

Branch Communicator

July 2011

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

No Police report for June was received at the supervisors meeting.

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

Playground Vandalism

The playground near the Elementary school building was vandalized. Damage to the kids sliding board was in excess of \$5,000.00. If anyone has any information of the identity of the vandals please call the Branch-Reilly Police.

Compost Site

The compost site will continue to operate on an open basis: As long as people do not use it as a dumping place. This site is for the use and convenience of township residents to get rid of yard waste including grass clippings, leaves and small branches. These items can not be put out for garbage pickup. So it is in the best interest of all of us to insure that the compost site is not abused.

Road Masters Report

Township workers were busy cleaning up along Church Road. Pot holes were filled and other roadside maintenance items were worked on.

Quiet Meeting

This months meeting was a quiet affair. I was late getting there, the solicitor didn't show and there was no police report.

No action was taken on the proposed property rental ordinance nor any action on amending the Zoning ordinance to set areas where drilling for Marcellus shale. There were no resident complaints or comment. There was no Planning Commission actions to be reported on so the meeting was adjourned at about 7:30. All in all, a quiet meeting.

The War in Afghanistan

The war just became a lot more personal. 3 Members of the 131st Transportation Company were killed in an attack. One was a co-worker of my daughter at Tyco. This is the unit out of Williams-town of which Frankie Barnhart is a member. He apparently wasn't among the 5 wounded but this kind of thing plays on your mind. Prayers for those who died, their families and all the men and women serving in this hell hole.

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 Hosie will be holding a dinner, food sale and Boot Drive on August 5th. Check for the exact times.

The federal government reached the statutory limit of what it's able to borrow back in mid-May. Without running up further debt, it couldn't pay its bills. This has happened in the past, and it has always resulted in an increase in the debt ceiling. Now we're bumping our heads against it one more time. Unless that limit is raised, and soon, the "full faith and credit of the U.S. government" will be a thing of the past as the Treasury begins to default on its obligations. The debt limit was reached on May 15. So how come the defaults didn't begin immediately? Who's been paying the bills in the meantime?

In fact, what happened was that Geithner declared a "debt issuance suspension period" (DISP), to be in effect from May 16 to August 2. No new debt would be issued. But what about the aforementioned bills that would come due in the interim? During this period the Treasury "will suspend additional investments of amounts credited to, and redeem a portion of the investments held by, the CSRDF, as authorized by law." And he went on to say the same regarding the "Government Securities Investment Fund ['G Fund'] of the Federal Employees' Retirement System."

Prohibited from issuing debt, the government raided people's retirement funds instead. The CSRDF is the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund. The G Fund is part of the Thrift Savings Plan. Though there are some differences in employer vs. employee contributions, both are basically pension plans for civil service employees. **And both have basically been looted.** They took a *lot*. More than \$180 billion. By law, the CSRDF and G Funds will be made whole once the debt limit is increased." Perhaps so. But these sorts of shenanigans do not exactly inspire trust in our financial overlords. They suggest desperation. And they also raise some disturbing possibilities. If civil service pension funds can be molested, what about IRAs? Some have suggested that the government is already eyeing our private retirement accounts, to see what might be gotten out of them

If you were reading the newspaper back in May, you might have seen a small reference to a statement from Treasury Secretary Geithner to the effect that he could delay the day of reckoning until August. You probably didn't see any specifics, but some kind of accounting gimmick was involved, you were led to believe. No biggie. Don't worry. But now, August 2nd is coming!

Financial Data

Jul 1 - 19, 11

Income	
Court Income	320.7
General Receipts	3,331.06
Other Income	6,094.74
Permits	482.50
Tax Income	4,102.63

Total Income 14,331.68

Expense	
advertising	119.80
Building Inspector	102.75
Contractors	350.00
Electric	2,358.33
Garbage	7,997.65
Insurance	
Health Insurance	4,662.89
Insurance - Other	250.95
Total Insurance	4,913.84
Misc	437.51
Office Expense	94.75
Payroll Expenses	10,460.22
Payroll Taxes	5,247.42
Police	713.30
Road Work	45.44
Sewage	174.00
Solicitor	3,519.32
Supervisors	150.46
Tax Collections	199.79
Telephones	513.22
Truck & Equipment	2,795.41
Utilities	1,521.25

Total Expense 41714.46

Net Income -27382.78

Trans from Pennvest 20,000.00

total —7382.78

Planning Commission Meeting

Bradley Manning

No business to conduct so no July meeting,

Bradley Manning is a young soldier who leaked to WikiLeaks information that has made many US officials look and seem foolish. He has been held in a military prison under conditions more like a Libyan prisoner under Quadaffy. He is accused of releasing information that "aides enemies of the US" but is more in the nature of being a whistle-blower. He has been held for over 14 months with no trial date set

yet. It is time for the System to either, in military parlance, to crap or get off the pot. That many of our leaders are foolish is no secret that aides the "enemy" unless you consider the American People the enemy.

We know that our leaders do foolish things. IE: Wage wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya and borrow money to do this. But the most foolish people are those that re-elect these fools.