





JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

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.)

Recreation Committee

PLEASE NOTE: It was incorrectly reported in the February newsletter that James C. Jones was appointed as the new representative on the committee for the Softball Association. He is actually the new 'President' of the Softball Association. The recreation committee's softball representative is Loyal Fredley.

The recreation committee chairman, Leo Rosenbauer, was unable to report on the March 4th Recreation Committee due to the crowd of people at the March 9, 2009 Supervisor's meeting. The Board adjourned before he could get into the meeting room.

The Softball Tournaments are scheduled for July 17, 18, & 19 and July 24, 25, & 26.
The Baseball Tournaments are as follows:

7 yr. old – no date yet 8 yr. old – June 27 & 28 9 yr. old – June 20 & 21
10 yr. old – July 11 & 12 11 yr. old – July 3, 4, & 5 12 yr. old – June 27 & 28
13 & 14 yr. old – May 23, 24, & 25

Please remember that the Ladies' Auxiliary Picnic Pavilion is available for rent (except during these scheduled tournaments.) There is a non-refundable \$50.00 fee. Rental forms are available at the township office and on-line at www.jeffersonbutler.com

Planning Commission

There was no February Planning Commission meeting, therefore no report was given.

March 9, 2009 Unfinished Business

The second public hearing on the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding was held prior to this meeting at about 3:20 P.M. No one commented during the public hearing. The 2009 CDBG has been designated for housing rehabilitation. The Board proceeded to pass the annual resolutions and the county agreement.

The fuel bids were advertised for opening today. James R. Jones opened the two bids received, which were read by the secretary as follows:

Purvis Brothers

Approx. 10,000 gal. on-road diesel (clear) OPIS + .10 cents – Unit Price \$1.4406 (\$14,406.00)
Approx. 1,000 gal. unleaded gasoline " -- Unit Price \$1.3636 (\$1,363.60)

Glassmere Fuel

Approx. 10,000 gal. on-road diesel (clear) OPIS + constant margin - Unit Price \$1.3267 + .1994
= Unit Price \$1.526 (\$15,261.00)
Approx. 1,000 gal. unleaded gasoline " - Unit Price \$1.3828 + .2994
= Unit Price \$1.682 (\$1,682.20)

The Board tabled the decision until next month's meeting on April 13, 2009.

There was significant and lengthy discussion on the Summit Township proposal to run a sewer line through Jefferson Township from Herman to Saxonburg Area Authority (SAA). Several township residents spoke. Mr. Rich Craft from Olsen and Associates and the Supervisors answered questions as best they could. The following is a summary of the answers.

The proposed sewage line will not be paid for by Jefferson Township or its property owners. It is a Summit Township project. Those whose property the sewer right-of-way (r.o.w.) will go through will be affected as well as those who build new houses within 150 ft. of the installed line or whose septic system malfunctions to the point where it must be replaced and the house is within the 150 ft. distance to the line.

Access to the r.o.w. will generally be for the initial installation and repairs and inspections as needed. It is the practice of SAA to offer \$1 for the r.o.w. from those whose property the proposed line will go, but if refused, the r.o.w. (20 ft.) will be condemned, and fair market value will be paid for the 20 ft. r.o.w.

The proposed project is for the 'main line' only at this time. Any development outside the 150 ft. distance (described in #1) will be between the property owner and the developer. Unless the DEP comes in to mandate sewer, the township will not require tap-in except in regards to the 150 ft. rule (above.)

Summit Township's Board is waiting to hear the decision from the Jefferson Township Supervisors before they proceed to make a decision. Mr. Osche (Summit Township Supervisor) and Mr. Craft said that building a line through Jefferson is more costly up front, but it will be 'more grant worthy' and in the end there will not be overhead expenses for employees and maintenance costs that come with building their own plant/system. The proposed line will cost about \$3.75 million.

If Jefferson allows the sewer line, and Summit proceeds with this option, the Saxonburg Authority Board still must review and approve the plan.

The Township, if mandated by DEP, would *probably* try to connect to SAA, rather than build a system.

Condemnation does not make the whole property unusable. If they have to condemn, it is only the 20 foot right-of-way FOR USE to install the proposed sewer line.

Summit Township's option to try to hook on to Butler Area Sewer Authority (BASA) is the most expensive due to the DEP consent order and a pump station needing upgraded. Whereas, the Jefferson Township proposed line would be by gravity flow.

The new SAA/Penn Township plant was sized for 20+ years and the plan is upgradable.

In regards to the 'mandatory taps' required by Middlesex Township, that is a different scenario. PennVest funding (grants or low-interest loans) would have required the mandatory taps.

PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) intervention within a township is 'complaint driven.'

In regards to the proposed line not being a necessity for Jefferson Township and being a 'help' for Summit Township, that may be true initially, but if in the future DEP mandates sewerage in Jefferson, the fact that the interceptor line is already there, will have saved the township property owners the \$3.7+ million.

The proposed line basically follows Thorn Creek.

SAA's rates are going up some because they have not met their 'anticipated' growth.

The Township would require that roads (affected by the sewer line installation) be put back to the same condition as before the construction.

The current township ordinance would require a tap-in to the proposed line ONLY IF the on-lot system is irreparable (and the dwelling is within 150 ft. of the line.)

Properties with more than one hook-up (like a house and garage) would *probably* have one sewer tap and bill, but those with more than one 'residence' *may* have to have separate taps and bills. But, again, this is subject to the 150 ft. rule. Also, ***this would be a matter to take up with SAA.***

The tap-in fees currently charged by SAA are about \$7,500. This fee has 3 components: 1- physical construction costs, 2-general operations of the plant, and 3-debt service (to pay off the loans needed for the project after any grants have been applied.)

The monthly rate is determined by the operation costs and the debt service (after tap fees have been applied).

Older systems (like BASA) have lower rates than the current SAA rate of about \$57 per month--- it depends on the age of the system. Ideally the rate should go down as or when the debt is paid off. BASA's rates are expected to at least double due to the DEP consent order.

The Township Supervisors have been meeting at 3:30 P.M. on the second Monday of the month for over three years now. It is convenient for the township officials and for surveyors and attorneys, etc. to come for various plan reviews, etc. The number of people attending the 3:30 PM meetings versus the prior 7:30 PM meetings did not really change!

Olsen & Associates and Summit Township will size the pipe for the proposed line big enough for the whole watershed area (which would accommodate possible future expansion.)

The Board of Supervisors will ultimately make the decision as to whether or not to allow Summit Township to install the interceptor line.

Those property owners who must or who want to tap-in to the proposed line would likely pay less tap-in fees if done during construction of the line. Later tap-ins will likely be higher.

The answers to the concerns about ground water depletion and possible well water losses are unknown.

The sewer authority will not necessarily replace or replant trees along the r.o.w. line. SAA will be concerned about replanting trees with large root systems that could interfere with the line. But, SAA has worked with property owners to avoid or 'go around' some structures or other property improvements.

SAA's growth potential has not been met. Mr. Craft said they are at about 40% capacity now. Adding Summit Township will bring it to 50% capacity. After they get to 100%, SAA can double the size of the plant.

In regards to the time frame for the proposed line: after this planning stage, it will take at least one year for the design and about two years for the construction. Then the loan will probably be for 30 years or so.

Rich Craft said his general perception is that BASA is looking only to handle the current customers and satisfy DEP, and not to expand. It is questionable that BASA would be able to accept Summit.

In regards to waiting for a possible future mandate for sewerage from DEP, Mr. Craft noted that PennVest Funding is based on average income and at this point, Summit Township is 'more eligible' for grants.

In regards to the suggestion that Summit Township use the railroad r.o.w. (trail) to hook on to Buffalo Township's system with Winfield Twp., Mr. Craft said they had not looked at that scenario and does not know if it is a viable option. He said they could possibly look at the situation. A sewer line there would be using "Cole Run" not Thorn Creek.

Many expressed that they were 'against' allowing this interceptor sewer line between Herman and Saxonburg Authority. A couple people said they think sewerage is inevitable at some point, but would rather see the township have its own system. About 8 people raised their hand in favor of the proposed sewer line.

The Board made no decision today. Chairman Jones plans to attend the Summit Township meeting on Wed., March 18, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

March 9, 2009 New Business

Saxonburg Borough Council has proposed to have a joint 'trash drop-off day.' (Perhaps in June, but if not, they will schedule for the fall.) The Supervisors made no decision at this meeting.

Miscellaneous from March 9, 2009

Mr. Wally Cypher asked about the old culvert on Fisher Rd. near the Nursery Lane intersection that was replaced several years ago. They have been having water drainage problems and he wanted to know why a smaller pipe was installed. Phil Bachman said the new concrete pipe is the SAME SIZE as the previous culvert. The drainage is likely due to increased water run-off due to development.

Major expenditures between meetings and at the March 9, 2009 meeting:

Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham – certified check/closed lot - Rt.356	\$20,818.50
Saxonburg Area Library – 09 donation	\$6,000.00
Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Dept. – 09 donation	\$8,000.00
Winfield Volunteer Fire Dept. – 09 donation	\$1,600.00
Fischer's Office Products – 2 new regular and 2 new fire file cabinets	\$4,779.20
North American Salt – road salt	\$5,842.30

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.

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.)

NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting is being planned for discussion on the proposed sewer line. The meeting will be held at the AMERICAN LEGION HALL on Rt. 356 on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. This is a public meeting, but the Jefferson Township Officials would especially like to hear from and urge all property owners whose property abuts Thorn Creek from Summit Township (Headland Rd.) to Dinnerbell Rd. in Jefferson Township to attend!!!

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



