

Branch Communicator

May 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 / Treasurer Joyce Beach
544-4283
Township Manager
John Andruchek 544-4283
Sewage
Tina Williams 544-1764

Police Report

The Police officers traveled 3428 miles in patrolling the townships using 4 police vehicles, an increase of 40% over last month.. 46 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 3 officers. They attended 4 hearings at District Judges offices. 14 citations were issued.

The report covered the period 4/1/07 to 4/30/07

Chinese Auction

The Phoenix Park Community Fire Company will conduct it's annual fund raiser on June 1st. Local business are asked to donate items for the auction.

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.

Memorial Day Celebration

The supervisors recognized the many people who participated in the May 26th event. The Minersville Navy Club provided the color guard, the Minersville HS band provided the music along with the Girl Scouts who's vocal rendition was appreciated. Reverend Hornberger's invocation and benediction, Mr. Brady's speech and the essay winners reading of their thoughts reminded everyone in attendance of the real purpose of the holiday.

The township's work in enhancing the appearance of the Memorial at the elementary school created an atmosphere of reverence to the event. Unfortunately, the attendance at the event followed the National trend of non-observance by citizens. To quote Yogi Berra," they stayed away in droves".

Compost Hours

The compost site operating hours this year will be Wednesdays from 4PM to 8 PM and on Saturdays from 9AM to 1PM. Those needing access to the site due to storm damage or other reasons can call the township office for access..

Property Closing

The property at 31 Carnish Street in Phoenix Park was closed on, adding \$1,993.00 to the township coffers. The \$2,000.00 bid by Mrs. Naradko was reduced by a \$7.00 transfer tax paid to the county. The property is now back on the tax rolls benefiting the township and removing the townships liability.

Financial records Audit

Patton & Lettich of Pottsville completed a compilation of the township financial records which balanced the receipts and expenditure for 2006.

Buglia Timbering Permit

The Supervisors approved the application to timber 64 acres in the Phoenix Park area.

Dry Hydrant Installed

A dry hydrant at Coal pond off Laudeman Lane was installed after copies of the access agreement was received from Direnzo Coal.

Speed Posting on Silverton Road

A speed limit is to be posted on this road to hold down the dust and dirt. The supervisors will also call for the cleaning of the road from Willing street to the Good Intent Hose Co and watering of the road to hold down the dust. These actions along with the proposed improvement under the gravel road program will improve the quality of life in this area.

Road Masters Report

The township workers were busy cutting grass and some cold patch pothole work. A new lawn tractor was put into operation and comments on the improved look of the township were made by several citizens. The condition of Church Road was again noted for action in the near future.

Good Intent Hose Co Appeal

The annual fund raising appeal for the Hose Company is in progress. All residents should have received their appeal letters and it is hoped that a generous response will follow.

Solicitors Report

No report was given. Actions pending are the Sludge ordinance, a noise ordinance and a letter to PENN Dot regarding the 209/901 intersection at Turkey Hill.

School is Out

We may be driving less because of the price of gas but that may mean more kids are walking to places with school being out. Be extra careful driving in the coming months because the kids don't always use the best judgment.

Father's Day

June 15th is Fathers Day. It is a good time to say thanks to all the fathers who are dads to their children and husbands to their wives.

Sewage Authority

Financial Data

Income: Tax Revenues, \$176,855.84, General Receipts, \$821.27; Permits, \$592.66; Other Income, \$4745.34, Court Income, \$132.19, Licenses 225.00, Liquid fuel Income 85,851.48 . Total receipts \$269,223.78.

Expenses: Payroll expense 8743.34, Garbage \$11,970.58, Insurance \$19,987.53 Electric \$3,322.57 Engineering \$1,512.00, Truck & Equipment \$ 6,852.32, Utilities \$782.00, telephones \$386.54, tax collection \$ 7,086.01, Contractors \$679.19, payroll taxes \$3,173.31, Police \$338.40, Building Inspector \$147.80, Supervisors \$220.68, Sewage \$165.00, Office expenses \$20.95 Misc Expenses \$648.42, dues 2400.00, Postmaster.\$ 75.60

Total expenses: \$70547.66

Other: , Transfers to Penn Invest Account \$80000.00 Loan payments: Tax Anticipation loan: \$40,416.43, Road Repair Loan \$955.17, Building Loan \$360.12, Truck Loan, \$360.12.

Plant Operations

The plant treated an average of 188,500GPD during April with a high of 255,000 and a low of 158,000. Effluent quality were well within parameters. There were 6 grinder pump calls for the month. One call for a blocked pump was the second call to that address for the same reason. The resident will be sent a letter warning that a third incident for the same reason will result in a billing for the repair.

Pump stations at Kane, Main, Condor , Duncott and Quandel locations were serviced during the month. Most of the pumps need wear rings. Pump # 2 at Duncott failed a pressure test and required repairs.

The pump station at Kane Steel suffered an electrical failure requiring action by PP&L. The 480 volt line lost ground and required replacement of a transformer and lightning arrester.

Administrative Topics

Estimates are being solicited for the cleaning of wet wells in the system.

Delinquencies are down to \$61,000.00.

The non-connect citations sent to Cass Residents were invalidated by lack of action on all but 3 of the citations. Two citations resulted in hearing to which the Authority was not informed. These were found not guilty. A third citation was dismissed. The Authority will re-submit citations to require connection to the system.

The results of the new sewage rate as an increase in revenue are still out. The May collections should show if the increased revenue will match the monthly expenses.

Five years ago I presented a draft resolution against a war with Iraq to the supervisors and the county commissioners. The Supervisors passed the resolution but later rescinded it because a few citizen objected. The commissioners declined to pass the resolution "because that was the business of the National government which they felt would not affect local government".

With all levels of government now needing to raise taxes due to increased energy costs and citizens having less disposable income to pay the increased fuel costs and the increased taxes everyone is feeling the affects of the decision to go to war.

Now the talk at the national level is that we can't pull out the troops because the government of Iraq would fail. When did the United States become the guaran-

tors of "stable" foreign governments?

We didn't do that in Viet Nam, we haven't been able to do that in Haiti, Bosnia, or any of the places where we attempted to impose democracy.

With the government of the United States less able to carry out the four major functions of government, to feed, clothe, house and defend it's citizen, continuation of the current foreign policy is insane. Our economic strength has been sapped by our "borrow and spend" policies, our dollar is so weak that those we provide foreign aid to demand the payments be in Euro's and our image abroad has become one of tyranny, not democracy.

McCain and the neo-cons believe we should stay for 100 years. I say it time to come home and rebuild America.

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 *June 30th* . Planning Commission June 3rd . Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be Thursday June 19th 4:30 PM.

Note: Branch Communicators are available on line at www.normbert.com/