



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

November 2020

NEWSLETTER

"ANNOUNCEMENTS" are at the end of the Newsletter!

Road Report

John Cypher read the Road Report as submitted. The road crew did winter road maintenance on Nov. 1st; clean-up after the Nov. 15th windstorm; and winter maintenance on Nov. 17th due to surprise snow/sleet storm. Chairman Cypher said: 'thanks for their good work!'

The road foreman and manager met with Summit Township and Shields Paving and later with Summit Township and PennDOT regarding the Bonniebrook Road project. The manager reported that Cory Shaffer from PennDOT is checking on whether Jefferson Township's tree-trimming and Summit Township's guide rails/installation can be separate bids from the paving for the Bonniebrook Rd. project. He is also checking on the proposed extra mill and fill, in both townships, needed on Bonniebrook Rd. and if we can bid jointly (separately from the Bonniebrook Rd. project 'grant'). Only Patterson Road was sealed this year; Rennick, Marwood, Neupert and West Jefferson still need done. No snow fence was installed due to lack of personnel.

Park leaf removal is in progress; the new leaf blower works fantastic. They cleaned the Ladies' pavilion and built a safe cover for the fireplace opening. Equipment maintenance has and is being done as needed. Front tires on the payloader were fixed. Miscellaneous parts were picked up. Tires were purchased from Good Tire for the 2015 truck. Trucks were changes over for winter maintenance.

Planning Commission

Leo Rosenbauer, P.C. Chairman, noted that there was no Planning Commission meeting on Nov. 16, 2020, but there is business from Oct. 19, 2020 to review for possible action by the Supervisors. Penn United Technologies submitted a land development for a proposed addition of a 40' x 80' (3,200 sq. ft.) on Building #2 (warehouse) off Durango Lane. The plans were reviewed by the manager and the township engineer. There will be a 13' x 48' x 4' deep on-lot sump; and one additional ADA parking spot. HRG had only two comments: 1) note on plan that it is outside of the floodplain (done) and O & M agreement needs signed and submitted for recording (pending). The P.C. voted to recommend approval contingent upon the execution and recording of the Operations and Maintenance Agreement and satisfactory review from the Butler County Planning Commission. Since Oct. 19th, the addition to the warehouse needed a 'handicapped walkway change' erp Code.sys review and as of today, handicapped restrooms need added per Code.sys review. Penn United notified us that they need a temporary holding sewage tank. The SEO said that DEP planning would not be needed, since they are not increasing personnel, but the system still needs designed; a holding tank agreement signed and a sewage escrow account set-up.. Manager, Leo Rosenbauer, recommended that that the land development decision be tabled this evening and that Penn United Technologies request an extension to give them and the Township time to review the changes to the land development. The Supervisors voted to table action on the land development until formal changes are submitted and reviewed.

Lloyd Brewer from Neupert Rd. submitted a modification request for a second driveway in order to separate his property access (117) from his niece's property (115) per court order. He has an existing driveway to his garage; and shares a driveway next to 115 Neupert Rd. Our ordinance allows only one driveway per lot, therefore he is requesting that the Township approve a modification. Mr. Brewer showed the P.C. part of the court order due to confidentiality clause. The P.C. voted to recommend approval of the 2nd driveway on Lloyd Brewer's property. The Supervisors voted to approve the modification request for the 2nd driveway on the Lloyd Brewer property due to the court order.

Donald Isovitsch of 144 Bonniebrook Rd. has an existing shed setting on the common property line between him and his neighbor, Norma Allen. He wishes to remove that shed and construct a 16' x 10' lean-to on the back of his other existing shed. The neighbor, Norma Allen, would not sign the permission letter. The lean-to addition infringes further into the rear set-back, but due to property contours it cannot be placed elsewhere on his lot and it *does* improve the situation by removing the old shed 'on' the property line. The P.C. voted to recommend approval of the 13 ft. set-back for the lean-to addition as long as Mr. Isovitsch removes the 'old' shed as proposed. There was significant comment by Chairman Cypher, who stated that Mr. Isovitsch is basically asking the Supervisors to 'take up sides in a dispute'. The Board is not here to 'judge' but to enforce the PAUCC regulations and the ordinances of the Township. The Supervisors voted to deny the modification request. .

John Hook submitted a modification request in August for a 'lean-to' partially constructed without a building permit and he returned this evening with revisions. Located at 738 North Pike Rd., it is 20' x 53'6" (previously indicated as 25' x 53'). The wall WILL NOT be attached to the existing building and the roof lines will NOT touch (one will be above the other). His architect said a fire-proof barrier can be installed between the two buildings. A notarized letter of permission had already been obtained from the neighbor, James Hollobaugh, allowing the 7' to 5'6" side set-back. The rear of the addition, which is in-line with the existing structure, is 14'6" from the park property line. Mr. Hook and his mother, Aleta Hook, do not wish to submit a land development for it to be commercial due to costs; but would like to use the addition for personal use/storage. The P.C. voted to recommend approval of the modifications for side and back setbacks and allow the 'unattached' addition to be used for personal/residential storage contingent upon a fire-proof barrier being installed and an agreement (to be recorded) being executed stating that the structure will be used for personal/residential only and agreeing to the township's annual inspection for compliance. The Supervisors discussed the matter at length. John Cypher expressed his concern regarding 'access' for emergency vehicles; future use of the 'addition' being 'commercial'; and attempting to skirt the PAUCC regulations. Supervisor Braden Beblo disagreed, stating that there is still sufficient access for emergency vehicles; he does have personal equipment (boats, etc.) to store in the addition; and annual inspections for compliance will prevent change of use to commercial. Motion by John Cypher to deny the modification. Motion died for lack of a second. After further discussion, Braden Beblo *moved* to approve the modifications for side and back setbacks and allow the 'unattached' addition to be used for personal/residential storage **contingent upon:** 1) installation of a fireproof barrier and a water proof barrier between the existing building and the addition as designed by a registered engineer or architect; 2) a doorway/access between the old and new 'unattached' addition is prohibited; 3) there will be NO utilities in the addition (electric, gas, water or sewage); 4) an annual inspection by the Township will be required at a cost of \$60.00 annually per revised Township Fee resolution; 5) a \$10,000 bond or escrow account paid by the property owner(s) to be held by the Township in perpetuity for the removal of said structure in the event the current/future property owner(s) convert said structure to any other use except for residential storage or violate any condition set-forth in these minutes and in a recorded agreement. 6) an agreement including but not limited to the above contingencies will be prepared by the Township Solicitor, signed by the property owner(s) and recorded. All legal fees and recording costs are the responsibility of the property owner(s).

Cheryl Kretzer (Mark) of 197 Burtner Rd., Butler, presented a request for a temporary hardship dwelling. Her mother is 83 years old and they cannot afford to place her in a personal care home. They propose to place a 'park model' in their driveway, making it close for easy connection to the existing septic system. Chairman Rosenbauer reviewed the ordinance with the P.C. members. The P.C. voted to recommend approval of the 'hardship dwelling' contingent upon satisfactory review of the application by the township manager/codes officer for compliance with the ordinance and verification of the existing septic system by the Sewage Enforcement Officer. The Supervisors voted to approve the 'hardship dwelling' request contingent upon 1) satisfactory review of the existing system by the SEO, Doug Duncan and 2) submission and satisfactory review of a building permit for installation of said temporary dwelling. They still must follow set-backs and get an annual inspection as required by the ordinance.

REMINDER: Subdivision Plans, Land Development Plans, and Modification Requests are REQUIRED to be submitted 2 weeks prior to the Planning Commission meeting!

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee does not meet in November, December and January. Website info:
Baseball: www.saxonburgbaseball.com **Pool:** www.sebcopool.com **Softball:** www.sagsa.org **Soccer:**
www.knochsoccer.org

November 23, 2020 Unfinished Business

The proposed 2021 Budget was introduced in October to the Supervisors. They decided not to hold a ‘workshop’, but to review it at the Nov. 9, 2020 meeting, which was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. It has been revised by the sec/treas. to include increases in 511 Taxes (Earned Income and Local Services Tax) received this year (2020) and to include funds for possible additional road crew personnel. The Supervisors voted to authorize advertisement of the proposed 2021 Budget as presented this evening.

The Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery Land Development was approved ‘contingent’ in August 2020 and the contingencies included a complete submission of the sewage planning module to the DEP. Final signatures on the module were submitted on Oct. 13, 2020. It was recommended to adopt the “Resolution for Plan Revision” per DEP regulations. The Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #462 as presented.

Chairman Cypher asked if the other Supervisors want to authorize advertisement for an additional road crew personnel (to take applications and hold interviews). The Supervisors voted to advertise in the Butler Eagle for a road crew position.

The proposed, revised Burning Ordinance was re-advertised for adoption at the Dec. 16, 2020 meeting.

November 23, 2020 New Business

Chairman Cypher reported on House Bill 1582, which has passed the House and is currently with the Senate. It will allow townships to adopt an ordinance (or resolution) to remove the elected auditor positions. The ‘law’ will allow the townships to stipulate ‘how to set working supervisors’ pay’ in the absence of the elected auditors.

The Supervisors voted to authorized advertisement of the intent of the Supervisors to appoint a CPA (or accounting firm) at their Jan. 4, 2021 meeting ‘who will examine all of the accounts of the Township for the fiscal year 2020’.

Butler County Commissioners held a ‘zoom meeting’ on Nov. 12, 2020, at which they urged a ‘joint/collectively signed’ advertisement to be placed in the Butler Eagle by Butler County on 11/13/20. The manager, Leo Rosenbauer, chose to sign the ‘statement in support of this advertisement campaign’ and suggested that the Supervisors vote to ratify the support of this statement: COUNTY LEADERS URGE RESIDENTS TO ACT NOW TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONVIRUS. The Supervisors voted to ratify support of this statement.

Miscellaneous Business – November 23, 2020

We received a very, nice ‘thank you’ note from Perry Dawson and Cub Scout Pack #51. At the request of Chairman Cypher, a letter was sent from Jefferson Township (signed by the manager) thanking them for their interest.

The manager asked the Supervisors to stay after the meeting for a brief executive session regarding personnel and they agreed.

Major Expenditures since the Oct. 12 meeting through Nov. 23, 2020

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|--|--------------|
| Teamsters #261 Health & Welfare – Dec. health ins. | \$ 4,387.17 |
| Teamsters #261 Health & Welfare – Jan. 2021 health ins. | \$ 4,387.17 |
| Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham – legal fees Sept. | \$ 1,233.00 |
| C. W. Howard Insurance Agency – public officials renewal | \$ 6,290.00 |
| Saxonburg Volunteer Fire & Relief Assn. – foreign fire tax | \$ 30,835.20 |
| Code.sys Code Consulting – inspections on building permits | \$ 2,449.48 |
| P L & T Enterprises – removal of brush along Bonniebrook Rd. | \$ 1,200.00 |
| RA Services – annual service contract on account system | \$ 1,010.00 |
| County of Butler Recreation Dept. – reimburse for twp. share of County grant | \$ 2,440.20 |

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

There was NO quorum on Nov. 9th, so the Supervisors' advertised and rescheduled for Nov. 23, 2020 at 7 PM.

****December's meeting was moved from 12/14 to Wed. Dec. 16, 2020 at 7 PM****

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 (Secretary), Kathryn Foertsch, James Jones, Brian Noah (Vice-Chair.), Robert Wetzell, Robert Williams, Dan Driscoll, and Bernie Shulik.

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

Members: Brian Patten (Chair.), Roger Cypher, Kristi Wise (newly appointed for 2020),

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.

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

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

WE ASK THAT IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE TO PLEASE CALL AHEAD, SO WE KNOW YOU ARE COMING -724-352-2324. Masks required.

The Township is endeavoring at public meetings to limit attendance to protect Township residents and the possible spreading of the virus.

We urge you to take precautions attending any event or 'scheduled' meeting.

We hope you will limit exposure to others, including at the township building.

Practice social distancing, such as no longer shaking hands and staying six feet apart,

No more than ten (10) people at a meeting place and washing hands often or using hand sanitizer!

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

STAY at HOME applies, especially if you are sick!

REAL ESTATE /PER CAPITA TAX COLLECTOR

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

Posted changes due to the Coronavirus Pandemic: If you wish to 'drop-off' your payment, there is a 'locked drop box' located on her porch. By MAIL anytime. Whether dropping off or mailing, if you wish to have a receipt, please include the entire tax bill with your payment (no cash or credit cards) and a self-addressed stamped envelope for her to mail back to you. It is NOT secure to leave cash at any time!! Her phone number and address are on your tax cards! **NOTE: Resolution #452 was presented and approved by the Board of Supervisors to extend the 2020 Real Estate 'at face' due date through and until November 30, 2020. No penalties, fees, or interest if the real estate tax is paid in full before Nov. 30, 2020.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS ↓↓

⇒ **Butler County's Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collections - 2020:
LAST ONE THIS YEAR----Saturday - Dec. 19**

By Appointment (pre-registration required) CALL 1-866-815-0016 Location: 129 Ash Stop Rd., Evans City, PA 16033

Butler County Department of Recycling & Waste Management

Sheryl Kelly, Environmental Specialist, Recycling & Waste Mgt. Coordinator (PROP-Certified Recycling Professional)

124 West Diamond St. PO Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003 Phone 724.284.5305

Email skelly@co.butler.pa.us

Web Site www.recyclebutler.us

⇒ **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.

⇒ **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.

⇒ **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 also not legal for property owners to place any storm/rain/wind debris from their property along the township road rights-of-way.

⇒ **NEED HELP during COVID19:**

You can contact (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>
- **Pennsylvania American Water** has extended its suspension of water service shutoffs and late fees until after March 31, 2021 for all customers, both residential and non-residential. The company urges customers who are facing financial hardship to seek financial assistance immediately by contacting Pennsylvania American Water pennsylvaniaamwater.com or calling 1-800-565-7292. Please do not wait until a shut-off is looming to contact them.

⇒ **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.

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