
GREGG TOWNSHIP NEWS

Published by the Gregg Township Board of Supervisors

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www.greggtownship.org

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ARTICLES:

- Secretary/Treasurer Farewell
- False Alarm Ordinance Approved
- Boy Scouts Assist Township
- Agriculture Security District Expands
- Sewer Authority News
- Fireman's Carnival July 31, August 1 & 2
- Controlling Township Costs in Difficult Times

Gregg Township Meeting Calendar

Board of Supervisors	2 nd Thursday	7:00 PM	Township Building
Planning Commission	1 st Monday	7:00 PM	Township Building
Sewer Authority	4 th Tuesday	7:30 PM	Fire Hall
Zoning Hearing Board	As needed	7:00 PM	Township Building

TOWNSHIP SAYS FAREWELL TO SECRETARY/TREASURER

Teresa McFeely has resigned her position to accompany her husband to a new job in the Pittsburgh area. She did a fine job as our township Secretary/Treasurer and will be a tough act to follow.

We will be interviewing candidates during the month of July and training our new staff member over the summer.

TOWNSHIP HEARINGS SCHEDULED

Several Public Hearings will be held this summer and fall covering a wide range of topics, including: Expansion of Conditional Uses in the Agricultural District; Creation of a Village District in Spring Mills; Restrictions on Outdoor Burning; Suggestions for Road Improvements for 2004; and Budget Line Items for 2004.

Check the back of this newsletter for dates and times. We invite all interested residents and property owners to come --- we depend on you to help us shape the future of Gregg Township and to insure that we continue to have a local government of, by, and for the people.

KEEPING COSTS (AND TAXES) UNDER CONTROL - by Doug Bierly, Gregg Township Supervisor

When was the last time taxes were increased by the government of Gregg Township?

Five years ago, when a ½ mill tax was added to your property valuation to insure that we had the funds needed to maintain and replace the equipment used by our Roadmaster and his crew. This has allowed us to avoid borrowing funds or requiring our employees to work with unsafe or equipment in poor repair.

Why has the government of Gregg Township not increased taxes since? In part, because of cost-cutting measures initiated by your Township Supervisors and Secretary/Treasurer. .

The Gregg Township Supervisors are always searching for methods to reduce costs, both large and small. During the past 18 months, for example, capital reserve funds were moved from a mutual fund for townships to the local Jersey Shore State Bank where the interest rate was higher. The funds were secured by FDIC and Jersey Shore Bank Stock and we produced thousands of dollars in additional interest income.

With state-wide building code approaching, Gregg Township is sharing the expenses with Miles and Penn Townships and Millheim Borough to train our code-enforcement officer for working with the new codes.

The Gregg Township accounting system software was becoming out-dated, difficult to use and expensive to maintain so Quickbooks (a popular software used by small townships) was purchased at a considerable savings and put to use. Other cost reduction measures include:

- Shifting to a less expensive internet service provider
- Using community volunteers like Steve Maczuga who produces the Gregg Township Web Page.
- A \$50,000 state grant will help us develop a Joint Comprehensive Plan with all the municipalities in Penns Valley - Penn, Miles, Potter and Gregg Townships and Millheim and Centre Hall Boroughs.
- A \$28,400 grant from the County for bridge-approach safety improvements in the township.
- Shopping wisely has reduced the price of propane purchased to heat the equipment shed.
- Routine maintenance of Township equipment performed by our road crew.

The costs of local government are many, and sometimes we are not able to do much to lower their impact to our citizens. But whenever possible we find ways to keep costs, and your taxes at a minimum.

BOY SCOUTS HELP TOWNSHIP WITH DISASTER PREVENTION EFFORT

Sixteen members of Boy Scout Troup 381 volunteered their time to construct and paint road barricades for Gregg Township. We use these to block roads in the event of an emergency. They received a big "thank you" and Certificates of Appreciation from the Gregg Township Board of Supervisors. All too often we hear folks complain about our young people. Please thank these young men for their wonderful effort:

Matthew Brown	Nathan Brown	Brandon Braucht	Bobby Crust	Frederick Dawson
Lucas Dillon	Clay Luse	Andy Markle	Chris Markle	Andrew Miller
David Poorman	Eric Rossman	Josh Smith	Lucas Stover	Neal Thompson
Phillip Wise				

LOCAL BLOOD DRIVE

The Millheim Lions Club is sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood drive on Friday, July 25, 2003 at the Millheim American Legion Post #444. Stop by from 1 pm to 7:00 pm. Blood donations are urgently needed!

NEWS FROM THE TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY - by Gil Morrison, Chairman

Our sewer system operates as a "not-for-profit business" to serve our clients at a reasonable cost. Operations rely upon maintenance personnel, engineering input, board guidance, legal and government oversight, secretarial/accounting attention, and a schedule for changing parts as they reach the end of their useful life.

On the process side, our system works well because our waste is digested by helpful bacteria. The resulting liquid is treated with chlorine and a buffer, and released into the stream. The remaining digested solids are removed to another plant for further digestion and eventually composted and added back into our soil.

How does this affect those on the system? Well, it makes sense that what we put into the system affects how well it works and what kind of material we get back. In this case, "garbage in" works just fine while too many chemicals or paints or oils do not. We appreciate your efforts to reduce their entry into our system.

Another challenge is either too little or too much water. When we have too much, we must work to keep a reign on excess flow by identifying infiltration from ground water, gutters, and sumps. If you know of a water infiltration problem, please contact the Sewer Authority members so we can take steps to fix it.

Not sure what you can and cannot put into the system? Call us or come to our next meeting and we'll try to help you. That way we can best manage this community business and continue the excellent work that has been done in the past. Working together will help us solve problems quickly and inexpensively and allow us to plan for the future – without having to handle unplanned or runaway costs.

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Gregg Township Fire Hall at 7:30 PM.

NEW APPOINTEE JOINS SEWER AUTHORITY BOARD

We congratulate Laron Horner for his appointment as the newest member of our Sewer Authority Board.

TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA EXPANDS

Thanks to the efforts of our Ag Security Board – Doug Bierly, Chuck Mothersbaugh, Scott Wolfe, Mark Kauffman and Russ Judy. We are pleased to report that sixteen new land parcels totaling 1118 acres were added to our Ag Security Area this year. These new property owners gain protection from nuisance ordinances that can make farming more difficult.

We want to thank Norm Lathbury, who serves as the Ag Land Preservation Program Coordinator for Centre County. He spent many hours at public meetings and handled the paperwork needed to revise our district.

FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE APPROVED BY TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance in June to address the increase in false alarms after a public hearing where no opposing comments were presented. Basically, anyone submitting a false alarm to the Gregg Township Fire Company shall be subject to penalties determined by the District Magistrate.

Highlights: Permits are required for alarms connected to devices that automatically notify someone outside the location where the alarm system is activated. NOTE: Homes or businesses with audible alarms whose sole purpose is to notify the occupants of that location of an emergency are NOT required to obtain a permit unless the alarm sounds outside the location or is loud enough to alarm occupants of adjoining premises.

For details please stop by or call the township office. Copies of the ordinance are on file for your review.

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UPCOMING GREGG TOWNSHIP WORKSHOPS AND HEARINGS
All the public meetings listed below will be held at the Township Building on Rt. 45

- Expanding Conditional Uses in Agricultural District to Include Personal Care Homes:** 7 PM - Thursday, August 14th
- Preliminary Budget & Road Improvement Workshop:** 7 PM - Monday, September 15th
- Final Budget Presentation for Public Comment:** 7 PM - Monday, October 20th
- Hearing on Burn Restriction Ordinance and Hearing on Village District Zoning Amendment:** 7 PM - Monday, November 17th

UPCOMING GREGG TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY AND LADIES AUXILIARY EVENTS

Gregg Township Carnival:	July 31, August 1, 2	Fireman's Parade	August 1 st
Public (Ham Pot Pie) Supper:	October 25 th	Holiday Bazaar:	December 6 th

To have the Ladies Auxiliary serve your Public Sale or cater your banquet contact Vicky Barner at 422-0387