

REGULAR MEETING  
March 9, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by the chairman, James R. Jones, at about 3:28 P.M. on Monday, March. 9, 2009. All rose to pledge the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were James R. Jones, James P. Chick, Phillip L. Bachman, and Lois J. Fennell, Sec/Treas.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Supervisors met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss on-going legal matters. The second public hearing on the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was held as advertised at 3:20 P.M., prior to the start of this meeting. There were no written or verbal comments received prior to the hearing. Wendy Leslie reported that the 2009 allocation has not been determined yet, but it should be similar to that of 2008 (approx. \$94,011 for projects and approx. \$20,552 for administrative funds.) Wendy noted that the 2009 funds have been designated for 'housing rehabilitation.' No one commented on the matter at the hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THIS AGENDA AS PRESENTED: None.

MINUTES:

James R. Jones *moved* to approve the Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes with one correction already made by the secretary regarding the recreation meeting as follows: "*Note: Lois misunderstood. James C. (Jimmy) Jones is the new 'president' of the softball association. Loyal Fredley remains on the recreation committee as the softball representative.*" and to approve the Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes as written and distributed. *Seconded* by Phil Bachman. All agreed and *motion carried*.

FINANCIAL:

The bills paid between the Feb. 9, 2009 and March 9, 2009 meetings totaled \$27,362.09. The bills presented for payment from the General Fund today totaled \$36,186.72. No bills were presented for payment from the State Fund. The balance of all the funds after payment of the bills presented was \$254,138.08. James R. Jones *moved* to pay the bills listed as well as any bills that become due prior to the next meeting. *Seconded* by Phil Bachman. All agreed and *motion carried*. Along with the bills, the Supervisors signed a check to change a checking account (Kabel Sewage Escrow) to a certificate of deposit.

PUBLIC BUSINESS OR COMMENT:

Jim Jones asked if there was any business to be brought before the Board that did not have to do with the Summit Township sewer line proposal, which will be discussed under 'unfinished business.' There was none.

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Leo Rosenbauer was expected, but had not arrived at this point in the meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting was cancelled and therefore there was no report.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The second public hearing on the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding was held prior to this meeting at about 3:20 P.M. No one commented during the public hearing. The next step was for the Board to pass the annual resolutions and the county agreement. James R. Jones *moved* to authorize entering into contract with the County of Butler for administration of the CDBG funds. *Seconded* by Phil Bachman. All agreed and *motion carried*. James R. Jones *moved* to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution #281. *Seconded* by Phil Bachman. All agreed and *motion carried*. James R. Jones *moved* to adopt Resolution #282 designating the County to administer the CDBG funds. *Seconded* by Phil Bachman. All agreed and *motion carried*. James R. Jones *moved* to adopt the “Three-Year Plan” Resolution #283. *Seconded* by Phil Bachman. All agreed and *motion carried*.

The fuel bids were advertised for opening today. James R. Jones opened the two bids received, which were read by the secretary as follows:

Purvis Brothers

Approx. 10,000 gal. on-road diesel (clear) <u>OPIS + .10 cents</u> – <b>Unit Price</b>	<b>\$1.4406 (\$14,406.00)</b>
Approx. 1,000 gal. unleaded gasoline “ -- <b>Unit Price</b>	<b>\$1.3636 (\$1,363.60)</b>

Glassmere Fuel

Approx. 10,000 gal. on-road diesel (clear) <u>OPIS + constant margin - Unit Price</u> \$1.3267 + .1994	<b>= Unit Price \$1.526 (\$15,261.00)</b>
Approx. 1,000 gal. unleaded gasoline “ - <u>Unit Price</u> \$1.3828 + .2994	<b>= Unit Price \$1.682 (\$1,682.20)</b>

*Motion* by James R. Jones to table the decision until the next meeting. *Seconded* by Phil Bachman. All agreed and *motion carried*.

**There was significant and lengthy discussion on the Summit Township proposal to run a sewer line through Jefferson Township from Herman to Saxonburg Area Authority (SAA).** Several township residents spoke: Maria Mills, Dave Sell, Wally Cypher, Walt Donop, Tom Cook, Bruce Thoma, Lois Rankin, Shirley Rodgers, Carl Smith, Charles Watson, Jean Grimm, Sue Hartzell, Dave Perine, Dean Thomas, Bob Edinger, Bernie Kriley, Harold Riemer, Lillian Bachman, Grace Grimm, Bill Foertsch, and Dave Campbell. Mr. Rich Craft from Olsen and Associates and the Supervisors answered questions as best they could. The following is a synopsis of the answers.

The proposed sewage line will not be paid for by Jefferson Township or its property owners. It is a Summit Township project. Those whose property the sewer right-of-way (r.o.w.) will go through will be affected as well as those who build new houses within 150 ft. of the installed line or whose septic system malfunctions to the point where it must be replaced and the house is within the 150 ft. distance to the line. Access to the r.o.w. will generally be for the initial installation and repairs. It is the practice of SAA to offer \$1 for the r.o.w. from those whose property the proposed line will go, but if refused, the r.o.w. (20 ft.) will be condemned, and fair market value will be paid for the 20 ft. r.o.w.

The proposed project is for the ‘main line’ only at this time. Any development outside the 150 ft. distance (described in #1) will be between the property owner and the developer. Unless the DEP comes in to mandate sewer, the township will not require tap-in except in regards to the 150 ft. rule (above.) Summit Township’s Board is waiting to hear the decision from the Jefferson Township Supervisors before they proceed to make a decision. Mr. Osche (Summit Township Supervisor) and Mr. Craft said that building a line through Jefferson is more costly up front, but it will be ‘more grant worthy’ and in the end there will not be overhead expenses for employees and maintenance costs that come with building their own plant/system. The proposed line will cost about \$3.75 million.

If Jefferson allows the sewer line, and Summit proceeds with this option, the Saxonburg Authority Board still must review and approve the plan.

The Township, if mandated by DEP, would *probably* try to connect to SAA, rather than build a system.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, cont.: (Summit Township proposal)

Condemnation does not make the whole property unusable. A right-of-way of 20 ft. would be condemned FOR USE to install the proposed sewer line.

Summit Township's option to try to hook on to Butler Area Sewer Authority (BASA) is the most expensive due to the DEP consent order and a pump station needing upgraded. Whereas, the Jefferson Township proposed line would be by gravity flow.

The new SAA/Penn Township plant was sized for 20+ years and the plan is upgradable.

In regards to the 'mandatory taps' required by Middlesex Township, that is a different scenario.

PennVest funding (grants or low-interest loans) would have required the mandatory taps.

PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) intervention within a township is 'complaint driven.'

In regards to the proposed line not being a necessity for Jefferson Township and being a 'help' for Summit Township, that may be true 'for today' or 'initially', but if in the future DEP mandates sewerage in Jefferson, the fact that the interceptor line is already there, will have saved the township (property owners) that \$3.7 million or more.

The proposed line basically follows Thorn Creek.

SAA's rates are going up some because they have not met their 'anticipated' growth.

The Township would require that roads (affected by the sewer line installation) be put back to the same condition as before the construction.

The current township ordinance would require a tap-in to the proposed line ONLY IF the on-lot system is irreparable (and the dwelling is within 150 ft. of the line.)

Properties with more than one hook-up (like a house and garage) would *probably* have one sewer tap and bill, but those with more than one 'residence' *may* have to have separate taps and bills. But, again, this is subject to the 150 ft. rule. Also, ***this would be a matter to take up with SAA.***

The tap-in fees currently charged by SAA are about \$7,500. This fee has 3 components: 1- physical construction costs, 2-general operations of the plant, and 3-debt service (to pay off the loans needed for the project after any grants have been applied.)

The monthly rate is determined by the operation costs and the debt service (after tap fees have been applied). Older systems (like BASA) have lower rates than the current SAA rate of about \$57 per month-- it depends on the age of the system. Ideally the rate should go down as or when the debt is paid off.

BASA's rates are expected to at least double due to the DEP consent order.

The Township Supervisors have been meeting at 3:30 P.M. on the second Monday of the month for over three years now. It is convenient for the township officials and for surveyors and attorneys, etc. to come for various plan reviews, etc. The number of people attending the 3:30 PM meetings versus the prior 7:30 PM meetings did not really change!

Olsen & Associates and Summit Township will size the pipe for the proposed line big enough for the whole watershed area (which would accommodate possible future expansion.)

The Board of Supervisors will ultimately make the decision as to whether or not to allow Summit Township to install the interceptor line.

Those property owners who must or who want to tap-in to the proposed line would likely pay less tap-in fees if done during construction of the line. Later tap-ins will likely be higher.

The answers to the concerns about ground water depletion and possible well water losses are unknown.

The sewer authority will not necessarily replace or replant trees along the r.o.w. line. SAA will be concerned about replanting trees with large root systems that could interfere with the line. But, SAA has worked with property owners to avoid or 'go around' some structures or other property improvements. SAA's growth potential has not been met. Mr. Craft said they are at about 40% capacity now. Adding Summit Township will bring it to 50% capacity. After they get to 100%, SAA can double the size of the plant!

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS, cont.: (Summit Township proposal)

In regards to the time frame for the proposed line: after this planning stage, it will take at least one year for the design and about two years for the construction. Then the loan will probably be for 30 years or so. Rich Craft said his general perception is that BASA is looking only to handle the current customers and satisfy DEP, and not to expand. It is questionable that BASA would be able to accept Summit.

In regards to waiting for a possible future mandate for sewerage from DEP, Mr. Craft noted that PennVest Funding is based on average income and at this point, Summit Township is 'more eligible' for grants.

In regards to the suggestion that Summit Township use the railroad r.o.w. (trail) to hook on to Buffalo Township's system with Winfield Twp., Mr. Craft said they had not looked at that scenario and does not know if it is a viable option. He said they could possibly look at the situation. A sewer line there would be using "Cole Run" not Thorn Creek.

Many expressed that they were 'against' allowing this interceptor sewer line between Herman and Saxonburg Authority. A couple people said they think sewerage is inevitable at some point, but would rather see the township have its own system. About 8 people raised their hand in favor of the proposed sewer line.

The Board made no decision today. Chairman Jones noted that he plans to attend the Summit Township Supervisors' meeting on Wed., March 18, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Saxonburg Borough's new manager contacted the township to inquire if the Board would like to have a joint 'trash drop-off day.' They are hoping for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, but might have to postpone it until fall. Lois noted that their manager said Clinton Township officials have reported that they 'break even' by selling scrap and collecting \$2 per tire dropped off. The Supervisors made no decision at this meeting.

## MISC. BUSINESS FROM TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS:

Wally Cypher asked about the old culvert on Fisher Rd. near the Nursery Lane intersection that was replaced several years ago. They have been having water drainage problems and he wanted to know why a smaller pipe was installed. Phil Bachman said the new concrete pipe is the SAME SIZE as the previous culvert. The drainage is likely due to increased water run-off due to development.

## ADJOURN:

James Jones *moved* to adjourn at 5:35 P.M. Jim Chick *seconded*. Agreed and carried.

## ATTENDANCE:

Kay Foertsch, Lillian Bachman, Stan + Maria Mills, Harold Riemer, Lois J. Rankin, Terry Dean, Chris O., Wendy Leslie, Larry Osche, Jim Burtner, Gerald Hoehn, Jesse Raabe, Sue Hartzell, Shirley Rodgers, Grant Rodgers, Thomas V. + Ruth Ann Cook, Skip Wagle, Eddie Hoffman, John P. Yaroschak, David Campbell, Charles Watson, Brent Isanogle, Bernie Kriley, Wallace Cypher, Wayne Deaner, William L. Foertsch, Steve Martin, Walt Donop, Dale Hickey, Bob Scheibel, Bruce Thoma, Evie Gross, Leo Rosenbauer, Loyal Fredley, and others not signed in, and Rich Craft (and Ron Olsen who was back in the hallway) from Olsen & Associates. NOTE: There were 60 to 70 people present, some of whom were in the hallway and not all of them signed in!

**Next Regular Meeting:**

**Mon., April 13, 2009 at 3:30 P.M.**