

Branch Communicator

September 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/Treasurer Joyce Beach
Township Manager
John Andruchek 544-4283
Sewage
Tina Williams 544-1764



Halloween

Trick or Treat night will be scheduled for Thursday October 30th between 6PM and 8PM. This is in conjunction with Minersville's celebration.

Compost site Hours

New operating hours for the compost site are 4PM to 6PM Tuesdays and Wednesday and 9AM to 1PM on Saturday. These hours are effective immediately as darkness comes earlier in the evenings.

Weight limit Ordinance

The 10 ton weight limit on the Black Diamond Road ordinance was approved. This ordinance was discussed during the August meeting, was advertised in the Republican and approved by the supervisors.

Non-firefighting Activities

The Supervisors have requested the two township fire companies provide a schedule of non-firefighting activities to be held so that insurance coverage will be provided. This will assure that any injuries sustained by members will be covered under the workman's compensation insurance.

Blythe Water Authority Letter

No response was received from the Blythe Township supervisors regarding membership on the Water Authority. A vacancy exists on that Authority. About half of Branch township is serviced by the Blythe Authority and it is felt that a seat for Branch should be honored.

Light Heigel Representative

This company, which provides septic system inspections services for the township presented the supervisors with a proposed schedule of fees for services for the coming year. The board took the information under advisement.

Rental Property Inspections

Supervisor Purcell noted that there is no township ordinance requiring inspection of rental properties to assure such properties are up to code and are fit for human habitation. He also commented on the lack of control over wood burning furnaces. Other municipalities have rules for controlling these matters and requested the solicitor be instructed to look into these ordinances.

Solicitor's Report

The solicitor offered his legal opinion on the Koury subdivision sketch plan of record. The question revolved around an 1982 subdivision plan where a 25 foot wide lane was to be granted to the purchaser of a lot as access to the property. The transfer of the lane was never included in the deed of record. It was the opinion of the solicitor that the subsequent easement agreement and the recorded deed were the controlling documents overriding the original plan.

Alfred Benesch Report

Greg Stewart, representing Alfred Benesch gave a report on CDGB grant applications for the coming year. The supervisors expressed the need for a water line from Willing Street to the Good Intent Hose Company among other needs. Stewart also stated that the SALDO allows for billing of developers for fees incurred by engineering and legal services required by the township.

Budget Planning Session

The supervisors will be holding a budget planning session in mid-October. This will cover the 2009 fiscal year revenues and spending plans. No firm date was given.

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 2134 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 43 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. 5 summary violation citations and 2 criminal arrests were made. Officers attended 5 Court hearings .

The report covered the period 8/1/08 to 8/31/08

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.

Congratulations

The Good Intent Hose Company is celebrating it's 100th anniversary of service to Branch Township. Congratulations and Well Done!

Financial Data

Income

Comm of PA	1,311.19
Court Income	268.62
General Receipts	1,965.86
Other Income	150.00
Permits	347.00
Tax Income	<u>23,779.77</u>
Total Income	27,822.44

Expense

advertising	57.27
Building Inspector	157.14
Contractors	88.20
Electric	3,325.79
Engineering	1,530.00
Garbage	7,202.06
Insurance	3,632.00
Misc	51.84
Office Expense	80.00
Payroll Expenses	8,137.59
Payroll Taxes	3,189.44
Police	5.32
Road Work	4,957.40
Sewage	165.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	220.68
Tax Collections	975.17
Telephones	573.87
Truck & Equipment	<u>1,440.24</u>
Total Expense	35,969.01
Difference	-8,146.57

Current loan Balances:

Road Project \$26,978.28

Building Loan \$12,449.47 (for purchase of Amvets Bldg)

Planning Commission

A motion was made by Bertasavage to rescind the approval recommendation for changes to the South Gate sub-division due to pending legal and engineering questions. Second by Gehres. All in favor.

David Bell presented a copy of an easement to the commission regarding the subdivision by Phillip Kory of land owned at the rear of Hill Terrace Drive in West-West Terrace. Board members didn't feel this easement solved the problem of access to the property in question. Until current ownership of this roadway is determined, no further action will be taken on this subdivision. The plan was tabled until the board receives legal clarification and engineering input.

My Response to a New York times Article

Are you so lacking in corporate memory that you have forgotten about the "Former" Yugoslavia? Your September editorial "Europe's

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *Oct 27th* . Planning Commission October 7th . Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday October 15th 4:30 PM.

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

Sewage Authority

Another quiet meeting held outdoors at the treatment plant. Questions were raised about complaints of odors from the Condor Pump Station. While several inspections by various members of the Authority didn't detect the odors, Steve Ulceski gave information on several possible solutions to odor problems if a mechanical or chemical solution is required.

Grinder Pump Maintenance

There were 5 grinder pump calls in August. A motion was made to change the Rules, Rates and Regulations of the Authority concerning the maintenance of grinder pumps. Currently, except for abuse, the repair of grinder pumps is provide at no cost to the property owners with grinder pumps. The change will provide that this service is limited to the original owners of the property when the pumps were installed. Subsequent owners of the property will be responsible for maintenance of the grinder pumps.

Delinquencies

Delinquencies are up a bit. So are payment plans. There are currently 26 payment plans and 13 property liens in force

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)

Bail -out

The financial bail out proposed by President Bush should be rejected by Congress. There should not be an increase in the debt ceiling to **11.5 trillion dollars** to help banks. To do a bail-out would require printing of "fiat" money or Huge borrowing from the Chinese and others who do not wish the US well. A raise in the debt ceiling should only come to help rebuild the American infrastructure and help with storm damage.

After the Government failed to use it's powers to control the banks, giving more powers to them is stupid.