

Branch Communicator

October 2007

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
Donna Kroh 544-1764
Tina Williams

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 2,161 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 59 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. There 3 criminal arrests and 8 Court hearings.

Halloween Reminder. Trick or treat night will be October 31st from 6 to 8PM.

The report covered the period 9/1/07 to 9/30/07

Political Sponsors

Re-elect David Dutcavich Coroner

Re-Elect Steve Lukach Clerk of Courts

Re-Elect Staudenmeier & Carl County Commissioners.

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 Operations

The Compost site will continue operating on the same schedule until the "snow flies". Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4-6PM and Saturdays from 9AM to 1PM.

Strossertown Bridge

The construction of the new bridge is proceeding on schedule. The bridge should be open to traffic by early November. Paving of the bridge is dependent on the batch plants being open. Given our weather lately paving may or may not be done this year. If not the Spring opening of plants will see completion of the contract.

Garbage Pick-up

A resident called the supervisors about a incident where a carpet left out for collection was not picked up. When the resident complained to the driver he was told they don't pick up carpets. He then offered \$10.00 to the driver to take the carpet and it was thrown on the truck!

Supervisor Keifer contacted the owner of Dave Evans Disposal about this incident. Mr. Evans apologized for the action. He will instruct the pick-up crews as to what is to be picked up so that this will not occur in the future.

Letter to Champ Holman

A letter was sent to Holman, Senator Rhoades' Assistant, concerning tires on the Marks property and requesting help with funding to remove them. There is DEP funding through the \$2.00 tire disposal fee charged on all new tires purchased. Hopefully some of this will reach Branch Township.

Block Grant Applications

Applications for a water line for the West End and Steins Mill area and for a sewage treatment plant for that area have been submitted to the county. These applications are like Xmas wish lists. They may or may not be filled but if you don't apply you don't get.

2008 Budget Meeting

The budget meeting to set the 2008 Town-

ship Budget is to be scheduled, probably for early December. The Budget must be submitted and approved by the end of December.

Citizen Complaints

The Beaver dam near the Walking Trail off Brickly Road has become a flood threat to the area. A request was made to have the Game Commission people remove the beavers so the dam can be removed. The Supervisors promised action on this matter.

A complaint was made concerning enforcement of the Planning and Zoning ordinances. A resident of Railroad Street has been doing renovations and new construction on his property that intrude on the set-back lines without having an approved variance. The Supervisors will have the Building inspector look into this matter. If there is improper intrusion an order to cease and desist will be issued.

Bassininski Lane

The Deed of Dedication for Bassininski Lane has been received. It has been reviewed by the Solicitor and accepted by the Supervisors.

BCRSA letter

On a motion made and seconded by the Supervisors a letter will be sent to the BCRSA formally notifying the Authority of the Supervisors opposition to any merger with the Schuylkill Municipal Authority.

Road Masters Report

The preparations for winter are progressing. One of the trucks still needs to have welding repairs to spread road salt. The Winters supply of road salt has been ordered.

A tree at the Llewellyn Play Ground has been cut down.

Supervisor Wank is looking into getting Church Road in the West End chipped and stoned as this street is in a bad state.

A burn is needed at the Compost Site but has been delayed due to the dry weather.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Income: Tax Revenues, \$39,057.86; General Receipts, \$6,417.87; Permits, \$464.00; Other Income, \$1,742.85; Court Income, \$468.48; Commonwealth of PA \$1,511.19. Total receipts \$49,662.25

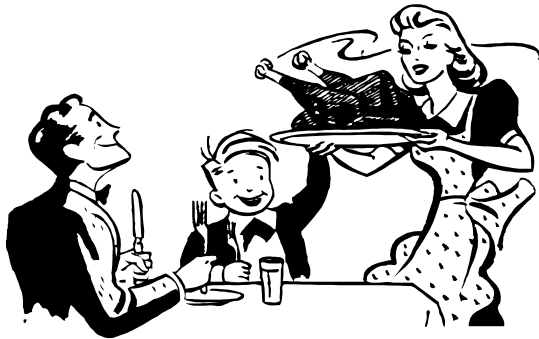
Expenses: Payroll expense \$7,451.69, Garbage \$6,393.61, Insurance \$2,809.69, Electric \$2,935.74, Engineering \$1,588.00, Truck & Equipment \$ 7,231.75, Utilities \$2,262.92, telephones \$383.52, tax collection \$ 1,688.85, payroll taxes \$401.14, Police \$376.85, Building Inspector \$136.69, Supervisors \$220.68, Solicitor, 4,397.79, Sewage \$169.99, Office expenses \$443.43, Road work \$667.46 Misc Expenses \$142.72. Total expenses: \$39,702.52

Other: Transfers to Penn Invest Account \$10,000.00. Loan payments: Tax Anticipation loan: \$3,110.03, Road Repair Loan \$955.17, Building Loan \$360.12

Zoning Hearing Scheduled

The Zoning Hearing Board will hear the request for a variance from Mark Colna on Monday November 12th at 7 PM in the Township Memorial Building.

Happy Thanksgiving



Planning Commission

The planning Commission reviewed a request for a variance from Mr. Mark Colna of Maple Street in West-West Terrace. His request is to encroach on the east side line of his property by 4 feet to accommodate an addition to his residence. After reviewing the request and accompanying sketch the Commission approved a motion to recommend approval of the request to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Why Vote No on Retention?

Your vote is your only voice. Voting no on retention of judges is your chance to say to the governing officials we're unhappy. We're unhappy about property tax, we're unhappy about our roads, our schools, health care and other things. We are unhappy you forgot you serve the Constitution not the Administration. By

firing some of our judges we're telling our politicians to beware! *You may be next.*

Some are concerned about what happens when judges are not retained. Consider this. Due to mandatory retirement 25 of the 67 judges up for retention cannot serve the entire term they seek. Five of the seven statewide judges up for retention cannot serve their full term.

When they retire, those vacancies will be filled in the same manner as the vacancies created if they are not retained on November 6: The Governor appoints and the Senate confirms. Why not get that over with now?

Let your voice be heard on November 6th. By voting no on retention you will be using your one chance to impact your government. Don't pass up a chance to speak loud and clear. **Vote NO!**

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *November 19th* . Planning Commission Nov 7th. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday November 15th 4:30 PM.

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

Plant Operations

There were 2 grinder pump calls during September. One was due to a circuit breaker. The second was due to grease build up on the float.

The Authority announced that **future grinder pump calls due to grease build up in excess of two calls will be billed to the resident** at the rate charged by American Water Company.

All quality parameters are within specifications. The average monthly flow for September was 184,233 GPD with a high flow of 264,000 GPD and a low of 140,000 GPD.

Rate Increases for 2008 & 2009

The Authority is still operating with a monthly deficit of over \$20,000.00. The original monthly EDU rate was set at \$42.00, which was artificially low. There will be a rate increase starting in January 2008. Depending on the amount of the increase, there may also be another in 2009.

Supervisors Comments

Branch Township Supervisor Jack Purcell attended the meeting and reiterated the opposition to any merger or takeover of the Authority by the Schuylkill Municipal Authority. The position of the Supervisors is that the assets of BCRSA will be of value as the loans are paid off, any proposed turnover will not reduce rates for the users, and the loss of control will not benefit Branch Township residents.

Authority members insist they have a responsibility to explore every means to provide BCRSA residents with sewage at the lowest cost.

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)

TURN BACK!!!!

Daylight Savings time begins at 2AM Sunday November 4th. Remember—Spring forward-**FALL Back.**

Election Day Nov 6th

Polls open at 7 AM in the township building for voting.

Phoenix Park Turkey Shoot

The Phoenix Park Fire Company will host a Thanksgiving Turkey shoot on November 18th from Noon until ?????