

Branch Communicator

June 2011

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 responded to 65 incidents/complaints during the month of May. They traveled 2809 miles in patrolling the two townships. There were 5 traffic citations issued. Officers attended 5 court hearings.

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

Supervisor Notes

Change of Garbage Pickup Day

Garbage Pickup for the week of the 4th of July will be changed from Thursday July 7th to Friday July 8th **due to the 4th of July Holiday Put your garbage out Thursday evening.**

Compost Site

The compost site is being abused by illegal dumpers. It is not a place for dumping old furniture or commercial dumping of yard waste by contractors.

The site is for use by Branch Township residents for the disposal of yard waste only. If the abuse continues the current open access will be changed back to a set number of hours of operation. If you notice anyone misusing the site and can note the date, time and license plate number of the offender (s) get that information to the police or to me for notification to the police.

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Marcellus Shale

Options

The subject of what options the township has in regulating Marcellus Shale drilling was discussed at length during the meeting. A resident suggested to wait for action by the state before having any ordinance enacted. The position of the supervisors was that no ordinance can ban drilling. It can only regulate where drilling can occur.

There are currently actions being discussed at the state and county level on regulation of drilling but nothing has yet been decided. Action by the township can at least control and contain drilling operations to non-residential areas. This will continue to be pursued by the solicitor.

Tax Collection Agency

The Supervisors acted to appoint Centax as the tax collection agency for the township effective as of 1 January 2012. This is in line with the actions by the county wide commission on a single tax collection agency mandated by the legislature.

Road Masters Report

The Township workers engaged in grass cutting at various places in the township. They also worked at brush trimming along the Dowdowntown Road behind Kings Mall.

They also had two burns at the compost site after separating the tree stumps, logs and household furniture from the burn pile.

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.

ATV Poker run on July 16 at the Good Intent Hose Company.

Trying to Fix Stupid

HR 91 is a bill introduced by US Rep Joe Barton to repeal subtitle b of the Energy independence and Security act of 2007. Tim Holden is one of 70 co-sponsors of this bill, that last saw action in 2-1-11. This subtitle mandates the use of CFL light bulbs, bans the use of incandescent light bulbs, and requires the use of Hazardous Materials clean-up procedures in the event of a CFL light bulb breakage. This subsection is due to go into effect on 1-1-2011. There is a companion Senate bill sponsored by Sen Mike Enzi, S-395 that has 22 Senate co-sponsors, including PA Senator Pat Toomey, but not Bob Casey.

CFL light bulbs are far more expensive than incandescent bulbs, are only more energy efficient under laboratory conditions, and are dangerous to the environment to dispose of. The goal of saving energy is a good one but not at the cost of the environment. Once more Congress has acted stupidly by acting in haste.

You can't fix stupid but it can be corrected. Contact Tim Holden and Senator Bob Casey to demand that action be taken to pass both HR 91 and S 395 before the stupidity takes effect in January.

Fixing Stupid II

There are very few homes or buildings in the township that were built after 1978, including those in the Terrace. Cost to renovate or to demolish any of these buildings will increase if an EPA amendment to a 2010 rule goes into effect on July 15th. Everyone wants to protect children from lead but these are extreme and unnecessary means.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed an amendment requiring businesses that repair or renovate older buildings—specifically homes, schools and daycare centers built prior to 1978 adhere to strict lead-safe work practices

The proposed federal ruling last month is expected to increase operating costs for Home-renovation businesses according to a survey released Thursday by the Wall Street Journal. The over-all lead testing costs, including shipping and lab fees will average between \$100 and \$1,000.00 per project.

For Sale.

Mrs. Helen Bush is going to retire at age 93. The Llewellyn building where she and husband Dick Bush operated a grocery store for half a century is up for sale. The building could make a craft store, a take-out fast food service or some other small business.

Any party interested in purchasing this property can contact Mary Rushannon at 544-4056 for details.

Financial Data

Jun 1 - 22, 11

Income	
Court Income	284.21
General Receipts	147,004.15
Permits	292.23
Tax Income	32,776.71
Total Income	180,357.30

Expense	
Building Inspector	102.75
Contractors	915.20
Electric	2,846.45
Engineering	364.00
Garbage	7,997.65
Insurance	
Health Insurance	4,857.89
Insurance - Other	5,318.28
Total Insurance	10,176.17
Misc	74.28
Office Expense	564.63
Payroll Expenses	12,429.09
Payroll Taxes	3,844.55
Police	1693.26
Road Work	381.62
Sewage	174.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	150.44
Tax Collections	7,293.66
Telephones	505.65
Truck & Equipment	1,262.24
Utilities	561.16
vehicle	1,954.84
Total Expense	50,973.01

Net Income 128,495.03

Planning Commission Meeting

The Zoning Hearing Board conditionally approved the variance requested for a change to commercial to allow a take-out fast food operation. The Zoning Hearing requested that the Planning Commission revisit the variance request and make recommendations to be attached to the Zoning boards approval.

The area in question is on the south

side of Rte 209 just east of Cherry St.

Questions of water, sewage, and highway access must be answered by the Dept of Agriculture, the DEP and Penn DOT respectively. If these bodies issue the necessary permits needed for operation of a food facility these permits should be noted as an

appendix to the Zoning Hearing Boards ruling.

A motion that a letter be sent to the Board recommending these conditions by the Planning Commission was approved.