



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

October 2023

NEWSLETTER

"ANNOUNCEMENTS" are at the end of the Newsletter!

Road Foreman's Report

Chairman Cypher read the road report as follows:

- Vac Truck rental went well. All the catch basins in the township have been cleaned and vacuumed out, allowing the road crew to make a long list of repairs – i.e. M-tops, grates, and catch basins that need replaced; sink holes that needed immediate attention; lots of mortar work that will be done as time and weather permit. They had to fix a small oil leak on the Vac truck after they got the okay from A & H Equipment. John Cypher commented that renting a Vac truck every 5 years or so is worth it. As suggested by the road foreman, the Supervisors voted to either sell the old Vac system with a reserve price (at an estimate scrap price) or to proceed to scrap it. Estimated sales price will be determined by the manager and the road foreman.
- After some research and upon advice from the road foreman's wife, the road dept. printer was put through three forced self-cleanings and is now working properly.
- Please note in the NEWSLETTER that Jefferson Township will start the clean-up of fall leaves along all township roads as they begin to fall. The twin turbine blower will be used to keep the ditch lines and drainage areas free of leaves and other debris.
- Also, note in the NEWSLETTER that snow fence installation will start around Oct. 20th.
- Some emergency repairs were done on the storm sewer system last week along Golden City Rd.
- The new 2023 Mack had the new 2-way radio installed by Louttamus Communications; and the road crew installed the 2-way radio from the old 99 International into the new John Deere 6330.
- The road crew cut and chipped heavy brush from a large pipe inlet on Knoch Rd. and trimmed limbs along West Jefferson near Blackberry Hill Ln.
- At the first sign of freezing or inclement weather, the road crew will install the salt spreaders and prepare the trucks for winter maintenance.

The Township Manager added the following comments to update the Board of Supervisors:

- The driveway issue at 173 Blakely Rd. has been fixed by the homeowner.
- All the locks on the concession stand were replaced and re-keyed.
- Paving around the parking lot at the park is to be done next week (weather permitting.) The material is \$62 pr ton.
- Herman Gas wants to install a 4-inch main gas line on the south side of Rennick Rd. to the Cypher Farm. The manager indicated that the gas line will be installed behind the storm sewer system – 36 inches deep and Herman Gas will be required to do single bore under the road for each tap (house).
- He investigated a burning matter last week and required the property owner to put the fire out. The property owner was sent a letter and a copy of the burning ordinance as a warning. The township attorney suggested preparing a form letter or notice for use in the future.
- Line Painting is supposed to begin at 3 PM on Tues., 10/10/23.
- In answer to Lois Rankin's inquiry: 119 Neupert Rd. got a building permit for three decks.
Knoch School District is revising their land development, but will install the stormwater ponds per the current NPDES permit. Concordia has made no progress on the land development submission.

Recreation Committee

Brian Patten, Recreation Board Chairman, could not be present tonight, so Chairman Cypher gave a synopsis of the Recreation meeting minutes from Oct. 4, 2023.

Baseball: No report. **Baseball**: www.saxonburgbaseball.com

Pool: The pool is now covered for the winter. Mr. Bauer asked the Township for advice on whether to leave the kid's zone water features installed over the winter. The Board discussed the matter and indicated that they are not aware of anything to prevent leaving them there provided they can be drained completely.

They plan to hold a swim-a-thon again in 2024 as a fund-raiser towards the pool renovation. Lois Rankin and John Cypher commented on the pool finances and Mr. Cypher suggested that Mrs. Rankin put her requests in writing. The pool association is seeking a new maintenance person for the next season. Please contact them via their website for more information if interested. **Pool**: www.sebcopool.com

Softball: The fall season is now underway and will end in late October. **Softball**: www.sagsa.org

Soccer: The fall season is underway and will continue until about the end of October. Mr. Emsurak, Soccer Representative, was advised, per the Board of Supervisors, that the perimeter fence on the western side of the fields can be repaired by the soccer association as they see fit. **Soccer**: www.knochsoccer.org

Park Projects: They had a general discussion about the new restrooms at the park. Lois Rankin asked whether the existing restroom renovations are done; the manager noted that the concrete floor was poured at the existing restroom on Friday, 10/6/23.

New Business: The last pick-up dates for the trash dumpsters are: Pool – 9/25; Softball – 11/6; Baseball – 11/6 and Soccer – 11/6. The next meeting is Feb. 7, 2024.

Planning Commission

Leo Rosenbauer reported on the Sept. 18, 2023 Planning Commission meeting, noting that he was not present at that meeting.

A modification request was submitted by Craig and Gretchen Hunt for the property they own at 245 Golden City Rd. on the old Estes farm. They want to replace the old barn (already torn down) with a new pole building in the same place for an accessory residential storage building for maintenance. The foundation is basically gone, and they intend to remove what remains. The new pole building will not be the exact footprint of the old building. There is a house on the property closer to Golden City Rd. that has deteriorated; and the septic system has failed. They are planning to donate the house for 'fire training.' They paid for a septic permit application, but it was for a 3-bedroom dwelling. They do not plan to develop or sell the property; it is currently for conservation and nature stewardship. They are asking for a modification that the township not require a land development application to build an accessory building without a residence on the parcel. (Chap 22:601) After some discussion, the P.C. voted to recommend approval of the modification request 'to not require a land development' for the proposed accessory building' contingent upon submission of a notarized letter stating that the property/structure(s) will remain residential and will not be changed to commercial.

At the Oct. 9, 2023 meeting, the Supervisors asked Mrs. Hunt what they are intending for the structure. She said for equipment storage, and they would like to have a restroom and kitchen. The property (72 acres) will be used for their family 'recreation area' and they have no plans to develop further. Mr. Cypher said that adding a kitchen and bathroom is tantamount to a residence, and as such, a building permit 'for a residence' (which can include the storage area they want) is needed to follow the PA Uniform Construction Code. The Supervisors voted to deny the Craig & Gretchen Hunt modification request to 'not require a land development for a proposed accessory building' (as they plan to submit a building permit application.)

October 9, 2023 Unfinished Business

It was noted that the revision of Chapter 15 (speed limit and other changes needed) is still being worked on. Also, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Winfield Township is still outstanding and in the hands of the attorneys. The manager will contact our attorney for an update.

Two quotes were received for the 2023 audit (in early 2024.) They were contacted because we understood they are both familiar with the RA Services Accounting. A third quote was obtained. It was determined that the lowest quote was from an accountant that was not a CPA. The next quote, of \$5,500 was from Bonus Accounting (Kenny Bonus, CPA) and the third from McCall, Scanlon & Tice, LLC (CPAs) for

\$7,000 for 2023's audit (2024 - \$7,500 and 2025 - \$8,000). After some discussion, the Supervisors voted to accept the quote from Kenny Bonus **contingent** upon the proper advertising and adoption of the required resolution. Then, the Supervisors voted to authorize advertisement of 'the intent of the Supervisors to appoint a CPA at their Jan. 2, 2024 meeting' to examine all of the accounts of the Township for the fiscal year 2023.

October 9, 2023 New Business

The 2024 Budget 'Introduction' was distributed to the Board of Supervisors. After some discussion, the Supervisors agreed to 'not' have a budget workshop, but review and discuss the 2024 Proposed Budget at the November meeting. Two items were included on tonight's agenda:

- 1) Extra one-time donation to the SVFRA (Saxonburg Vol. Fire & Relief Assn.) Originally put in the 2023 budget for \$40,000, but suggested amount of \$25,000 was discussed earlier in the year. No decision was made as to whether to proceed with the \$25,000. Therefore, it was brought up for the Board to decide whether to pay an extra one-time donation this year OR if a one-time donation could be included in the 2024 budget? A motion was made to donate an additional \$25,000 this year, but died for lack of a second. The matter was tabled for discussion at the November meeting.
- 2) The Manager asked that the Supervisors proceed with the purchase of a new (20 ft) trailer for the road department. A longer trailer will have multiple uses including allowing the road crew to haul 20 ft. pipe purchased for various projects. The Supervisors voted to give the manager authority to purchase a new trailer for up to \$16,000 after additional quotes from Viking and Altmeyer are obtained. The Supervisors voted to sell the old (16 ft.) trailer at a price to be determined by the manager and road foreman IF being sold to another municipality or to place it on Municibid with a reserve amount TBD by the manager and road foreman.

Public Comment & Miscellaneous Business – October 9, 2023

Notice received from Gateway Engineers that PennEnergy is applying to DEP for an Erosion & Sedimentation Control Gen. Permit for Earth Disturbance, a General Permit 5 for utility stream and wetland crossings and a General Permit 8 for temporary road crossing associated with Oil and Gas Exploration. Work is to be done in Saxonburg Boro., Buffalo Twp, Clinton Twp., and Jefferson Twp.

Trick or Treat will be scheduled for Tues., Oct 31st from 6 to 8 PM

BCATO Safety Day is Wed., Oct. 11th at the Herman Volunteer Fire Hall.

The manager noted that he met with Rob Arnold (from HRG, Inc.) regarding the Janice Lane and O'Hara Road MIP Culvert project. The contract (for use of the grant funds) MUST be executed this year. The bids will be advertised, opened in late November, and the award date set for the Dec. 11, 2023 meeting at which the contract can be signed. It was further noted that the engineering fees are much higher for this project than first estimated! The project will be completed in 2024.

HRG, Inc. is the engineer for the Saxonburg Sewer Authority, and they will be revamping the sewer lines on O'Hara Rd. This should not affect the township; they will NOT be in the township right-of-way.

Major Expenditures since the Sept. 11th meeting through Oct. 9, 2023

A & H Equipment Co. – VAC Truck rental (paid from ARPA Funds)	\$10,500.00
Purvis Brothers, Inc. – gas and diesel	\$ 2,220.31
Teamsters #261 & Health & Welfare – Nov. 2023 premium	\$ 6,043.24
Mandi Foertsch – purchase of used Tuflin Heavy Duty 9-ft. rear blade	\$ 2,800.00
South Butler Community Library – 2023 annual donation	\$ 8,000.00
Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Depto. – 2023 'annual regular donation'	\$10,000.00
Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter, & Graham – Sept. legal fees	\$ 2,057.25
Hampton Concrete Products – CBB, CB, concrete ring, grate, etc.	\$ 3,882.00
PA State Assn. of Boroughs MRT – state pension aid & required diff.	\$18,620.00
Saxonburg Borough – Twp. share of Saxonburg Fire & Ambulance W/C	\$17,573.98
Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Relief Assn. – State Foreign Fire Tax	\$33,053.50
Knickerbocker Russell Co. – rivet buster (air compressor)	\$ 1,582.86
HRG, Inc. – engineering on MIP culvert project 6/26 to 8/27/23	\$16,762.50

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 6:00 P.M. (Change beginning Sept. 2023)

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), (new rep. to be appointed for 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.

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.

⇒ **During the upcoming WINTER months**, as per the Township Ordinances, NO ONE is to park on the cul-de-sacs or any public road 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.

⇒ **2023 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS “recycling events”**

Butler County received DEP collection permit approval to hold its 2023 Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics collection events for our county residents as follows:

- **LAST ONE THIS YEAR:** 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.

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The 2023 Butler County Recycling Guide

is available on-line at www.butlercountypa.gov then type in “Hard to Recycle Guide 2023”




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.

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.

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

