

The Pennsive Reader

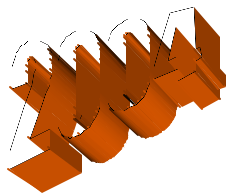
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Penn Township
Board of Supervisors
157 E. Airport Road
Butler, PA 16002

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Special points of interest:

- * Solicitation permits are required from any individual who desires to conduct door to door sales within the township.
- * Always ask to see a solicitor's permit before letting them enter your home.
- * When creating or replacing a driveway a permit is required, CALL THE TOWNSHIP FIRST!

Township Holds Reorganization Meeting

The Penn Township Board of Supervisors held their annual reorganization meeting on January 5, 2004 as required by law in the Second Class Township Code. During the meeting various appointments were made for the year 2004.

Mr. Samuel M. Ward was re-elected to serve as Chairman of the Board, while Mr. Douglas Roth was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Board. Mr. Jason Campagna was elected voting delegate to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors as well as serving as the township delegate to the South Butler Councils of Government.

Mr. Greg Primm was re-appointed Township Man-

ager which also designates him as the Township Corporate Secretary and Treasurer.

Philip Lope was re-appointed Township Solicitor as was Citizen's Bank of Evans City as the official Township Depository. Investment accounts were designated to the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust. Keller Engineers was re-appointed Township Engineer.

The annual meeting schedule was set to have public meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month except for November



2,

2004 due to general Election Day.

The Board also set the fee schedule for 2004 for various township services and permits. There were several other appointments and approvals rendered by the board during the meeting as general housekeeping items for 2004. At the conclusion of the reorganization meeting the first business meeting of the year was convened.

Public Sewage Update.....

In an effort to keep residents updated on the progress of public sewage within Penn Township, the Board of Supervisors have decided to provide this information through another volume of the Pennsive Reader.

As previously reported in

past newsletters, Penn Township continues to plan public sewage in certain areas of the Township due to a Consent Order issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, dated August 9, 2000. The official Act 537

Plan was completed in March of 2003 and after a 30-day public review period was submitted to the PADEP for final approval. The Act 537 Plan is a planning document that is required by the department prior to beginning any (Continued on page 2)

Public Sewage Update continued from page 1.....

sewage project, which outlines how the Township plans to address the sewage needs of the community and the associated timelines to complete the indicated improvements. In the case of Penn Township, the PADEP issued a consent order to provide public sewage to a certain delineated areas of the township, which they have diagnosed as having crucial sewage needs and a high rate of on-lot septic failures (a full copy of the map depicting the area is available at the municipal building).

As part of the planning process, the Board of Supervisors began negotiating with the Butler Area Sewer Authority to accept sewage flows from Penn Township instead of the Township building its own treatment plant. A year long series of meetings ensued negotiating an inter-governmental agreement which would provide treatment of our sewage flows as well as provide property for future use to the Butler Area Sewer Authority. In March of 2003, the Township had not completed these negotiations and was at an impasse with the Authority on a few key issues revolving around cost and environmental concerns. Penn Township proceeded to submit the completed plan with BASA being the chosen method of

treatment despite the impasse on negotiations. This was done in order to comply with the timelines provided in the Consent Order issued by the PADEP.

In May of 2003, the Township was approached by the Saxonburg Area Authority to investigate Penn Township's sewage requirements and to offer a proposal which included inviting Penn Township to join their system along with Middlesex Township. The SAA provided strong proof that by joining the Authority our costs would be significantly lower. This offer also provided an official seat on the Authority to a Penn Township representative, which BASA would not even consider in their negotiations. Their offer further provided that the SAA would incur the debt for the project on behalf of the Township, which again was not a consideration made by BASA. The proposal reflected the economy of scales for such a project and the cost benefit of completing our projects together resulting in lower monthly costs for all parties involved. The Penn Township Board

of Supervisors asked for a more detailed rate study to be completed, to be reviewed by them as well as the Township Engineer. The rate analysis study was to be prepared by the SAA staff Engineer, Paul Cornetti. This study was to be completed over a three-week period and submitted to Penn Township for review. The study was reviewed by Penn Township, the Township Engineer, Middlesex Township, HRG Engineering, Saxonburg Borough and their engineer (Chester Engineers).

All parties involved endorsed the study and unanimously agreed with its findings; that this project would result in considerable savings to all three communities resulting in lower project costs as well as lower monthly user rates.

In mid-September, 2003 the SAA voted unanimously to expand their service area to include the area on the DEP Consent Order and additional areas such as the Rt. 8 corridor and portions of southern Penn Township. Also under consideration at the time was the feasibility of building a sewage treatment plant on the old Franklin Glass Plant property off of Hicks Road. The SAA recently completed the regional Act 537 Plan and it is currently on public display for 30 days at each municipal building involved in the project. At the completion of this 30 day review the plan will be submitted to the PADEP for final approval.

The SAA has assured the Board of Supervisors that their plan is to complete this project by the required implementation date issued in the consent order, depicting late 2006 as a start-up date for the delineated area in the order. The project area and plant site plan (Franklin Glass Plant) can be viewed at the municipal building as well as the time line indicating key milestones and final implementation.

Penn Township to Assume Authority Seat in January, 2004

The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted in October, 2003 to have Board Chairman, Sam Ward represent Penn Township on the Saxonburg Area Authority as our official voting representative. Mr. Ward has been attending all of the Authority meetings since then to stay up to date on the project even before he officially takes his seat during the second week in January, 2004. Mr. Ward is a Civil Engineer by trade and his education and experience will be a

valuable asset to the community while serving in this official function on behalf of the Township.

If there are any questions about the sewage project please call the municipal building or e-mail:

Supervisors@penntownship.org

Penn Township is on the WEB!!!! - www.penntownship.org

In early 2003, Penn Township officially launched its first website. The site is currently in its infancy and already is in desperate need of updating, which we plan on making a priority during the early part of 2004.

There is a great deal of valuable information available on the site currently and we encourage residents to visit it often as well as to check for updates as they occur.

Some of the information currently available on www.penntownship.org:

- Important addresses and phone numbers of municipal contacts and other government contacts.
- E-mail contacts of municipal and other government officials
- Zoning map, permit information with pdf downloads of most applications required within the landuse department
- Sewage information including a pdf

download of the Township's Consent Decree from the PADEP.

- A calendar of events that will eventually be updated to show happenings within the township.
- Public Safety information
- Minutes and Agendas of Public Meetings
- And Much More!



Communicating with you is a primary goal in launching the Penn TownshipWebsite

Statewide Building Code Arrives in 2004

On November 20, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission unanimously approved the final form administration and enforcement regulations for the Uniform Construction Code (Act 45 of 1999). This is a major step toward implementation of the UCC. After a final review by the Attorney General's Office, these regulations will be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, which is expected in January 2004.

Act 45 will take effect 90 days after these regulations are published in the bulletin. An additional 90 days will then be offered for township's to implement the code and notify the Department of Labor and Industry of their action. This will effect Penn Township by mid year at which point building permits will cease and construction permits will be required so that required building inspections can

take place as required by Act 45 of 1999.

To see a copy of the regulations go to www.dli.state.pa.us

HOUSE NUMBERING...SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

The Penn Township police are experiencing a number of problems, when responding to emergency calls, locating homes because house numbers are not being displayed correctly.

Township Ordinance 106 was passed January 2, 1996 and sets a number of requirements for residents to display their house number to provide better response times by the police, ambulance and



Township Ordinances are considered Law and as such must be complied with.

fire departments. The ordinance covers assignments of house numbers, size and locations for house numbers as well as assigning violations and penalties for non-compliance. A full text of the ordinance can

be downloaded in PDF format on the bottom of the police page on the Township's website: www.penntownship.org. Please take time to read the ordinance and comply with its requirements. Minutes and seconds are extremely valuable to emergency responders and the life you save may be your own.

**Penn Township
Board of Supervisors**

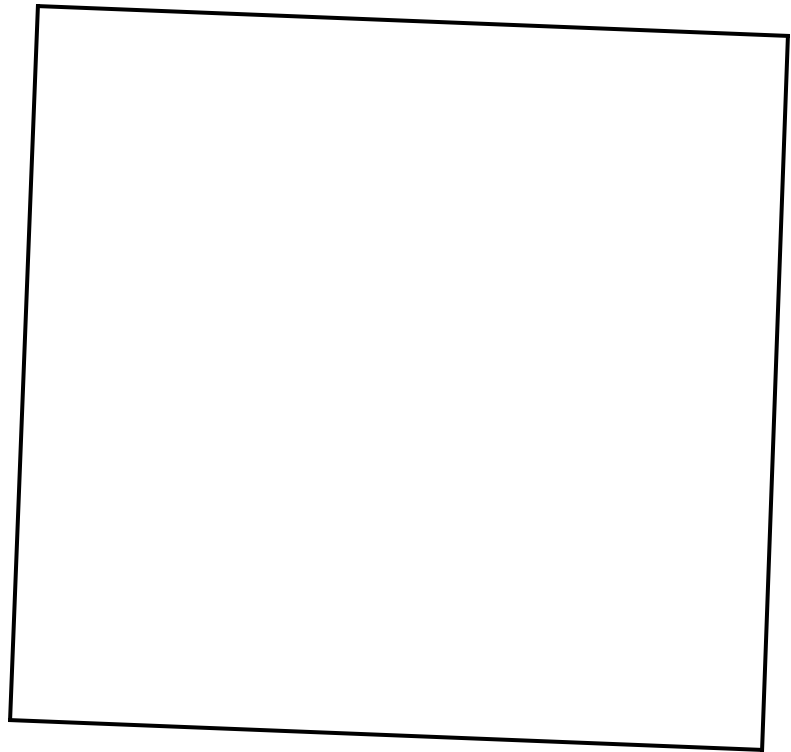
157 E. Airport Road
Butler, PA 16002
(724) 586-1165
Supervisors@penntownship.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:
Samuel M. Ward, Chairman
Douglas A. Roth, Vice-Chairman
Jason L. Campagna

Department of Public Works
(724) 285-9317
DRoth@penntownship.org
Police Department
(724) 586-1169
Police@penntownship.org
Administration
(724) 586-1165
GPrimm@penntownship.org

We're on the web!

www.penntownship.org



A Word From The Department of Public Works Doug Roth—Public Works Director and Township Supervisor

Weather wise, the year 2003 will be remembered by us for sometime, especially those of us whose jobs or livelihoods are directly affected by the weather. The winter of 2003 started early with snow covering the ground in mid-November last year. This continued through March with some memorable snows on Christmas Day and Presidents' Day. Penn Township managed to get through the winter just as everyone else did, but not without a strain on the budget due to material costs (salt and anti-skid), labor, and repairs. Unofficially, nearly 80 inches of snow was recorded at the Public Works Department. Teased in the early spring by a couple of weeks of nice warm weather, Mother Nature was not done with us.

We had one of the wettest summers in recent memory including thunderstorms with damaging winds, lightning, and torrential rains were almost

a weekly occurrence. Trees were constantly toppled, blocking roadways and knocking down power lines and telephone lines. The Penn Township DPW and the Penn Township VFD logged many hours behind chainsaws clearing the roadways. The rainfalls were almost unbelievable. The last week of August, usually a dry time of the year, netted 6.5 inches of rain in four days. Emptying the rain gauge at the DPW became a daily ritual. As a result many of the planned summer projects had to be postponed or delayed.



WINTER AGAIN!

There still remains several pipe replacement projects to be completed. There were plans to seal at least 2 miles of roads with tar

and chip, but it had to be canceled due to the lateness of the year and budgetary problems from the winter havoc we experienced.

All in all it is the trying times that make you better by exposing your weaknesses. We managed fairly well with the winter and our suppliers, but also realized that our salt storage capacity could no longer be ignored and have taken action to correct the problem. We have been working between the raindrops to complete the new salt storage building which has increased our capacity 6 fold. We have been able to correct some chronic drainage problems as well. We thank the residents for the patience they've shown us this year with the snow and rain and we look forward to serving you in 2004!