

# Branch Communicator

January 2008

## 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

There was no police report submitted for December.

### Reorganization

The annual reorganization of township offices held few surprises. Bob Keifer was appointed Chairman of the Supervisors with Jack Purcell as vice chair and Joe Wank as roadmaster. Police chief is Joe Wenner with Brian Pyle, Richard Klink and Michael Carey as patrol officers. John Andruchek will continue to wear many hats as building inspector, code enforcement officer, assistant Emergency management officer, among other duties. James Nettles was re-appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board and Laine Gehres to the Planning Commission.

Township workers will see a 75 cent per hour pay raise with police officers receiving an additional dollar per hour pay raise.

Supervisors meetings will be held on Feb 18th, March 31st, April 28th, May 26th, June 30th, July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd, October 20th, November 17th and December 29th. All meetings will be held in the township building and all start at 7PM.

Jerry Rizzardi remains as vacancy chairman. All professional offices, solicitor, engineer, tax collectors etc remain as last year.

### Dam, Beavers gone.

The beavers and their dam which threatened possible flood damage have been permanently displaced.

### Christmas Tree Pickup

Township workers will continue to pickup Christmas trees thru the end of January. Place your discarded trees at curbside for pickup.

### Land Sale Request

A Phoenix Park resident is interested in purchasing a vacant lot on Carnish Street in Phoenix Park owned by the Supervisors. The land came into possession of the Supervisors as a result of the demolition of a dilapidated building. Any sale of the lot must be by bid and it was requested that the process of bidding be started. The sale should cover the cost of the legal work needed to allow the property to go on the bidding block and at least some of the cost incurred to demolish the original structure. The Supervisors will

look into this and begin advertising the sale.

### NIMS Resolution

The Solicitor presented a resolution to be adopted for the implementation of the National Incident Management System required under the Home Land Security program. All three Supervisors voted to adopt the resolution.

### Tax Anticipation Loan

The annual tax anticipation loan application was approved by the Supervisors. This will be a loan for \$40,000.00 not a line of credit. However, the Supervisors will be able to draw down the amount needed for operation and therefore not have to pay interest on the entire amount.

### Strossertown Bridge Report

The Strossertown bridge has been completed. A final inspection is required but traffic is now using the bridge.

I was curious as to what happened to the money that was to be a grant from the last federal highway bill. Representative Tim Holden announced that a grant for \$500,000.00 was obtained for the bridge in Branch township and a similar grant for the Union Street bridge in Tremont. When the facsimile check was presented in August of 2007 the amount was reduced to \$400,000.00 with the explanation that the State would get 20% of the money for "overseeing" the construction.

After examining all the attached strings for the money the Supervisors found a less costly way to pay for the bridge. I contacted Holden's office about what happened to the money Branch Township refused. I was told that they were looking for a way to shift the money to Tremont for it's bridge. So far, Tremont's Union Street Bridge is still blocked off and no work seems to be getting done on replacing that bridge. So a million dollars worth of tax dollars that was allocated for bridge repair in Schuylkill County has not resulted in any construction and the money not used to either build bridges nor lower the National Debt. Pity!!!!

# Sewage Authority

## Mark's Junk Yard

The Solicitor reported that the clean up Contractor is no longer working on the project. Any further action will necessitate going after the property owner.

## Financial Data

**Income:** Tax Revenues, \$6,354.00; General Receipts, \$1,166.94; Permits, \$549.00; Other Income \$575.41; Court Income, \$502.00; Total receipts \$10,147.35.

**Expenses:** Payroll expense \$7,954.36, Garbage \$11,203.54; Insurance \$9485.43, Electric \$2,945.75, Engineering \$2,164.00, Truck & Equipment \$ 2,344.73, telephones \$1,280.80, tax collection \$ 305.47, payroll taxes \$305.47, Police \$311.20, Building Inspector \$132.27, Supervisors \$1,131.68, Solicitor, \$1843.75, Sewage \$181.98, Office expenses \$13.00, Total expenses: \$42,606 04

**Other:** Transfers from Penn Invest Account \$22,000.00 Road Repair Loan \$955.17, Building Loan \$360.12

## Reorganization

The reorganization saw no change in officers. John Andruchek remains chairman with Jim Thomas as co-chair, David Sekellick remains treasurer with Andy Studlack as assistant chairman. The professional staff remains the same with David Rattigan as solicitor, Jaci Peleschak of Alfred Benesch as engineer and Michael Steward of Applied Water Management as plant operators.

Authority meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:30PM in the Branch Township Municipal building.

## Rate Increase as of April 2008.

The charge per EDU will increase from \$46.00 per month to \$55.00 per month beginning in April. This increase is necessary to attack the monthly shortfall that has been averaging over \$20,000.00 per month. The Authority will continue to work to hold down expenses but with fuel and electric costs continuing to rise it is difficult to find areas to cut costs.

## Plant operations

Plant operations continue to be within specifications. There were 6 grinder pump calls for the month of December. The plant treated an average of 205,000 gpd with a high of 356,000 and a low of 153,00gpd.

## Reilly Township

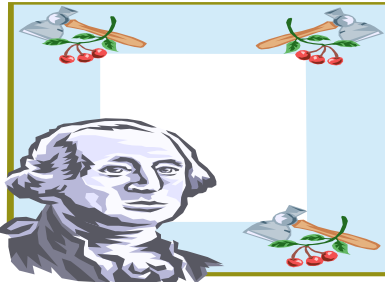
Reilly Township forwarded a draft inter-municipal agreement which would require them to install the collection system and BCRSA to treat the sewage at the plant. As they haven't submitted an Act 537 plan yet, there was no action.

## Sewage Authority Continued

Taken on the draft. The draft would have Branch Township responsible for the connection between Reilly Twp and the end of the sewage line near Kemforts, a distance of 1.1 miles. Branch would also be responsible for the collection system necessary to connect the Steins Mill EDU's to the system. Branch would also be responsible for the financing for this project.

## Planning Commission

As there was no business to conduct, there was no meeting of the Commission.



**Happy President's Day**

## 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)

**Up Coming Events :** The next supervisors meeting will be *February 18th* . Planning Commission February 8th. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday February 17th 4:30 PM.

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