

# Branch Communicator

February 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  
Sewage  
Donna Kroh 544-1764  
Township Manager  
John Andruchek 544-4283

### Police Report

The Police officers worked an unknown number of hours as that information was not in the monthly report. They traveled 2122 miles using 4 police vehicles. 41 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers.

There were 5 traffic citations issued and 2 criminal arrest made. One of the criminal arrests was for DUI.

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

### Fish or Deviled Crab Dinner

The Good Intent Hose Co's Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring a Gil's Catered dinner on March 14th from 3PM to 6PM. Advanced tickets sales only with a cost of \$7.50. Eat in or Take out from the Good Intent Hose Company Bldg. For tickets call Dot at 544-5651, Sue @ 544-3929 or Joan @ 544-3629.

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.

### Snow Emergency



Much of this months efforts by the township workers was battling the snow and ice storm. The workers, like the State workers were overwhelmed by the weather. The Supervisors passed a disaster resolution at the meeting to insure eligibility for state disaster funding. It is hoped that some State money will be available to cover costs of snow removal. Supervisor Wank who functions as Road Master was laid off during much of this period. All questions concerning road conditions should be directed to John Andruchek until further notice.

### Township Treasurer

It was erroneously reported at the January meeting that John Purcell was to be appointed township treasurer. It was supposed to be John Andruchek. Andruchek has since requested that he be appointed as "back-up" treasurer.

At this months meeting **Joyce Beach** was appointed as township Treasurer. Joyce has a wealth of experience in a variety of financial positions. It is hoped that she will bring a high degree of financial discipline to the township and financial reports to the meetings.



### Strossertown Bridge

There has been nothing new on the status of this bridge. The Township is waiting for word from the County on the availability of funds for construction. At this point it appears that the Federal grant will be refused as the restrictions would be too costly for the township to bear.

### Poor But Proud

We may hate them, but according to the County Treasurers Office we pay them. Branch rates high in payment of taxes. The County average for collection of realty and per capital taxes is 90%. We fall in the 93% range. For both real estate and per capital tax payment.

### Sub-division Actions

The Supervisors examined the sub-division plans of Kory and Marco Land as presented. They accepted both plans.

Planning Commission members in attendance were questioned on the Doyle request for change of zoning presented at the January meeting. They were informed that the problem was resolved by a request for a variance by the proposed purchasers. The DoYLES then withdrew their request.

### Solicitor's Report

The Solicitor informed the Supervisors that the Madonna clean-up of Mark's Junkyard is delayed. A letter sent to the contractor's last known address was returned. DiNicola was able to get a new address and has mailed a letter to Madonna demanding the clean-up be completed within 30 days. This will move the proposed completion date to mid March.

As regards the Wydia request for property exchange, He recommended that a quit claim deed can be executed to transfer any rights the township has to the property in question, which is some 2 tenths of an acre, to Wydia. The Supervisors will take this into consideration.

DiNicola reported that he had contacted the solicitor for the BCRSA concerning his letter on behalf of the Supervisors. He was informed that there were no imminent plans for a jointure of the Authority with Schuylkill Municipal Authority. The meeting with Bob Allen was of an exploratory nature to discuss financial information as well as operation considerations. Allen was to take this information back to Schuylkill Municipal Authority.

# Sewage Authority News

I fear for the Nation we are leaving for our children. Our Government is lead by a dictatorial conglomerate. Our Congress is a posturing, pompous group afraid to act. Our judiciary has become a timid subservient court allowing extrajudicial Military tribunals ala Hitler's "People's Courts". Our media has made a mockery of the guaranteed freedom of speech with its focus on violence, sex and drugs. And we, the people have been betraying our birthright for "thirty shekels" while watching our democracy fade in the sunset.

## February Meeting Canceled due to Storm

### The Following letter was sent to the county's elected Pennsylvania Assembly's Members

Senator James Rhoades  
Representative David Argall  
Representative Neal Goodman  
Representative Tim Seip  
Gentlemen:

Power flows from the people to the government in a democracy. Four years ago I asked those of you then in office to adopt a resolution against going to war in Iraq. You didn't. As a result many Pennsylvanians are among those dead and wounded in a war that is immoral and criminal.

Several State Legislatures now have introduced or passed resolutions directing their Federal Congressional Legislators to oppose the "Bush Surge" in Iraq. I call on you to introduce a similar resolution in the Pennsylvania Assembly.

Today some 70% of the people have spoken out against the war. In a republic such as ours you represent us. I ask that you now join Vermont, Kansas, Maine and others in directing the Federal government to cease and desist its aggressive warfare.

It would also be good time to demand a foreign policy that renounces our violence, ends our occupations and recognizes Palestinian right to exist. This would do more to end terrorist activity against the United States than any use of military force.

NORM BERTASAVAGE

CC: Senator Arlen Specter  
Senator Robert Casey  
Representative Tim Holden

### Planning Commission

The first order of business at the February meeting was reorganization. All officers were reappointed for the coming year. Laine Gehres was appointed to a 6 year term as a member of the Commission.

The Planning Commission heard from Mr. and Mrs. Burke, potential purchasers of a plot of some 24 acres in the Steins Mill area, concerning a variance. This is the plot reported last month in which the current owners, Tom and Carol Doyle, had requested a Zoning Change for all S-2 areas in the township.

After some discussion, the Doyles withdrew their request. The Commission discussed with the Berkes a variance affecting some 80,000 feet in the south west section of the 24 acres to be re-zone

as S-1. Upon agreement by the Berkes the Commission recommended approval to the Zoning Hearing board.

The Koury and the Marco Land Company subdivisions were received back from the County. After review, they were forwarded to the Supervisors for approval.

### 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 *March 19th* . Planning Commission March 6th. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be March 15th 4:30 PM.

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