

Branch Communicator

October 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

The Police officers handled 41 incidents/complaint during September. They issued 6 traffic citations and attended 5 court hearings. During the month they traveled 4082 miles patrolling the two townships. This report covers period 9/1-9/30/11

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

The solicitor presented 2 ordinances to the supervisors for adoption. These were the 2 discussed at last months meeting concerning EIT collection changes and the fire escrow ordinance. The last one allows insurance companies to place into escrow proceeds from fire insurance policies. This escrow will allow municipalities access to funds for clean up and for unpaid taxes on properties destroyed by fire when the owner can't or wont.

The paperwork for the annual tax anticipation note was also signed by the Supervisors.

Zoning Fees

Applications for zoning variances require fees of \$400.00 for residential and \$600.00 for commercial applications. These amount do not cover the legal and engineering fees often billed to the township. The last

variance application **cost the township over \$5000.00 in legal fees.** The solicitor reported that under the Municipal Planning Code there is no way for the township to recover these amounts.

Light Heigel SEO

This firm was reappointed as township Sewage Enforcement officer at a rate that is 5% higher than the last five years. This increase is the first increase in over 5 years and was necessitated by the higher price of everything since the last increase.

License Transfer

The solicitor reported the new owners of Amigo's have applied for a transfer of the liquor license of Franken Burger in Minersville. Apparently the current license is under suspension due to the accident that claimed the life of the young woman

several months ago. The new Amigo's owners will attend the November meeting to request the Supervisors approval of the transfer.

New roof on building

A new roof has been constructed on the township building. This was done by township workers and the Supervisors. Reilly township supervisors provided a truck to remove the old construction debris and others assisted in the roof replacement.

Trick or Treat Night

Trick or treat night will be October 27th from 6 to 8 PM.

Road Masters Report

There were 2 compost burns. Road work is being done on Black Diamond Road and West Terrace road. Cleaning of shoulders along Dowdowntown road and along the Phoenix Park road.

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.

Day After Thanksgiving
Karaoke. 11-25

Seamus Kennedy Show
Sunday Nov 27th at 3 PM

Are You ready for some Voting!

General election day is Tuesday November 8th. These elections are for municipal offices and judges. Polls open at 7 AM and close at 8 AM. If you are interested in change, occupy the polls, not Wall Street!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Remember to give thanks for the many blessings you enjoy and the sacrifice our troops are making in your name.

Financial Data

Oct 1 - 19, 11

Income	
Court Income	190.41
General Receipts	4,789.82
Other Income	225.00
Permits	158.00
Tax Income	23,619.29

Total Income	28,982.52
Expense	
advertising	60.03
Building Inspector	202.75
Contractors	596.80
dues	200.00
Electric	3,004.42
Garbage	7,997.65
Insurance	
Health Insurance	4,981.27
Insurance - Other	276.00
Total Insurance	5,257.27
Misc	368.57
Office Expense	583.54
Payroll Expenses	11,032.44
Payroll Taxes	4,643.04
Police	-677.77
Road Work	359.07
Sewage	174.00
Solicitor	180.00
Supervisors	150.46
Tax Collections	1,114.06
Telephones	579.33
Truck & Equipment	4,404.23
Utilities	1,484.84
Total Expense	41,714.73
Net Income/loss	-12,732.21

Account Balances:

General Fund	
Checking	\$5,445.82
Investment Acct	: \$171,132.99

Liquid Fuels

Checking	\$562.53
Investment	\$49,179.57

Your Papers Bitte!!

In every 2nd World War Movie the most suspense filled scene is where the evil GESTOPO officer ask the hero for his identification papers.

HR 2885, introduced in the House by the House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) in June, sets the stupefying goal of verifying the identity of every job-seeker in the US. Let's put that another way. If you apply for a job in the US, you will not be hired until you get a government stamp of approval.

Here's how Smith would like it to work: The new law would require all employers to submit potential employees' names, Social Security numbers, and such other data as the government may find pertinent to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for authorization before an employee can start work. The data would then be vetted by E-Verify, a government-run database and employment identification verification system.

It's impossible to overstate how deeply misguided this proposal is, nor in how many ways; that's true no matter whether you think we should embrace undocumented aliens with open arms or believe they should all be shot. To have introduced it into an economy struggling to stay afloat is a near-criminal act.

HR 2885 is - job killing legislation. It manages to stifle job growth on two fronts. On one hand is the business owner, already staggering under a mountain of regulations. The additional cost of compliance this new law would impose will be the straw that

breaks many an entrepreneurial back. Small companies will go bust. On the other hand, there is the potential employee, perhaps desperate for work. Now he or she will have to wait for the bureaucratic wheels to grind (as will the employer eager to hire). What if there's a tiny glitch in the process? Worse, what if the database has incorrect information on the applicant? Then the real nightmare begins.

Of course, there is one place where new jobs will be created: Washington, D.C. The bill will necessitate a whole new - and rather large - division of DHS to handle the workload. How do you feel about expanding the federal payroll?

many liberty lovers see this move as merely a back-door way of establishing what many in power really want - a universal surveillance database - to be followed soon by a national ID card. It's also a certainty that there will be mission creep. There always is. Private-sector employers will evolve into extensions of the government... a vast, national police force.

Your Papers Please!

Planning Commission

There was no meeting of the Planning commission in October as there was no business to be conducted.

More on Papers

Philadelphia is the only city in Pennsylvania where red-light cameras are currently legal. However, that may be changing. Senate Bill 595, sponsored by Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, R-Delaware, would authorize "red-light enforcement systems in first-class cities... and in certain cities." The bill is scheduled to be taken up by the Pennsylvania Senate during its upcoming session beginning Oct. 24.

A companion house bill has been stuck in committee since February 2011 The National Motorists Association opposes red-light cameras and other automated traffic enforcement systems.

Red-light cameras do not improve safety and thwart due-process protections. Another potential objection to the Senate bill is that it would require half of the revenues generated to go to the state to fund projects outside of the enforcement cities.

The state has used its portion of the Philadelphia red-light camera money like tax revenue, except that the payers of the tax are the small subset of motorists who were tagged by a red-light camera More red-light cameras are the last thing we want to see in Pennsylvania.

Contact your legislators to state your opposition to these bills and encourage your friends and family to do the same.

Now a Picture is worth a thousand words!