

# GREGG TOWNSHIP NEWS

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Winter 2005

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## Sewer Authority

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## Gregg Twp Meeting Calendar

**Board of Supervisors** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
7:00 PM Township Bldg

**Planning Commission** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday  
7:00 PM Township Bldg

**Sewer Authority** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
7:30 PM Fire Hall

**PV Regional Planning Commission**  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday 7:00 PM Twp Bldg

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## GREGG TOWNSHIP YEAR IN REVIEW 2004

We are pleased to report that our fiscal house is in order, that for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row revenues exceeded expenses, and no tax increase is needed.

Roadmaster Walter Strouse was busy this year. He supervised our paving projects (financed with a \$425,000 loan at 3.35%), which brought ten township roads up to standard. We are paying for it with liquid fuel funds, not local tax dollars. And we finished safety improvements to our bridges - mostly financed by a county grant. We fixed the drainage on South Street, and improved the berms on Vonada Gap Road.

The floods in September hit us hard, but were no match for the combined efforts of our firemen, auxiliary, road crew and special volunteers. We repaired roads, pumped basements, housed and fed the temporarily homeless, and showed how well our community responds to disaster.

PADOT replaced the bridge on Fire Hall Road, and our firemen started installing dry hydrants in the township to help with firefighting efforts.

We had some changes this year - a new sewage enforcement officer and township solicitor came on board. Our election site moved back to the firehall. We passed two ordinances – one for property maintenance and one restricting burning in Spring Mills. This summer, faced with the lesser of two evils, we chose to enforce the state's new construction codes, believing it best to have valley-wise, not state-wide inspectors.

Our Planning Commission began examining Conservation Subdivisions to see if it fits into our zoning ordinance. Regional planning efforts moved along, and we'll have a draft comprehensive plan, ready for public review, by the summer of 2005. Ruth Jackson and Don Myers joined our Planning Commission, adding their thoughtful opinions to community planning work.

PADOT ended the SCCCTS project when funding dried up, so we are no further along in solving congestion and safety issues along the 45/144/322 corridors. With more accidents on RT 45, we requested a traffic study in the hopes PADOT would lower speed limits, especially where feeder roads and driveways are clustered. They decided the posted speed limits are fine, but people are driving too fast. The good news - safer roads depend on people obeying speed limit signs. The bad news - if this does not happen, future supervisor boards may have to look at speed limit enforcement. A budget buster if ever there was one...please slow down.

Tele-media came to town and they have surveyed our community on providing television services. We worked with the Spring Mills Cable Company, and now, along with everyone else, wait for the next steps.

Some citizens requested a barking dog ordinance, but we have delayed any action until we can determine if this is a township wide issue. If you have a problem in this area, and are willing to "go on the record", please call the office and share your concerns.

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2005

With statewide building codes taking up more time of the Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency (PVCEA), Gregg Township hired a part-time Zoning Officer to allow PVCEA to focus on their codes and ordinance enforcement. We are pleased to welcome Jeff Wingert to our staff. Jeff has lots of experience and brings a positive, helpful attitude to the post. He will be available as needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays to assist you with zoning issues and will attend Planning Commission meetings and help them with their efforts.

## REGIONAL DRAFT PLAN UP FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Our regional planning commission has been meeting monthly, and is made up of elected and appointed officials from all seven municipalities in our valley. We expect the Penns Valley Regional Draft Comprehensive Plan to be available for review this summer. Folks who want to get a head start can view draft chapters at [www.centrecounty.pa.us](http://www.centrecounty.pa.us) or at the libraries in Aaronsburg and Centre Hall. Copies can also be reviewed in YOUR township office. What do we hope to accomplish? Answer: a successful land use plan. What is that? One that **balances** private property rights and our community's right to plan. Will we get what we're aiming for? We are surely trying. Why not come see for yourself? You can read several chapters now and tell us what you think, or come to a monthly meeting – we meet on the fourth Mondays.

## ROUTE 45 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Perhaps one of the most challenging parts of the job of township supervisor occurs when PADOT comes to town. Granted, they have a massive job to do, and often, no matter which way they turn, someone is not going to be happy. We learned that the hard way when the Fire Hall Road Bridge was replaced. Changes to schedules were commonplace, complex issues arose, and rarely were we given enough input into the process.

That's why we invited PADOT and the county transportation folks to Spring Mills to get an early start and our concerns aired on the Route 45 Bridge Replacement Project. The officials from the county called the traffic diversion options around Spring Mills "challenging". No kidding – that's why we want to start working with them now....What's next? We'll meet with transportation officials to discuss the project in more detail. Here's PADOT's timetable so far – but, as the project manager said, it's not carved in stone:

**WINTER 2006** Preliminary Traffic Relocation Plan Unveiled to Township Residents for Public Comment

**AUGUST 2006** Preliminary Design and Project Map Revealed

**WINTER 2007** Final Project Design and Traffic Relocation Route Identified

We will keep you posted with newsletter updates and public meetings to keep you in the loop. Stay tuned.

**Note: we had a successful Spring Mills Townwide Yard Sale – stay tuned for the next one in 2006**

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