### 2012 Budget

The Supervisors authorized the advertising of the 2012 budget to be enacted at the regular meeting on Dec 19th. The budget will be available for public review

starting on November 28th at the township building during normal business hours.

### Liquor License Xfer

The supervisors approved a resolution to allow the transfer of a liquor license from the Frankenburger to a new entity at the old Amigo's. The new entity will be known as Cactus Jacks and will be more a restaurant serving booze and "Southwestern Grill" than a bar.

### FEMA Agent

The supervisors voted to appoint chairman Purcell as FEMA agent for the township. This was necessary to have FEMA help pay for the disposal of the silt dredged from the creek in the Steins Mill area.

### The Recycling Center

For several months the

movement of the recycling center from its present location on Bricky Road to a spot near the Post Office has been talked about. Approval by the Good Intent Hose Company, owner of the property has been granted. The County recycling authority has to also approve the move. The Supervisors were pressed to apply for this county approval.

### Tax Anticipation Note

The solicitor presented the paper work to apply for the Annual Tax Anticipation loan. The Amount of the loan will be \$20,000.00 at 3.6%. It will be a draw down loan to be used as needed.

The solicitor also advised the board that in view of pending legislation in Harrisburg any ordinance concerning regulation of Marcellus shale drilling is likely to be over ridden and is therefore ill advised.

## This and that

The Phoenix Park Fire Company sponsors a weekly bingo every Monday night. All are welcomed to come out and play.

### Wings and Things

The Good Intent Hose

Company of Llewellyn is serving wings, peel and eat Shrimp, and fries every Tuesday night from 6 until all are gone. Eat in or take out.

## Property Maintenance Ordinance

The property maintenance ordinance passed in **August of 2009** was accepted without any penalty provisions. Now there is an International Property Maintenance Code that is to be accepted by the township. The lack of a penalty provisions in our current ordinance must be addressed. The Solicitor was instructed to look into this omission and advise on amending the ordinance to include penalties for failure to comply with the ordinance.

## Zoning Hearing Costs

It was pointed out that the costs of the average Zoning Hearing for a variance far exceeds the fee charged for the application. According to the State's Municipal Code the fees can not be raised from the current amounts of \$400.00 for a residential application and \$600.00 for a commercial applicant. The last commercial applicants hearing cost over \$10,000.00 in legal and other administrative cost which is a burden on the township taxpayers.

The need for an attorney at every hearing is unnecessary. It was pointed out that a court reporter at every hearing prepares a transcript of the proceedings. Any legal questions that arise at the hearing can be reviewed by an attorney using the transcript to offer guidance to the hearing board with less cost involved. Also the administrative requirements of advertising and posting the hearing can be performed by the secretary and the building inspector at a cost less than the usual \$135.00 per hour charged by attorneys.

## Financial Data

Nov 1 - 17, 11

<b>Income</b>	
<b>Court Income</b>	165.92
<b>General Receipts</b>	19,191.12
<b>Other Income</b>	4,182.10
<b>Permits</b>	176.50
<b>Tax Income</b>	32,591.27
<b>Total Income</b>	56,306.91
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>advertizing</b>	779.49
<b>Auditors</b>	127.75
<b>Building Inspector</b>	102.75
<b>Contractors</b>	1,347.07
<b>dues</b>	28.00
<b>Electric</b>	2,987.76
<b>Engineering</b>	128.00
<b>Fire Companies</b>	17,467.14
<b>Garbage</b>	7,997.65
<b>Insurance</b>	
<b>Health Insurance</b>	5,012.99
<b>Insurance - Other</b>	3,868.75
<b>Total Insurance</b>	8,881.74
<b>Misc</b>	72.22
<b>Office Expense</b>	57.90
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	16,618.49
<b>Payroll Taxes</b>	
<b>Unemployment tax</b>	479.45
<b>Total Payroll Taxes</b>	479.45
<b>Police</b>	2,601.66
<b>postage</b>	44.00
<b>Road Work</b>	29,099.96
<b>Sewage</b>	174.00
<b>Solicitor</b>	7,782.52
<b>Supervisors</b>	200.46
<b>Tax Collections</b>	2,165.07
<b>Telephones</b>	543.41
<b>Truck &amp; Equipment</b>	3,559.22
<b>Utilities</b>	1,292.40
<b>Total Expense</b>	104,538.11
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-48,231.20</b>
<b>From Savings</b>	25,709.19
	-22,522.01

## Planning Commission Meeting

There being no business to conduct there was no meeting in November.

## Road Masters Report

Township workers made 6 compost burns and patched pot holes. A street in New Minersville was cold patched. The townships winter salt purchase was received.

Happy Thanksgiving.

