

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

November 2023

NEWSLETTER

"ANNOUNCEMENTS" are at the end of the Newsletter!

Road Foreman's Report

Chairman Cypher read the road report as follows:

- The snow fence installation is about 50% complete. Once the crops are harvested the crew will finish.
- Nov 1st morning rush hour came with a surprise snow. Depth varied from a ½ inch to 2 inches, and it covered the roads quickly. The road crew had the trucks ready to go and salt was applied as the roads started to cover.
- The new 2023 Mack seems to be working great.
- The road crew fabricated a new 3-point hitch system for the Buffalo twin-turbine blower. This made it safer and easier to attach it to the JD 6330 tractor, and then use quick pins to attach it back onto the zero-turn or the Ventrac mower. John Cypher said good job.
- The road crew began leaf removal along township roads and will continue as time and weather allow. They also completed leaf removal at the park but will do one final clean up later as time and weather permit.
- A water issue at the intersection of Rennick Rd. and Rt. 356 (due to state work) was addressed by the road crew, and they will continue to monitor it.
- The new equipment trailer has been ordered from Smouse Trailers. It is expected by the end of 2023. The quote from Altemeyer's was higher and Viking no longer builds the trailer we needed.
- The Manager approved the purchase of a new Moon Paver (\$4,300). The old one is about 20 years old. The hardware from the new moon paver can be installed on another truck, allowing the road crew to use the paver on both trucks.
- The 2008 Moritz trailer, the old catch basin vac, and the 8 ft. Servis rear blade will be sold on Muncibid.
- The Manager reminded the Supervisors that the ad for the Janice/O'Hara Rd. culvert project was advertised on 11/2 with a second ad on 11/17/23. The opening, via PennBid is 11/30/23. The Supervisors will then make a final decision on Dec. 11, 2023. Paperwork can be viewed at the township, but bidding is online only.

Recreation Committee

No Report – The Recreation Committee does NOT meet in November, December, or January.

The manager reported damage at the newly installed parking lot (gravel) and the surrounding yard area (next to the pool.) He suggested that to further enhance the camera security system to make it easier to identify would be vandals could the Supervisors consider upgrading the equipment. After some discussion John Cypher agreed that prices should be obtained, especially since technology on these has improved.

Baseball: www.saxonburgbaseball.com

Pool: www.sebcopool.com

Softball: www.sagsa.org

Soccer: www.knochsoccer.org

The next meeting is planned for Feb. 7, 2024 at 8:00 PM.

Planning Commission

Leo Rosenbauer reported on the Oct. 16, 2023 Planning Commission meeting. There were three presentations. 1) Knoch School District submitted revised land development plan to the original approved in Oct. 2022. It was tabled until the revised land development plans and paperwork are received for a proper review time for our engineer. 2) Penn United Technology submitted a land development which was tabled until the revised plans are received, and the engineer has had proper review time. 3) Braden Fox Subdivision on W. Main St. It was tabled until a solution is provided for Lot 2's frontage is submitted for review by the township and the engineer. No action for the Board to take this evening.

November 13, 2023 Unfinished Business

It was noted that the revision of Chapter 15 (speed limit and other changes needed) is still being worked on. It was also notes that the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Winfield Township for a shared emergency management coordinator is still 'with the attorney.' He will call to remind him.

Mr. Keith Frndak, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, President and David Drane were present regarding their failure to submit a land development application and a building permit application. The manager said a submission was received on 11/6/23. A lengthy discussion followed. Chairman Cypher stated that the township is obligated to enforce the current township ordinances (including subdivision and land development) and the state's PA Uniform Construction Code.

Chairman Cypher noted that the Supervisors did NOT want to have a budget workshop, so discussion was planned for this evening, Nov. 13, 2023. The Supervisors revisited the discussion from last month on the 'extra one-time donation' to the Saxonburg Volunteer Fire and Relief Assn. originally placed into the 2023 budget for \$40,000 (in addition to the annual donation currently \$10,000). It was suggested earlier this year that a \$25,000 one-time donation be considered, but no vote was taken. After some discussion this evening, the Supervisors voted to donate an additional one-time donation to SVFRA of \$15,000 (in 2023) over the annual donation of \$10,000.00; and then voted to set the annual donation beginning in 2024 at \$15,000.

Also, last month it was voted to purchase a new 20' equipment trailer for up to \$16,000 (in 2023.) The manager noted that Smouse Trucks and Vans gave us the lowest quote of \$15,749. Leonard Truck & Trailer quote was \$17,073 and Tom's Equipment Sales was \$17,474. Viking Trailers was contacted, but they do not make the trailer we needed. The new trailer has been ordered from Smouse and should be delivered by the end of the year.

Discussion on the 2024 Proposed Budget continued. Besides the increase in the fire department annual donation to \$15,000 the Supervisors discussed increasing the library donation. The Supervisors voted to increase the annual donation to the So. Butler Community Library by \$500 to \$8,500 in 2024. The Supervisor then discussed the request to include funds for the possible purchase of the PennDOT right-of-way strip abandoned where the new bridge was installed in Jefferson Center. If purchased, it must be available for public use in perpetuity (for example: for stockpiling; or as a park and ride; or as a public fishing area.) Purchasing the right-of-way strip would give the township control. After some discussion, the Supervisors voted to allow \$5,000 in 2024 for procuring this PennDOT right-of-way.

The Supervisors then voted to authorize advertisement of the preliminary 2024 budget for final review and adoption at the Dec. 11, 2023 meeting.

November 13, 2023 New Business

The Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #516 to enter into an 'Intergovernmental Agreement' with Summit Township for the seal coating and line painting of Bonniebrook Rd.

Public Comment & Miscellaneous Business – November 13, 2023

Chris Durham attended to discuss his property on Freeport Road. No formal land development application was submitted. He attended looking for direction from the township officials. Chairman Cypher said Mr. Durham clearly tore down a non-conforming structure and stated that the Township is obligated to enforce the current township ordinances and the PA Uniform Construction Code.

Manager Rosenbauer reported that birds are getting into the roof/ceiling area, and he contacted Kevin Miller about how to resolve it. The matter of leaf removal at 343 West Jefferson Road appears to have been resolved. As he noted earlier, the Janice Lane and O'Hara Road bids are being advertised and the Supervisors should be able to vote on the award at the Dec. 13th meeting. He will be working with Lance Welliver to complete the application for the LSA Grant for the pool renovations. He also noted that the renovation project to the existing park restroom is well underway.

Lois Rankin noted we received a 'thank you' from the Butler Co. Humane Society for our annual \$500 donation and a 'thank you' from CCR for the coat donation box placement at the township. We have placed a notice on the website that the box will be available until the end of the year.

A notice was 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.

Major Expenditures since the Oct. 9th meeting through Nov. 13, 2023

Purvis Brothers, Inc. – gas and diesel	1,774.89
Teamsters #261 & Health & Welfare – Dec. 2023 premium	6,043.24
Code.sys Code Consulting – building permit inspections in Oct.	2,295.04
C. W. Howard Insurance Agency – public officials ins. for 2024	6,899.00

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

OFFICE IS CLOSED: Wed. Nov. 22 and Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving. No hours on Fridays.
The Office will be CLOSED on Dec. 25th and Dec. 26th for Christmas and Jan. 1st for New Year's Day.

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.), Brian Noah (Vice-Chair.), Martha Fleming (Secretary), Evelyn Gross, Michael Gaston, James Jones, 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.

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** – The Center for Community Resources has left a small box at the Township Building for 'used coats that are clean and in good condition' for collection from Township Residents through Dec. 31, 2023 only.

⇒ **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.

⇒ **During the upcoming WINTER months**, as per the Township Ordinances, NO ONE is to park on the cul-de-sacs or any public road (*a minimum of 4 feet from the edge of the pavement*) 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.

⇒ **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.

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

