



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

April 2009 Newsletter

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM
and Friday mornings - 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM.**

(Exceptions are posted on the front door and indicated on the answering machine.)

April 9, 2009 Special Meeting

The Supervisors held a special meeting on April 9, 2009. They approved the March 9, 2009 minutes and awarded the fuel bid (opened March 9th) to the apparent lower bidder, Purvis Brothers, Inc. The main topic of business was discussion on the Summit Township Sewer Line Proposal. In addition to legal advertisement, notice in the March Newsletter, and a news article in the Eagle, sixty letters were sent out to property owners in an attempt to reach those whose property Thorn Creek runs through or abuts. Our apologies if any property owner was missed. Olsen and Associates had no 'list' to provide to the township; we used their drawing to determine which addresses might be affected.

Mr. Richard Craft from Olsen & Associates explained the three original options that Summit Township had: 1) Butler Area Sewer Authority; 2) new plant in Herman; and 3) Saxonburg Area Authority. There was also a suggested 'fourth' option via Buffalo Township Authority. Mr. Craft said that the only two viable options now are #2 and #3. He presented a list of 'pros'. The floor was then opened for questions and comments.

The discussion is summarized as follows: *What is the diameter of the line?* Probably 10 or 12 inches. *Where will the new line meet the existing line?* Near where the old plant was located on Dinnerbell Rd. *Why is Summit Twp. not going to Butler?* Because BASA is under a DEP consent order and probably will not be able to take any more sewage (and don't seem interested anyway) and Summit will have to pay costs to improve pump stations. *Do they really need a 20 ft. right-of-way (r.o.w.)?* Yes, the permanent r.o.w. needs to be 20 ft., but up front, there is actually a 40 ft. r.o.w. (during construction.) (This was 'new' issue to both property owners and township officials, who do not recall the temporary 40 ft. r.o.w. being explained prior to this evening!!) *If the line is 'gravity flow', will there be any pump stations?* Herman will have pump station(s), but there will be none in Jefferson Township for this line. The line will be planned and constructed large enough to cover the entire water shed. *How far from the creek will the line be constructed?* It will vary—and it has not been entirely 'planned' because Summit Twp. can't spend funds for something that may not happen (if Jefferson disapproves the proposal.) *Why don't we have a 'whole' township plan?* The Thorn Creek watershed covers about 75% or more of Jefferson Township – so this proposed line could potentially service the whole watershed. A Penn Township situation was reported about the way a contractor 'did not' remove tree stumps and as a result a property owner was injured and is still not back to work. Plus, numerous water wells were affected. Properties were left 'a mess.' Several properties on Whitaker Rd. already have a sewer line in their front yards, *why can't they new line be hooked into that existing line, rather than dig up their back yards too?* Mr. Craft indicated that it has something to do with the 'elevations' and that they will look more closely at this situation if Jefferson approves the proposal and planning continues. *What is the average cost over the tap-in fees?* Depending on the distance, the main line 'construction' can run between \$1,500 and \$4,000. Ms. Mowry noted that they paid about \$15,000 (in Penn Township.) *How many homes in Jefferson Township are on the Saxonburg Authority currently?* Roughly 300 customers. Mr. Kozora said he has not seen any cost reduction with the new plant in Renfrew, in fact, they saw an increase. Mr. Slee commented that this appears to be a lot of sacrifice from Jefferson Township people in order to benefit Summit Township. *Will they cut all the trees in the 40 ft. temporary r.o.w.?* Mr. Cornetti said yes, if the line goes through where the trees are. *What happens to structures, wells, etc?* They will design around when and where necessary. Some smaller out buildings may be relocated. Mr. Cornetti said no one 'lost' their wells in the new plant project just completed, but agreed some may have been affected short-term. *What about the final grading?* It will be according to the specs of the contract. Therefore, Jefferson Township officials will have no say. *What rights do they have regarding 'condemnation' of the right-of-way?* A property owner can reject the \$1 offer for the r.o.w. Then, the 'estimated

just compensation' will be calculated and offered for the value of land taken. If that offer is unacceptable, the property owner has a right to appeal to the county board of viewers, who will then set the compensation. *What will "Summit Academy" have to pay for tap-in?* Mr. Cornetti said roughly, \$300,000. *What about 'public access' to the r.o.w.?* Mr. Cornetti said it is not a 'public r.o.w.' but a utility type r.o.w. and only access would be for occasional inspections and repairs. *Who votes on the proposal?* The Board of Supervisors. *What about putting it on the ballot?* How and if a question could be put on the ballot was unknown at the time. However, Chairman Jones said Summit Township/Olsen & Associates need a decision sooner rather than later in order to participate in 'stimulus' funding. Please note that the secretary called to check with the Butler Co. Election Bureau Director and with a representative from the PA State Association of Township Supervisors, on Monday, April 13th. Both said there is NO authority under either the "election code" or the "second class township code" for a question on sewerage to be on the ballot.

James R. Jones asked who in the room, who has the creek actually running through their property, is in favor of the line (only one person raised their hand) and of those in the whole room (only 4 raised their hands in favor of the line.) Phil Bachman wanted to proceed with the vote this evening, but Jim Jones and Jim Chick preferred to wait until the next meeting, Monday, April 13, 2009 at 3:30 P.M.

See April 13, 2009 "Unfinished Business" report on page 3.

Recreation Committee

At the Supervisors meeting on April 13, 2009, Recreation Committee Chairman Leo Rosenbauer reported on their April 1st meeting, listing several 'action' items as follows:

- 1) The softball and soccer associations would like additional gravel on the parking area beyond the Softball Legion Field. Chairman Jones said if the associations can get the stone donated by Weleski's, the township road crew can spread it --- but noted that this area 'may not' remain parking!
- 2) The baseball association wants an additional dumpster for their whole season (so it will be permanent) and they will pay for it! The township secretary is to contact Vogel about the cost, etc. and if necessary get back to Leo to report .
- 3) A tree limb is hanging down close to the port-o-john beside the softball fields. The road dept. is already aware of it.
- 4) Mike McCarren gave the township a list of materials to be included on the ShaCOG spring commodities bid. The secretary said the ShaCOG opened bids on March 30th, but to date the website has not been updated with the results. The pool association would have to order through the township.
- 5) The pool is still leaking and they would like the Supervisors to send another letter to the County for action and asked about the status of the bond. Chairman Jones said he would call the Commissioners.
- 6) There have been several incidents of 'port-o-john tipping' recently at the park. The association members can call the state police whenever there is an incident. Phil Bachman said the state police already drive through the park on a regular basis.
- 7) The soccer association asked if CDBG funds could be used to build a retaining wall and widen the 'road' into the parking area, if they incorporate a handicap ramp and parking spaces. Chairman Jones and the secretary said generally CDBG funds can be used to improve existing facilities by removing architectural barriers and agreed that it would be best for Leo to talk directly to Wendy Leslie, the County CDBG Coordinator.
- 8) Leo Rosenbauer has been working on the DCNR grant application that will be used to begin implementation of the 'master site plan study' done last year. The proposed project includes a community septic system, gazebo, phase I of the walking trail, and T-ball & soccer concession stands. The cost of the project would be between \$190,000 to \$200,000 and would require a 50% local match. Phil Bachman does not believe we have the budget to proceed at this time. Leo and Chairman Jones said matching 'funds' can be donated time and materials plus township road crew labor/hours. A 50% match, after using the \$20,000 donation from Penn United (pending) would be close to \$80,000. A motion was made, *but* died for lack of a second.

Planning Commission

At the March 26th meeting, the P.C. reviewed and approved of the Laura J. Doerr Park Gazebo Land Development. The proposed 30 ft. octagon-shaped gazebo will be built between the pool area and Hannahstown Rd. There will be two handicapped spaces at the entrance with a sidewalk to the gazebo. The existing lane will be widened to a 20 ft. cartway back to a parking area with a sidewalk to the gazebo. The 'wet' areas are to the east of the gazebo. Some grading and fill work will be done, plus several larger trees will have to be removed, but the area will still be wooded. The proposed electric line will come from the pool house area to the gazebo. The P.C. commented that a 'reserved parking' sign (or signs) need to be placed to deter other park/pool users from parking there when the gazebo is rented out! The P.C. further commented that 'port-o-johns' would need to be brought in for the area (especially if the gazebo is to be rented out) until a more substantial septic system (community type) is able to be installed. The Supervisors reviewed the drawing. Phil Bachman noted that some of the parking spaces adjacent to the pool area are shown over the pool septic system/field. It was agreed that Leo will revise the drawing. The gazebo materials and labor will be donated by Penn United Technology and James D. Miller Construction. The construction of the gazebo will be delayed in order to use the funds and donations for it toward a possible DCNR grant. The Supervisors voted to approve the Gazebo Land Development with modifications to the parking area.

Public Business and Comment

Mr. Walchesky and Mr. Shurina were present about a building permit application submitted for remodeling the old lawn and garden building at Rt. 356 & Hannahstown Rd. They expressed their frustration in regards to having to submit 'sealed architectural drawings' for a 'small' business. The Supervisors hands are tied. The PA Uniform Construction Code is a state mandated law and no matter who is retained to do plan reviews and inspections, they must follow these regulations. Neither building code official(s) nor the township supervisors can give 'variances'. The only recourse for the property owner(s) is to 'appeal', which Mr. Shurina has done. Unfortunately, it takes time to schedule an agreeable time for the three appeal board members, the attorney, the court recorder, and the building codes official for the hearing; and then there is no guarantee that the appeals vote will be favorable. It was noted that the chairman has spoken with Representative Darryl Metcalfe regarding the PAUCC. Mr. Metcalfe and several of his associates are working toward revision of the state-wide building code. This unfortunately could take some time!

April 13, 2009 Unfinished Business

After hearing comments from Mr. Ron Olsen (Olsen & Associates) and from property owner, John Shaffer, regarding the sewer line proposal (AND extensive discussion at prior meetings of the Board) the Jefferson Township Supervisors voted to *deny permission to Summit Township to construct the interceptor sewer line through Jefferson Township.*

At the regular meeting on April 13, 2009, the five 'stone bids' received were publicly opened and read by Chairman, James R. Jones. They were M & M Lime Company, Inc., Allegheny Mineral Corp.; Quality Aggregates, Inc.; McClymonds Supply & Transit Co., Inc. and Hanson Aggregates. After review by the road foreman and secretary, the Board voted to award at the delivered prices and contingent upon satisfactory inspection of the materials by the road foreman: Items #1, #4, and #5 to McClymonds Supply & Transit Co., Inc. and Items #2 and #3 to Quality Aggregates, Inc.:

McClymonds Item 1) Approx. 500 ton #8 Limestone (state approved)	Unit Price DELIVERED \$17.10
McClymonds Item 4) Approx. 500 ton #67 Limestone	Unit Price DELIVERED \$16.37
McClymonds Item 5) Approx. 400 ton #8 washed GRAVEL (state approved)	Unit Price DELIVERED \$20.30
Quality Agg. Item 2) Approx. 500 ton #2A Limestone	Unit Price DELIVERED \$15.50
Quality Agg. Item 3) Approx. 400 ton #2RC Limestone	Unit Price DELIVERED \$15.50

April 13, 2009 New Business

The Board voted to authorize advertisement of bids for road oil (seal coat & paving materials). The Board voted to adopt the Revised Right to Know Policy (Resolution #284) as recommended by the township attorney. The Board approved payment of registration and usual expenses for 'eligible township officials' (supervisors, secretary/treasurer, auditors, elected tax collector) for the May 21 Spring Convention of the Butler Co. Association of Township Officials held at the Butler Country Club. The Board approved the temporary closing of Knoch Rd. on Saturday, August 8, 2009 from about 8:25 to 9:15 AM for the 9th Annual Roebing 5K Run/Walk. The Knoch Track & Field Booster Association will provide signs and traffic control as usual. The Board tabled appointment of a 'voting delegate' to the County-wide Earned Income Tax Collection Committee.

Miscellaneous from April 13, 2009

Mr. Rosenbauer from Becker Rd. reported that he and several neighbors have noticed pavement cracking and the road-berm deteriorating. The road department will check out the berms.

The Board voted to notify Saxonburg Borough that they are interested in the proposed 'joint trash drop-off' day. If we are able to work out the details of participation, the date(s), time(s) and a list of acceptable items will be posted.

Major expenditures between meetings and at the April 13, 2009 meeting:

Caterpillar Financial Corp. – final payment on roller	\$ 9,679.74
Chemung Supply Corp. – pipes and bands	\$16,128.69
Selective Insurance – automotive, liability, and property insurance package	\$10,428.00

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

According to the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) it **illegal** for **any business** to burn solid waste without a permit from DEP. There is a "burning ordinance" in Jefferson Township for residences! Please call the Township office for details. Recyclable items are NOT to be burned!!

It is illegal for residents or other non-resident users of Laura J. Doerr Park to dump their personal household trash in the park dumpsters. This is considered "theft of services." The Township officials will continue to monitor the situation and will prosecute violators if necessary.

SPRING IS HERE and the grass is growing so when mowing, please do not allow the cut grass to accumulate on the roadway. It is a safety issue - especially if the grass becomes wet. It could cause a vehicle to lose traction!

The Newsletter

The Newsletter is only available On-line OR via e-mailing OR can be picked up at the Township Office. Our Web Site is: www.jeffersonbutler.com If you want to have the newsletter e-mailed to you or if you have not received your e-copy, please contact the Township Secretary at jefftwpbutlerpa.@zoominternet.net or call the office – 724-352-2324.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors - 2nd Monday at 3:30 P.M. Recreation Board - 1st Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.
 Planning Commission - 4th Thursday at 7:30 P.M. (except for Nov.19 and Dec.17, 2009 due to holidays.)

Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors 157 Great Belt Rd. Butler, PA 16002 724-352-2324 / FAX 352-8850
James R. Jones, Chairman / James Chick, Vice-Chairman / Phillip Bachman, Supervisor

