



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP August 2010 Newsletter

Attention:

Saxonburg Road Residents regarding Pennsylvania American Water

Jefferson Township is **NOT** in charge of the construction for the water main installation along Saxonburg Rd. (a State highway.) You must contact PA American Water for information (i.e. questions, approx. construction dates or connecting to the water line *(if you choose to connect...it is NOT mandatory)*). They have indicated that you may call the 24-hr. customer service line 1-800-565-7292; plus there is a project inspector on the job each day that can be approached.

Road Foreman's Report

Bill Foertsch, Township Road Foreman, reported that paving on Bullcreek and Mushrush Roads was done on Aug. 2nd and 3rd. Seal coating of sections of Smith, Heller, Rennick Roads and Sheetz Drive has been rescheduled for August 17th due to the company being behind due to the weather. The Attorneys for the Township and Phillips Production are still working on the final wording for the 'excess maintenance agreement' for overweight vehicles using Bullcreek Road during the proposed Marcellus drilling on the monastery property. The driveway permit has not yet been issued and Phillips Production officials are currently meeting with Penn Township regarding their road(s.) Mr. Foertsch reported a complaint from a man whose vehicle was forced off the road into an existing stone wall at the S-bend on Victory Rd. The Supervisors will be looking into the road right-of-way width and location of the stone wall to notify the property owner and/or have it removed. Mr. Foertsch recommended replacement of the F350 Ford pick-up; upgrading of the Tiger mower to a bigger boom mower, and selling the Massey Ferguson...all considerations during budgeting.

August 9, 2010 Public Business/Comment

Jim Meyer from Cobham Lane expressed his opposition to the proposed race track, stating his concerns about noise and increased traffic on Rt. 356. Bob Corbett noted the revised traffic count and asked what will happen if the 'count' goes up. The Township Attorney noted that revised land development plans need to be submitted IF the development changes (i.e. increased traffic flows, more parking, larger bleachers, etc.) The Township could take legal action if the developer fails to do this. Mr. Corbett said someone has been removing their 'stop the race track' signs and publicly asked that it be stopped.

Planning Commission

Chairperson Evelyn Gross reported on the July 22, 2010 meeting. The P.C. reviewed and approved with contingencies the Rennick Subdivision on Bullcreek Rd. consisting of Revised Parcel B of 8.698; Lot 2 of 1.50 acres with existing mobile home and garage; and Lot 3 of 2.578 acres with existing barn. Septic tests were done on Parcel B and Lot 3. The Supervisors reviewed and approved the plan at their Aug. 9th meeting contingent upon approval of the sewage module by the DEP (Dept. of Environmental Protection.)

The P.C. reviewed and approved a request for a side building set-back for a proposed garage for Steven Spreng on Dreher Rd. A notarized letter of permission was presented from the neighbor. At the Aug. 9th meeting, the Supervisors voted to approve the 12-ft. modification as proposed.

The P.C. discussed briefly the Neupert Raceway Park Land Development. The developer is proceeding to get lighting specs; bleacher sizing, and fencing information. The Township engineer will review these as they are submitted. Upon inquiry, it was re-iterated that the race track development is NOT in a wet-land. On Aug. 9th inquiry was made about zoning; Mr. Corbett said it is time to reconsider it. Supervisor Cypher said perhaps at some point, but not to 'keep out' something...the Township cannot take sides on any development, but can only determine if the developer is complying with the current ordinances.

The P.C. approved a 120-day extension for the DEP approval of the 'revised' sewage module for the Joel Henderson Subdivision on Bullcreek Rd. approved with contingencies in May and June by the P.C. and

Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors voted to approve the 120-day extension to expire on Dec. 13, 2010. This will permit signing and dating the plan upon receipt of the DEP approval any time before Dec. 13th.

The P.C. discussed Mrs. Skero the Marcellus shale drilling proposed for the monastery property on Bullcreek Rd. The Township Attorney re-stated at the Aug. 9th meeting that the Oil and Gas Act pre-empts local ordinances other than what may fall under the MPC (Municipal Planning Code) which regulates Subdivision & Land Development and Zoning. The recent PA Supreme Court decision allows that municipalities with zoning can zone the drilling 'in or out' of certain areas. Jefferson Township has no zoning. The case may go the US Supreme Court on appeal.

The AUGUST Planning Commission meeting has been re-scheduled for Aug. 19, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. The P.C. Clerk/Township Sec/Treas. will be unavailable on the usual night.

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee met on Wed., August 4th. Mr. Rosenbauer reported the pool gate sales were excellent last month. The pool cover was sent away and is being repaired. The pool seems to be holding water...no more leaks detected. The pool had a 'family night' last week; and there is an upcoming "band-a-palooza" scheduled. It has been reported previously that the Pool Association President, Mike McCarren, would be resigning at some point...and he has indicated his resignation will be effective at the end of this pool season. The Pool Association members and the Supervisors need to meet and discuss how to proceed...perhaps get the County Parks and Recreation Dept. involved or possibly combining the 'manager/pool president' for a paid position. The Supervisors need to review the financial records of the pool association to determine future action. The worst scenario would be for the pool to close.

📌 NOTICE: A 'VOLUNTEER' to serve as "Pool Manager" is needed!! Mike McCarren has served as pool manager for the Southeast Butler Co. Pool Association at the Laura J. Doerr Park for many years and has done an excellent job. Due to changes in his employment, he desires to step-down. He is very willing to train and assist the new pool manager to take over this position. Please contact him at 724-352-1233 or mccarren@gmail.com

The soccer association is not happy with the contractor on the 'parking lot project'. The project was to be done by June 30th and it is still not done! Practice begins Aug. 16th and the fall season starts in September. Mr. Rosenbauer will contact the County CDBG office which administers the 'grant' for this project.

August 9, 2010 Unfinished Business

The June 14th letter from Pennsylvania American Water asked for a 'hydrant agreement' to proceed with the installation of the hydrants along with the main line construction and accepting the monthly maintenance fees. The Supervisors were 'polled' by the secretary and agreed to proceed. If the 22 hydrants are installed during the main line construction, there is no other cost to the township other than the 'monthly maintenance fee'. The cost to install them later would be \$1,000 or more per hydrant. The Supervisors voted to ratify the decision to proceed accepting the monthly maintenance fees, subject to the Township Attorney's review of the agreement. Chairman Jones and the Saxonburg Fire Chief met with a PA American Water representative regarding the placement of the hydrants along Saxonburg Rd. Mr. Jones noted that they discussed 'the possibility' of a line along Hannahstown Rd. (for the park/pool) and/or a line along Neupert Rd. (to Concordia). The water company representative said they could do a survey of possible route(s) and interested property owners. It is unknown at this time what cost would be associated with this 'possibility' or the time frame.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Lois Fennell, was appointed the primary Township voting delegate to the Butler Co. Tax Collection Committee. Erma Mowry was appointed alternate. This BCTCC was formed due to the 'state mandated County-wide collection' of the Earned Income Tax. Mrs. Fennell reported that after 6 months of meetings; preparation, receipt and review of 'proposals' from interested 3rd party tax collection companies; and interviews with the three companies that responded (Central Tax Bureau, Keystone Collections Group, Berkheimer Tax Administrator), the BCTCC voted to enter into agreement with Berkheimer Tax Administrator effective Jan. 1, 2012. This company offered: 1.5% commission rate on all EIT (current and delinquent); actual postage cost charge to each taxing authority; five year agreement with provision for early termination; option for collection of other Act 511 taxes; meet all the expectations of the BCTCC; relocation of their office to central Butler County; no additional collection costs. The BCTCC will meet again this fall (Sept. 28 and Nov. 23) to, among other business, appoint a 'transition committee.' Mrs. Fennell prepared a cost

comparison for the Supervisors for 2008 and 2009 EIT and LST (Local Services Tax) at the 'current' South Butler Tax Commissioner rates and the proposed Berkheimer collection rates and found that the township will save between 40% and 50% in collection costs. The Supervisors will need to 'opt in' for the LST collection later this year.

The Supervisors passed a resolution last month in 'opposition' to legislation to force local municipalities to merge or consolidate. Copies were forwarded to Representative Darryl Metcalfe and Senator Don White, who responded that they also opposed 'forced merger and consolidation' of local municipalities.

The County Stormwater Plan discussed at previous meetings will possibly be voted on by the Butler County Commissioners in August.

The Supervisors voted to enter into an agreement with Sharp Collections, Inc. (renewable annually) to collect delinquent per capita tax at no cost to the township, unless a case goes beyond the District Magistrate level and then only if the township has reviewed and approved this action.

August 9, 2010 New Business

The Supervisors voted to pay registration and mileage for Planning Commission members and other township officials to attend a County Planning Commission "Community Planning Course" offered on Wed. evenings on Sept. 8, 15, and 22 from 6:15 to 9:30 P.M. The Supervisors voted to pay registration and mileage for any elected township auditor to attend an "Auditor's Training Class" scheduled for August 24th in Cranberry Township.

Misc. Business from Township Officials

The Supervisors discussed the possible/proposed 'hydrant tax.' Since PA American Water took over the Saxonburg water lines, the Township is being billed for the 19 existing hydrants in the township. Additional hydrants are being installed on Saxonburg Rd. during the main line construction. Supervisor Cypher would like to look into the 'insurance discount' to property within 780 ft. of each hydrant. Attorney Marshall said the Board has three options: 1) assess all property owners within 780 ft. according to their assessed value; 2) assess property owners within 780 ft. based on the road frontage; or 3) assess everyone in the township for the extra cost for 'hydrant maintenance fees.' No decision at the Aug. 9th meeting.

The Supervisors voted to authorize the '2011 Municipal Obligation Budget of \$11,880.00 for the Jefferson Township Municipal Retirement Pension Plan.' This amount will be used in the upcoming budget.

The Supervisors voted to change the regular meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month to 7:30 P.M. for the remainder of 2010. The change will be advertised.

Major Expenditures since the July 12th meeting through the August 9th meeting:

County of Butler/Parks and Recreation – in and out DCNR grant proceeds	\$36,991.00
Hei-Way, LLC – coldpatch	\$4,435.60
C. W. Howard Ins. Agency – w/c policy 8/1/10-7/31/11	\$6,622.00
Frank B. Taylor Engineering – review fees	\$1,203.75

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 (724-656-3160 – DEP Solid Waste Management Program). 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.

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: jefftwbutlerpa.@zoominternet.net - 352-2324.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday - 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM & Friday mornings - 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Office phone #724-352-2324 Fax #724-352-8850

The Office will be CLOSED from Aug. 26th through Labor Day (Sept. 6th.)

and **CLOSED (Holidays/Vacation):** Sept. 6th, Nov. 25th & 26th, Dec. 24th & 25th & Dec. 30th & 31st.

Other days off/office closures are posted on the door and noted on the answering machine message.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

All meetings listed take place at the municipal building, 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002

Any changes are advertised and posted.

Board of Supervisors - 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. for the remainder of 2010!

James R. Jones, Chairman / Lois J. Rankin, Vice-Chairperson / L. John Cypher (appointed 4/7/10)

Planning Commission - 4th Thursday at 7:30 P.M. (except for AUG. 19th, Nov. 18 & Dec. 16, 2010)

Members: Evelyn Gross (Chair.), Al Maurhoff, Bill Montgomery, Kathryn Foertsch, Harold Riemer, Leo Rosenbauer, Danielle Sedlak, Robert Wetzel, and Robert Williams.

Recreation Board - 1st Wed. at 8 P.M. Feb. to Oct. (no meetings Nov., Dec. & Jan.)

Members: Leo Rosenbauer (Chair.), Wayne Deaner, Viki Nulph, Mike McCarren (Pool), Andy Bozzo (Baseball), Loyal Fredley, Jr. (Softball), and Mike Gore (Soccer.)

TAX COLLECTOR – Ashley Foertsch

Check your tax card for 'hours' at the township building, otherwise

CALL 724-996-2240 to make an appointment!



Jefferson Township Homeowners Transform your home



- Home heating bills too high?
- Need a new furnace? Roof? Windows?

The Jefferson Township Owner Occupied Home Rehabilitation Program provides financial **grants** up to \$10,000.00 to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners to make improvements to their homes along with making the home energy efficient.

Eligibility is based on household income and limited to Jefferson Township homeowners.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUTLER

114 Woody Drive

Butler PA 16001

FOR MORE INFO: 724-287-6797 or 800-433-6327 TDD: 800-545-1833 X 772

www.housingauthority.com



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