

# Branch Communicator

December 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 2456 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 49 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. They attended 4 hearings at District Judges offices.

The report covered the period 11/1/07 to 11/30/07

**Happy New Year to one and all. Best wishes for a healthy, happy, and a property tax reduction for 2008!!**

### Police Force

Several years ago I did a study of the cost of our police force to prepare for a meeting on forming a Regional Police Force. The costs at that time were approximately \$39,000.00. I say approximately because I didn't have access to all the cost figures. I'm sure that by now they are close to the \$60,000.00 Norwegian Twp has quoted as their costs. And we don't have the tax base Norwegian has.

But when you look at the number of incidents, complaints and Assists reported on a monthly basis our cops average about 55 per month. Major crimes are investigated by the State Police but our guys handle the day-to-day calls for assistance, suspicious behavior, domestic violence and traffic problems. The State Police wouldn't handle those neighbor problems, the loud party complaints nor the traffic problems with failure to obey stop signs and speeding. They wouldn't patrol the streets, preventing crimes by their presents, talk reasonably to your neighbor about his barking dog and all the little intercession that our cops do to ease the strain of living together.

The price of \$1,150.00 a week doesn't seem so high for this service. Particularly when we share the Cost with Reilly Twp.

### Christmas Tree

Once again the township is indebted to Earl Kemfort of Kemfort's Cottage for the Christmas tree at the township building. Thanks Earl.

### 2008 Budget

The 2008 Budget was approved. Revenues are expected to be \$573,920.00 with expenses at the same amount.

### Missed Meetings

Due to illness and a brief hospitalization I was unable to attend the Supervisors and the Sewage meetings. I received some information from copies of the agendas and from Joyce Beach, township treasurer. Therefore I will fill in the rest of the blank spots with random thoughts.

### Presidential Politics

The three biggest problems our next President will face are 1) our foreign policies, 2) The over 9 Trillion dollar national debt and 3) health care.

Our foreign policies have undermined our National credibility and worse debased our currency to the point that Israel has requested the 7 billion dollars in aid we give them each year be paid in Euros rather than dollars. Oil and other products we import cost more because of our shrinking dollar. Plus the interest on that debt is the 3 largest budget item after defense spending and human services spending.

Not one of the candidates has spelled out a viable and comprehensive national health care program.

The National media is no help in this choosing. They focus on simplistic surveys and promote to prominence those things that are graphic and easily created visuals.

Things are no better at the state level. Courts hold that people wanting checks and balances in government have no standing before the courts and therefore can not call to task those governmental bodies that are not doing the jobs called for in the Constitution.

We the people have the right to change our form of government but it appears the only way to make those changes is revolution. And we tend to forget that we do not live in a democracy but under a republican form of government. Once we elect someone to office our voice is stilled. What elected officials do that isn't clearly criminal is their business.

As for the Presidential primaries, we in Pennsylvania have little impact on candidate selection. We get to vote for the candidates approved by the media and selected by Iowa and New Hampshire. This wasn't the intention of the Founding Fathers.....

It is my hope that American voters have the wisdom to give presidential powers to someone who has the vision, integrity and principles to use them honorably.

# Sewage Authority

## Financial Data

**Income:** Tax Revenues, 32812.17; General Receipts, \$586.20; Permits, 414.40; Other Income, 4353.28; Court Income, \$151.29. Total receipts \$32,812.17

**Expenses:** Payroll expense \$8103.27, Garbage \$6,393.61, Insurance \$4,368.03, Electric \$192.90, Engineering \$2,080.50, Truck & Equipment \$ 2058.38, telephones \$587.29, tax collection \$ 1,195.88, Contractors \$184.94, payroll taxes \$362.68, Police \$211.96., Building Inspector \$184.94, Supervisors \$220.68, Sewage \$138.00, Office expenses \$81.11, Misc Expenses \$96.00. Total expenses: \$26,972.62 **Other:** Road Repair Loan \$955.17, Building Loan \$360.12

The rate increase was discussed. The effective date of the increase has not been established but the amount will be increased to \$55.00 per EDU. An increase of \$9.00

## Engineers

Alfed Benesch will continue to provide professional services for the new year.

## Planning Commission

No meeting in December as there was no business to conduct.

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## News letter Sponsors

**Enbee Tax Service, Federal  
and State E-filing Service**  
available  
544-6583

**Don's Classis Restoration & Auto  
Body Inc**  
544-8209

**Up Coming Events :** The next supervisors meeting will be *January 7th* . Planning Commission Jan 8th. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday January 17th 4:30 PM.

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