



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

May 2023

NEWSLETTER

"ANNOUNCEMENTS" are at the end of the Newsletter!

Road Foreman's Report

Chairman Cypher read the road report as follows:

Concrete pipes on Mushrush and Caldwell have been repaired and reset. A large dead tree and stump was removed off the right-of-way at 170 Hannahstown Rd. and a culvert outlet was tail ditched so the culvert will not plug up. The road crew pulled the shoulders back on Bullcreek (north of Mushrush), Blakely, Mushrush, Green Manor, Fisher, Knoch, Simon, Golden City and O'Hara by using the grader and Athey. The trac-loader and berming bucket were used on Rancindin, Cobham, Whitaker, and Charlemagne. The majority of the reclaim soil was used along Bullcreek, Fisher, and O'Hara to stabilize steep embankments. All the roads to be sealed this year have been broomed and cleaned and the road crew will continue to try to keep them that way. Crack sealing will start in the next few weeks. The roads scheduled to be sealed will be done first. The first mowing of the Township rights-of-ways will start mid-May. The 2023 Mack truck has been delivered; Jefferson Township decals have been installed already. They are preparing to have it undercoated at Ziebart. Stephenson Equipment would like to use it for display at their open house on May 25th. The road foreman will schedule an appointment to have a 2-way radio installed in the next couple of weeks. Siegworth has some parts on back-order for the new boom mower. They hope to have it in time for the first mowing this month. Sticks at the park have been picked-up again and the first grass mowing was April 27th. During the wet weather, the road crew worked in the shop and did a 'sweep' of the Township to inspect pipes and plan to do repairs over the next few months as time allows. John Cypher thanked the road crew for their diligent hard work!

The Township Manager added the following: The DEP contacted the Township regarding a burning complaint. He has forwarded a corrective deed for the park for the DCNR grant to the DCNR for review. The CDBG grant for the existing restrooms requires a pre-construction meeting before the work commences in late August 2023. The DCED grant for the two new restrooms is in progress. He asked the board to think about replacement of the 'cover' on the salt storage bin. It is 15 years old and may last another couple of years. The cost at this time would be between \$5,000 and \$6,000. They would like to know if there is a warranty on the new cover. They agreed the matter should be discussed at the June 12th meeting. He received a call from a person interested in a property, but next door is a dilapidated house and he asked what the township could do about it. The Supervisors noted that there are no ordinances that apply to this situation. Supervisor Rankin inquired and the manager responded that he has been discussing the Creek Road project (using Dirt & Gravel Road grant funding) with Mr. Harr from the Conservation District. He will be contacting Mr. Joe Markus regarding his driveway for this project.

Recreation Committee

Brian Patten, Recreation Board Chairman, presented the Recreation Committee's minutes for their April 5, 2023 and May 3, 2023 meetings. **Pool:** www.sebcopool.com The pool cover is off and stored at the township. The pool has been cleaned and will be sealed before it is filled. The Township contracted a company to camera the main pipe (under the pool.) It was revealed there is a softball size soft spot, possibly a source of the water loss. The Township Manager noted that the pipe goes from 6 inch to 4 inch and the company could not complete the camera scan all the way through because of the pipe reduction. This data will be reviewed. Opening day is set for Sat., May 27, 2023. They are still looking for lifeguards. Opening times may be later on Tues. through Friday until school is out. **Baseball:** www.saxonburgbaseball.com No report

for April. Opening day for the younger ages is set for May 6th. Older groups will begin later. They have about 230 players registered for the in-house season. They are planning a Pig Roast/Community Day for June 3rd, which will include their annual "All Abilities Game." 2023 Tournament dates: 5/19-21, 6/9-11, 7/13-16, 7/20-24, and 7/28-30. **Softball:** www.sagsa.org They have requested that the township look at the dying or dead oak tree at the intersection of the walking trail and softball fields 4 & 5. They are looking at rehabbing/replacing their dugouts and repairs/modifications to their backstops. Their annual tournament is August 4, 5, and 6 this year. **Soccer:** www.knochsoccer.org Opening weekend is April 15/16, and the season ends June 11th this year. They have requested that the township clean up around the fence since the storms in April. No report for May. **Misc.:** Mrs. Patten and daughter will be planting flowers at the two park entrances this spring. The Supervisors discussed pool renovation costs; local funds needed after the DCNR Grant (has been awarded) and the DCED grant that we hope to get (in application stage) and if the pool association can contribute toward the costs. The Supervisors requested that the pool representative come to the meeting next month to discuss the matter. The Township Manager mentioned something he read about forming a 501(C) organization to be able to take donations (that would be tax-free to donors.) This option will be reviewed.

The Supervisors voted to appoint Brad Emsurak as the new Soccer Association Representative, replacing Chris Tully.

Planning Commission

Leo Rosenbauer, P.C. Chair., reported on the April 17, 2023 Planning Commission meeting. Property owners at 277 Bonniebrook Rd., submitted a modification application. They want to build a 28' x 32' residential garage behind the existing house with a new (2nd) driveway. A modification would be needed for this additional driveway. Leo Rosenbauer noted that the property owners would not be allowed to 'back out of the proposed driveway' so a turn-around beside the garage would be needed and there is a probable lack of site distance and they may need to remove (or trim vegetation) trees to secure the site distance required by the ordinances (see Chap. 21-305-C and Chap 22 Attachment 12-2 for diagram.) There was lengthy discussion with the property owners. They said they would prefer to build the garage in the back yard, apply for a modification for the second driveway, and remove trees to get the site distance needed. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the second driveway modification requested by the property owners for the proposed residential garage contingent upon 1) staking of and submission of sketch for the location of the driveway; 2) show on the site plan the turn-around needed; 3) verify location of the trees if on their property only; and 4) removal of trees and/or vegetation to provide adequate site distance onto Rennick Rd. The adequacy of the site distance still needs to be confirmed by the township manager, which needs to be done before the building permit can be issued. After a lengthy discussion about possible alternate solutions in which the owner refused, the Supervisors voted to approve the second driveway modification, as requested for their proposed residential garage, in order to alleviate the existing driveway access issue onto Rennick Road with the same contingencies: 1) staking of and submission of sketch for the location of the driveway; 2) show on the site plan the turn-around needed; 3) verify location of the trees if on their property only; and 4) removal of trees and/or vegetation to provide adequate site distance onto Rennick Rd. (adequacy to be confirmed.)

The property owner at 354 Bullcreek Rd., submitted a 'Temporary Dwelling Application' to place a double-wide mobile home on his property for his mother-in-law. He understands that the mobile home (double wide) cannot be on a foundation; that it must be removed when the designated family occupant is no longer living there; and that this hardship permit must be renewed annually. The P.C. voted to recommend approval of the Temporary Dwelling Application for 354 Bullcreek Rd. contingent upon septic review and verification by the SEO and *subject to* approval by the Board of Supervisors and application/issuance of the actual building permit for the mobile home. The Supervisors voted to approve the 'temporary dwelling application' as requested contingent upon "Septic Conditions" form being notarized and subject to annual renewal following the initial building permit application and issuance.

It was noted that our newly appointed P.C. member, Jim Vadnal has passed away. The P.C. discussed and voted to contact Mike Gaston, and if he is interested, to pass his potential appointment on to the Board of Supervisors. He has agreed to the appointment. The Supervisors voted to appoint Mike Gaston to complete the term started by Jim Vadnal. The Supervisors agreed that John Cypher prepare a letter to Jim Vadnal's family.

May 8, 2023 Unfinished Business

The Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #509 for the DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant application to be submitted this month.

The 2022 Audit was completed by Merge & Hill, P.C. and received by the Township on May 1st. The legal ad was placed, and a copy was filed with Butler County. Mr. Hill informed the manager and sec/treas. that this is the last year they will do the audit. The Board has been informed; quotes will be obtained late this summer or early fall (prior to the need for advertisement.)

The final draft of the “False Fire Alarm Ordinance” is ready for advertisement. The Supervisors voted to authorize advertisement of Ordinance #510 for adoption at the June 12, 2023 meeting.

It was noted that the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Winfield Township for a ‘shared’ Emergency Management Coordinator is still awaiting the township attorney’s opinion as to whether a revised ordinance needs to be advertised or if the agreement can be adopted by resolution.

Supervisor Rankin inquired about Concordia; the manager responded that the pavilion has not been moved yet and he will be sending an enforcement letter.

May 8, 2023 New Business

A quote for professional services by civil engineers, Effective Technical Applications, Inc. (ETA), was received today. The manager was hoping to get authorization for the expenditure, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, for the engineering and consultation for the West Jefferson Road Bridge Renovation Project discussed late last year. There was significant discussion. The Supervisors determined that there is a lot to review and prefer to have the matter added to the June 12, 2023 agenda for a decision.

Public Comment & Miscellaneous Business – May 8, 2023

The Butler County Association of Township Official’s Spring Convention is May 18, 2023. On April 10, 2023, the Board authorized township officials to attend and pay the registration and mileage. Those attending are Lois Rankin, Leo Rosenbauer, Lois Fennell, Evie Gross, Brian Noah, Martha Fleming, Sharon Rosenbauer, and John Cypher (8). A check will be sent.

It was noted that LTAP was notified to do the speed study on Bullcreek Rd. The manager has nothing further to report on at this time.

Lois Rankin revisited the possible purchase of an excavator. John Cypher suggested it be added to next year’s budget. A 5-year equipment project purchase and a 5-year building improvement projection were submitted to the Supervisors for review.

The Township received a copy of the Buffalo Township “Traffic Impact Fee” plan for review by neighboring municipality officials.

Chairman Cypher noted that Election Day is Tues., May 16th.

Major Expenditures since the April 10th meeting through May 8, 2023

Code.sys Code Consulting – building permit inspections – March 2023	\$ 2,166.60
Seal Master – crack sealer	\$ 7,392.00
Teamsters #261 & Health & Welfare – June 2023 premium	\$ 5,404.21
Vogel Disposal – park associations	\$ 1,438.91
Tri-County Mack Truck Center – new 2023 Mack truck	\$215,366.90
Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham – legal April 2023	\$ 3,423.75

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: jefftwpbutlerpa@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, Michael Gaston, 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 Brad Emsurak (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.

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.

⇒ **The 2023 Butler County Recycling Guide**
is available on-line at www.butlercountypa.gov then type in "Hard to Recycle Guide 2023"

ASLO NOTE: There is a "Free Tech Take Back" for customers to recycle electronics, printer cartridges, and more. This event runs from 4/16/23-6/3/23 at all Staples stores.



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 being left 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!



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.

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

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