

Branch Communicator

September 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 Karzinsky 544-1764

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 3017 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 45 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. They attended 2 hearings at District Judges offices. There were 7 traffic citations issued and two criminal arrests.

The report covered the period 8/1/09 to 8/31/09

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.

Garbage Bids Rejected

After a brief Executive Session all of the bids received at last months meetings were rejected. Due to a defect in the bidding process and on the advice of the solicitor request for bids will be re-advertised for garbage collection.

COG Meeting

The COG meeting scheduled for September 16th was changed without notification to all interested parties. Therefore no one from Branch was in attendance. There are still some questions on the ordinance being circulated that will be aired at the next scheduled meeting on December 21 in Port Carbon.

Schuylkill County Township officials Convention

The Supervisors and auditors will attend this convention being held on October 21st at the Lakeside Ballroom in Barnesville.

Pioneer Pole Building Plan

The revisions to the South Gate Sub-division plan affecting lots 4 and 5 were presented to the Supervisors. The revision correct the distances and the metes and bounds of the original plan. The revisions were accepted by the Supervisors.

Budget Meeting rescheduled

The preliminary Budget meeting scheduled for September 16th was rescheduled for September 30th at 6PM in the township building.

Road Masters Report

The box for the dump truck was taken to a facility for repairs. This will take several days.

The Dowdowntown road will be closed in both directions for oil and chipping.

Halloween Trick or Treat night

Trick or treat will be held on Thursday October 29th between 6 an 8 PM. Those wishing to distribute treats can signal their intention by showing an outdoor light.

State Legislature

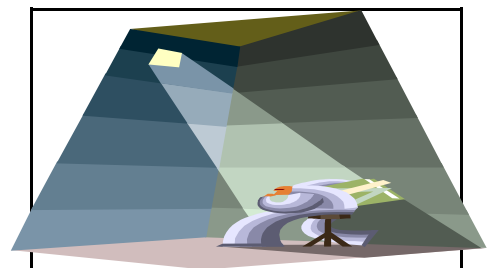
Like the weather everyone complains about the Legislature but no one does anything about it. I am trying to change that. A petition calling on the PA Supreme Court for a Writ of Mandamus is being circulated. The Writ will request the Court dissolve the current bloated, inefficient, and ineffective legislature, call a Constitutional Convention to replace the General Assembly with a Unicameral Legislature with no more than 70 members, and provide for a vote on the outcome of the Convention by the people. You can read the petition and sign it on line by going to www.normbert.com/petition_hc.htm. For those with no access to the internet, contact me to sign the petition.

Planning A Yard Sale?

If you are planning a yard sale be aware of federal legislation passed last year to be enforced by January 2010. The Consumer Product safety improvement act (CPSIA). This act requires that the seller must certify that items offered for sale by anyone are lead free and not on a recall list. Fines of up-to \$15,000.00 can be levied against the seller. Yard sales or items offered on line must meet the standards by this legislation and the associated **resale roundup** that can be viewed by going to www.cpsc.gov. This is no joke. The feds will be monitoring the internet and possibly yard sale advertisements in local newspapers for enforcement.

The township should look into enacting a yard sale ordinance such as was passed by Ephrata PA regulating yard sales.

One more way your government is protecting you!!!!



Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Income	
Court Income	124.59
General Receipts	3,273.80
Other Income	662.73
Permits	877.00
Tax Income	<u>40,592.57</u>
Total Income	<u>45,530.69</u>
Expense	
advertising	434.70
Building Inspector	196.58
Contractors	623.10
dues	75.00
Electric	3,296.49
Engineering	44.50
Garbage	7,543.78
Insurance	
Health Insurance	3,779.37
Insurance - Other	208.60
Total Insurance	3,987.97
Misc	261.99
Office Expense	118.88
Payroll Expenses	11,282.21
Payroll Taxes	2,789.31
Sewage	165.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	220.68
Tax Collections	1,986.43
Telephones	296.01
Truck & Equipment	2,051.75
Total Expense	<u>35,554.38</u>
net difference	(- \$9,976.31)
Loan Balances :	
Road Loan	\$16691.64
Bldg Loan	8793.50

Planning Commission

Sonnon Subdivision (Heffron) plan was reviewed by the board. Both proposed lots will be non-conforming lots and therefore need approval of a variance for the newly created lot. Further action on the plan was tabled until a variance request is approved by the Zoning Hearing Board.

Gordon Land Company submitted a plan for the annexation of a plot of 3 acres to the Kelly lot on Springwood Avenue. There is still a question of the piece of Springwood Avenue that belongs to R Yutko.

Gordon Land Company submitted a second plan for annexation of land to Koury. The property is located off a dirt road leading to Route 209 and south of Hill Terrace Drive.

The Pioneer Pole Building adjustment of the South Gate development lots 4 & 5 was approved. This will correct distances recorded incorrectly on the original subdivision plan for South Gate. These changes affect only lots 4&5 and do not address issues between South Gate and the Friedens Lutheran Church.

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *October 26th* . Planning Commission October 6th . 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/

Cost Cutting Measures

In it's efforts to reduce costs, the Authority voted to undertake several measures. One measure affecting all sewage users will be in the form of reduced mailing of bills. As of 1-1-2010 the authority will mail annual coupon books to all users. Instead of receiving a postcard monthly, each user will mail in one coupon. Those with direct deposits will not be affected.

Those paying their monthly bill in person will be able to pickup their new coupon booklets in November. This will further reduce mailing cost.

Other measures included reducing treatment plant operating hours by one hour daily and contracting out the grass cutting at the plant. The contract with Applied Water will be modified to reflect these changes for the year 2010.

Towing Companies

There has been an ongoing complaint from Trail Towing concerning it's exclusion from calls to assist in the pulling of pumps for cleaning. Currently Hammer's Garage is the only company call to pull the pumps as they had submitted a bid of \$75.00 for each call. This will cover until 12/31/10. At that time the service will be put out for bids and Trail Towing will be considered.

Audit Report

The firm of Patton and Lettich completed an audit of the Authorities financial statements for 2008. The audit found no material deficiencies.

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)

Patrons:
Jerry Rizzarda

Phoenix Park Fire Company

Will sponsor bingo every Monday evening . All are invited to come.