



Brecknock Township Newsletter

Brecknock Township Office
1026 Dry Tavern Road
Denver, PA 17517
717-445-5933
Hours Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
www.brecknocktownship.us

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“Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows”-

*Helen Keller



“We all grow better in sunshine & love”-

*Jan Tribe

Dog & Fire Issues

Call

Pete Martin

(717) 989-3593

Greeting From The Chairman

For the first time, last year, the Board engaged the staff in long range planning, both in expected expenses and anticipated revenue trends for the next 5 to 10-years. We have approx. 60 miles of Township roads to clear and maintain. This is substantially above normal for townships of our size. Also, as housing developments are finished and built out, their streets are dedicated to the township, increasing mileage and responsibilities to our road crew. Typically, except, for clearing snow and ice, these roads do not require any maintenance or repair costs for the first 10-12 years. But many of our earlier developments have exceeded that time range and now required road maintenance costs must be added to our annual road budgets.

Also, the fleet of vehicles and equipment the township uses to maintain, and clear roads has become more aged and having constant breakdowns requiring many needed repairs. Previously the township never had a budgeted planned replacement schedule. The average age of the equipment is 19 years old with the oldest being 31 years. The facilities for the township equipment is hardly adequate anymore and containment of run off into the pond of salt and contaminates continues to be a challenge. For these reasons, we expect planning of required expenses to grow to accommodate road maintenance, and fleet replacements.

On the revenue side, we have our challenges of the typical bedroom communities. Most of our residents work outside of the township. They pay their Local Service Taxes outside of our township. They help businesses and corporations be profitable where corporate taxes are paid, outside of our Township.

The township has 4 Main sources of revenue, and only three of these contribute to the general fund.

- #1) Real-estate Transfer Taxes provide about 10%,
- #2) Real-estate property taxes (averages about \$45. per landowner) also provide another 10%,
- #3) Earned income taxes as shared with the County provides the bulk of about 80%, and
- #4) Liquid fuel funds from the state can only be used for road related expenses.

Healthy Township's typically receive their revenue by a mix of approx. 50% real estate tax related and 50% by earned income taxes by the residents. Previously, ours has worked, as long as the township continued to grow by increasing population and housing developments. During down times in the economy, as we had in 2005-2010, revenue from earned income and transfer taxes declined, causing the township to incur deficits, where expenses exceeded revenue. As our housing developments reach the extends of the current sewer coverage areas, and the current Board's reluctance to assign more farmland for housing needs, we expect the population growth to slow and be more controlled. This, and as more of the baby boomers reach retirement age, we expect to see the revenue from earned income to decline.

Typically, bedroom communities have a required higher tax base than others. Here cost of services exceeds the revenue, and our agriculture communities (where cost of services are lower) compensate for the difference. Example Terre Hill, Adamstown, New Holland Borough. As long as we can continue to keep our communities safe by looking out for each other and utilizing the PSP (PA State Police), we can continue to keep our real estate taxes well below average.

We believe your Board will be up to the task and has the resolve to make the required decisions. Including the Township Secretary, and Zoning Officer, your Board has over 100 years of combined service and experience in this Township. For the first time, all three Board members have been, or are current business owners, within our Township. Likewise, a first, all three Board members represent deep roots and family ties, representing a minimum of three generations of past Township residents.

Jerry Long
Supervisor

Info & Reminders

Share the Road

We need to share the road with cars, trucks, buggies, bicycles, motorcycles and pedestrians.

We can all help to keep our roads safe!

Do you need a Permit?

**Always check with the Zoning Officer
before starting a project-**

Zoning Officer-Levi Hoover
717-445-5933

MAKE YOUR PARK RESERVATIONS

EARLY

Brubaker &

Bowmansville Parks

445-5933

**Reflective house numbers can be ordered through your local fire company
Fivepointville 717-445-4933 * Bowmansville 717-445-6293**

PEST ALERT ** THE SPOTTED LANTERN FLY

The Spotted Lantern fly, PA. It is native to China, India, Vietnam, and was unintentionally introduced to Korea where it has become a major pest. This insect prefers to attack tree of heaven, but it will feed on many other host plants including grapes, apples, stone fruits, and has the potential to greatly impact the grape, fruit tree and forest products industries. Early detection is vital for the protection of Pennsylvania businesses and agriculture.

To report a site: call the Automated Invasive Species Report line 1-866-253-7189



LICENSE YOUR DOG * BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

It is a Pennsylvania State Law

*All dogs 3 months of age or older are required to have a current dog license-

Failure to have your dog licensed may result in a fine of up to \$300 per dog!

Dogs that are spayed or neutered...\$6.50

Not spayed or neutered...\$8.50

*In Lancaster County, you can obtain a dog license by contacting:

Amber Martin

150 North Queen Street, Suite 122

Lancaster, PA 17608

717-299-8222



*Contact Brecknock Township Office for a list of local merchants that sell dog license

*Without ID a lost dog may never make it home

*Your best friend's best chance to make it home safely is to be properly licensed

***You must keep all pets under control, quiet & on your property**

Brecknock Township Welcomes Rachel Long - Tax Collector

Through Rachel's Grandmother Jennie Good, she is an 11th generation descendent of Christian Good, recognized as one of the first resident settlers in Brecknock Township. More recent, her Grandfather Barton Horning had a furniture and then grocery store on the main street of Bowmansville, where her father often worked behind the counter.

Rachel obtained both her bachelor's degrees from Alvernia University in Accounting and Business Administration. She has worked over 25 years with Conestoga Wood where she served in numerous positions including Accounts Payable Manager, Senior Accountant, and recently as Financial System Analyst.

Rachel grew up on a farm in Earl Township with 9 siblings, has two sons and one daughter, enjoys bike riding, reading, and crocheting. At home, she has a constant loyal shadow, "Ebony" the family Doberman.

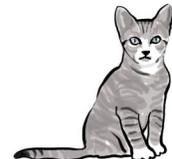
For your tax questions, if she's not available, you can always leave a message at 717-445-4206.

Controlling Our Feral Cat Population

We get many phone calls from residents complaining about feral cats in their neighborhood. Feral cats may stalk your bird feeders and use your flower beds as a litter box. These are concerning issues. If you are feeding feral cats you are not doing them a favor and not getting them vet checked and fixed. Fixing feral cats helps them health wise and is the key to controlling the population. Feral cats do have some advantages. They help to keep the community free of rats, rodents and snakes.

FOR A NOMINAL FEE THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL SPAY AND NEUTURE FERAL CATS

* Central PA Animal Alliance	Lancaster	717-574-5844
* Lancaster SPCA	Lancaster	717-917-6979
* No Nonsense Neutering	Reading	866-820-2510
* The Pet Pantry	Lancaster	717-983-8878
* Paws of PA	Lancaster	717-957-8122

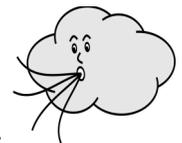


WINDY TRASH DAYS

Some areas of Brecknock Township have an on-going issue with trash blowing all over the neighborhood and beyond. The open trash containers, especially the recycling bins with empty plastic containers, are blowing on windy days.

Some trash haulers ask that you do not put out recycle bins on windy days. If you have any open containers it would be greatly appreciated if you can try to stop this problem from happening in the future.

Please be respectful of your neighbors and our beautiful farmland.

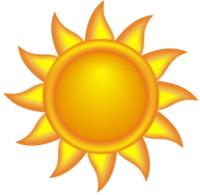


"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and lawn mower is broken"— James Dent





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1026 Dry Tavern Road
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Board of Supervisors 2nd Tuesday

Jerry Long, Chairman
Arthur Zerbe, Vice Chairman
David Leinbach , Member
Carol Martin, Secretary/Treasurer
Andy Baum, Roadmaster



Sewer Authority 2nd Monday

Mike McHenry * Stephen Tomasko * Grant Wise * Rodger Sauder * Jessie Martin

Park & Recreation 3rd Monday

Garry Messner * Jeff Tudor * Sherri Greeby * Burt Greeby
Mary Evans * Greg Evans *

Zoning Hearing Board 3rd Tuesday

* Ken Martin * Melanie McHenry * Steve Hildebrand

Planning Commission 4th Monday

Gene Martini * Dean Imhoff * Jerry Long * James Regener* Christine Storms

All Meeting are held at the Brecknock Township Building at 7pm and are open to the public