

Jackson Township News

April, 2010

Jackson Township Phone Numbers

Municipal Office.....925-2401
Cindy Opdyke, Secretary/Treasurer
(Open Monday – Thursday mornings)
Fax.....925-5122
Email.....jacksontwp@frontier.com
Web Site.....www.jacksontownship.us

Supervisors:

Carl Remley.....925-2679
(Chairman)
Ron Robbins.....925-2168
(Roadmaster)
Greg Remley, Jr.....925-5760

Tax Collector:

Lisa Wyllie.....925-2336
Hours: 6 PM – 8 PM on the last Monday of
each month except holidays
Saturday: 4/24, 8/28: 9 AM – 11 AM
Where: Jackson Township Municipal Building
No payments accepted at her residence. Mail
payments to: P.O. Box 156
Benton, PA 17814

Zoning and Sewage Enforcement Officer:

Chris Bower.....458-0316

Township Meetings

Where: Jackson Township Municipal Building,
862 Waller Divide Road. Handicap accessible.

Supervisors': (7:30 p.m.) First Tuesday of
each month with the exception of November
(first Wednesday), due to elections.

Planning Commission: (7:00 p.m.)

First Tuesday of each month with the
exception of November, before Supervisors'
Meetings

Meet Your New Supervisor

Greg Remley lives on Andys Hill Road with his wife and three sons. He is 31 years old and has a CDL license (needed to drive trucks and heavy equipment). He was a truck driver before being elected as Township Supervisor. He works hard on the roads and is anxious to learn as much as possible about maintaining the roads and other township business. He has some good teachers with his grandfather, Carl Remley, and Ron Robbins. He represents Jackson Township at the Tri-County COG meetings once a month, where he gets to talk to other Township Supervisors about road problems and solutions. The COG is made up of approximately 32 townships in the area. Their representatives meet once a month. They advertise to bid on material and road projects together, which usually gets a better price. They also share information which is a big help to all of them. Greg will be traveling to Hershey this year to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, where he will meet Township Supervisors and vendors from all over the state of Pennsylvania, attend training sessions and meetings, listen to our State leaders, and vote on resolutions.

Jackson Township Web Site

Take a look at our newly reconditioned web site. SEDA-COG is our host. They fix anything that goes wrong or that I mess up on the web site. They host a training session teaching secretaries how to use the site. We have added zoning information: zoning map, zoning areas and uses. You can also download permit applications for subdivisions, driveways, building projects, or timber harvesting. If you want to read the unapproved minutes of the last meeting or the last several meetings, they are available on the site.

Road Projects

This year we have applied to the Columbia County Conservation District Dirt and Gravel Road Program for a grant to fix Coles Creek Mill Road. The road has some drainage problems and the January flood washed it out in some places. The Dirt and Gravel Road engineer, Barry Travelpiece, mapped out the work that should be done including storm drains and inlets, rock lined ditches, piping,

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etc. The entire project is estimated to be a little over \$41,000. If the grant is approved, the Dirt and Gravel Road District will grant us approximately \$32,000. We will have to make up the difference of approximately \$9,000. We should know if the grant is approved in the beginning of May. They have granted us money in the past to install pipes and inlet boxes in Mountain Road and Dean Pealer Lane. In order to apply for the grant, a Supervisor has to attend a two-day training session for environmentally sensitive maintenance of dirt and gravel roads. He is then qualified to ask for a grant for the next five years. This is the last year for Ron Robbins to be qualified, Greg Remley will be taking the next training session. The training sessions are free. That's a plus!

As you may have noticed, the road crew has been working on Ridge Road. The old chip and tar on that road has been crumbling, making it difficult to repair, and part of the road no longer has a crown in the middle. The road crew is tearing up the old chip and tar and shaping the road. They are adding salt to the stone in front of houses to keep the dust down.

This year and next year the Waller Divide Road will be smoothed out with the grader and oil will be applied to the road. Hopefully, we will have enough money to apply oil to the Ridge Road after finishing the Waller Divide Road. Road projects are extremely expensive and the money we receive from the state has been cut for the last two years. The township is renting a vibrating roller with an option to buy this year. They find that it really makes a difference in the road work and are seriously considering the possibility of taking out a loan to buy the roller.

Chip and Tar

Chip and Tar will only be available to residents who have gotten it last year. If the chip and tar is not applied every year, it starts to break up then becomes a problem. The Supervisors will make the final decision where to apply oil. The entire cost of the oil used will be paid by the resident. A payment of \$125 per 100 continuous feet must be made in advance. After June 1st, chip and tar will be applied to the township roads. The township will pay for most of the stone and labor. If you wish to order, please remit payment before May 14. Do not forget to put up markers showing where you want the oil

to be applied. You may use anything for a marker as long as it is visible to the oil truck driver and township representative (me) riding with him. Jackson, Sugarloaf, and Benton Townships work together on the chip and tar project. This enables them to provide a steady stream of dump trucks laying stone behind the oil truck. The three townships have helped each other with big projects many times in the past. They keep track of hours and equipment used to help a township, then that township pays the others in time and equipment.

Reminders

*During snow season, do not park your vehicle along the Township Road. The snow plows must get through and it is illegal to block their progress. Do not plow snow from your driveway onto the Township Road.

*According to the Second Class Township Code, anyone stealing or defacing road signs erected by the Board of Supervisors commits a summary offense, which includes a fine of not less than \$200 for the first offense. Please let the supervisors know if you see anyone stealing or defacing signs. It costs approximately \$125 to replace each sign, which comes from your tax dollars.

*Residents are responsible for their own driveways. They must keep water and gravel from running onto the Township Road or their neighbor's property.

*House number signs are required in Jackson Township in cooperation with the Columbia County Emergency Management System. The minimum size of each number is three inches and must be visible from both directions along the road in front of the house. The number signs are available at the Township Municipal Building for \$10 each.

*Wood chips are available in a pile behind the municipal shed and are free for township residents.

*Permits required in Jackson Township:

-Subdivision permit application available through Chris Bower or the Jackson Township Web Site.

Additional permits may also be required from DEP
-Driveway applications available at the Jackson Township Office or the Web Site.

-Zoning permit applications available at the Jackson Township Municipal Building, Chris Bower, or the Jackson Township Web Site.

-Timber Harvesting applications available at the Jackson Township Office or the Web Site

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Excerpts Taken From the PSATS Quarterly Newsletter "Townships Today"

Pennsylvanians are choosing to live in townships, but what do you know about the place you call home?

As many as 5.4 million Pennsylvanians live in townships, and you're one of them. But what do you really know about the place you call home? Do you know the names of your township supervisors? Have you ever been to one of their meetings? Do you know where the municipal building is and have you ever visited it?

If you are shaking your head "no" you're not alone. Townships remain a mystery to some people, despite the fact that nearly half of the state's population has put down roots there.

So what exactly is a township? Well, here is some valuable information to help you better understand this form of local government.

Townships are in a class by themselves

Before discussing townships, though, it's probably best to start with an overview of Pennsylvania's entire local government system, which is divided into four types of political subdivisions: cities, counties, boroughs, and, of course, townships.

Pennsylvania's founder, William Penn, established these units of government, which share the same basic statutory powers and public service responsibilities. Under law, the commonwealth's political subdivisions are divided in classes, which are based strictly on population. Currently, there are nine classes of counties, four classes of cities, and two classes of townships. Boroughs are not classified.

Pennsylvania has 1,456 townships of the second class (including Jackson Township), which encompass more land and have more residents – 5.4 million – than any of the state's other political subdivisions.

Your township is served by a board of supervisors, whose members are elected to make decisions that are in the best interest of the municipality. These local officials value your input. Therefore, by simply speaking up at a township meeting, you and your neighbors can have a profound impact on what happens in your community. An elected board of Supervisors,

whose members serve six-year terms and must live in the township, governs your community. Although each board has a chairman, this person has no more power than the other supervisors.

Townships are the oldest form of municipal government in the United States and have a deep-rooted history in Pennsylvania, with some dating back to the 1600's. In the early days, township supervisors primarily oversaw the maintenance of local roads. And while this continues to be one of their top priorities, township supervisors today have many more responsibilities. Jacks of all trades, township supervisors in the 21st century are hands-on local leaders who must be well-schooled in a wide range of complex issues, such as land use management, budgeting, transportation planning, and environmental concerns.

Always on call

Because they live and may even work in the communities they represent, township supervisors are on call around the clock. In fact, it's not unusual for supervisors to field phone calls from residents during dinner and to plow roads into the early hours of the morning.

Township supervisors hold public meetings at least once a month, and it is at these sessions that they discuss the issues and make the decisions that have the most impact on you and your neighbors. Under the law, citizens have the right to address the board about matters before it. When deciding on a course of action, the supervisors will weigh your concerns along with their responsibilities under state and federal laws.

Township government is the government closest to the people. Residents can speak up at a meeting and have an impact on what happens in their community.

To help with the administrative side of running a local government, most townships have full or part-time secretaries, secretary-treasurers, or managers. They may also have additional staff, including road workers, police officers, zoning and code enforcement officers, engineers, and park and recreation professionals, to help with the township's day-to-day operations.