



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

April 2023

NEWSLETTER

"ANNOUNCEMENTS" are at the end of the Newsletter!

Road Foreman's Report

Chairman John Cypher noted receipt of the 'draft' Projected Equipment purchase/replacement list for 2023 through 2033 provided by the Road Foreman. The Supervisors and Manager will review it and add data on storage and buildings. Chairman Cypher read the road report as follows:

- Snow Fence is down and stored as of March 27, 2023. The salt spreaders will be removed from the trucks this week. 800+ tons of crushed concrete and 302.49 tons of 2A limestone were delivered to the township.
- The CAT backhoe was sent to Cleveland Brothers (Cranberry Township) for a 2000-hour 'full' service and to have the turn signals and 4-way flashers repaired. After it was returned and used several times the right rear tire showed signs of broken belts and dry rot, so all four tires were replaced. The backhoe is 16 years old, and this is the first time it was sent out for service work.
- A variety of drainage pipes have been delivered to the township. Five pallets of crack seal material have also been purchased for this year's road projects and maintenance.
- The lift cables for all three overhead doors (total of 6) for the garage at the rear of the office building were replaced.
- On March 22nd the Road Crew handled the traffic control for tree trimming on Marwood Rd.
- There were several callouts for tree removal and damaged signs on various roads throughout the township from the past couple of storms. A thank you was received from Mrs. Lynn on Blakely Rd. and Evie Gross also thanked the Road Crew for their job well done on Great Belt Rd.
- The Road Crew plans to finish the pipe repairs on Mushrush Rd. this week; and another pipe repair on Caldwell Rd. will need to be done. The Road Crew hopes to clean ditch lines out in the next few weeks on all roads that are to be sealed this year. Both the trac-loader and the grader will be used. The Roadcrew has been sweeping and cleaning all intersections and various roads that need it. Blakely Rd. also needs ditching but may be a bit more difficult; plus a pipe project on the western end to the Bullcreek Rd. intersection. The road crew is in the process of installing "Jefferson Township" on all Township roads entering at the Township lines.
- There has been a slight stone loss on Patterson Rd.; Russell Standard has agreed to re-fog the whole road under warranty if the Township sweeps it and does traffic control. The road will have to be closed for about 45 minutes following this application!
- It was discussed and agreed that the Board will not ride along on a road inspection with the road foreman since the Township is doing only a sealing project and some crack sealing this summer.

The Township Manager added the following report:

- He was contacted by Marci Mustello's office due to a call from a constituent regarding the Bonniebrook Rd./Great Belt Rd. intersection. He noted that several months ago following discussions on the intersection, he contacted LTAP to look into any studies on the lighted stop signs. He just received some information, which he distributed to the Board. The reports indicate that there is no proof that the lighted signs work. He said there may be other options to mark the intersection. He provided the options from LTAP for the Board to review and consider. He recommended that the Board make a final vote on the matter in the near future. He said there may be other options to mark the intersection.

- The Manager noted that the Road Crew watched a ‘winter maintenance webinar’ presented by LTAP. The Township contributed to this webinar and were highlighted several times.

Recreation Committee

Brian Patten, Recreation Chairman was not present at the April 10th meeting and the secretary had not received any minutes from their April 5th Recreation Meeting. Therefore there was no report this evening. The manager reported that Vogel Disposal was notified of the dumpster schedule. The Pool had some burst pipes in their building. Lois Rankin said she contacted Senator Hutchinson’s and Representative Mustello’s offices for letters of support for the DCED grant to use to match funds from DCNR. The manager reported that a representative from Insight Pipe was asked to stop by the pool regarding possible pipe lining. Greg Bauer was there at the time and was told that they would need to ‘camera’ the pipe(s). The pool has been drained anticipating this work. John Cypher reported that he also contacted several people for support letters. POOL: . www.sebcopool.com SOFTBALL: Softball: www.sagsa.info. SOCCER: Soccer: www.knochsoccer.org BASEBALL: Baseball: www.saxonburgbaseball.com

Planning Commission

Leo Rosenbauer, P.C. Chair., reported on the March 20, 2023 Planning Commission meeting. A modification request was submitted by the property owners at 106 Hamme Lane requesting to install an inground pool on the adjacent lot they have next to their dwelling lot. The house on the east lot with the septic system is 0.511 acre. The garage on the west lot with the water well is 0.523 acre. They have no plans to take the property line out due to cost; but also have no plans to divide or sell. They do not want to have the pool too close to their house. After some discussion the P.C. voted to recommend approval of a 5 ft. modification to Shannon & Ronald Callen (a 20 ft. side set-back on the east side of the lot next to their own adjacent dwelling lot, instead of the requested 15 ft. side set-back) and with the west side setback being the required 25 ft. After reviewing the information this evening, the Supervisors voted to approve the 5 ft. modification (for a 20 ft. side set-back on the east side of the Callen’s lot next to their own adjacent dwelling lot; the west side set-back to be the required 25 ft.

The AVAS (Austin’s Place) Land Development’ at 447 Dinnerbell Rd. was presented to the P.C. on 3/20/23. The site for the proposed new facility is a flag lot of approximately ten acres. There will be a new driveway which will require an HOP from PennDOT, the building, parking, and stormwater management. The building will have a finished basement with access to the yard. There will be an indoor pool and a gym for various activities. The P.C. reviewed the comments in the township engineer’s (HRG, Inc.) letter dated March 17, 2023.

Mr. Josephs, an adjacent neighbor on the east side of the flag lots driveway ‘pole’, expressed his concerns on the proposed driveway as he considers it to be ‘high volume’ as it is access for a commercial facility. He would like to see some kind of living barrier (trees/shrubs) for sound, dust and headlight control as his playset is approximately thirty feet from the property line. It was explained that there is no language in the ordinance to ‘require’ landscaping or living barriers. Mr. Wilczynski stated ‘if any landscaping is done will depend on the budget’ but acknowledges Mr. Josephs’ request.

The P.C. voted to recommend preliminary and final approval of the AVAS Enterprises (Austin’s Place) Land Development contingent upon meeting the requirements in the HRG review letter dated 3/17/23.

This evening, 4/10/23, Mr. Maher was present to give an overview of the land development to the Supervisors. After some discussion, the Board agreed that the Township ordinances do not require Austin’s Place to do any buffer planting. They said planting or fencing is always an option for Mr. Josephs. The Supervisors voted to give preliminary and final approval of the AVAS Enterprises (Austin’s Plan) Land Development contingent upon: 1) the execution and recording of the Operations and Maintenance agreement; 2) receipt of the PennDOT HOP for the new driveway; 3) approved NPDES Permit; 4) Stormwater Easements (#4 of HRG’s review letter) for the wet pond and storm water; and 5) final satisfactory review from HRG, Inc.

The only matter discussed by the P.C. was to make sure our ordinance (Chap. 22-1012 2A) matches current DEP regulations (Title 25, Chap. 102) in regard to ‘earthmoving activity that affects ONE or more acres of land’. Leo explained that our ordinance sites the old... ‘FIVE acres or more’ regulation instead of the

'ONE or more acres'. We also received a letter from Kim Yeakle suggesting we deny permits to property owners that fail to get the required permit.

It was noted that the township attorney and the Supervisors reviewed the False Alarm Ordinance. We expect to authorize advertisement soon for the adoption of the said ordinance pending the Solicitor providing a standard reporting letter to be issued by SVFC.

Leo Rosenbauer asked the P.C. members if they would be willing to have a separate 'workshop' to discuss revision of township ordinances so as not to extend regular business meetings. They were in favor of something starting at 6 PM for 1 ½ to 2 hours. Mr. Rosenbauer is checking with the attorney.

The Planning Commission's "Unfinished Business" were the Chick Plan and the S. Sell Plan, which were reviewed at the Feb. 20, 2023 P.C. meeting. Both were recommended for approval with contingencies to the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors tabled their decision at the March 13, 2023 meeting at the request of their surveyor (Steve Graff). Tonight, April 10, 2023, is the last meeting of the Board prior to the 90-day expiration date (4/20/23). There being no revised submissions and no written extension request, the Supervisors voted to deny the S. Sell Plan for failure to submit an adequate plan subsequent the P.C. review on Feb. 20, 2023. The Supervisors then voted to deny the Chick Plan #3 for failure to submit an adequate plan after the P.C. review on Feb. 20, 2023.

April 10, 2023 Unfinished Business.

Two Bids received were delivered in person by company representatives by 2 PM.

1) Youngblood Paving, Inc. - Total \$335,344.34 - Bid Bond submitted and 2) Russell Standard Corp. - Total \$274,508.69 - Bid Bond submitted. It was noted: Bids advertised for receipt at 2 PM. Both held for opening during the regular meeting tonight at 7 PM - 4/10/23. Both bidders included their bid bonds and both bidders included a copy of the 'Addendum Notice' dated 4/6/23 and the revised "Additional Special Provisions" which added "Approved slag aggregate from Bulletin 14 shall be used for the seal coat process." After discussion, the Supervisors voted to award the seal coat bid to the apparent lowest, qualified, bidder, Russell Standard Corporation for the total of \$274,508.69 contingent upon review by the Township Attorney.

The low bid for the 'existing' restroom project came in at \$129,969.00. We have already designated \$88,640 from the 2020 CDBG activity funds, so we need to take additional funds from the 2020 CBDG admin. funds (\$12,750.97). Then an additional funds (\$28,578.03 more or less) from the 2021 CBDG activity funds, which requires a 'change order'. The Redevelopment Authority has given their approval to reallocating these funds from housing rehab. since the 2022 CDBG has been designated for housing rehab. The Supervisors voted to authorize the change order and sign the Amended Cooperation Agreement with Butler County and the Redevelopment Authority.

Fantastic News! Representative Marci Mustello contacted the Manager to notify the Township that the DCED grant for \$118,000.00 for the two new restroom units at the park was approved. The Manager suggested that a 'thank you' be sent; the Supervisors voted to do so.

Butler County Park and Recreation Dept. has awarded the County Renovation Grant per our application for additional work on the 'Ladies' Pavilion.' The project is estimated at \$19,200. The county will fund \$7,500.00 (max. amount) and the Township will pay the remainder. The agreement is to be signed by the chairman and one copy returned to Lance Welliver, Butler Co. Parks Director.

The Attorney is still reviewing the Intergovernmental Emergency Cooperation' agreement (ordinance vs. resolution) for the shared EMC. The Supervisors voted to authorize advertisement IF an ordinance is required and our current one (#377) needs amended

The Manager noted that he 'tentatively; has someone lined up to open and stock the restroom and empty trash this summer for pavilion rentals. He suggested an increase per trip from \$20.00 to \$25.00 to allow for rising fuel prices. The Supervisors voted to approve the \$25.00 per trip (no mileage reimbursement) for this position.

The Manager said LTAP can do a speed study on Bullcreek Rd. (at no cost to the township.) Does the Board want to proceed with this study to confirm the speed limit needed on Bullcreek Rd. The Supervisors voted to proceed.

The Manager reported that the Appeals Board continued the Knoch School District hearing on March 22, 2023. They decided to make them adhere to the PA UCC regulations and **no** variance was granted.

April 10, 2023 New Business

The first of two public hearings on the CDBG funds was held just prior to the meeting tonight. Wendy Leslie inquired, and it was noted that no public input was received by the township office. The funding is to benefit low to moderate income families or projects. The 2023 figures are not in yet but should be similar to last year's (\$88,635 project/\$19,377 admin.; the 2022 total was \$108,012.) She will let us know the allocation amounts when she is notified. The Supervisors need to decide in the next few months if there is a project for the 2023 funding or if they will be designated to housing rehab.

Public Comment & Miscellaneous Business – April 10, 2023

The Supervisors voted to authorize Township Officials to attend the BCATO Spring Convention on Thurs., May 18, 2023 and pay the registration and mileage reimbursement. Those eligible if they wish to attend: Supervisors, Tax Collector, Auditors, Planning Commission members, the Manager, and the Sec/Treas.

Notice was Received from Moody & Associates re: PennEnergy's application to DEP for 'permit to drill and operate one unconventional well' in Clinton Township off Sarver Road.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that a Pension Audit was completed by the Dept. of the Auditor General. A copy of the audit will be kept on file at the office.

Leo Rosenbauer reported that sadly, our newest appointee to the Planning Commission, Jim Vadnal, passed away this past week. A sympathy card passed around to be signed before mailing it. The P.C. will plan to discuss a new appointee to fill the now vacant position.

Major Expenditures since the March 13th meeting through April 10, 2023

Teamsters #261 & Health & Welfare – May 2023 premium	\$ 5,404.21
Stephenson's Tree & Landscaping Service – per contact 1/3/23 tree trimming	\$12,180.00
Cleveland Brothers Equipment – CAT service	\$ 3,083.00
Skander Tire Service – tires/tire change – CAT	\$ 2,644.00
Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham – legal Feb. 2023	\$ 2,778.75
U. S. Municipal – sign blanks/bolts and speed limit signs	\$ 2,277.00
Butler County Assessment Office – 2023 local tax processing	\$ 2,353.17
From ARPA – Allegheny Mineral Corp. – 2A limestone	\$ 6,372.87
From ARPA – Interstate Pipe & Supply – perf. pipe, etc.	\$10,194.50
From ARPA – John W. Thrower, Inc. – crushed concrete	\$11,803.44

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

REGULAR HOURS: Monday through Thursday - 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM (CLOSED on Fridays.)

Office phone #724-352-2324 - Fax #724-352-8850 Manager: Leo Rosenbauer Sec/Treas.: Lois Fennell

Holidays, Vacation, & other days off/office closures are posted on the door.

ANY QUESTIONS: email or call: jefftwbutlerpa@zoominternet.net – 724-352-2324

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors – 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. (except Jan.)

L. John Cypher, Chairman Lois Rankin, Vice-Chair. Braden Beblo, Supervisor

Planning Commission – 3rd Monday at 7:00 P.M.

Members: Leo Rosenbauer (Chair.), Evelyn Gross, James Vadnal, James Jones, Brian Noah (Vice-Chair.), Martha Fleming (Secretary), Robert Williams, Dan Driscoll, and Bernie Shulik. Robert Wetzel is alternate P.C. member.

Recreation Board – 1st Wednesday at 8 P.M. Feb. to Oct. (No meetings Nov., Dec. & Jan.)

Members: Brian Patten (Chair.), Roger Cypher, Kristi Wise, Greg Bauer (Pool), Jamie McSwaney (Baseball), James C. Jones (Softball), and Chris Tully (Soccer)

Location for all meetings listed: 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002 - Any changes are advertised and posted.

Please see websites for the park associations under 'Recreation Committee' above.

REAL ESTATE /PER CAPITA TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector Nadine Grabe, 245 Heller Rd, Butler, PA 16002 - 724-352-3288

Pay by mail or call for an appointment. Never leave unstamped envelopes in the Tax Collector's personal mailbox. There is a secure payment drop box located on the porch.

SPRING TAX HOURS: March 7 - April 18, 19, & 20 - April 25, 26, & 27 - Hours 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM

OFFICE CLOSED – May 26 through June 5, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS ↓↓

⇒ **NOTICE:** Jefferson Township's responsibility during & following storms and excessive rain events is to clear and protect the Township rights-of-way. The Township is NOT authorized to clean-up any private property; the only exception would be for Emergency access for 9-1-1 responders! It is also not legal for property owners to place any storm/rain/wind debris from their property along the township road rights-of-way.

⇒ **THIS SEASON, when MOWING** your grass, 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 and 'you' could be held responsible.

⇒ **NOTICE: 2023 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS "recycling events"**
Butler County has just received DEP collection permit approval to hold its 2023 Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics collection events for our county residents as follows:

- May 13 at 207 Ash Stop Road, Evans City (Forward Township)
- July 15 at 191 Election House Road, Prospect (Franklin Township)
- September 2 at 157 Airport Road, Butler (Penn Township)
- November 11 at 690 Valencia Road, Mars (Adams Township)

Residents will be required to pre-register to attend these events and are scheduled for an approximate arrival time which helps to keep attendees from waiting in long lines. The Noble Environmental web site can be found here: <https://nobleenviro.com/> or they can call 412-567-6566. At the top of the web page, click on "Ewaste and HHW Collections" to find the registration page and details about attending an event. Please note that only cards are accepted for payment. Cash and checks are not accepted.

⇒ **Jefferson Township Burning Ordinance**

The Township Burning Ordinance limits burning of 'ordinary' (domestic) waste materials (paper, cartons, boxes, yard waste, wood, and other similar items) by residents to 'dawn to dusk'; see *on-line ordinance for excluded items*.

PLEASE use common sense! Many items that cannot be burned can be recycled. All fires are to be completely extinguished before leaving unattended. Recreational fires are permitted by Ordinance #459 (Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances.) PLEASE be considerate of your neighbors and do NOT permit leaves and other 'allowed' materials to be left smoldering after dusk.

ALL COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL BUSINESSES, NON-RESIDENTIAL and MULTI-FAMILY are PROHIBITED from ANY burning at ANY time per the Dept. of Environmental Protection.

⇒ **NEED HELP during COVID19: Call** (dial) 2-1-1 for help or **Contact** one of the 'community resources' below:

- **Food For Kids** Program information: <https://files.constantcontact.com/5061598a001/e62a6eb1-16b1-48d2-ad5c-349fc68f4395.pdf>
- **Food Bank** Information: <https://files.constantcontact.com/5061598a001/2d7ca64b-ee3d-4b4f-8ad9-45aa6cc125a3.pdf>
- **Link for Butler County Food Bank donations:** <https://anrinfo.org/product/butler-county-food-bank-donation/>
- **Butler County Health and Human Services** Resources are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week at, <http://pa211sw.org/> or by calling 211.

- **The Center for Community Resources** is also available 24 hours a day 7 days a week at (855)-284-2494. You can also chat with them at their website, <https://ccrinfo.org/>
- **24 Hour Crisis Services Local Hotline** (800) 292-3866
- **United Way of Butler County** – Check with them for help, but also to give donations that will help Butler County citizens. 724-283-4883 <https://www.butlerunitedway.org/butler-county-emergency-relief-initiative-beri>



PA AMERICAN WATER – ‘WaterSource’

LIHWAP – Low Income Household Water Assistance Program – contact www.compass.state.pa.us or request an application by calling the Dept. of Human Services Customer Service at 877-395-8930 (or for the hearing impaired call PA Relay at 711).

PA AMERICAN WATER – ‘Help Us Get the Lead Out’

At Pennsylvania American Water, providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable water service is a foundation for healthy communities and our company's our top priority. **Although we do not have a problem with lead service lines or lead levels in water, we believe that removing the risk of customer-side lead service lines over time is the right thing to do for the health, safety and peace of mind of our customers.** For this reason, we developed and launched a program with the goal of replacing all customer-side lead service lines. **If the customer-owned portion of your service line is made of lead, we'd like to work with you to replace it at no direct cost to you.** Under a signed agreement with each customer, Pennsylvania American Water will perform the work, cover the cost, and provide a 2-year warranty, and the customer will retain ownership of the new water service line once installed. Read more about how the program works. Call 877-201-7926.



DON Housing Department

USDA Access & Rehabilitation Program for Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer & Westmoreland Counties.

This grant provides needed repairs and renovations for homeowners with very low to low income whose primary residences are located in a USDA eligible area. Funds awarded through an application process on a first come, first served basis. To find out more, go to www.doninc.org/HPP or phone 724-652-5144 (for hearing impaired TTY/VP: 724-652-5152). *The Township has NO involvement in the grants or processing of the applications!*

Do you live in Jefferson Township?
You may be eligible to have your windows, furnace, roof or more replaced!



Don't miss your chance to make some home improvements before the cold weather hits!

The Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program assists homeowners in renovating their homes!

APPLY TODAY:
financial grants up to \$12,500 to assist eligible low to moderate income homeowners with home improvements including making your home more Energy Efficient. Also, if applicable, an additional \$2,500 is available to make handicap accessibility modifications to your home.

Call, Stop-in, or Email:
Redevelopment Authority County of Butler
114 Woody Drive □ Butler, PA 16001
724.287.6797/1.800.433.6327/TDD: 1.800.545.1833 x772




www.housingauthority.com