



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

NOTICES

It was announced a few months ago that Viki Nulph has resigned her position on the Recreation Committee effective 12/31/19. The Supervisors are still looking for a volunteer from the 'population at large' of Jefferson Township to fill the position. Meetings are February to October on the 1st Wednesday of each month beginning at 8 PM. Any interested persons should contact the Township Manager at 724-352-2324 or stop by the office at 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA

Remember!

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 / First Responders would have difficulty getting to the scene.

Road Foreman's Report

John Cypher gave the report submitted by the Road Foreman. The road crew has been updating "No Parking Oct. - March" signs on all roads in the housing plans. They are about 50% completed.

During the Oct. 31, 2019 'flood' a drain extension broke off on the West Jefferson bridge. The roadcrew updated all 5 drains with a curved flexible drain extension. Tree trimming status for Caldwell and Rancindin: Manager Leo Rosenbauer received two written quotes.

- 1) Stevenson Tree & Landscaping - Phase I (evergreens on both sides of Rancindin and the evergreens and oaks on Caldwell) - \$650 Phase II (on Caldwell from Rancindin plan to Saxonburg Rd.) - \$1,150 - Total \$1800.
- 2) Cunningham & Sons - Phase I - \$3,500 and Phase II - \$4,500 - Total \$8,000

Foreman Foertsch said if we use Stevenson (lower quote) they must have (or get) their own bucket truck and understand the trim height is to be 30 ft.! This was held for further discussion under 'New Business' this evening.

The 2019 Mack truck was taken to Tri-County Mack dealership for emission code error and update. It was completed the same day at no charge. Chairman Cypher responded to a question about 'warranty' that any purchase of 'extra warranty' on the electronics would be cost prohibitive.

The roadcrew hauled in approximately 250 tons of excellent topsoil donated to the township by Ryan Martin. It was agreed to send a thankyou card as suggested by the road foreman.

A 300-ton order of salt was placed on 1/2/2020. Another 400 ton can be ordered to meet the 'minimum purchase requirement' for the 2019-2020 season via Co-Stars...later after some salt usage and there is room for it in the salt bin.

The roadcrew is looking at track loaders and information to replace the 1997 John Deere skid loader ... perhaps this spring. They are looking at Case, Bobcat and Takeuchi. No quotes have been obtained yet. They will provide more information to the board as soon as they it.

The roadcrew worked together to fabricate a 'quick attach adapter and vacuum hose extension to the ODB leaf vac for the park. They try it out when the weather breaks. The road foremen researched and enabled the 'handsfree phone answering' system in his truck. The roadcrew hopes they have resolved a drainage issue on Hannahstown Rd. They responded to a call on Green Manor Drive regarding a clipped phone line during plowing operations. They winterized the township office (windows.)

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee does not meet in November, December, and January. No report. [Baseball: www.saxonburgbaseball.com](http://www.saxonburgbaseball.com) [Pool: www.sebcopool.com](http://www.sebcopool.com) [Softball: www.sagsa.info](http://www.sagsa.info) [Soccer: www.knochsoccer.org](http://www.knochsoccer.org)

Planning Commission

Leo Rosenbauer, Township Manager and Planning Commission Chair., reported on the Dec. 17, 2019 Planning Commission meeting. The P.C. reviewed revisions to the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery Land Development originally approved in August 2019. Chairman Rosenbauer explained that there are two outstanding contingencies from that approval (water well capacity and sewage permitting) and now the Sisters have submitted a revised land development with changes, including but not limited to: location of the monastery moved down toward the existing buildings (and adding on the art studio); removal of existing garage behind the original church building, adding a new garage behind the greenhouse, and eventual removal of the garage with above apartment located in the driveway right-of-way. Chairman Rosenbauer did not ask HRG to re-review as the calculations are very similar. After a lengthy discussion, the P.C. voted to approve a modification request for the access right-of-way from Golden City Rd. to be 18 ft. cartway instead of the 24 ft. required in the ordinance. Then they voted to approve the Revised Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery Land Development with the following eight new contingencies and the remaining two contingencies from the August 2019 original approval:

- 1) The sub-base is to be increased from the proposed 6" to 8" as required by the ordinance.
- 2) The width of the access road right-of-way from Golden City Rd. must be shown on the plan.
- 3) The required cul-de-sac for the access road should be included within the proposed parking lot.
- 4) The cemetery must be shown (Map C100)
- 5) The existing pavement needs to be clarified (Map C100)
- 6) The actual location of the primary, secondary and alternate septic test (pits) must be shown on the plan with corresponding access rights-of-way.
- 7) The stormwater management 'plan' for the proposed driveway (access right-of-way from Golden City Rd.) must show the proposed controls to be used (i.e. ditch-line, culverts, rain garden(s), rock filled ditch(es), etc.)
- 8) The width of the driveway cartway to the art studio should be increased enough to allow 2 cars to pass.

At the end of the discussion, Sister Christina asked about the building permit and if they can build part of the building and get occupancy while the rest is still under construction? The P.C. noted that the building permit does not expire while the work is 'on-going', but the question of 'pre-completion' occupancy will need to be answered by Code.sys Code Consulting. Brian Noah suggested that if Code.sys can okay 'phasing', they could then indicate on the building's footprint the 'phases' to be proposed.

The P.C. began review of a proposed Timbering Ordinance. It was not 'well received' and they want it to be less complicated. The discussion included: concern that the operator (logger) could bill property owner for the extra paperwork; that the ordinance is over-regulating; that there are some good points that could protect the township and the property owner; that the ordinance is enforced and 'enforceable'. Chairman Rosenbauer asked the P.C. members to continue review and mark their copies with suggested changes for continued discussion in 2020.

January 6, 2020 Unfinished Business

John Cypher noted several items to be 'worked on' in the coming month, including but not limited to: CDBG – possible uses for '2016 and on' admin. fund balances; a proposed Logging Ordinance; the Park Master plan completion; the joint Jefferson/Summit Bonniebrook Road project (bids to go out this month and pre-bid meeting early February with a proposed bid opening in February; and the Burning Ordinance final revision/review before advertising.

January 6, 2020 New Business

The Supervisors voted to adopt the revised Professional Services Fee Resolution #443 per letters received from HRG, Inc. and Attorney Marshall; to adopt the revised Sewage Fee Resolution #444; and to adopt the revised 'general' Fee Resolution #445, which adds reference the revised fees for Professional Services and Sewage Fees. Other increases include: \$5.00 per lot annual mobile home park renewal fee; slight increases to building permit admin. fees; and an increase to the logging/hauling/weight limit permit fee.

Discussion continued regarding the trimming trees on Rancindin Rd. and Caldwell Drive. A letter from South Butler County School District regarding visibility/site distance at the Caldwell Dr. and Rancindin Dr. intersections was read. The Manager reported that the 1974 Rancindin Plan measured the road right-of-way from the center line 25 ft to property line (a 50 ft. right-of-way). It is thought that the property owners planted the trees on the township right-of-way or at least very close. John Cypher read from the 2nd Class Township Code pertaining to tree trimming. The Supervisors decided to take a fresh look at the rights-of-way from 25 ft. centerline and trim straight up (30 ft.) if the property owner does not do something voluntarily. For safety reasons, the township needs to be prepared to act. The Supervisors voted to authorize the Township Manager to move forward with the lowest bid, after first confirming the right-of-way and the contractor's understanding of the height to be trimmed. Letters are to be sent to property owners giving them ample time (60 days) to do the trimming on their own or the township will step in to do it. In the meantime, the roadcrew will mark the right-of-way with white flags and orange paint.

Public Comment & Miscellaneous Business – January 6, 2020

A resident from Charlemagne Dr. attended to explain her displeasure about the 'No Parking sign with 15 MPH speed limit sign on it' posted at the corner of her driveway. She asked the Supervisors to consider moving it to the opposite side of her driveway. Supervisor Rankin said in defense of the road department, that a great amount of thought is put into placement of signs as well as other road maintenance and enforcement. She also noted that people have asked for 15 MPH signs to be placed in the housing plans! It was noted that placing of the signs is for the safety of the public as well as the roadcrew; that placement is determined depending of what the sign is for and where it can be placed according to PA One Call and so that there are no obstructions to traffic. She said she understands where the township is coming from; she just said it is 'distracting'

Leo Rosenbauer wanted to confirm that the Supervisors agree to NOT include financial reports in the minute book, because they are already on file and a summary is written into the minutes each month. They confirmed agreement.

There was brief discussion on possible purchase of a leaf-blower. The roadcrew has borrowed Penn Township's tow behind blower and they have been looking at a PTO powered (cost about \$5,000) verses a 'Buffalo turbine' unit (cost about \$12,000). The unit can be 'googled', but he will provide more information as he obtains it.

Lois Rankin asked the status on the 'lane naming' requested by Butler Co. Emergency Services. Mr. Rosenbauer said it is being worked on currently and will be completed in the near future. She said once we have it completed, we need to do a new 'Jefferson Township directory and map' (last one dated 2014.)

Major Expenditures since the Dec. 9th meeting through Jan. 6, 2020

Teamsters #261 Health & Welfare – Feb. health ins.	\$4,387.17
Chase Card Services – road delineators, PSATS Boot Camp, etc.	1,790.87
Detroit Salt Company – road salt	\$3,437.39

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

Manager: Leo Rosenbauer

Sec/Treas.: Lois Fennell

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

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.), Bernie Shulik, Kathryn Foertsch,
James Jones, Brian Noah, Robert Wetzel, Robert Williams and Dan Driscoll.

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

Members: Brian Patten (Chair.), Roger Cypher, (*1 vacancy*),
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.

TAX COLLECTOR

Nadine Grabe, 245 Heller Rd., Butler, PA 16002 - 352-3288 - Pay by mail or call for an appointment.

NEVER leave unstamped envelopes in the Tax Collector's mailbox.

The Tax Collector is **NOT** responsible for envelopes left there by individuals other than the Mail Carrier.

MAIL your taxes or bring them 'in person' or put them in the 'Drop Box' in front of the house!!!!

ADDITIONALLY, DO NOT bring or mail your TAXES to the Municipal Building and **DO NOT** leave them in either of the mailboxes. Again, they need to be taken or mailed directly to the Tax Collector!!



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.

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 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: jefftwpbutlerpa@zoominternet.net - 352-2324.

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

