

# Branch Communicator

September 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

### Police Report

The Police officers traveled 2306 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 49 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. There were 7 traffic citations, 3 non-traffic citations issued, and 2 criminal arrests made. One criminal arrest was for theft and one for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The officers also participated in 20 speed enforcement operations.

Officer Clink has taken a full-time police position with the Minersville Police Department and will only be sporadically available. Mike Carey, current chief of Police in St Clair will now be working part time as a Branch Officer. As an added bonus he is experienced in the computer notification procedures that will be available to the B/R PD next month.

The report covered the period 8/1/07 to 8/31/07

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.

### Heating Oil Contract

It was incorrectly reported that the Supervisors agreed to accept a contract with Reedy Oil for heating oil for the coming season at \$2.74 per gallon. The Correct amount is \$2.389

### Halloween

Minersville, Branch and Reilly Townships will have concurrent observances of Halloween. Wednesday October 31st from 6 to 8 PM has been designated for trick or treat night. Although **Daylight Savings time will not begin until November 4th** it will still be getting dark early so be careful of the kids out trick or treating.

### Compost Site Operation

Fall hours for the compost site will be from 4-6 PM Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 9AM to 1PM on Saturdays.

Due to the dry conditions there hasn't been a controlled burn at the Compost site for the past few weeks. Supervisor Wank was questioned on notification to the Comm Center prior to controlled burns. He advised that a 911 call is always made prior to a burn and that the township fire companies are put on alert.

A reminder, grass clippings, leaves, and branches will not be picked up by the garbage collector. These items must be brought to the compost site.

### Garbage Hauler Complaints

The Supervisors received several complaints concerning non-pickup by the Garbage hauler. Of these, most were of large items not being picked up. The service agreement with Dave Evans Disposal allows for pick up of a maximum of 6 bags per residence. One of these is permitted to be a large item rather than a bag, ie: a chair, couch, table, TV, or appliance. Appliances containing hazardous products such as air conditioners and refrigerators with Freon are not included. Nor are compostable items.

The Supervisors have contacted Evans on this problem. The Company is to instruct it's employees to take all authorized item during the weekly collection.

### Strossertown Bridge Update

The Supervisors gave a progress report on the construction of the Bridge. Removal of the old bridge and excavation necessary for the new bridge has been completed. A new box culvert has been placed in position. It is anticipated that traffic will be allowed to use the new bridge by late October or early November. Paving of the bridge may not be completed until spring if the batch plants close in the mean time.

### Sewage Enforcement Officer

Light-Heigel presented the Supervisors with a proposal for services for 2008. The bid will be included in budget deliberations in the coming month.

### Road Masters Report

Repairs of several items at the playgrounds were made by the township workers. These were necessary to remove hazardous conditions and to insure the safety of school children.

Pot holes were repaired through out the township. Church Road is considered in such poor shape that only a resurfacing of the road will be effective.

Welding is required to bring several trucks into shape for the winter. Without these repairs the use of spreaders would be compromised and snow removal more difficult this winter.

A resident reported that a large hole was found in one of the dirt roads in back of West-West Terrace. The police will take a look at this and recommend action.

*As this is an area hunters use and hunting season is coming up all residents are cautioned to be vigilant when moving on these roads.*

A tire fire took place at the Marks Junk yard on the Silverton Road.

There has been no progress on obtaining a deed of dedication for Bassininski Lane. Without this document the Township will not maintain this street.

# Sewage Authority

## Financial Data

**Income:** Tax Revenues, \$18,443.81, Liquid fuel income, \$8,582.82, General Receipts, \$5,094.08; Permits, \$724.00; Other Income, \$700.00; Court Income, \$12.50. Total receipts \$33,557.21

**Expenses:** Payroll expense \$7,846.17, Garbage \$6,393.61, Insurance \$2,809.69, Electric \$2,694.79, Engineering \$4,062.00, Truck & Equipment \$ 4,356.44, Utilities \$808.72, telephones \$207.94, tax collection \$ 832.06, payroll taxes \$2,746.32, Building Inspector \$190.10, Supervisors \$220.68, Road work, \$219.35 Solicitor, \$180.00, Sewage \$138.00, Office expenses \$224.36, Misc Expenses \$402.70

Total expenses: \$34,333.93

**Other:** Loan payments: Road Repair Loan \$955.17, Building Loan \$360.12

## Budget Time

The township will be formulating its 2008 Budget in the coming weeks. Treasurer Joyce Beach has attended seminars on municipal budgeting given by the state which will be helpful in documenting the spending plans for next year.

## Schuylkill Township officials Meeting

The Supervisors and other township officials will be attending the Annual Conference on October 15th.

## Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission will meet on October 2nd to examine an application for a variance by Mark Colna. The variance concerns a property on Maple Street in West-West Terrace.

## Why Vote NO?

PAClean sweep is calling for a no vote on all judicial retention questions. I support this position for two reasons. First is that judicial support for PA's Constitution has been lacking in areas such as Pay Raises and Property Tax. Second, judges are elected to a 10 year term, except for traffic courts. That is long enough to hold such power as is given judges.

Each Common Pleas Court judge up for retention is asking voters to commit at least \$1,521,150.00 to paying their salary over a ten-year term. There are 53 judges asking voters to make such an investment across Pennsylvania. But even accounting for those additional salary amounts would not tell the whole story. In addition to salary, every judge

receives health care benefits few Pennsylvanians could afford and a lavish pension plan.

For nearly 40 years, Pennsylvanians have gone to the polls with very little information about retention candidates. As a result, they've habitually voted 'yes' in overwhelming numbers and retentions have turned into a "gimme" for judges.

What happens when a judge is not retained? Their term of office ends the following January. The Governor can appoint new judges until the next election. Will the system be broken. NO!

Vote no to Retention in November.

**Up Coming Events :** The next supervisors meeting will be *October 22nd* . Planning Commission October 2nd Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be October 18th 4:30 PM.

Note: Branch Communicators are available on line at [www.normbert.com/](http://www.normbert.com/)

## A Quiet Meeting

The September meeting was a quiet meeting with few problems discussed.

The Doli suit was settled in preference to the continued threat of legal actions more costly than settlement. Doli will be paid \$19,500.00 of the \$25,000.00 which was owed under the contract.

The Mennig connection and sewage fees was also settled with both sides getting something and both sides losing something.

Several manhole covers have been stolen. Anyone with knowledge of the thieves please contact the Authority.

Delinquencies have been reduced. There were 2 promissory note defaults which will result in demand for immediate payment of all moneys due the Authority.

Others have been paying on the agreed payment plans which benefits both parties.

The Authority agreed to accept a service agreement for all of the pump stations from ITT Flygt. They will service the 21 pump and lift stations for a year at a cost to the authority of \$4,900.00. This covers only routine maintenance and inspection.

It was thought that other repairs and maintenance would have a 20% discount. It was not clear if this was contractually agreed to and if it covered parts and labor. This will be resolved before the contract is signed.

## Plant operations and Engineering

The plant operation continues to be well within specifications. There were **NO** grinder pump calls in August. Average plant treatment was 192,935 GPD with a high of 262,000 GPD and a low of 134,000 GPD flow.

No report was made by Benesch on engineering.

## News letter Sponsors

**Enbee Tax Service, Federal and State E-filing Service** available

544-6583

**Don's Classis Restoration & Auto Body Inc**

544-8209

## Health Care Plan

I have one. Take a look at mine at [www.normbert.com](http://www.normbert.com) under Bert-a-Grams. I have been asking our congressional delegation to do something .

I have been lobbying the State legislators to do two things: 1 pass a resolution demanding that the states Congressional delegation come up with a plan or use mine. 2nd to have the state look at available resources to be used to implement a comprehensive plan.

If you agree, let our elected officials know that you want action.

If not my plan, what plan. If not now, when?