



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

"ANNOUNCEMENTS" are at the end of the Newsletter!

Road Report – Nov. 14th meeting

Chairman John Cypher read the road report.

- Four trucks have been serviced and the 5th one will be done this week. All trucks will be ready for winter maintenance by the end of the week.
- Leaf cleanup at the park is almost completed. The Ventrac has made a huge difference.
- Leaf blowing along the roads is ongoing and will continue as weather allows. Please REMIND residents not to blow leaves and debris onto the Township roads, ditch lines, catch basins and drainage areas.
- The Ladies' Pavilion was winterized on November 1st.
- 141 Rennick Rd. has some cold patch added to the driveway to correct the entrance due to recent paving.
- Green Manor Drive, and Blakely/Bullcreek intersection had some patch work done.
- Tree trimming needs to be done this winter season on Heller, Dreher, Marwood, Becker (gas well to Township line). Consider getting bids (or quotes) for the Jan. 3, 2023 meeting, so that the work can be done by the end of March.
- The road crew will lock the park gates once the manager checks on the final dates that soccer needs them to be open and for the pavilion roof replacement. All the dumpsters are full 'again' and will need to be emptied before the gates are locked.
- Gerry Geibel, road employee, will come off probation Dec. 3rd. The road foreman is pleased his performance and knowledge and recommends having him stay on as a full-time employee at the highest level (Tier #2) per the union contract. (See action under New Business).
- The road crew has removed two bollards near Field #5 at the park. They are going to move forward in building the roadway through the wooded area behind Field #1 and down to Field #7 (to the yellow gate.) This roadway will help in future maintenance of the park and give better access. John Cypher said he agreed and moved to proceed with the access lane. Seconded by Braden Beblo. Agreed and carried.
- Manager Rosenbauer added:
 - o both mirrors on the 2015 F550 rusted and had to be replaced. The best price was from #1 Cochran; Gerry Geibel, road employee, installed them.
 - o the property owner at 173 Blakely was contacted to reduce 'access' to the property from the full length of the lot frontage.
 - o Brian Turner, road employee, got his CDL permit on 11/8; his training begins after 15 days.
 - o The core sample areas on Alwine Rd. and Riemer Rd. need to be sealed by Russell Standard.

Recreation Committee – Nov. 14th meeting

There is no Recreation Committee meeting in Nov., Dec., and January, therefore no minutes to report. The Manager asked the Supervisors to discuss the removal of a triple tree next to the walking trail at Softball Field #4. Cost for Stephenson's to remove and grind stump is \$3,000. John Cypher *moved* to proceed. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed and *carried*. They also discussed possible revamp (renovations) to the Ladies' Pavilion (i.e. replace T-111 siding, new countertop, steel soffit, etc.) John Cypher said that all three Supervisors need to look at the pavilion but agreed to 'budget' for possible project in 2023. (See Budget discussion under Unfinished Business.) WEBSITES: Baseball - www.saxonburgbaseball.com Pool - www.sebcopool.com Softball - www.sagsa.org Soccer - www.knochsoccer.org

Planning Commission

Leo Rosenbauer, P.C. Chair., reported on the October 17, 2022 Planning Commission meeting. A revised Voller/Tebay Lot-Line Revision was submitted for review on Oct. 17th at which the P.C. recommended approval with two contingencies. Lot 1 with access to Keck Rd. will be 1.50 acres (existing 190-S5-C27 was 1.80 acre plus Tract A of .21 acre and less Tract B of .51 acre). The house is non-conforming on Lot 1. Lot 2 is a flag lot with access to Rt. 356 and it will be 2.11 acres (existing 190-S5-C28A plus Tract B of .51 acre and less Tract A of .21 acre). Lot 2 has an existing non-conforming building located within the front set-back area. The two contingencies have been satisfied: the two 'walk arounds' completed by the SEO on both lots has been paid by Mr. Tebay and the Butler County Planning Commission review letter has been received. The Supervisors voted to approve the Voller/Tebay Lot Line Revision as presented.

The P.C. briefly discussed township ordinances needing revision (including but not limited to definitions and private driveways.) Leo noted just a couple of items that the P.C. discussed; 1) reducing the cartway width requirements and reducing the 'surface thickness'; and perhaps setting a minimum and maximum length; and 2) the possibility of increasing the lot size and frontage requirements. There was a brief discussion with the Supervisors, and they have no objections to either suggested revision.

Leo Rosenbauer reported that Kay Foertsch informed him that she will be stepping down from the Planning Commission when her term expires on 12/31/22. We hope to have two letters of interest to consider at the Jan. 3, 2023 reorganization meeting. Both Evie Gross and Bernie Shulik, whose terms expire on 12/31/22, are willing to serve another term.

Nov. 14, 2022 Unfinished Business

The 2023 Preliminary Budget was introduced to the Supervisors at the Oct. 10, 2022 meeting at which they decided to not have a budget workshop. The following matters were discussed this evening:

- 1) Possible additional personnel, such as a separate 'code enforcement officer' and possible sec/treas. trainee (if current sec/treas. is ready to do so this year). After some discussion, both John Cypher and Braden Beblo agreed that more thought and discussion by all three supervisors needs to take place in the coming year and no funding will be added to the 2023 budget.
- 2) Possible fire tax to assist both the volunteer fire dept. and the volunteer ambulance service. John and Braden agreed that more thought and discussion by all three supervisors needs to take place in the coming year before placing a fire tax. As far as the additional 'up to' \$40,000 additional one-time donation to the fire department (already in the preliminary budget) John and Braden agreed to leave in the budget, but further discussion must take place before any 'additional one-time' donation is given. This is besides the annual donation (\$10,000 given in 2022 and planned for 2023.)
- 3) Possible West Jefferson Road Bridge maintenance, estimated cost approx. \$70,000. This maintenance, recommended by LTAP, would extend the life of the bridge 20 to 30 years. John Cypher and Braden Beblo indicated that this \$70,000 should be added to the budget.
- 4) Possible addition to the budget for proposed renovations to the Ladies' Pavilion. John and Braden in favor of including \$18,000 in the 2023 budget.

After discussion, the Supervisors voted to authorize advertisement of the Proposed 2023 Budget as revised (including the \$70,000 for West Jefferson Road Bridge and including \$18,000 for renovations to the Ladies' Pavilion).

Discussion on the proposed false alarm fire ordinance as requested by SVFC (tabled on 10/10/22): John Cypher is in favor of moving forward with such an ordinance but perhaps more stringent with increased fines (or graduated fines) and a township administrative fee. The Manager reported that Keith Frndak from Concordia called and is NOT in favor of such an ordinance. Braden Beblo is okay with such an ordinance but is concerned about who makes the determination what is considered a false alarm for possible fines (which is proposed to be the fire chief) and perhaps making it clearer what will be considered a ‘false alarm’. It was agreed to have the Planning Commission review the proposed ordinance, which will eventually be reviewed by the attorney.

Discussion on the request by the library to place ‘yard signs’ at the park and at the township building advertising events at the library. The Supervisors said that allowing temporary signage would be a maintenance problem and possible safety issue. In the past, our policy has been to not allow other entities to place such signage. The library events are often noted in the newsletter and their website link is provided; also a link to their website is on our township website. The library is also welcome to place notices on the bulletin board in the township building hallway. It was suggested that they check with the pool or other organizations and perhaps they would permit something hung on their fences.

The Supervisors voted to approve payment of the bond renewal of \$650.00 for \$800,000 treasurer’s bond via Selective Insurance to C. W. Howard Ins. Agency. The manager’s bond renewal (\$750,000 for \$625.00) was paid on 6/13/22.

The Supervisors were informed that Dennis Sybert submitted an okay from his doctor for return to work (as dog officer.) Board voted to reappoint him at the May 9, 2022 meeting at \$60.00 per call & mileage (IRS rate). They agreed this evening that it is okay to reactivate him, and the manager will contact Mr. Sybert.

Nov. 14, 2022 New Business

The Supervisors voted to authorize advertisement of the intent of the Supervisors to appoint a CPA (or accounting firm) at their Jan. 3, 2023 re-organization & regular meeting to examine all of the accounts of the Township for the fiscal year 2022. *The advertisement must be place at least 30 days prior to the expected date of appointment, and a resolution is to be adopted on Tues., Jan. 3, 2023 (tentative #499). The elected auditors should meet on Wed., Jan. 4, 2023 to set the pay for any working supervisors.*

After some discussion about the garbage truck fire on Oct. 12th, noting that the fire started on Hannahstown Rd., but the driver wisely took the truck to the park parking lot to dump the contents. It was spread by the township loader and extinguished, then the material was reloaded to another truck. The Supervisors voted to send a letter to Vogel Disposal to request that rather than reimburse anything to the township, to send the amount as a donation to the Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Dept. John Cypher is to compose the letter.

The Supervisors voted to authorize the pay increase for Gerry Geibel from \$22.50 to \$24.00 at the end of his probation period (Dec. 3, 2022) (see Road Report page 2 pf 11/14/22 minutes.)

Public Comment & Miscellaneous Business – Nov. 14, 2022

Bill’s Interior Grooming cleaned the meeting room carpet on Friday, Nov. 11th.

PennDOT is holding their annual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 at 9 AM at the Jennings Nature Reserve. The Supervisors said to check with the road foremen. They agreed that he can attend.

Major Expenditures since the Oct. 10th meeting through Nov. 14, 2022

Herbert, Rowland, & Grubic – SEBCO Pool Study final invoice	\$ 8,106.23
Somerset Outdoor Equipment – Ventrac tractor	\$42,017.40
Code.sys Code Consulting – inspections	\$ 3,551.10
Elliott’s Tire Service – tires	\$ 3,936.00
Teamsters’ #261 & Employer – health insurance Dec.2022	\$ 4,957.98
#1 Cochran – parts/repairs 2015 F550	\$ 1,287.19
Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham – legal – Oct. 2022	\$ 1,558.00
Herbert, Rowland & Grubic – review: Knoch S.D., Goodlin, Voller/Tebay	\$ 4,495.50
Purvis Brothers – gas & diesel	\$ 2,238.65
Stephenson’s Tree Service – drop oak tree (park)	\$ 1,000.00

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

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.), Martha Fleming (Secretary), Evelyn Gross, Kathryn Foertsch, James Jones, Brian Noah (Vice-Chair.), 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), Jamie McSwaney (Baseball), James C. Jones (Softball), and Chris Tully (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.

REAL ESTATE /PER CAPITA TAX COLLECTOR

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

OR 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 ↓↓

⇒ **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.

⇒ **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>



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 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.



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).




DON Housing Department

USDA Access & Rehabilitation Program for Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer & Westmoreland Counties.

This grant provides needed repairs and renovations for homeowners with very low to low income whose primary residences are located in a USDA eligible area. Funds awarded through an application process on a first come, first served basis. To find out more, go to www.doninc.org/HPP or phone 724-652-5144 (for hearing impaired TTY/VP: 724-652-5152). *The Township has NO involvement in the grants or processing of the applications!*

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