

Branch Communicator

February 2010

Supervisors Meeting Notes

Telephone Numbers

Supervisors:

Robert Yeager 449-5226
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 Krasinski 544-1764

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 2985 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles. 62 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 4 officers. There were 8 traffic citations issued and 13 criminal charges lodged.

The report covered the period 1/1/10- 1/31/10

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 Delinquency Report

Gail Bedford provided a listing of unpaid garbage bills. There are about 80 total delinquent for 2009, there are 17 residents listed who have never paid their garbage assessment, 46 who haven't paid for 2009 and 17 who have only made partial payments for 2009. Amounts that are due are possibly as high as \$9,700.00.

The supervisors have directed that an enforcement program be put in place to start collection of back payments. Some of the never paid amounts may be beyond the statutes of limitations and some may be on properties that no longer exist but letters will be mailed to all delinquents. If payment isn't forthcoming, legal actions including liens will be placed on those properties with outstanding amounts due. The costs of getting liens issues and other fees will be tacked on to the amounts due. If all pay when billed, future increases in the annual garbage assessment may be avoided or lessened.

Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee

Harry Ebling, EIT Collector and Branch representative to the County tax collection committee sent a report on the actions of that committee to the supervisors. He reported on his objections to the committee's desires to have a "weighted vote" which he stated would render the votes of smaller communities worthless in favor of places such as Pottsville and Minersville. This would affect how taxes were collected and distributed. The disagreement on this issue led to many townships representatives walking out of the meeting and vowing to boycott future meetings. Branch Township has already been assessed \$386.76 for operation of this committee and may be charged more as the committee incurs legal and other fees.

Declaration of Disaster Emergency

The Supervisors approved a motion to declare a snow emergency disaster. This is necessary to be eligible for state funding to help defray the costs of the recent snow removal difficulties. Questions of liability immunity were raised and will be looked into by the

solicitor.

Road Masters Report

The Road Master reported the township workers plowed snow, and then more snow and then more snow. The township hired additional plows and back hoes to help in the removal of snow. And it's only February.

Old Business

The request by Fort Jackson to extend their timbering permit was denied.

The condition of the building on 209 across from Taylor street was noted. Given that the township recently passed a property maintenance ordinance this building should be torn down. The Supervisors stated the owners are attending to the matter.

The Good Intent Hose Company has not yet presented the supervisors with a listing of the planned fund raising activities.

The Police Report indicated there were 13 criminal charges lodged in January. One individual accounted for 9 of those. The majority of the charges were for assaults.

The Memorial Day Celebration will be held on Monday, May 31st with the usual parade and ceremony at the Llewellyn school grounds. Anyone wishing to help can contact me.

Township Web Page

The Supervisors are looking into creation of a township web page. This page would provide information on garbage pick-up delays, office closings, some of the township's applications such as building permits, etc. Stay tuned for further developments.

Good Intent Hose Co # 1

The Ladies Auxiliary will host a Fish or Develed Crab dinner Friday March 5th from 3-6PM. The menu will be either fish or develed crab, French fries, green beans and cole slaw. Tickets are \$8.00, eat in or take out. Contact S. Kuehn 544-3929 for tickets.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data Feb 1 - 20, 10

Income	
Court Income	207.51
General Receipts	1,435.96
Other Income	200.00
Permits	128.00
Tax Income	31,152.36
Total Income	<u>33,123.83</u>
Expense	
Building Inspector	131.12
Electric	2,288.23
Engineering	100.50
Insurance	2,944.98
Misc	25.48
Office Expense	26.00
Payroll Expenses	9,242.37
Payroll Taxes	2,876.87
Police	163.66
postage	753.60
Sewage	174.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	147.14
Tax Collections	1,535.50
Telephones	508.58
Truck & Equipment	1,277.35
Utilities	1,441.83
Total Expense	<u>23,817.21</u>
Net Income	9,306.62

A very quiet meeting for February. Only the usual visitors were present. The operations report showed the plant running at it's usual efficiency with average daily flows of 200,032 GPD and a high of 404,000 GPD. One unusual note was that there were no grinder pump calls for the month of January.

Delinquencies

A small rise in the amount of delinquencies as the winter progress. Tina will be sending out notices of delinquency but there were several payment plans that failed to make the required payments so those will be sent letters demanding full payment of amounts owed. The Board felt it was a responsibility to continue to pursue delinquencies prior to a turn over of the Authority to SCMA. The office staff will continue to go after delinquent customers in order to fulfill all responsible actions.

AUDIT

All materials need for the annual audit has been collected and will be presented to the auditors for inspection this week.

SCMA

The merger with Schuylkill County Municipal Authority was discussed. A letter from PENN Vest gave their approval for the merger. A meeting of the operating committee with members of SCMA will be scheduled. In the mean time operations of the Authority will continue as usual.

Planning Commission

The planning commission reviewed the revised Barnhart sub-division plan which addressed deficiencies noted by the engineer on the original plan. A motion to forward the plan to the county for their review was made and passed.

This being the first meeting of the year the board acted on it's reorganization. All current officers were re-appointed. Also, the meeting schedule for the year was approved. Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month except for November. All meetings will be on an as needed basis.

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *March 15th* . Planning Commission March 2nd . Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday March 18th@ 4:30 PM.

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

News letter Sponsors

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

544-6583

Don's Classis Restoration & Auto Body Inc

544-8209

Patrons:

Jerry Rizzardi

Pothering Generators

Crestview Enterprises

Snow removal, landscaping, and General contracting is being offered by owner John Bushar. 544-0728

Phoenix Park Happenings

The Phoenix Park fire company will be sponsoring weekly bingo games. The games will be held on **Mondays starting at 6:30PM at the Fire Company.** All are invited to play.