



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

"ANNOUNCEMENTS" are at the end of the Newsletter!

Organization & Appointments - Jan. 3, 2023

As required by state law, all municipalities must hold their organization meeting on the first Monday of the year unless it is a holiday. The Jefferson Township Organization meeting was held on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023 followed immediately by the regular meeting *as advertised*.

The Supervisors voted to appoint L. John Cypher as Chairperson and to appoint Lois J. Rankin as Vice-Chairman. Other Township officials were appointed or re-appointed *as follows*: Lois J. Fennell, Township Secretary/Treasurer and Planning Commission Clerk; Code.sys™ Code Consulting, Inc. as the building inspectors (including electric) for all permits under the PAUCC (residential, commercial & industrial) and BCO for all permits under the PAUCC with Dave McGuigan as our primary contact and BCO (building code officer); Leo J. Rosenbauer, Township Manager, Codes Enforcement Officer, Building Permit/Site Inspector, Stormwater Manager, Flood Plain Administrator, and Open Records Officer; Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Dept. as fire marshal; Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham as solicitors with Matt Marshall as our primary contact; Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, Inc. as the Township Engineers with Rob Arnold as our primary contact; Dennis Sybert as the dog control officer; C. J. (Willard) Burns as the emergency management coordinator; Eric Butler as the assistant emergency management coordinator; Keith Bachman, Kevin Miller, Clinton Bonetti were reappointed as members to the Appeals Board; Ed Kosinski as alternate Appeals Board Member for 2023 (subject to his acceptance); and TJB Consulting (Tammy Boice) was re-appointed as our 'webmaster' for 2023. Roger Cypher was re-appointed to the Recreation Committee for another 3-yr. term 2023, 2024, & 2025. Lois J. Fennell was re-appointed as primary delegate and Erma Mowry as alternate delegate to the Butler Co. Tax Collection Committee; and Lois Rankin was re-appointed as the representative to the Butler Co. Association of Township Officials. Doug Duncan was re-appointed as primary sewage enforcement officer (new fee schedule to be adopted this evening) and Collin Fantaskey was appointed as 1st alternate sewage officer and Patrick West was appointed as 2nd alternate sewage office. Evie Gross and Bernie Shulik were re-appointed to serve 4 years (2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026). Jim Vadnal was appointed for the same 4-year term (in the place of retiring member Kay Foertsch.) The 'elected' auditors will meet only to set the 'working supervisors' pay'. Evie Gross was appointed as 'vacancy board member'.

Other decisions at the re-organization meeting included: re-appointment of the cleaning person (Lois Rankin - working-supervisor); keeping First Commonwealth Bank as our primary depository plus a CD at Nextier and savings accounts at PA Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT); authorizing supervisors, secretary/treasurer and manager to attend the annual state convention in Hershey (if they so desire) and pay the usual expenses (Supervisor Lois Rankin was appointed the voting delegate); setting the mileage reimbursement at going IRS rate (\$.655 cents per mile); setting the treasurer's bond at \$800,000.00 (the manager's at \$650,000.00); and setting the monthly meetings on the second Monday monthly at 7:00 P.M. except Jan. 3, 2023.

The Supervisors set manager's salary (by Resolution #500) at \$66,000.00 for 2023 with all benefits. The Supervisors set the Sec/Treas. salary at \$25,482.60 for 2023. Union Employees received increases per the union contract. Later in the meeting (under Misc. Business) the Supervisors approved Brian Turner's probation completion date on 1/28/23; pay rate for subsequent to CDL licensing (12/21/22) to the completion date of 1/28/23 at \$21.00. Rate will be adjusted later according to the union contract.

Road Foreman's Report

Chairman Cypher reported on the 'Road Report', but first expressed his gratitude for the 'job well done' by the foreman and road crew over "Christmas weekend winter storm."

The foreman reported that winter storm Elliott was a challenge, but they make it through with a few bumps and bruises – i.e. wet conditions, falling temperatures, high winds, drifting snow, truck maintenance problems (2017 Mack and 2015 Ford F550), plus a malfunction of the garage door opener which resulted in damages.

The snow fence along Fisher Rd. across from Nowicki Lane may need more fence added to it, as the drift was covering part of one of the lanes. Traffic has to be blocked with the F550 while the three large trucks worked to plow the drift. This happened on two different occasions over the holidays.

Three signs had to be fixed and tree limbs were cleaned up as time allowed. All the trucks and equipment used will be washed, greased, and looked over to get ready for the next snow event. All the building floors and drains will be cleaned as well.

The totals for this year to date: salt used – 420 ton and anti-skid used – 100 ton. 400 tons of salt will be ordered this week to replenish the stockpile.

The 2023 Mack is built and ‘waiting’ for correct wheels and tires. It is hoped that the truck will be shipped to the body company (Super City) within the week. The road foreman is pushing for a prebuilding meeting at Super City as soon as possible.

John Cypher asked if the road department should consider the reclaimed crushed cement available at Throwers. The Supervisors would like to have a price and the foreman needs to inspect the quality of the material.

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Board does not meet in November, December, or January; therefore there was no meeting report for this evening. Lois Rankin asked if any progress has been made on finding funding for the pool renovations needed. Leo Rosenbauer wants to set up a meeting with Senator Scott Hutchinson and Representative Marci Mustello regarding a new source, which would need their ‘support’ for approval.

Baseball: www.saxonburgbaseball.com Pool: www.sebcopool.com Softball: www.sagsa.info.
Soccer: www.knochsoccer.org

Planning Commission

Leo J. Rosenbauer, III, reported on the Dec. 19, 2022 Planning Commission meeting. They discussed the ‘proposed’ false fire alarm ordinance and would like an informal meeting with a fire dept. representative before they make any recommendations. John Cypher suggested preparing a ‘list of questions’ (whether regarding their budget or vehicle expense maintenance, etc.). In the meantime, he will make some phone calls about their availability to meet (with a small group of P.C. members and a Supervisor.)

Katina Degreen attended the P.C. meeting to request an ordinance on chickens. The P.C. would like the Supervisors to look into a sample regulation, but this evening, the Supervisors did not agree since we are a rural, farming, community.

The township received calls about ‘solar farms.’ The P.C. agreed with the Supervisors and are not interested in a separate ordinance for ‘solar farms’, since any facility would be subject to our Subdivision and Land Development ordinance regulations.

The P.C. reviewed two letters of interest received for the position on the P.C. being vacated by Kay Foertsch. They recommended appointment of Jim Vadnal. He was appointed earlier this evening at the Jan. 3, 2023 meeting.

The P.C. looked at the lot size and frontage of lots (multiple lot sizes and configuration sketches presented by Brian Noah) and voted to recommend that the minimum lots size should increase to 2 acres (for on-lot septic) and the frontage should increase from 125 ft. to perhaps 200 ft. The Supervisors’ said this makes good sense as this will make sufficient room for the on-lot septic and alternate sites and allow for ‘larger houses and number of out-buildings that seem to be in demand currently. No action to be taken until the P.C. finishes review of SALDO and other ordinances for amendment.

January 3, 2023 Unfinished Business

John Cypher noted that he spoke with PennDOT regarding the Bonniebrook/Great Belt Road intersection signage. He was told that ‘no study’ has been done to evaluate safety of, nor a report prepared on ‘less or more accidents’ for flashing stop signs placed elsewhere. There is no real support of this type of sign and the bottom line is that there is ‘no science’ to prove it as a benefit.’

January 3, 2023 New Business

The Supervisors voted to adopt the revised Professional Services Fee Resolution #502 as presented.

The Supervisors voted to adopt the revised Sewage Fee Resolution #501.

The Supervisors voted to adopt the revised Jefferson Township Fee Resolution #503 as presented with reference to the revised Professional Fee Resolution #502 above and the Sewage Fee Resolution #501.

The Supervisors voted to authorize adoption of Resolution #504 for the Butler County Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF) or (MIP – municipal infrastructure project funds)

The Supervisors voted to authorize sending the Delinquent Per Capita list from 2022 to Sharp Collections, *when received* from the tax collector.

Public Comment & Miscellaneous Business – January 3, 2023

The Supervisors voted to add an agenda item to discuss Pension Joinder amendment needed.

The Supervisors voted to add another agenda item to discuss ending date of probation and wage rate for new road employee Brian Turner.

The manager reported the union contract requires that the employee under probation does not receive pension fund benefit until the date of probation is completed. This was proposed to be done in Jan. 2021 (effective 1/5/21) but the proposed change and resolution were never received by the Township. So, in order to amend the pension joinder agreement, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #505 to amend the PSAT MRT “Money Purchase Plan Joinder Agreement” for Jefferson Township Employees’ Pension Plan.

The Supervisors were asked by the foreman to approve the ‘completion of Brian Turner’s probationary period’ on 1/28/23 and authorize a raise. After some discussion, the Supervisors voted to set his hourly rate at \$21.00 from CDL license issuance to probation completion (12/21/22 to 1/28/23).

The Supervisors voted to approve Brian Turner’s completion date and consider him to be full-time with benefits as of 1/29/23. Discussion and decision on any wage increase for Brian Turner ‘after 1/28/23’ will take place at a later date.

Major Expenditures since the Dec. 12th meeting through Jan. 3, 2023

Code.sys Code Consulting, Inc. – inspections Nov. 2022	\$ 1,067.16
Russell Standard Corp. – polymer rejuvenator	\$25,439.40
Teamsters #261 Health & Welfare – Feb. 2023 health ins. prem.	\$ 5,404.21
James D. Miller & Sons – renovation of 2 park pavilions	\$19,317.00
Herbert, Rowland, & Grubic, Inc. – review of land dev./subdiv. Plans	\$ 1,785.00
Purvis Brothers, Inc. – gas and diesel	\$ 2,648.07
Peoples Gas Company – 11/23-12/27/22 service	\$ 1,009.87

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 Wetzal 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 McSwainey (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.

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ↓↓

⇒ **During the upcoming WINTER months**, as per the Township Ordinances, NO ONE is to park on the cul-de-sacs or any public road or right of way so that the road can easily be cleaned of snow. Please DO NOT PUSH SNOW ONTO THE ROADS when plowing your driveway. Should this cause an accident, you could be named in a claim or lawsuit. In addition, this is a reminder that the Township is NOT responsible for replacing or repairing mailboxes damaged during the plowing/salting process. Mailbox installation guidelines are available at the USPS website - "Regulations for Installing a Mailbox."

Also, residents living along the Butler-Freeport Community Trail are asked to be considerate when plowing snow from their property. Some residents are plowing snow onto the trail and in front of the gates, which blocks emergency vehicle access. If there would be an emergency, Emergency Services / 1st Responders would have difficulty getting to the scene.

⇒ **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.

⇒ **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>



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.



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).



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


