

Branch Communicator

February 2011

Telephone Numbers Supervisors

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Joseph Wank 544-3183

Township Offices

Branch Police 544-2901
Secretary/ Treasurer 544-4283
Joyce Beach
Township Manager 544-4283
John Andruchek
SEWAGE Problems
• SCMA 622-8240

Police Report

The Police handled 47 incidents/complaints. Traffic stops resulted in the issuance of 21 citations with some stops resulting in more than 1 citation. 3 criminal arrests were also made. They attended 4 hearings and traveled 3406 miles patrolling the two townships.



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

Supervisor Notes

Rental Unit Ordinance.

A meeting with rental property owners will result in several amendments to the proposed ordinance. More info will be forthcoming.

Timbering Request

Craig Morgan, a property owner of land along the Gumboot Road is requesting an exception to the timbering ordinance that requires a fee of \$25.00 per acre. As he desires to have a company selectively cut some 40 acres, they are refusing to take the project as too costly. The Supervisors will take a look at the request for exemption.

Sale of Truck

7 bids were received for the purchase of the 2001 Dodge truck with a plow and salt spreader. This vehicle was purchased from Norwegian township and is currently

in need of major repairs. The truck was advertised for sale "as is and where is". The high bid of \$5,100.00 was from a company in New Ringgold. The supervisors accepted this bid provided that it proves to be valid and a check is received.

Fire Company planned Activities for 2011.

The supervisors approved a list of planned activities by the two township fire companies. This is necessary to provide workmans comp coverage to those engaged in training, fund raising and other fire company related activities.

Wind & Marcellus shale Ordinance

The solicitor has continued to work on an ordinance to regulate the construction of wind farms in the township. He has studied several existing ordinances that are in

current use that have not had adverse court rulings. He will advertise the proposed ordinance so that it can be voted on at next months meeting. Marcellus shale regulation is an unproven area and it will be difficult to propose restrictions, particularly with the unknown ownership of mineral rights at the drilling depth.

Road Masters Report

Dealing with clearing snow from the townships roads was the major activity of the township workers and contractors.

did ya know!!!

That Branch Township High School was instituted in 1903 with W.W. Metzger as supervising Principal? Even I'm not that old!

This and that

The Phoenix Park Fire Company sponsors a weekly bingo every Monday night. All are welcomed to come out and play.

Wings and Things
The Good Intent Hose

Company of Llewellyn is serving wings, peel and eat Shrimp, and fries every Tuesday night from 6 until all are gone. Eat in or take out.

The Good Intent ladies Auxiliary will hold a Fish and Crab dinner on April

8th at the Hosey. Hours will be 3 PM to 6 PM, eat in or take out. Tickets will be \$8.00. Call 544-3929 for tickets or further information.

SCMA Meeting

The SCMA meeting started out with a picture taking session of the current board member. This was followed by a rather lengthy executive session, the purpose of which was not explained. The crack down on delinquencies is continuing with 511 letters with some harsh language being sent to those who have not been diligent in making payment. With the receipt of income tax refunds providing many with the means to pay up, the Authority will not be accepting any excuses. Also the prospect of Spring allowing for the cut-off of water to those refusing to pay gives the Authority means to enforce collection of amounts due.

Action was taken to stop the practice of accepting the postmark as timely proof

The Phoenix Park Community Fire Company will be holding their 12th Annual Chinese Auction Saturday July 21st. They are looking to local businesses willing to donate items to be auctioned off.

The day of the event signs will be posted on all prizes. This to let residents know by name all supporters caring enough to help this small all volunteer organization. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

of payment to avoid penalties. Future payments received after the due date will not have the grace period given by payments post marked on the last date due as timely .

It's not Spring Yet!

We've had a few warm Spring like days but we have all see some really bad weather in March. When March comes in like a lion we have heavy snow falls. If we do, help our volunteer fire companies by cleaning the snow from around the fire hydrants in your neighborhood. They would appreciate it.

All funds raised will be used to help the fire company purchase needed equipment, maintain our current equipment and to keep all members well trained to serve the fire protection needs of Branch Township and the surrounding communities. This without increasing the tax burden of township residents. Please contribute!

Financial Data

Income	
Court Income	104.12
General Receipts	759.61
Other Income	400.00
Permits	40.00
Tax Income	12,075.85
Total Income	13,379.58
Expense	
advertising	181.53
Building Inspector	45.09
Contractors	85.25
dues	1,053.00
Electric	4,166.22
Engineering	132.00
Garbage	7,997.65
Insurance	
Health Insurance	4,685.89
Insurance - Other	3,063.19
Total Insurance	7749.08
Misc	156.20
Office Expense	422.14
Payroll Expenses	13,214.62
Payroll Taxes	
Unemployment tax	168.89
Payroll Taxes - Other	3,371.84
Total Payroll Taxes	3,540.73
Police	-158.17
Road Work	3,599.67
Sewage	174.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	225.72
Tax Collections	1,133.91
Telephones	295.40
Truck & Equipment	2,771.87
truck Loan	360.12
Utilities	2,200.11
Total Expense	49,526.14
	deficit -36,146.56
Transfer from Pennvest	33,000.00
net deficit	- 3146.56

Planning Commission Meeting

The scheduled Planning Commission meeting of February 1st was rescheduled due to bad weather. The meeting was held on February 14th, much to the disgust of members wives who missed a romantic Valentine's Day celebration.

But duty called and the commission reviewed the plan for the J Mac sub-

division on West Lawn Street. This plan was returned from the county planning commission following their review. After noting the nature of the plan and the revisions made by the Zoning Hearing Board a motion to forward the plan to the Supervisors with a recommendation of approval was passed. The plan will offer two building lots for sale as well as the

additional to the two non-conforming lots created. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.