



# JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

## APRIL 2018 Newsletter

### Road Foreman's Report

Chairman John Cypher read the report submitted by the road foreman, Bill Foertsch. The Township will be receiving \$13,000 from the "Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads" funds through the Conservation District to help pay for the stabilization of Creek Road. Payment will be available at the completion of the project. An Emergency Permit was obtained on March 16, 2018 from DEP for the Creek Road stabilization project. It is good for 60 days; if the Township runs into a time crunch due to the weather, we can ask for an extension. The Township MUST do the project when the creek is low!

Quotes for sandstone and excavator with thumb & operator were obtained and copies given to the Board of Supervisors. Of the three quotes, Phil Hay and McCrea are more expensive for the machine and operator, plus the stone is NOT readily available and will be more costly than the third quote. The third quote is from Beblo Excavating. The project will be under the bidding threshold. After hearing from Attorney Marshall in regards to the Public Officials "Ethics Act", the Board voted to accept the quotes from Beblo Excavating. Braden Beblo abstained because he is the owner/proprietor of Beblo Excavating and he submitted a signed 'conflict of interest abstention memorandum'.

The 2004 Ford F550 had a new radiator installed by Dinnerbell Garage. The Road crew added fuel additive to the fuel and it seems to have helped the injectors. No further discussion this evening on the proposed new truck to replace this 2004 Ford.

The snow fence tear down is complete. The road crew installed a new hot water heater in the main township building on April 6th. Housing plan and road sweeping will start after April 15th, weather pending

### Recreation Committee

Recreation Committee Member, Roger Cypher, reported on the April 4, 2018 meeting. It was noted that the park-wide clean up was postponed from March 24th to March 31st due to the weather. Baseball: Opening day for games is May 5th. Colt & Legion registrations remain open (as of 4/4/18). [www.saxonburgbaseball.com](http://www.saxonburgbaseball.com)

Pool: They are researching replacement of some of the water features at the pool for 2018. They plan to uncover the pool by April 14th. They are still taking applications for life guards. [www.sebcopool.com](http://www.sebcopool.com)

Softball: Registration for 2018 is now closed. They will NOT hold a tournament in July as in previous years. They are looking at holding a tournament August 24th -26th, but this is still at the discussion stage. There is a tree that is starting to lean onto Field #4; the road department will be removing it. [www.sagsa.org](http://www.sagsa.org)

Soccer: They have 260 players registered for this spring, with 7 travel teams and 17 in-house teams selected. Opening day has been delayed one week due to the weather. A sink hole developed in the parking lot; the road crew has blocked off the area and are considering how to repair it. [www.knochsoccer.org](http://www.knochsoccer.org)

New Business: Automatic park gates - on hold; bleachers for Pony Baseball field utilizing Wayne Deaner memorial funds - still being researched; lightning detection/warning system - still being researched; a tree fell across the walking trail below the Lions' Club; road crew has already cleaned it up.

Park Rules and Regs. - John Cypher reported that this is still being reviewed by CEO, Danielle Sedlak - then they will be reviewed by 'all' before sending to the Attorney for final review.

Misc. Business: They discussed renting of the Ladies' Aux. Pavilion and ALL association were advised to notify the Township of all known/planned tournaments to prevent any conflicts with the pavilion rental.

Action Items: Road crew is still considering drainage problem between Fields 5 & 6.

John Cypher reported that the Township was NOT awarded the Butler Co. Parks Renovation grant this year. He has sent the letter to DCNR (Kathy Frankel) requesting approval to pave the walking trail. The Supervisors approved to request the Township Engineer (HRG, Inc.) to prepare a narrative to present to the Planning Commission at the April 16th meeting. Approval will be needed to proceed with application for the DCED grant (projects up to \$250,000 with a 15% local match). They also authorized application for the DCED "Greenways, Parks & Trails" grant due by the end of May.

## **Planning Commission**

Leo Rosenbauer reported on the March 19, 2018 Planning Commission meeting. They reviewed two modification requests concerning the Stoneybrook Phase II cart way and right-of-way. They recommended approval, but the Supervisors could not vote to approve them at this time. They will be voted on when the Board takes action on the 'complete' plan.

The P.C. reviewed and approved the Calvary Baptist Church Parking Lot Land Development contingent upon the Township Solicitor verifying that the modifications are not needed for the driveway entrance since it is 'existing'; as well as submission of the O & M agreement and signature lines being provided on the land development. After substantial discussion, Attorney Marshall advised that the Township take the position that no modification is needed for the driveway per Chap. 21.305D. The Supervisors approved the Calvary Baptist Church Parking Lot Land Development as presented, but contingent upon submission of the O & M Agreement and the signature lines and site distances being added to both the land dev. plan and the subdivision plan.

Leo reported that the P.C. reviewed and approved a modification request from 274 Great Belt Rd., for a proposed garage to be only 19.51 ft. from the adjoining side property line. A notarized letter of permission from the neighbor was submitted. The Supervisors voted to approve the 5.49 ft. side set-back modification for the proposed garage to be 19.51 ft. from the side property line.

The P.C. also reviewed and approved the modification request from 146 Rennick Rd. The contractor measured off an old pin and built the foundation only 13 ft. from the side property line. A notarized letter of permission from the neighbor was submitted. The Supervisors voted to approve the 12 ft. side set-back modification for the proposed garage to be 13 ft. from the side property line.

The Supervisors voted to authorize Planning Commission members (Dan Driscoll and Danielle Sedlak and any other members) to attend the May 24, 2018 "Local Development Review Process from A to Z" in Frazier Township (Tarentum, PA) and pay the registration. It was noted that no letters of interest have been received for the vacant position on the planning commission. Leo Rosenbauer asked Karen Beblo and she declined; he will check with Rodger Davis.

DCED's PA Training Hub (PATH) is offering a course on "Duties of the Planning Commission". The Supervisors did not vote on this.

Lois Rankin reported about a property on Saxonburg Road being 'promoted' by the realtor as an investment property (rent the downstairs/live upstairs). It is a single family residence and she feels we should alert the property owner and realtor that there are regulations in regards to creating duplexes or multi-family. After significant discussion between the Supervisors, P.C. Members present and the Township Attorney, the Supervisors voted to have Attorney Marshall draft a simple letter to the owner and realtor.

## **April 9, 2018 Unfinished Business**

John Cypher noted receipt of letters from Russell Standard Corp. and Wiest Asphalt Products & Paving assuring the Township that they will be addressing problems (taking corrective measures) with the 2016 seal coat project (by June 22, 2018) and the 2017 paving project (well before July 15, 2018.)

The Seal Coat bids were opened at 2 PM today as advertised.

- 1) Youngblood Paving, Inc. - Total \$508,813.09 - Bid Bond submitted
- 2) Russell Standard Corp. - Total \$499,063.38 - Bid Bond submitted
- 3) Suit-Kote Corp. - Total \$556,952.30 - Bid Bond submitted

This evening, the Supervisors voted to award the 'seal coat' bid to the apparent lowest bidder, Russell Standard Corp., for the total of \$499,063.38.

Attorney Marshall advised that the Township is not required to put escrow or developer funds into an interest bearing account unless the 'sewage agreement' or the 'developer's agreement' states such. In our case, the sewage escrow agreements we have DO state that the funds will be deposited in an interest bearing account. Therefore, that we must continue to keep the current funds in an interest bearing account; but in the future, he advised not to put that wording into any agreements. The Township does have the right to deduct 'administrative' and other fees from escrow funds. The Supervisors agreed to leave the escrow accounts 'as is', in separate CDs (certificates of deposit) with interest accumulating to each one.

The Secretary reported that she spoke with Larry Plowman (our webmaster) about the server proposal from RA Services. Larry advised that the cost is too high; that the secretary/treas. can continue to back up our accounting to RA Services server online. He recommends looking into a less costly 'server' to back up our other software and documents to protect the township in case of a computer failure/crash. The Supervisors took no action.

Wendy Leslie, County CDBG Coordinator, was present for the "1st Public Hearing on the 2018 CDBG Grant Entitlement" advertised by Butler County for 6:50 P.M. this evening. She reported that the purpose of the public hearing is to take public comment on the 2018 CDBG Entitlement Funds. No calls or letters have been received. The grant for 2018 is expected to be close to that of 2017, which was \$94,181. She reminded the Supervisors that CDBG funds were targeted for complete elimination by the Federal government for 2018, but was not! However, CDBG funding could still be targeted for elimination in 2019's budget. She stated that from 2006 to 2017 the Township has received \$1,260,959 in CDBG funding. There is about \$7,000 left in the 2015 CDBG; \$78,187 in the 2016 CDBG; and \$77,285 in 2017 CDBG. The Supervisors are to consider how to designate the use of the 2018 funding in the next month or so...before the 2nd Public Hearing is scheduled.

Attorney Marshall reported that he sent a 'revised cable franchise agreement' to Armstrong on March 21st. He will follow-up with them this week. The current franchise agreement expires 9/15/18.

Attorney Marshall said Attorney Tim Bish is working with Leslie Rhoads to complete a 'draft' revised floodplain ordinance. There is a 45 day review period after the draft is completed. The ordinance will need to be enacted by the July Supervisors' meeting.

## **April 9, 2018 New Business**

A revised Fee Resolution (#413) was adopted by the Board of Supervisors this evening. It clarifies agriculture structure exemptions and clarifies/expands wording regarding 'road occupancy permits'. The revision also includes the increase in rental fee for the Ladies' Aux. Pavilion approved in February (to \$75).

PSAB is offering a class on "Public Works Management" - May 23rd in Meadville. No interest. PSATS 'Learning at Lunch' webinar on "Planning for Stormwater Management" - April 11, 2018. After polling supervisors, Lois and Danielle were registered. The Supervisors voted to ratify that approval and pay the registration fee of \$30. The PA Training Hub (PATH) is offering a "Municipalities Planning Code Refresher" (closest ones are Greensburg/April 18 and Meadville/May 8). No interest/no action by the Supervisors.

## **Public Business and Miscellaneous Business - April 9, 2018**

Information was received on Act 26 of 2017 in regards to the DEP comment period being extended until May 8th. The DEP Policy being 'slipped in' will require townships (municipalities) that want to approve planning modules with 'marginal conditions' (alternate systems) to establish a "sewage management program with mandatory pumping - township wide." The Supervisors do not like the policy being considered.

Lois Rankin said that Central Electric is offering a 'First Responders' Electrical Hazard Training' on April 25th from 7 to 9 PM. No interest indicated.

Lois Rankin noted that the May meeting falls the night before Election Day (May 15th) and workers will not be able to set up the room until late Monday evening or 'very early' Tues. morning. Lois would like help stacking chairs after the regular meeting.

Lois Rankin asked if Act 13 Funds are reported on our website. Lois Fennell said that we do post the annual budget that includes 'impact fee' monies. Until this year, we have not actually 'used' any of those funds.

Lois Rankin reported that she did check out the 'tire dumping' on O'Hara Rd. and would like something put in the newsletter that dumping of tires is illegal. She referenced an article in the Township News about illegal dumping and the DEP "Illegal Dump Free PA Grant Program."

Lois Fennell noted receipt of a 'invitation to all elected officials' from Butler Co. Assn. of Realtors for a "Smart Growth for the 21st Century" course to be held Mon., May 21st at BC3. No interest indicated.

**Major Expenditures since the March 12th meeting through April 9, 2018:**

Thomas Geil Garage Doors - service	\$ 2,148.00
Highmark Blue Shield - health ins. premium April	\$ 3,297.71
Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. - engineering	\$ 2,538.00
Interstate Pipe & Supply - pipe (road roads and park)	\$ 7,100.50
Merge & Hill, P.C. - audit	\$ 3,706.79
Vogel Disposal Service - park - 1st. month/dumpster delivery	\$ 1,035.16
Wine Concrete Products - conseal, inlets, grates, boxes	\$10,116.00
Dillon McCandless King Coulter & Graham - legal	\$ 2,992.00

**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](http://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: [jefftpwbutlerpa@zoominternet.net](mailto:jefftpwbutlerpa@zoominternet.net) - 352-2324.

**TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS**

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

Office phone #724-352-2324 Fax #724-352-8850

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

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

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

L. John Cypher, Chairman

Lois Rankin, Vice-Chair.

Braden Beblo, Supervisor

**Planning Commission – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7:00 P.M.**

Members: Leo Rosenbauer (Chair.), Danielle Sedlak, (Vice-Chair), Evelyn Gross (Secretary), Kathryn Foertsch, James Jones, ~~Gary Stone~~, Robert Wetzel, Robert Williams and Dan Driscoll.

**Recreation Board – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 8 P.M. Feb. to Oct. (no meetings Nov., Dec. & Jan.)**

Members: Brian Patter (Chair.), -vacant- (Secretary), Viki Nulph, Greg Bauer (Pool), Scott Kriley (Baseball), James C. Jones (Softball), and Shane Huffman (Soccer)

*Location for all meetings listed: 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002*

*Any changes are advertised and posted.*

**The Tax Collector is Nadine Grabe - 724-352-3288**

245 Heller Rd., Butler, PA 16002 - 352-3288

Tax Collection hours at 245 Heller Rd. - for the Discount period for the Spring taxes:

**April 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 & 30th** Hours are 4:30-7:30 PM

By mail anytime, other times by appointment only, please call for an appointment!

**NOTICES**

⇒ **FYI:** Article in Butler Eagle 2/28/18: Announcement from "Disability Options Network" (DON) Grants offered to rural homeowners. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture through its Housing Preservation Grant program, which provides up to \$3,000 matching funds to help cover repair and renovation work at 'rural owner-occupied' very low and low-income households. Grant recipients will be required to provide either 25 hours of 'sweat equity' toward the project or volunteer 25 hours with an agency or organization that benefits their community. For more information contact 'DON' at 724-652-5144 or visit their website at [www.doninc.org/HPP](http://www.doninc.org/HPP). Their office is located at 831 Harrison St., New Castle, PA.



## Jefferson Township Burning Ordinance

The Township Burning Ordinance limits burning of 'ordinary' (domestic) waste materials (paper, cartons, boxes, leaves, wood and other similar items) by residents to between the hours of 6 AM to 6 PM from Monday through Saturday. **Items intended to be 'excluded' from burning are:** sewage, all putrescible animal & vegetable matter resulting from handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food, rags, old clothes, leather, rubber, carpets, furniture, tin cans, glass, crockery, masonry, metals, chemicals, tires, shingles and petroleum products such as (but not limited to) paint, grease, oil and plastic products. PLEASE use common sense!

Many items that cannot be burned can be recycled All fires are to be completely extinguished no later than 6 P.M. PLEASE be considerate of your neighbors and do NOT permit leaves and other 'allowed' materials to be left smoldering after 6 PM.

BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL (ALL non-residential) and MULTI-FAMILY, according to the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, are PROHIBITED from ANY burning at ANY time.

**TIRES are NEVER to be burned by ANYONE.**

**Dumping of Tires is ILLEGAL and subject to fines.**



Butler County "Hard to Recycle Guide for 2018" - emailed with this newsletter to recipient list. Otherwise the document is available at the Jefferson Township Office.



### 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](http://www.housingauthority.com)**

