

Branch Communicator

January 2012

Supervisor Notes

Telephone Numbers Supervisors

John Purcell 544-5890
Robert Yeager 449-5226
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 officers handled 63 incidents/complaint during December. They issued 8 traffic and 1 Criminal citations and attended 4 court hearings. During the month they traveled 3515 miles patrolling the two townships. This report covers the period 12/1 to 12/31/2011

Sponsors

Don's Classic Restorations
544-8209

Enbee Tax Service 544-6583

Jerry Rizzardi

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

Reorganization meeting

The annual reorganization meeting was held on January 3rd. Supervisor officers, police officers and most other positions are unchanged. Township meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7PM. The only major change is that tax collections activities will be conducted by **Centax** except the 2010 delinquent taxes which will still be collected by Harry Ebling.

There was a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board that was filled by appointment of Bob Strausser. Pay raises for police officers, township employees and the secretary will be 50 cents per hour effective Jan 1st. Branch township fire companies were reappointed and the allocation for the two was set at \$1,400.00 annually.

Regular Supervisors meeting Jan 16th.

Christmas Tree Pickup

The township will pick up Christmas trees that are placed at the curb during January.

Bids Opened

Three bids were received for the police Jeep Cherokee. 2 of the bids were rejected as being lower than the 500.00 minimum amount. The winning bid was for \$507.

Recycling Center move

The relocation of the recycling center from Brickly Road to the Silverton Road has been delayed. The new location was to be south of the post office on land thought to be owned by the Good Intent Hose Company. It appears that the land is owned by Reedy Properties LLP. A letter will be sent to them requesting permission to use

the land for the recycling Center.

Fire Company Activities

A list of Fire Company Activities for 2012 will be approved when submitted to the Supervisors.

Solicitors Report

Updates to the Property Maintenance Code with several definitions and penalty provisions were approved by the Supervisors. The code provisions will be enforced by the building inspector. Fines of \$300.00 per infraction will be imposed.

Road Masters Report

There were 4 compost site burns, Salt & Cinder of road conducted 3 times, Pot holes filed and a tree removed on township property to prevent damage to a residence.

This and that

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.

Phoenix Park Fire Co

A spaghetti dinner will be held on February 11th from 4 to 7 PM followed by a dance from 7 to 12 PM. Deliveries will be available as well as eat in or take out. Dinner \$7.00, Dance \$5.00, both \$10.00. For

further information call 570-527-1803.

Road Masters Report Continued:

Vandalism to the fence around the school play ground required the replacement of 5 pole and fencing material. Any one with information on the perpetrator should notify the police.

The road program will b started earlier this year and will hopefully be completed by June.

Other News of Interest**2013 Tax Hikes**

2013 will see the largest tax hikes in History. Three conditions account for this. **1st is the expiration** of the 2001 and 2003 tax relief passed by the Republican Congress. **The lowest tax bracket will see a rise** from 10% to 15%. All tax brackets will rise from 3% to 4.6% for the highest tax payers. **The child tax credit will drop** from \$1,000.00 to \$500.00 and the standard tax bracket will no longer double for married couples relative to single people. The death tax exemption will drop from 5 million to 1 million with the rate going from 35% to 55%. Capital gains tax will rise from 15% to 43.4%.

New Obamacare tax hikes to kick in during 2013 in addition to those that have already gone into effect in 2011 and 2012 include medical payroll tax to 2.9%, wage and profit taxes will see a 3.8% increase, Special Needs Kids tax, a cap of \$2500.00 on FSA's will be imposed (now unlimited) Medical devices for items retailing for less than \$100.00 will be exempt form the new 2.3% excise tax. Those who **itemize deductions will find the medical expenses that currently exceed 7.5 percent of adjusted gross will now have to exceed 10% of the AGI.** (Waived for taxpayers 65+ for 2013-2014)

A third wave of increases will require taxpayer to compute the Alternative tax as well as regular tax computations. The AMT will ensnare over 28 million families, up from 4 million in 2012.

Business' that can now write-off 50% of the cost of new equipment in the year of purchase will now be required to depreciate these items over a longer term. Taxes will be raise on all types of business. Biggest is the loss of *research and experimentation* tax credits

Teachers will no longer be able to deduct classroom expenses, **Deductions for tuition and fees will not be available, student loan interest deductions will be disallowed** for thousands of families and employer provided educational assistance will be curtailed.

(Information is from Americans for Tax reform)

Tax freedom day is the day the average American's wages and property taxes are paid for the year. What is left of their income is theirs to spend as they please. This year tax payers work on average until August 19th to pay all taxes. Pennsylvanians work a few more days, until August 25th , to pay all taxes due.

Financial Data**Account Statement January 16 2012****General Fund:**

Balance Forwarded	\$5,623.08
Deposits January	\$21,422.51
Xfered From Peninvest	\$3,000.00
Jan Expenses	(\$33,783.77)
Tax Anticipation Note	\$20,000.00
Checking Bal 1/16/12	\$16,261.82

PAInvest Gen Bal Forward	\$133,147.53
Interest earned	\$6.24
Xfered to General Fund	(\$3,000.00)
Balance 1/16/12	\$130,153.77

Liquid Fuel Checking

Balance Forwarded	\$455.02
Jan Expenses	(\$2,267.85)
Xfered From PennInvest	\$3,000.00

Balance 1/16/12 \$1,187.17

PennInvest bal forwarded	\$14,683.60
Xfered to Checking	(\$3,000.00)
Interest earned	\$0.69

Balance 1/16/12 11,684.29

"Green" Energy

Most of the "Green" in the term Green Energy is the green companies get from subsidies and grants from government. Many of the grants and subsidies are going to China, who produces many of the West Coasts solar panel used in solar farms. Solar farms only produce electricity when the sun is shining. And the electricity produced must be used then because there is no way to store it. The same is true for the Wind Mills

that are found all over the country. Each turbine costs over 3 million dollars. There are only a few places in the US where the wind blows more than 43% of the time. Electric Companies must by law purchase the excess power produced but not used by the turbine.

In Europe Solar energy has gone from being the great white hope, to an impediment, to a reliable energy supply. Solar farm operators and homeowners

with solar panels on their roofs collected more than €8 billion (\$10.2 billion) in subsidies in 2011, but the electricity they generated made up only about 3 percent of the total power supply, and that at unpredictable times.

Guaranteed subsidies will cost taxpayers billions over the life of the equipment with no return on investment. That's the only green in alternate energy!