

Branch Communicator

November 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 Krasinski 544-1764

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 3020 miles in patrolling the townships using 2 police vehicles. 63 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. There were 10 traffic citations issued.

The report covered the period 10/1/09 to 10/31/09

There is still an arsonist setting fires in the Township. Anyone with information or suspicions on the person or persons involved should contact the township police.

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

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 Operating Hours

The compost site will operate Monday thru Thursday from 3PM to 5 PM due to the change back to Eastern Standard time. Saturday hours will remain 9AM to 1PM. These hours will continue until the "snow flies". Anyone needing access to the site at times outside the scheduled hours can contact Supervisor Wank.

Tax Anticipation loan

The annual tax anticipation loan in the amount of \$40,000.00 was offered by the Miners Bank. This money will be drawn down as necessary to meet expenses prior to the receipt of tax revenues. The Supervisors approved the loan.

Delinquent Garbage Tax list

A request for a listing of unpaid garbage taxes has not yet been received. Given the number of unpaid property taxes it is thought that the number of unpaid garbage taxes should be available. When the list is received appropriate action will be taken to collect these taxes.

Mark's Junkyard Clean-up

A joint effort by the Supervisors and the Good Intent Hose Company Members has resulted in a substantial removal of this long-time eye sore. Materials that could be recycled were, stuff that could only be called trash was removed to landfills and the entire area has been re-seeded. There will still be a walk thru to remove any items missed during the clean-up and there are still some tires to be disposed of but the eye sore is basically gone. The announced cost of the clean-up was \$15,000.00 but that price doesn't include in-kind contributions from contractors and the donated labor by volunteers.

The Headwater Association will be coming in to plant vegetation native to the area that will further enhance wet-lands and improve the overall appearance of this former junk yard.

Suggestions on types of plants to decorate the area are being solicited. Anyone with suggestions can call Hose Company President

Paul Kennedy at 570-527-1433.

Snow Removal Questions

A question of why there is no snow plowing of Laudeman's Lane was addressed to the Supervisors. The basic answer was that the Lane is a private road and therefore can not be legally maintained by the Supervisors. It was pointed out that a dry hydrant was plowed at least once last year. Paul Kennedy of the Good Intent informed that this was a water source and that access to all the township's dry hydrants are maintained by the Hose Company, not the Supervisors.

Other Public Safety Comments

Minersville Water Authority refused to repair a fire hydrant on Wonderland Road damaged in an accident. Questions were raised about who is responsible for the maintenance of the hydrants if not the Water Authority. It was suggested that this may be an insurance company liability and should be looked into to cover the cost of repairs. In the mean time this particular hydrant has been shut down.

Christmas Party

The Good Intent Hose Company's annual Christmas Party for township Children will be held on Sunday December 20th at 2 PM.

Garbage collection day

The garbage collection day with the new hauler has not yet been settled. Hopefully it will remain on Fridays but stay tuned for any change in date after the New Year.

Authority Resignation

Dave Sekellick, Branch member and treasurer of the BCRSA has submitted his resignation from the Authority. Thanks Dave for 16 years of service and dedication.

Happy Thanksgiving

To all citizens of Branch Township best wishes for a very happy Thanksgiving. Be thankful for all the blessing you have, don't cry over the things you don't have.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Income	
Comm of PA	10,245.13
Court Income	374.38
General Receipts	31,277.23
Permits	126.00
Total Income	42,022.74
Expense	
Auditors	100.00
Building Inspector	133.02
Contractors	57.10
Electric	3,081.40
Engineering	502.50
Fire Companies	10,074.73
Garbage	7,543.78
Insurance	281.00
Misc	434.72
Office Expense	275.65
Payroll Expenses	9,520.69
Payroll Taxes	3,774.55
Police	250.92
postage	44.00
Road Work	1,583.96
Sewage	165.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	351.48
Tax Collections	1,359.40
Telephones	835.34
Truck & Equipment	2,830.50
truck Loan	360.12
Utilities	1,789.06
Total Expense	45,497.92
Net income/short fall	(3,475.18)

Billing Method Change

The Authority was going to go to an annual coupon book system for the new year. That has been put on hold due to questions about potential rate hikes. The postcard type billing will continue at least through March 2010.

New Cass Township Board Member

The Authority welcomed a new member from Cass Township. Michael Kulpcavage was appointed to the Authority and had his baptism of fire at the November meeting.

Delinquencies

Delinquencies have increased slightly as some people play the system knowing that the time for water shut-offs is over for the year.

Customer Complaint

The owner of a property that was billed under the tenants name complained to the Authority. A large underpayment unpaid by the tenant was billed to the owner. The owner was notified of the delinquency by letter in 2007 but failed to take action. He is now seeking relief from the charges. The matter will be given to the solicitor for resolution.

SCMA Proposal

A proposal by the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority to take over the BCRSA was presented. They propose a monthly fee of \$58.00, complete operation responsibility and Assumption of the BCRSA debt. Branch Supervisor Purcell feels that this is a give-away of a potential asset and feels the Authority should increase it's rate to \$65.00 to cover operating costs and to preserve a future asset in 25 years. Hopefully there will be public meetings on which way to go. The Debate should be open to all those affected by the rates.

Planning Commission

A busy November meeting. 3 plans were received back from the County Planning board and will be forwarded to the Supervisors for final approval. Two of the plans are from Gordon Land Corp and are annexations rather than development plans. One plan will annex a 12.5 acre plot of land between Hill Terrace Drive and the old dirt road coming off Route 209 behind McNulty's flooring to land owned by Phil Koury.

The Second annexation is of 3 acres from Gordon Land Corp to James Kelly off the end of Springwood Street in West-West Terrace. There is no current plans for development.

The Sonnon sub-division plan will create 2 non conforming lots. Parcel 1 will be sold to Ed Heffron to construct a

single dwelling thereon. The residual lot will be retained by Sonnon. This sub-division is located off Bunting Street in West-West Terrace.

The Barnhart sub-division plan was reviewed by the township engineer and will be returned to the developers engineer for revisions noted by the Township.

A request for a variance from M Snyder was reviewed by the board. The variance requests is for construction of a garage that will intrude on setback lines. Question of traffic safety and potential fire hazard will need further clarification. A motion to table the request until the next meeting of planning commission to give the requester a chance to address the issues.

News letter Sponsors

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

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

Patrons:

Jerry Rizzardi

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.

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *December 28th* . Planning Commission December 1st . Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday December 17th @ 4:30 PM.

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