

Branch Communicator

October 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 2596 miles in patrolling the townships using 3 police vehicles. 45 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. There were 10 traffic citations issued and 3 criminal arrests. Officers attended 6 hearings at District Judges offices.

The report covered the period 9/1/09 to 9/30/09

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.

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

Operating hours for the Branch Compost site are changing. Due to earlier darkness, the Tuesday and Wednesday operating hours will now be from 4 PM to 6PM. Saturday hours will remain the same, 9AM to 1PM.

Municipal Waste Hauler

Bids for garbage collection for the township were opened at the October meeting. A five year contract was awarded to Kreitzer Sanitation of Orwigsburg. The total contract cost will be \$479,859.00 which translates to a monthly cost of \$7,997.65. This will be an increase of \$453.89 so an increase in the individual cost to each resident will be going up after the 1st of the year. A request for collection to remain on Fridays was made by the supervisors but there is no guarantee. The date will be announced in the near future.

Unpaid garbage fees

The supervisors made a request to township tax collect, Gail Bedford to provide a list of individuals who are delinquent in the payment of their sanitation payments. The list will be used to enforce collection of unpaid bills.

Dog Walkers Duty

People who walk dogs are required to clean up the mess made by the dogs. If you walk your dog thru the neighborhood you should carry a baggy to remove your dog's dirt from the area. Don't leave your dog's crap on your neighbors lawn!!!

Grant Applications

A resolution was passed for the Supervisors to apply for CDGB project grants for water lines. If received, the grants will be used to replace the water line going to the Good Intent Hose company with a larger diameter line and replace the water line currently serving Old Llewellyn Road.

A grant will also be sought to replace the furnace with a more energy efficient one and also to replace lighting in the township Memorial Building.

Budget Meeting

A preliminary budget meeting will be held on October 28th at 6PM in the township building.

Tax Anticipation Loan

A resolution to apply for a tax anticipation loan was approved by the Supervisors. The amount of the loan will be \$40,000.00. It will be a draw down loan to be used as necessary to cover operating expenses until such time as the tax revenues begin to flow. The Miners Bank will be used provided the interest rates are favorable.

Salt Contract

Old Man Winter will be visiting very soon and in anticipation of that event road salt will be needed for the townships streets and road. A contract for salt will be sought to fill the township's salt shed.

Schuylkill County Township Officials Convention

The Annual Association meeting will be held at the Lakeside Ball Room in Barnesville. Supervisors and Auditors will be in attendance representing the township.

Halloween

The Annual invasion by ghosts, goblins and other Monsters will begin at 6PM on October 29th and last until 8PM. They will be seeking bribes to insure no tricks are played on those township residents who's outside lights are on to signal welcome to the invaders. Township Police will be out in force to insure the safety of all.

Schuylkill County Bicentennial

The County's 200th birthday will be celebrated in 2011. A committee has been created to seek partners in the celebration. I have been volunteered to represent the township in finding events to join in the County's birthday Celebration. Anyone with any ideas for events can contact me.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Income	
Court Income	409.14
General Receipts	1,984.09
Other Income	1,091.32
Permits	711.00
Tax Income	19,221.46
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Total Income	23,417.01
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Expense	
advertising	443.89
Building Inspector	237.21
Contractors	529.30
Electric	3,244.94
Engineering	821.50
Garbage	7,543.78
Insurance	
Health Insurance	3,794.28
Insurance - Other	3,280.21
Total Insurance	7,074.49
Misc	345.44
Office Expense	156.64
Payroll Expenses	9,672.72
Payroll Taxes	3,361.71
Road Work	33,540.93
Sewage	165.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	220.68
Tax Collections	785.98
Telephones	533.91
Truck & Equipment	1,552.85
truck Loan	360.12
Utilities	1,346.47
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Total Expense	72,117.56
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Net income (loss)	-48,700.55

Schuylkill Municipal Authority Visitors

Laine Gehres, township resident, and Bob Allen, former member of the state legislature representing the Schuylkill Municipal Authority were invited to address the BCRSA. They basically said that their authority would review the operations and financial conditions of the BCRSA and make recommendations but no promises.

Engineer's Report

Benesch engineer Peleshak reported on some questions concerning hook-ups along the High Road in Cass township. She also briefed the authority on a proposed sub-division in Cass that would add another EDU to the system.

Plant Operations

Plant operations continue to meet or exceed all DEP specifications. Daily treatment ranged from a low of 135,000 gpd to a high of 268,000 gpd with an average of 191,767 gpd.

There were two grinder pump calls for the month of September, one for a blocked pump and another for float adjustments.

Cost cutting measures continue to be taken by the operator including replacement of diffusers that allow a cut in in air flows between tanks. This should yield both cost cuts and improved treatment.

Administrative Topics

Delinquencies have risen slightly. They are expected to continue to rise as winter approaches as the restrictions on water cut-offs come into play.

A budget for 2010 is being worked on and will be presented at a future meeting.

Planning Commission

Gordon Land Company presented two plans for annexation to the board. A strip of land in the West-West area off a dirt road coming off Rte 209 is to be annexed to property owned by Koury. A second 3 acre plot off Springwood Street is to be annexed to property owned by Jim Kelly. Neither annexation called for development. The Commission approved both plans.

The Sonnon request for a variance for two non-conforming lots being subdivided from a plot off Bunting Street was examined and recommended for approval to the Zoning Hearing Board.

A plan for a sub-division and annexation was received from Michael Barnhart Jr. The property off Barnhart Lane is to be divided into 2 lots. An existing lot

currently owned by Michael Barnhart is to be annexed to lot 2, being retained by him. The plan was forwarded to the County Planning Commission.

Zoning Hearing Board

The Zoning Hearing Board met on October 8th to hear the Sonnon variance request. After review of the information provided, the board approved the request.

Fall Back date

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Sunday November 1st.

Election Day

Municipal and judicial elections will be held on Tuesday November 3rd.

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

Good Intent Hose to offer pizza

The Good Intent Hose Company will be offering Pizza on the second Saturday of every month beginning in November.

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *November 21st*. Planning Commission November 4th. Public meetings start at 7PM. Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday November 19th @ 4:30 PM.

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