

# JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP September 2009 Newsletter

## **TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Thursday - 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM & Friday mornings - 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM.  
Office phone #724-352-2324 Fax #724-352-8850**

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

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

*All meetings listed take place at the municipal building, 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002  
Any changes are advertised and posted.*

**Board of Supervisors - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 3:30 P.M.**

**James R. Jones, Chairman / James Chick, Vice-Chairman / Phillip Bachman, Supervisor**

**Planning Commission - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:30 P.M. (except for Nov.19 and Dec.17, 2009 due to holidays.)**

**Recreation Board - 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. at 8 P.M. Feb. to Oct. (no meetings Nov., Dec. & Jan.)**

## **Recreation Committee**

At the Supervisors meeting on September 14, 2009, Leo Rosenbauer reported on the Recreation Committee meeting held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. He distributed the interim invoices for the trash removal for the four associations. The committee discussed the new one-year agreement. Career Track may be available, up to early Oct. depending on the weather, to paint guard rails in the soccer parking lots. BASEBALL: Fifteen year olds will be playing fall ball until the end of October. The home run net has been installed at the Legion Field by Jeff Stall, Andy Bozzo and other volunteers. POOL: The closing date for the pool is scheduled for Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. Mike McCarren is trying to find someone to replace him as pool manager. This is a 'volunteer' position. There is about 12 ft. of old sidewalk at the pool entrance that the township road crew will remove. Leo will notify the road crew how soon this should be done after checking with the County about when their volunteers can install the new sidewalk. SOCCER: The fall soccer season is under way. It was reported that several teenagers were found playing a pick-up soccer game on one of the fields without permission. It was communicated that the soccer association is licensed to use their 'area' of the park and the soccer association maintains the fields. Committee ACTION ITEMS: In regards to the new one-year trash agreement, the four associations decided they did not want the trash dumpsters removed for the off-season. However, the township secretary has informed Leo that Vogel Disposal is no longer offering the off-season rate and wants the dumpsters removed in the fall and replaced in the spring. The cost for this is about the same as the 'old' off-season low rate. The only other alternatives: pay the regular rate per month (\$115) or talk to Vogel about purchasing the dumpster(s). It was noted that the pool dumpster needs repaired – but if it is removed, it can be fixed by Vogel then.

## **September 14, 2009 New Business**

At the regular meeting on Sept. 14, 2009, the Supervisors voted to authorize the four member road crew to attend the Annual Safety Seminar at the Butler Vagabond Center on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, and pay the registration and usual expenses. Registration is \$10.00 per person. They also authorized registration and usual expenses for township officials (supervisors, secretary/treas., tax collector, auditors and planning commission members) to attend the Butler Co. Assn. of Township Officials' Fall Convention on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> (evening) at the Unionville Fire Hall. Registration is \$15.00 per person. The Secretary/Treas. and Planning Chairperson were authorized to attend the Rt. 28 Regional Corridor Alliance "Economic Champions Summit" on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. The registration was \$35.00 per person.

**TRICK OR TREAT has been set for Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009 from 6 PM to 7:30 P.M.**

### **September 14, 2009 Unfinished Business**

The Supervisors and Township Attorney have successfully negotiated the purchase of a 4.269 acre 'flag' lots with a 50 ft. r.o.w. to Rt. 356 that abuts the Laura J. Doerr Park. The property owners, Kevin and Michelene Neubert, had originally wanted \$50,000.00, but the township's appraisal would not support that price and subsequently Mr. and Mrs. Neubert have accepted the \$35,000.00 offer. The Supervisors adopted Resolution #294 agreeing to the purchase and authorizing execution of the documents.

The sale of the 1985 International Dump Truck was authorized last month and as a result of the advertisement, there were four bidders. Richard Murray- \$4,700.00; Walter Stickney - \$2,876.42; Wayne Dillabaugh - \$2,150.00; and Paul Foertsch - \$3,756.90. The Supervisors voted to award the 'as is' sale to the highest bidder, Richard Murray, for \$4,700.00.

The Road and Street Access Ordinance, which has been under consideration for more than a year, was authorized last month for advertisement and adoption at the Sept. 14, 2009 Supervisors' meeting. Ordinance #293 was passed without further comment.

Chairman Jones reported on the matter of the State failing to pass the budget and likely failing to include the 2008 Sewage Facilities Act Reimbursement to the Butler Co. Sewage Association. As members, each municipality is 'responsible' for that short-fall. IF the State ends up including the 2008 Reimbursement with the budget, the Township will be refunded. The Supervisors voted to approve the Jefferson Township share of \$19,178.04.

In August the Supervisors authorized advertisement of the "Off Road Vehicle Ordinance" (#292), but due to conversations with the township attorney, the ad was pulled. Further discussion took place at the Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Attorney Marshall reported that the noise aspect of the proposed ordinance needs to be re-considered. He recommends, due to the lack of zoning in the township, that the measuring of the decibels should be from the property line. He will be sending more information to the Board regarding 'decibels' for 'continuous operation' and 'spike' levels. More discussion is anticipated at the Oct. 12, 2009 3:30 P.M. Supervisors' meeting.

### **Public Business or Comment**

Mr. William Lawson was present regarding an unopened right-of-way. He said he gave his 'power of attorney' to Mr. Hagan Smith. Mr. Smith claims that Mr. Lawson's lot is NOT part of the 1980 subdivision and that Mr. Lawson's mother gave him a 20 or 25 ft. r.o.w. which was never recorded because the 'plan' put the 'unopened road' over his r.o.w. They are asking the township to allow a driveway on the r.o.w. to his lot. The Lawsons have previously been told that the r.o.w. must be brought up to township specifications for a public road or 'changed' with the permission of all the property owners. Mr. Smith said he will approach all of the property owners, but still asks that the Board re-consider claiming that not allowing Mr. Lawson to use his lot is an eminent domain taking. Attorney Marshall told Mr. Smith to put his information in a letter to the township for review. Chairman Jones said the attorney will then review the matter (again) and advise the Board.

### **Planning Commission**

The August 27<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission (P.C.) meeting was reported on by P.C. Chair, Evelyn Gross. They reviewed and approved a Lot-Line Revision on Durango Lane for Frank and Nancy Zacherl. Parcel D of 9.40 acres will be conveyed from Lot 2 to Lot 1. Parcel B of .42 acre will be conveyed from Lot 3 to Lot 2 for additional frontage on Durango Lane. Parcel C of .36 acre will be conveyed from Lot 2 to Lot 3. The Supervisors reviewed the plan and voted to approve it as presented.

The P.C. reviewed and denied the Neupert Raceway Park Land Development due to several outstanding matters, which are: 1) A legal agreement between Bret Neupert and his parents (the property owners. 2) Permanent structures are to be shown on the plan—in particular the restroom facilities required under the PA Uniform Construction Code/International Plumbing Code or apply for an appeal from the plumbing code. 3) NPDES and other possible permitting under the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Butler County Conservation District. 4) A stormwater plan. 5) Proof of filing the plan with the Butler Co. Planning Commission or their subsequent review letter. 6) A project narrative (as offered by the Mr. Neupert's consultant.)

Mr. Neupert's consultant, Leo Rosenbauer, gave a brief presentation of the land development to the Board of Supervisors. The 40 +/- acres are owned by Norman and Alana Neupert. The land development will take place on the 10 acres in the southwest corner. There will be a ¼ mile track, with a detention pond in the center for 100 yr. storm water overflow. The power company has indicated that there should be 'no physical permanent structures' in the r.o.w. under the 'high tension lines' that cross above the development. The existing home and barn will retain the existing driveway, and that will be fenced to prohibit access by the track users and spectators. There will be a new wider access for the race track. There are natural buffers (wooded area and fields) plus the substation to the south. Mr. Rosenbauer said he understands the outstanding issues and they will continue to work on those issues. After some discussion the Supervisors voted to table the NRP Raceway Park plan, refer to the Planning Commission for further review, and accept the applicants request for an additional 90-day extension. Further discussion included the following: Mr. Corbett would like a copy of the actual drawing (*the township has no means to copy a 3' x 2 ft. plan.*) He submitted a petition of 200 people who are against the track. Mr. Brewer said the power line right-of-way is 200 ft., but the consultant said it is 100 ft. (50 ft. on each side of the center line.) Mrs. Hartzell asked if Mr. Neupert had his 'financing' in place. He said yes. In response to her other question, his track will be clay not asphalt – and not the same as the track in Beaver County to which she referred. Mrs. Kerr said she is concerned about the well water drying up with the water usage. She asked about the existing agricultural pond. It is fed by natural spring and may be used as a back-up for water during dryer periods. Mr. Rosenbauer said the retention pond will not be stagnant, but is based on a circulating system (to their knowledge there are no springs on this side of the Neupert property.) Mr. Neupert is planning a 'French drain type' system to collect as much water run-off as possible.

### **Misc. Business September 14, 2009**

Mr. Robert Corbett mentioned the House Bill #1500, which would require townships to pay for state police coverage (with no increase in the actual coverage.) He expressed concern that the township should be getting the word out! Information on this bill was printed in the August 2009 Newsletter. The Newsletters are posted on the website. (Please see the notice on page 4.)

Evie Gross, P.C. Chair, added that Dave Perine attended the August 27<sup>th</sup> P.C. meeting to inquire about a possible subdivision of his property on Dinnerbell Rd. He has a flag lot with an existing private r.o.w. (driveway) which he and the front lot currently use. A third lot on a private lane is permissible under the township ordinances, but the attorney was consulted about the 'construction specifications' for private rights-of-way. The attorney advised that Mr. Perine can be grandfathered in for the driveway construction specifications, since the shared portion is existing.

#### **Major expenditures between meetings and at the Sept. 14th meeting:**

Hotsy Equipment Co. – commercial pressure washer	\$ 3,025.00
Russell Standard Corp. – seal coat work (as bid)	\$282,857.75
Butler Co. Sewage Assn. – 2008 Sewage Facilities Act Reimbursement	\$ 19,178.04
Hei-Way, LLC – coldpatch	\$ 8,188.86
Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Dept. – twp. share of w/c for fire and ambulance	\$ 11,821.57

**TRICK OR TREAT has been set for Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009 from 6 PM to 7:30 P.M.**

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**


According to the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) it **illegal** for any business to burn solid waste without a permit from DEP (724-656-3160 – *DEP Solid Waste Management Program*). There is a "burning ordinance" in Jefferson Township for residences! Please call the Township office for details. Recyclable items are NOT to be burned!!


It is illegal for residents or other non-resident users of Laura J. Doerr Park to dump their personal household trash in the park dumpsters. This is considered "theft of services." The Township officials will continue to monitor the situation and will prosecute violators if necessary.

**THIS SUMMER**, when mowing your grass, PLEASE do not allow the cut grass to accumulate on the roadway. It is a safety issue - especially if the grass becomes wet. It could cause a vehicle to lose traction!

### **The Newsletter**

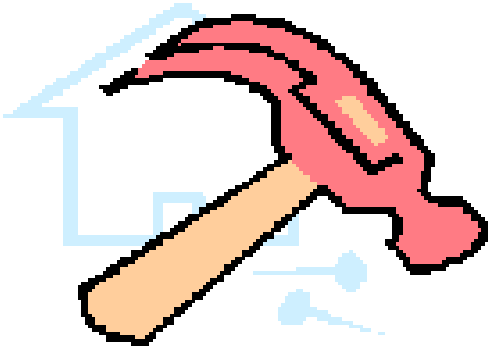
The Newsletter is only available On-line OR via e-mailing OR can be picked up at the Township Office. Our Web Site is: [www.jeffersonbutler.com](http://www.jeffersonbutler.com) If you want to have the newsletter e-mailed to you or if you have not received your e-copy, please contact the Township Secretary: [jefftwpbutlerpa@zoominternet.net](mailto:jefftwpbutlerpa@zoominternet.net) - 352-2324.

 **ALERT** IN July and August we reported on House Bill #1500, a proposal to force municipalities to reimburse the state for 'state police coverage.' Please refer to those Newsletters for more information. We recently contacted the news room at the Butler Eagle. It was communicated that since 'this type of proposal pops up every year or so', and it has 'not passed' yet, that they are watching the progress of the proposed legislation. IF HB1500 passes the full house this time, they will print subsequent articles in the Butler Eagle.

 **NOTICE:** A 'VOLUNTEER' to serve as "Pool Manager" is needed!! Mike McCarren has served as pool manager for the Southeast Butler Co. Pool Association at the Laura J. Doerr Park for many years and has done an excellent job. Due to changes in his employment, he desires to step-down. He is very willing to train and assist the new pool manager to take over this position. Please contact him at 724-352-1233 or [mccarren@gmail.com](mailto:mccarren@gmail.com)

 **TRICK OR TREAT has been set for Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009 from 6 PM to 7:30 P.M.**

 **Please see the 'flyer' on page 5.....**



## **Jefferson Township Homeowners**

Home heating bills too high?  
Need a new furnace? Roof? Windows?

The Jefferson Township Owner Occupied Home Rehabilitation Program provides financial **grants** up to \$10,000 to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners to make improvements to their homes along with making the home energy efficient.

Eligibility is based on household income and limited to Jefferson Township homeowners.

For an application brochure or for more information please contact:

**Redevelopment Authority of the County of Butler**

**114 Woody Drive**

**Butler PA 16001**

**724 287-6797 or 1-800-433-6327**

**TDD: 1-800-545-1833 Ext. 772**

**[www.housingauthority.com](http://www.housingauthority.com)**



**Equal Housing  
Opportunity**