



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM
and Friday mornings - 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM.**

(Exceptions are posted on the front door and indicated on the answering machine.)

Recreation Committee

The recreation committee chairman had not arrived yet, and the Township Secretary, Lois Fennell, informed the board of two matters to be voted on before the meeting had to be adjourned.

The Supervisors voted to appoint Andy Bozzo as the new baseball association representative to the Recreation Committee and to appoint James C. (Jimmy) Jones as the new softball association representative.

The Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #280 in anticipation of the Recreation Committee applying for the Butler Co. Parks Renovation Grant to purchase new bleachers.

Planning Commission

There was no January Planning Commission meeting, therefore no report from the chair.

February 9, 2009 Unfinished Business

Last month, the Supervisors authorized advertisement of an ordinance to change the speed limit on Keck Rd. from 40 to 35 MPH. Subsequently, Ordinance #278 was advertised and adopted by the Supervisors at the Feb. 9, 2009 meeting.

The Township's liability, property and automotive insurance package expires on March 12, 2009. After checking with the Supervisors, quotes were obtained by the Secretary from Kilmer Insurance Agency, Kenneth Sloan Insurance Agency, and our current agency, C.W. Howard Insurance Agency. The quotes were reviewed with Mr. Jones and Mr. Bachman prior to the meeting and were as follows: Kilmer Insurance Agency (Keystone Insurers Group) quote from EMC Ins. - \$10,550.00; C. W. Howard Insurance Agency quote from Selective Ins. - \$10,492.00; and Kenneth Sloan Agency quote through U.S. Specialty Ins. - \$13,105.00. The Supervisors voted to stay with C. W. Howard Insurance for the Selective Insurance quote of \$10,492.00. This is close to a \$6,000.00 savings for the township over last year.

February 9, 2009 New Business

The Supervisors voted to authorize advertisement for bidding of diesel fuel and road materials for opening at the March 9th meeting. It was noted that 'coldpatch' will be purchased 'piggyback' via the State Co-Stars program.

The Supervisors adopted Resolution #279 setting for an E-mail Policy for Jefferson Township. The intent of this 'policy' is to delete all E-mail that does not meet the definition of 'record' and to manage 'official records' outside of the E-mail messaging system.

The Supervisors had met in executive session on Jan. 27, 2009 to discuss personnel matters in regards to the health insurance plan. It was agreed to change the health insurance plan to a 'high-deductible plan with a health reimbursement arrangement.' The Supervisors took a formal vote of approval at the Feb. 9th meeting.

Miscellaneous from February 9, 2009

The following discussions took place after the Feb. 9th meeting. There was a quorum of two until the meeting adjourned at 3:48 P.M. when one of the two supervisors had to leave due to an appointment!

Mr. Dave Perine talked with Chairman, James R. Jones and Planning Chairperson, Evelyn Gross regarding the use of an old right-of-way off O'Hara Rd. just before it meets Dinnerbell Rd. Mr. Perine wants to build on his lot/tax parcel # 2F10/25 of 26+ acres, and has requested an O'Hara Rd. address be issued. Old 'historical' maps submitted by him appear to show an old lane (1941), which was apparently abandoned sometime between 1941 and 1959, but his research and the township records are not clear. However, it was agreed by Mr. Perine, Mr. Jones, and Mrs. Gross that Mr. Perine's lots (2F10-25 and 25B) border O'Hara Rd. and that he has a right to access O'Hara Rd. through his own property using the old lane "cartway" and further agreed that one (1) new address can be issued for Mr. Perine's proposed new house.

The Recreation Committee met on Feb. 4, 2009. Chairman, Leo Rosenbauer, arrived after the Feb. 9th meeting adjourned, but proceeded to report to Board Chairman, James R. Jones. He noted that: 1) registrations are down substantially for the 2009 season. 2) The softball association is requesting that gravel be spread on the parking area beyond the Legion Field. 3) The associations have inquired about 'sewage holding tanks' for use in the park, but it was explained that the township ordinances only permit holding tanks to 'abate a nuisance.' 4) In regards to the associations paying a share of park expenses (in lieu of user fees), the softball association will support it, but requests a way to petition the Supervisors to reduce the fee amount (if or when needed.) 5) In response to Chairman Jones' suggestion that the associations pay half of the insurance coverage on their buildings, it was suggested that they meet with the Supervisors and the Township's insurance agent (Jeff Howard) on March 9th at the end of the regular meeting to discuss the matter.

SPECIAL MEETING February 17, 2009

Chairman Jones explained that this special meeting was to allow Olsen and Associates do a second presentation of the **Summit Township proposal** to run a sewer line through Jefferson Township to the Saxonburg Area Authority from the Herman area (via Thorn Creek from the Simon Dr./Caldwell Dr. area to Jefferson Center to Dinnerbell Rd.) Olsen & Associates approached Jefferson Township on behalf of Summit Township. The Supervisors heard the first presentation in an executive session on Feb. 9th, but Mr. Chick could not be there. The Supervisors then decided to ask Olsen to do the same presentation a second time, opening it to the public. Summit/Olsen need to know IF the Jefferson Township Supervisors will allow the installation of the proposed interceptor line and then need to know the 'level' of involvement from Jefferson Township.

It was reported that in 2005, Gateway Engineering prepared a draft report indicating various scenarios for sewage service: **a.** Summit Township to construct a new sewage treatment plant; **b.** Extend service from the Saxonburg Area Authority through Jefferson Township; and **c.** Extend service from the Butler Area Sewer Authority to Herman. Recently, Olsen & Associates began reviewing Gateway's draft report and found that the SAA alternative is more cost effective for Summit Township.

Olsen & Assoc. presented different cost scenarios based on 'no involvement from Jefferson with no Jefferson residences connected' to 'Jefferson Township permitting the installation of the interceptor and requiring a mandatory tap by all (approx. 60) homes along the route.' For comparison purposes, no tap-in fee and no grant were considered.

It was noted that Saxonburg Area Authority (SAA) has not even met on the matter – because the first step is to determine if Jefferson Township will even ‘allow’ the installation of the interceptor. If Jefferson Township OK’s the installation of the line through Jefferson Township, then proper submission to SAA by Summit/Olsen will be required for SAA to review and determine if it is cost effective for SAA to take over or to build the interceptor.

There was significant discussion, but no decision by the Board of Supervisors. Property owners asked questions and representatives from Olsen and Associates and from Saxonburg Authority responded as best they could. Some are listed here:

- 1) How will this affect township growth? Public sewerage “infrastructure” does increase the probability of growth, but also increases the value of land should the property owner wish to sell or develop it.
- 2) What are the current township ‘requirements’ on tap-in? The Township ordinance requires connection as follows: A. Any structure erected (*new construction*) in Jefferson Township, any point of said structure being located within one hundred fifty feet (150’) of an existing line of the Authority. B. Any structure located within one hundred fifty feet (150’) of an existing sewer line of the Authority that is currently serviced by an existing septic system, holding tank, sand mound, mechanical sewage treatment system, mine hole, or any other means of storing and/or disposing of acceptable sanitary sewage, in the event that the presently existing system shall fail and shall be incapable of being repaired without the installation of a completely new system.
- 3) What will be the cost to those whose property the line will go through? If the Saxonburg Authority does the actual building of the interceptor, they would approach the affected property owners and offer \$1.00 for the right-of-way (r.o.w.) through their property. They will negotiate to move the line one way or the other to accommodate the property owner (for buildings, pools, etc.) If negotiations fail, the SAA will condemn the property (for the 20 ft. r.o.w. only) and offer the estimated just compensation for the r.o.w. The sewer line will follow the Thorn Creek line as much as possible.
- 4) What is the length of time for construction? Mr. Olsen said the design stage and grant application will take at least one year. Construction will be about 2 more years. Mr. Craft said the Penn Township line was constructed on an average of 400 ft. per day.
- 5) Is this for sewer and water or just sewer? The interceptor is for public sewer only (not water.)
- 6) What about the capacity of the SAA? Mr. Cornetti said that SAA is running at about ½ capacity now and estimate that they could be running at 100% by the year 2027. At the current 3500 edu’s, the addition of 602 edu’s from Summit Township may be acceptable – but this is what the SAA will consider as they review any proposal that comes before them.
- 7) What about the water table? There are concerns that putting in public sewer will deplete the water table --- however, there are also concerns that ill-maintained or malfunctioning on-lot systems are probably currently polluting the ground, ground water and streams.
- 8) When will the Board make the decision? Jim Jones said there are definite pros and cons to consider. The Township is aware of problems with septic systems (specifically the Meadows, the Fieldhouse Restaurant, and problems with Bonnie Brook Home) in the township. The Supervisors, Mr. Cornetti and Mr. Olsen all concurred that it is only a matter of time before DEP comes in to review complaint history, at which time they could require sewerage to at least certain areas in the Township. The Supervisors could allow the construction of the interceptor with no involvement from Jefferson Township – absolutely free – and still have access to that line should DEP come through and mandate sewer in certain areas. If the Supervisors deny the installation of the interceptor, and DEP mandates sewerage in the future, the Township will have to assume all costs for any sewer extension or public system. Jim Chick would like to get more information and consider it further before making a decision.

Major expenditures between meetings and at the Feb. 9, 2009 meeting:

Frank B. Taylor Engineering – revise road specifications for ordinance	\$ 3,086.00
Chemung Supply – signs, posts, chains, etc.	\$ 7,809.94
North American Salt – road salt	\$11,754.39
Purvis Brothers, Inc. – diesel fuel and new pump for tank	\$ 3,012.49

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

During the winter months, as per the Township Ordinances, **NO ONE** is to park on the cul-de-sacs so that they 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.

The Newsletter

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 at jefftwpbutlerpa.@zoominternet.net or call the office – 724-352-2324.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors - 2nd Monday at 3:30 P.M. Recreation Board - 1st Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.
Planning Commission - 4th Thursday at 7:30 P.M. (except for Nov.19 and Dec.17, 2009 due to holidays.)

Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors 157 Great Belt Rd. Butler, PA 16002 724-352-2324 / FAX 352-8850
James R. Jones, Chairman / James Chick, Vice-Chairman / Phillip Bachman, Supervisor



