



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

FEBRUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

"ANNOUNCEMENTS" are at the end of the Newsletter!

Road Foreman's Report

John Cypher read the report as follows:

- On going winter maintenance was done as needed or directed. Approximately 800 tons of salt has been used so far, and 30 tons of anti-skid. A fair amount of both salt and antiskid had to be screened due to frozen lumps.
- 517 tons of salt has been ordered in January 2025. 203 more tons will need to be ordered before July 31, 2025 to meet our minimum requirement for the salt contract.
- Between snow and ice events the road crew removed the snow fence equipment from 6330 JD and installed the front broom with new bristles. The Ventrac and the Ferris mowers have been serviced. All trucks have been kept washed, greased and minor leaks and repairs have been taken care of. The plow edge on 2017 Mack was changed and several wear shoes on the plows were replaced. Oil change and service was performed on the 2019 F550. All garage floors have been kept clean and free of debris.
- On January 17th, the road crew removed the down spouts on the North side of the office building and cleaned out the main rain gutter. All were full of solid ice and was creating an ice issue at the corner of the entry door.

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Board met on Wed., February 5, 2025. John Cypher gave the report due to the absence of Brian Patten.

BASEBALL ASSN.: www.knochyouthbaseball.com Josh Harbison will be SABA's co-representative to the Rec. Comm. this year. The Supervisors voted to appoint Josh Harbison as the SABA's co-representative to the Recreation Committee this year (along with Justin Thompson) with the caveat that they only get one vote if both are present at the Recreation meeting. League signups are now open – through the end of Feb. (See website for details). They are hosting a free T-Ball clinic on March 1, 2025 10:30 – 11:30AM at Lake View Athletic Club- all interested are welcome. The first scheduled game of the year is a Knoch Middle School game on March 24th, weather permitting. In-house League opening day is expected to be later in April, TBD.

POOL ASSN.: www.sebcopool.com The Pool has the following needs/openings for this year: a maintenance person; lifeguards and concession workers; Board of Directors volunteers; anyone who is interested can apply at the pool's website. They will leave the admission/pass prices the same for 2025. Opening Day is scheduled for May 24th.

SOFTBALL ASSN.: www.sagsa.org Registrations are now open. The offseason maintenance for the surface of field #5 was completed. The first Knoch High School game is scheduled for March 12th, weather permitting.

SOCCER ASSN.: www.knochsoccer.org Registrations are now open, travel teams through 2/16 and in-house teams through 3/16. Opening day is scheduled for 3/29. The offseason maintenance for the fields was completed with good results. They are in need of a Concessions Manager for this upcoming season in order to have concessions open for the year. Interested people can contact them through their website.

PARK PROJECTS:

1. Sophia Greene has completed the installation of the gaga ball pit, with construction happening in early November. We thank her for her generous donation to the park and her commitment to community service.
2. The installation of 2 new bathroom units in the park is scheduled for mid-February. One between the softball and T-ball fields (Fields 5 & 6) and one near the soccer concession stand.
 - a. It was noted that this project will be of great benefit to the park and the recreation committee members thank the township for adding these restrooms to the park.

Planning Commission

Leo Rosenbauer reported on the Jan 20, 2025 Planning Commission meeting was cancelled; however, he wanted to discuss two topics regarding proposed ordinances.

- 1) The Supervisors discussed a draft Solar Ordinance that several planning commission members prepared. They took no action but will review the draft and decide later.
- 2) Attorney Marshall has recommended revisions to Part 18 of the Subdivision and Land Developments Ordinance (Chap. 22). The Supervisors voted to authorize advertisement of the draft from the attorney.

Feb. 10, 2025 Unfinished Business

The Supervisors voted to appoint Lois Rankin to the BCATO Advisory Board as of 1/1/2025 (retro-active).

Revised resolutions/agreements on sharing the maintenance of Constitution Ave. are expected from the Saxonburg Borough manager, Steve May, as a result of the Oct. 15 and Nov 18 2024 meetings. So far, nothing has been received by our manager. The manager will be following up again.

As requested by Lois Rankin the proposed police agreement from Saxonburg Borough was placed on this agenda for discussion this evening. After some discussion the supervisors voted to decline the proposal and keep State Police coverage as they deem it adequate for our township needs at this time.

Significant discussion took place on a possible resolution on "Public Business and Comment". The drafts prepared by the attorney will be reviewed by the Supervisors for possible adoption at the March 10th meeting.

The Supervisors discussed possible participation in a proposed Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan with Buffalo Township, Clinton Township, Freeport Borough, Saxonburg Borough, and Winfield Township. Lois Rankin attended a meeting however the manager was not able to attend subsequent meetings. It was noted we do not have adequate infrastructure, we do not have zoning, and it is not in our 2025 budget. The Supervisors voted to decline participation as there is no interest at this time.

The manager announced that the 2025 Tree Trimming Project was awarded to Stephenson Tree and Landscaping Service, LLC and as quoted for \$19,500.00 (for trimming on West Jefferson Rd, Victory Rd, Frazier Rd, Burtner Rd, and 8 trees in the park).

Feb. 10, 2025 New Business

A thank you letter was received from Butler County Humane Society for the \$500 donation for 2025.

The manager was notified that Jefferson Township received the \$125,000 DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant for the pool renovation project. The manager noted that the Supervisors will need to authorize advertising for bidding at the March 10th meeting.

The Supervisors voted to proceed with application for the 2025 DCED Greenways Trails and Recreation Program grant for the trail improvements at the park again. The grant is for up to \$250,000 with a 15% match from the township. Application is due in April 2025.

Lance Welliver from the Butler County Parks and Recreation Dept. has verified that a federal freeze on funds will NOT apply to our current pool grants which total \$925,000 toward the \$1.1 million "plus" pool renovation project.

It was announced that the payroll checking balance was increased to \$20,000 to prevent any possible overdrafts due to going with a new 3rd party payroll processor and the potential increase in wages and benefits.

Public Comment & Miscellaneous Business – Feb. 10, 2025

No public comment forms were submitted this evening.

Lois Rankin requested that she be registered for the “State of the County” sponsored by Chamber of Commerce on March 20th at the Atrium.

Manager Leo Rosenbauer commented on the following:

- South Butler Community Library sent a thank you for the basket prepared by Lois Rankin it was for the Fall Booktoberfest.
- He was able to secure a permanent agreement with the property owner at 271 Victory Rd. for the township trucks to turn around.
- He and Brian Noah are creating a simplified building permit for out-buildings that are not regulated under the PAUCC (such as sheds, or decks under 30 inches in height.)
- The Butler County Parks and Recreation annual park renovation grant application is due by Feb. 20th. The Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution 542 to apply for the grant for the electrical service at the community bath house pool.
- Jeff Howard called with a preliminary quote for the insurance package renewal. The price is expected to be about 9 or 10 percent higher than last year. Once the booklet is received, Mr. Rosenbauer will notify the Supervisors. The invoice may be due and payable on or before the March 10th meeting.
- He noted that Liberty Pointe is questioning the billing from HRG, Inc. for inspections. Our attorney has advised that this is NOT a township issue; HRG & Pitell (Liberty Pointe) must follow the MPC guidelines; may possibly hire a third-party engineer to review the bills in order to settle the matter and if not, it could to arbitration.

Chairman John Cypher read his State of the Township Address for 2025:

As we embark upon the journey to navigate a new year and era in our country, we all tend to reflect on the years past.

2024 Elections have brought about changes in Federal, State, and County officials. At our local township level, this may result in new or changed regulations, rules, and laws to be enacted. The Supervisors of Jefferson Township will then have to comply with the mandates which are handed down by the higher levels. Supervisors and Township Officials are sworn to oath as their duty.

Public order, safety, and enjoyment are priorities of Jefferson’s Supervisors. This includes road and right-of-way maintenance, new development, business, home and building construction – all which must comply. Laws and Ordinances must be obeyed by all -- drivers, users, residents, developers, and taxpayers. It is the township who must enforce.

In many cases, local ‘township’ officials are the only in-person ‘face to face’ contact a person is likely to experience. All residents and property owners have the right to attend meetings of the Township Supervisors, address concerns, ask questions, or make comments.

We have continued to move forward to effect repairs or replace critical infrastructure, township equipment, buildings, Laura J. Doerr Park facilities, and normal maintenance without borrowing money. OUR budget is balanced.

We can reflect and look back to learn from the past, but in the future use that knowledge to chart a new path.

The Jefferson Township Supervisors continue the tradition of planning to spend within our means. With the continued diligence of all the staff and volunteers, we will work to move forward this year.

The Supervisors voted to include this in the Feb. 10, 2025 minutes and in the February newsletter.

Major Expenditures between the Jan. 6th meeting and Feb. 10, 2025

HRG Inc Engineering fee’s for December	\$1,594.45
Teamsters #261 & Employers Ins. - March 2025 health ins. premium	\$7,575.20
Compass Mineral – salt	\$22,593.16

Glassmere Fuel – gasoline and diesel	\$1,765.89
Dillion, McCandless, King, Coulter, and Graham – January legal	\$3,746.75

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.

Members: Leo Rosenbauer (Chair.), Evelyn Gross, Mike Gaston, James Jones,
Brian Noah (Vice-Chair.), Martha Fleming (Secretary), Robert Williams, Dan Driscoll, and Bernie Shulik.
Robert Wetzel is an 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), Justin Thompson and Josh Hsrbison
(Baseball- Co reps), James C. Jones (Softball), and Kody Durrett (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 Sec/Treas. Trainee Angel File

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

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

REAL ESTATE /PER CAPITA TAX COLLECTOR

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

By mail anytime. All other times by appointment only. Never leave unstamped envelopes in the Tax Collector's personal mailbox. Secure Drop Box located on the porch at 245 Heller Rd.

March 4th, April 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 and 30th during the hours of 4:30pm - 7:30pm.

By Mail Anytime or call for an appointment. Secure Drop box on the porch.

The Tax Office will be closed May 24th through June 9th.

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.

⇒ **NOTICE:** The Road Crew will be blowing leaves out of the ditch lines and storm sewers to keep them from clogging up. The rights-of-way will be blown out several times near the end of October through December as the leaves fall.

⇒ **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.



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).



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 it 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>

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

