

ATTENTION!

We would like to include all area organizations and church group major events and schedules in our newsletter. We need your help. If your church or organization would like scheduled activities listed in the Area Schedule of Events or an article written about an event, please contact the editor at libertytownshipnews@gmail.com or mail it to Natalie Williams, P.O. Box 619 Fairfield, PA 17320 by the 10th of the month preceding the activity.

Liberty Township Board of Supervisors

Leonard M. Sites, Chairman
47 Brent Road
Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-5231

Charles Alexander, Member
880 Treet Road
Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-5285

John E. Miller, Member and Roadmaster
105 Shultz Road
Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-5648, Twp. Bldg. 717-642-9842

Township Officers

Natalie A. Williams, Secretary/Treasurer
15 Shively Avenue A
Fairfield, PA 17320
Business Line: 717-642-1253 Fax 717-642-9685,
E-mail: nawillbwp@earthlink.net or libertytwp@hotmail.com

Judy Crum, Zoning Officer
645 Pecher Road
Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-5180

Auditors: Fred Crum, Nannette Hatzes and Teresa Rodgers
Walton Davis, Solicitor
140 Casarea Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320
717-337-1600

Planning Commission Members

Phil Burgess, Chairman
140 Casarea Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-5007

Secretary: Jane Clements
Bob Robinson

The Liberty Township News
39 Topper Road
Fairfield, PA 17320

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Liberty Township News

A newsletter of the people, for the people and by the people...



Volume IV, Issue II

March 1, 2002

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Greetings From Your Supervisors!

By Leonard Sites, Chairman

We wish you all good health and continued prosperity and stability in all of your endeavors. Liberty Township is doing very well in all departments. We are very proud of the township's many resources, i.e. personnel, our standard of living, our great environment, the school district, our fire and police departments and all of the fine volunteers not mentioned that make up our township and community.

We recently lost a very well known township resident Mr. "Pappy" Shank who was 88 years old and a person of great character. Everyone who met him could not forget him. Mr. Shank was married for more than 66 years and was a father, grandfather, great grandfather, a friend and a very kind person with an abundance of positive attributes. My fellow supervisor, Mr. Alexander, was raised around Mr. Shank and had the greatest respect for him. Mr. "Pappy" Shank will be greatly missed by all who knew him and loved him. Our prayers and condolences go out to the Shank family.

Solicitor's Corner

By Wally Davis, Solicitor

Public Records

There have been several bills introduced in the Legislature in the past year that address access to public records. Some of these bills have been opposed by the Pennsylvania State Association of Townships, but one is now finding favor. While the public may feel that a revision is a good idea, the public may not know how much this might cost the taxpayer.

There is no doubt that the existing statute is woefully inadequate. Apart from any particular view about public access to records, the current law is simply poorly written. It predicated, by decades, the electronic era and it predated the explosion in records kept by local governments (which accompanied the avalanche of increased duties heaped on local government by the Commonwealth). Most solicitors cannot answer the question, "Is this a public record?" by simply reading the statute itself. More often than not, we must read not only the statute, but several cases that have attempted to interpret the statute. The result, in this writer's opinion, is a mixed bag of decisions as to what is or is not a public record, without any common thread or theme.

Continued on page 2

Libby Wins Bronze!

Libby, Liberty Mountain's (Ski Liberty) entry into the Cardboard Derby Contest held on January 27th at Round Top, won 3rd Place.

Pictured at right are Mike Yocum, Karolyne Myers, Larry Flohr and Dennis Ryan.

Picture courtesy of Karolyne Myers



Primary Election - May 21st

IT IS TIME TO VOTE! However, before we can vote, we need good candidates! Please be an informed voter. Know the issues, research the candidate. One of the positions we will vote for in this election is Commissioner of Adams County.

We need a good man or woman in that position! If you are interested, get a petition, get on the ballot. **Make a difference.**



It's Unofficial!

This portion of the newsletter represents Natalie A. Williams' thoughts and does not represent the township in any shape or form.

Potpourri...

By Natalie A. Williams

- When God gives you lemons, make lemonade.
- A big thank you to everyone for their prayers for my husband, Jack who recently underwent bypass surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. We have terrific friends whose friendships are priceless.
- No one can think, breathe, feel, see, experience, love or die for you. Discover who you are and who you can be.
- Overextending ourselves causes fragmentation, clutter and nonsense.
- A great website is Classmates.com where I found some old classmates from grade school, high school and college.
- A big welcome to our new neighbors on Skyline Trail!
- Stein Mart is open in Leesburg, VA. It is a wonderful store with great deals. Try it, you'll like it.
- I erred and put the wrong dates in the calendar last time. Next time, please drop me a note.
- **Happy Easter** to one and all. This is a great time for chocoholics like me. I love the molasses sponge candy from the Candy Kitchen on Market St. in downtown Frederick. Um, Um good.
- Read to your child, read to yourself. It is a great way to learn about everything and anything.
- Volunteer! President Bush asked Americans to commit 4,000 hours over the rest of your lifetime. So, let's roll!
- Don't forget to buy flowers/candy for your secretary/wife on April 24th for Administrative Professionals Day!

Letters To The Editor

Editorial Policy By Bob Robinson

The Liberty Township Newsletter encourages full participation by members of its community, and accepts letters and perspective articles from its citizens. They must be signed by the originator, include a current address, daytime telephone number for verification and must not exceed 200 words in length.

Reproductions of official minutes are based on submission by the officials noted. Modifications made for the sake of clarity are approved by the originator before publication.

Material will be selected for publication based on available space and relevancy to community issues. We reserve the right to edit all submitted material. Letters, photographs and perspective articles will not be returned. Address communications to Bob Robinson, Editor, Liberty Township Newsletter, 39 Topper Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320 or E-mail at dadswood@pa.adephia.net.

Publisher: Natalie A. Williams
Editor: Bob Robinson
Copy Editor: Caryl Austrian
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Distribution: Esther & Bob Robinson
Technical Support: Jack Williams, Joe Quinn & Gene Farkas
Township Historian: Priscilla Storis
Township Solicitor: Walton Davis
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This is the official publication of Liberty Township. Questions concerning township issues and activities should be directed to the appropriate official and/or officer.

Attention, Parents:
If you want to know how the Fairfield Area School District (FASD) is performing, please look at the Standard & Poor's Report on the Internet. It is an eye-opening report.

It allows one to compare FASD with other districts.

Go to wgai.com and look at the link for schools. Take the time to read it!

Continued from page 1 - Wally Davis

An attempt to specifically define and identify what a public record is would have been most welcome, no matter how inclusive or exclusive it would be. Unfortunately, the proposed law does not rectify the problem of a vague definition of "public record." It also can be argued that the bill creates yet another problem by placing a new burden on the local government to compile and deliver public records to those who request them.

The current bill under consideration is House Bill 2100. It is a far better piece of draftsmanship than were previous bills on this subject, but it still could be an expensive proposition for local government. That does not mean that it should not be enacted, but openness would also require that taxpayers be informed of what this might mean to them.

The bill provides that a request may be oral, and the township may (but doesn't have to) respond to an oral request. But if the person making the request wants the protection of the bill, it must be made in writing. The local government has five (5) days from the receipt of the written request to respond. It makes no difference how many days the office staff actually works at the township office (in many cases in Adams County, township secretaries only work a couple of days a week), nor what other work has priority (such as payroll, payment of bills, preparation of the agenda, moving subdivision plans along before their deadlines run out). Within five (5) days the local government must either provide the public record, or notify the requester that it cannot comply for any one or more of the reasons specified in the bill. (Those reasons include: the record needs to have confidential information blacked out; the record is located in a remote storage location; there is a bona fide and specified staffing limitation; [whatever that means]; a legal opinion needs to be obtained; the requester has not followed policy in his or her request; and/or the requester has refused to pay any fees that might be charged.)

When a township has no "hot" issues pending, the new bill will probably not be a burden. But when some controversial issue arises, this writer fears that extra staff may have to be hired to deal with a sudden onslaught of record requests.

For example, in the normal course of business, a citizen may come in and want to see or get a copy of the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting held on a certain date. To comply with that request would not be a problem. But now suppose a land owner has filed a plan seeking to build a concentrated hog farm, or a municipal waste transfer station. What often happens is that a "citizens group" is organized. When the group does not get immediate assurances that the supervisors will personally lie in front of the bulldozers that will prepare the site for construction, the group views the township as the enemy. The next step is

Continued on page 3

Waste Management Schedule - 2002

Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th
No service on Monday. Service will be delayed one day all week for that week.

4th of July, Thursday, July 4th
No service on Thursday. Service will be delayed one day after Thursday. Normal service Monday through Wednesday.

Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd
No service on Monday. Service will be delayed one day all week for that week.

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 28th
No service on Thursday. Service will be delayed one day after Thursday that week.

Christmas, Wednesday, December 25th
No service on Wednesday. Service will be delayed one day after Wednesday that week. Normal service Monday and Tuesday.

New Years Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2003
No service on Wednesday. Service will be delayed one day after Wednesday. Normal service Monday and Tuesday.

Please clip and save for future reference!

Fairfield Fire and EMS

By Gordon Sachs, Chief, Fairfield Fire & EMS

Mr. Sachs' column will return in May.

Township Meetings

There will be monthly township meetings on Tuesday, March 5, and April 2, 2002 at 7:30 PM.

The public is invited to attend. The meetings are held at the Township Building, 39 Topper Road.

Monthly Schedule

March 1st Tax Notices in mail box!
 March 5th Board of Supervisor mtg. 7:30 PM
 March 17th St. Patrick's Day
 March 19th Planning Commission mtg. 7:30 PM
 March 20th Spring begins!
 March 31st **Happy Easter!**

April 1st April Fools Day!
 April 2nd Board of Supervisor mtg. 7:30 PM
 April 7th Daylight Savings Time Begins!!
 April 16th Planning Commission mtg. 7:30 PM
 April 24th Administrative Professionals Day!
 May 1st MAY DAY!!!!!!

Friends of Frederick County Public Libraries, Inc.,

The Emmitsburg Branch Library

The Emmitsburg Branch Library is moving to its temporary site in April. It will move back to its renovated site in 2003. Please check with the librarians for times, dates, etc., regarding this move.

The Friends of Frederick County Public Libraries, Inc. is assisting in the gala opening of the C. Burr Artz on May 3rd. The renovated main library will open on May 4th.

The Emmitsburg Branch Library is available to Pennsylvania residents. The charge for a library card (non-Maryland residents) is \$40.

If you would like a Frederick County Public Library card, please see a librarian at the Emmitsburg Branch Library.

The Library Hours are:

M - W 10 AM-9 PM, Th & Sat 10 AM-5 PM,
 F 1 PM-5 PM

Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA)

The EBPA is a business and professional group of individuals from the Emmitsburg, Frederick, Carroll Valley, Fairfild, and Liberty Township areas. Its officers and Board of Directors are selected from the membership. Those wishing to participate in the informative meetings in a friendly social atmosphere should contact Don Briggs at 301-447-3110.

Recent meetings have hosted members of the planning functions from both Adams and Frederick Counties, as well as owners and managers of new businesses moving into the community. The Carriage House usually hosts the meetings in Jo Ann's Ballroom. Light fare and drinks are served. You will be pleasantly surprised at the open and friendly discussions about all facets of our community.

News From the Liberty Township Tax Collector

Important Tax Information

The 2002 county, township and per capita tax notices will be in your mail boxes on or about March 1st. If you do not receive them, please contact me.

If you did not pay your school and/or occupational taxes by now, please do so by April 20th. Only the full amount including the penalty can be accepted.

To obtain a receipt for taxes paid, please enclose a self-addressed **stamped** envelope with your payment and the taxpayer copy, which will then be returned to you stamped "paid."

If you did not pay your county, township or per capita taxes by December 31st, someone will be in contact with you for payment. Do not send the payment to me because I cannot accept it.

I receive calls from taxpayers at 642-1253. If I am unable to answer the phone, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

We appreciate your understanding.

by Natalie A. Williams

Cont. from page 2 - Wally Davis

to inundate the township with requests for all types of records and information, from obvious things (such as copies of existing ordinances) to those which are separately maintained and not necessarily related (such as records of every land development decision made in the past five years). And often each and every member of the 'citizens' group' will make these requests in an attempt to paralyze local government and show how powerful they are.

The burden will be on the township staff to respond to every request within five days, or the proposed law will presume a denial of the request. The requesters can then require the supervisors to consider the matter, and then they can go on to court. This is a very attractive opportunity for NIMBYs to tie up local government, or to cause it to hire additional help to attempt to comply with the law. There is nothing in the bill that allows related requesters (such as members of the fictitious group hypothesized above) to be treated as one.

The problem as I see it is not related to open government and access to records. The problem is putting the work load on local government staff to serve as research clerks and compilation workers for those making the request. There appears to be no ability to say, "there is the minute book, take a look for yourself."

Perhaps a salvation for local government budgets will be the ability, under the rubric of "specified staffing limitations," to state that no more than X hours per week per office employee is to be spent on public record requests. Only time will tell. If not, get ready for increased salaries to be paid to temporary employment agencies, or for increased staffing, to meet an influx of requests when a hot issue hits the fan.

Planning Commission Meeting — December 18, 2001 Minutes

Members present were Phil Burgess, Peter Foscatto and alternate member Leonard Sites. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved; motion proposed by Peter Foscatto and seconded by Mr. Sites.

The first item discussed was a subdivision for Robert Weikert, which was presented by realtor John Mattiolo. The sewage modules were obtained and after a review were signed off on a motion proposed by Mr. Foscatto and seconded by Mr. Sites. A wetlands determination was done and although there are wetlands on this property, they will not affect the house placement. Mr. Mattiolo stated he sent a check to the township secretary for the fees and as everything else was in compliance with township regulations, Mr. Sites made a motion to approve this subdivision pending receipt and acceptance of the sewage modules. Motion seconded by Mr. Foscatto. This subdivision will be discussed at the Supervisor's meeting provided the modules are returned from zoning and DEP.

The second item discussed was the land addition for Lauren Starnier along McGlaughlin Rd. County comments were read and discussed and showed nothing negative. Mr. Starnier will obtain Form B's and present those and his plan at the next Supervisor meeting. Mr. Foscatto made a motion to approve the plan pending receipt of the Form B's. Motion seconded by Mr. Sites.

Paul Goetz questioned the commission regarding proposed future development of a tract of his land that will contain a cul-de-sac. Mr. Goetz would like to change the way this plan is drawn now although the perc tests are not yet done. The commission explained that the zoning ordinance is in the process of being rewritten and they can not guarantee the proposed design would meet any new requirements, although it seems to be in keeping with future needs.

Kathryn Crum presented her 2-acre lot addition along Pecher and Crum Roads. The plan is to be submitted to the county and a Form B is also to be obtained. When the county comments arrive, the plan will be further discussed. The final subdivision discussed was a sketch plan presented by John Lalima on behalf of owner Walter Rogers. The land is along Water Street and it is proposed there will be multiple lots on this 10 acre tract. The commission discussed this sketch and advised Mr. Lalima to have perc tests done on the land so a subdivision could go ahead. This will be discussed further when a plan is submitted.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned on a motion proposed by Mr. Foscatto and seconded by Mr. Sites. The next meeting is January 15, 2002.

The minutes for the January meeting are on page 9.



Roadmaster Report

By John E. Miller
Mr. Miller and his crew have been cleaning snow and cutting brush. They are also working on the culvert on Wenschhoff Road.

If you notice any maintenance problems please contact Mr. Miller at 642-9842.

If anybody has questions regarding zoning ordinances, please call Judy Crum at 717-642-5180.

Zoning Report

By Judy Crum

Building Permits Issued December, 2001

Richard Terry for a storage shed
Gary McCallister for a pole building/remodel
Dennis Adams for an in-ground pool
Robert Jackson for a new home
Charles Arnold for an addition/remodel

No occupancy permits issued.

Building Permits Issued January, 2002

Dr. Thelma Steiger for a new double home
Allen Becket for a new home
Allen Becket for a new home
Allen Becket for a new home

No occupancy permits were issued.



Treasurer's Report

by Natalie A. Williams

December 2001

Adams County Nat'l Bank	PLGIT	PLGIT
Beg. Bal.	\$21,394.47	\$96,934.18
Receipts	16,095.49	151.35
Expenditures	32,514.18	10,000.00
End. Bal.	\$ 4,975.78	\$87,085.53
CD	75,000.00	
Interest 2001	2,486.57	
Total	\$ 82,462.35	

January 2002

Adams County Nat'l Bank	PLGIT	PLGIT
Beg. Bal.	\$ 4,975.78	\$87,085.53
Receipts	17,673.18	131.95
Expenditures	19,012.02	10,000.00
End. Bal.	\$ 2,961.88	\$77,217.48
CD	75,000.00	
Interest 2001	2,486.57	
Total	\$80,448.45	

Grand total assets: \$178,356.72

Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting — January 7, 2002 Minutes

The meeting began at 7:30 PM. Mrs. Williams made the roll call; present were Leonard Sites, John Miller and Charles Alexander.

Mr. Miller made a motion to appoint Leonard Sites as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Miller and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Sites made a motion to appoint Mr. Miller as the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Sites and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Sites made a motion to appoint Natalie A. Williams as the Secretary/Treasurer of the township. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Sites made a motion to appoint Mr. Miller as the Roadmaster. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Sites and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Miller made a motion to appoint Mr. Sites as the First Assistant Roadmaster. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Miller and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Sites made a motion to appoint Mr. Alexander as the Second Assistant Roadmaster. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Sites and Mr. Miller voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Sites made a motion to appoint Adams County National Bank, PLGIT, and F&M as the depositories for our funds. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Miller made a motion to appoint Mr. Wally Davis as our solicitor. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Miller, Mr. Sites, and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Sites made a motion to appoint KPI Engineering as our SEO and engineering firm. Moreover, Tracey Taylor from Wm. F. Hill will be the alternate SEO. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Sites and Mr. Miller voted yes. Mr. Alexander voted no. Motion passed.

Mr. Sites made a motion to appoint Judy Crum as the Zoning Officer. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Sites made a motion to appoint Mr. Fred Crum to a four-year term as auditor, and Teresa Rodgers to a two-year term as auditor. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

The following wage increases were announced:

- Mr. Miller's Supervisor's pay is increased to \$100 per meeting.
- Brian Arentz' wages increased to \$10.60 an hour.
- Zoning Officer Judy Crum's wages increased to \$250 per month.
- Planning Commission Secretary Jane Clements' increased to \$110 a month.
- Township Secretary/Treasurer Natalie Williams increased to \$900 a month.
- Police Officers' wages increased to \$12.25 an hour.
- Police Chief Jim Holler increased to \$13.40 an hour.
- Recommend to Auditors at their Reorganization Meeting that the Roadmaster's wages be increased to \$14.10 an hour.
- Mileage to remain at \$.32 per mile.

The treasurer's bond was set at \$250,000.

The Board of Supervisors Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM in the township building at 39 Topper Road.

Supervisor meeting cont. from page 6.

Zoning Officer Report

Mrs. Crum received 41 calls; referred 11 to Leonard Sites, 4 to the courthouse, and 2 to the SEO. She worked 52 hours on zoning activities. Permits were issued to Dr. Thelma Steiger for a new double home, Mr. Allen Beckett for three new homes. No occupancy permits were issued.

Mrs. Crum researched a Carroll Valley property and Tract Road property. She received several calls on permits and activity without permits, but found no problems. She received questions on right of ways and zoning information was sent. Her expenses: 12 - \$.34 cent stamps, 125 copies @ \$.10 and mileage was 64 miles.

Planning Commission

- Mrs. Williams gave Mr. Burgess two copies of Mr. Dubin's Form B.

Roadmaster Report

- Mr. Miller stated they are working on the culvert on Wenschhoff Road.
- They did snow removal and are cutting brush on Bull Frog Road.

Final Comments

Mr. Sites made the following:

- Mr. Sites is attending the Adams County Association of Townships meeting on February 20th.
- The Fountaindale Fire Department is having a banquet on February 15th. Mr. Sites and Mr. Alexander will attend.
- Mr. Carl Hobbs asked the supervisors to oversee the contractors who are building on Apache Trail regarding the flood plain. Mr. Sites advised these are former Charnita lots, which are ½ acre lots and the owners are free to build after five years. The township has no control over it. Mr. Miller advised him to contact Soil Conservation, who enforce wetland conservation. Mr. Hobbs also advised water is coming off Apache and Cessna Trails into the culvert.
- The Building Code:
 - If Liberty Township does not have one, the builder must hire workers who use the code and ensure it is complied with.
 - We can share a building code inspector with 3 or 4 other townships.
 - Mr. Sites will attend the Building Code Inspection classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM based upon a first motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Alexander. The next meeting will be March 5, 2002.

Planning Commission Meeting — January 15, 2002 Minutes

By Jane Clements, Secretary

Members present were Phil Burgess, Peter Foscatto, Bart Hogan and Bob Robinson. The minutes of the last meeting were approved on a motion by Bob Robinson and seconded by Bart Hogan.

The first item discussed was a subdivision for Herbert Dubin along Pecher Road. Mr. Dubin requested in writing an extension of the time limit of this subdivision which the commissioners granted. He also presented the commission with the township fee and stated the plan went to the county for their review. This plan will be further discussed when Mr. Dubin wishes to proceed.

The next plan discussed was a sketch for a total of five lots along Water Street presented by John Lalima for Waller Rogers. The commission is to review the plan, send it to the township engineer and discuss it at the next meeting. The next plan discussed was an addition for Fred Crum. Nothing further was done by the owner. Mr. Burgess is to do the zoning review and the plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

The commission members were given a draft flow chart of the Liberty Township Subdivision Land Development stages for their review over the next month. The commission members will review this and comment on it at the February meeting.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned by a motion proposed by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Foscatto. The next meeting is February 19, 2002.

History In The Making

By Priscilla Storrs

For many years there were no roads in our area, and goods had to be transported by horse train. A horse could carry about 250 pounds and could travel over rough ground for miles. A freighter, with 6 horses or more, could carry a considerable amount of merchandise. As our area grew, the need for roads that wagons could be driven on became greater and became an issue in most towns and townships. This was strongly opposed by the freighters because they feared it would destroy their business. Their objections were well noted, but the needs of the citizens had to be considered as well, and farmers needed a means to transport their wagons of produce to market and their grain to the mills for processing.

The first road opened in Adams County in 1742. This followed very closely to what became the route between Gettysburg and York Pike. Between 1807 and 1818, roads and turnpikes were winding their way between most of the towns and boroughs in the county. The farmers were able to expand their farms and prosper.

The economy began to grow even more and with the arrival of the railroad, the farmers and merchants could move their goods between states, thus expanding their markets. The first railroad in our area, called the Hanover Branch Railroad, was between Hanover and Littlestown. It was eventually leased by the Pennsylvania Railroad and now forms a part of the Frederick Division of that railroad. This was followed a few short years later by the Baltimore and Hanover Railroad in 1877 and connected the Western Maryland Railroad with the Bachman Valley Railroad and later to the Hanover and Gettysburg Railroad which produced a continuous line between Baltimore and Gettysburg.

Gettysburg was connected to Harrisburg in 1884 by the Gettysburg & Harrisburg Railroad. It was originally intended to run to the Pine Grove Mines, but the growing needs of Adams County made it necessary to extend it to Harrisburg. The trains were able to carry fertilizers, especially lime and phosphate, to farmers who needed to improve their soil for better crop production. The addition of these fertilizers made the crops compare favorably to those grown in limestone land.

The "Tapeworm" and Western Maryland Railroad route passes through Orrtanna after leaving Gettysburg runs westward to Seven Stars and southwest through McKnightstown station. The tracks curve toward the base of Jack's Mountain before reaching the old Fairfield station and then climbs around the edge of the Fairfield-Cashtown road. This railroad, because it meandered around mountains, through valleys and through towns that wouldn't otherwise be exposed to the benefits of having a railroad, got its name from opponents who didn't want competition for their Western Maryland Railroad, primarily because it followed very closely to the route of Thaddeus Stevens' proposed PA State railroad.

The state made appropriations and work commenced all along the line in Adams County and beyond. Cuts were made and embankments were put in place but, as happens today, the state stopped appropriations and work on the railroad stopped. It wasn't until 1866 that the railroad was connected to the Western Maryland Railroad, which added greatly to the shipping facilities of Adams County. Now travelers could go from Williamsport through Jack's Mountain, Fairfield and Orrtanna as the railroad wound down to Baltimore and Washington. Then back to Philadelphia and finally New York. The entire trip took several days, but was much shorter than the weeks they had to plan to go anywhere in the past.

Everything we travel in or on today is much faster than the railroad was back then. However, in speed, something may have been lost in being able to enjoy the beauty of the land that we travel through, unless we are taking a leisurely vacation. Progress always has a price, but the benefits are good for the citizens as a whole and the railroad definitely improved the quality of life of many people along its path.

The material for this article, and much more, is available at the Adams County Historical Society and in the history of Adams County. I wish to thank the volunteers at the Adams County Historical Society who have assisted me on numerous visits for information for these articles.



Chair's Opening Remarks:

Mr. Sites talked about John Miller beginning his 9th year with the township. He stated that the township has not had any problems with the roads with John as the Roadmaster.

Minutes:

Mr. Sites made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4th meeting as written. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Public Participation:

- Phil Burgess asked Mr. Sites about the regional park issue. Mr. Sites advised that the issue is dead. He stated Carroll Valley doesn't want to be involved with it.

Treasurer's Report and Receipts: please see page 10.

Approval of Bills:

Mr. Sites made a motion to approve the bills. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted to approve the bills. Mr. Sites questioned the Sprint bill. Mrs. Williams advised the countless hours on the phone with Sprint trying to rectify the situation since they are supposed to credit our bill. She will continue to do so.

Other Business: None

Solicitor:

- Betty Piper's affidavit was signed by Mr. Sites; notarized by Katie Crum.
- The Noise Ordinance was tabled until February 2002.
- The Spray Irrigation Agreement must be renamed according to Mr. Sites. This will be discussed with our solicitor at the next meeting.

Police Officer's Report: Please see page 7.

Zoning Officer Report

Mrs. Crum received 39 calls; referred 10 to Leonard Sites, 4 to the courthouse, and 1 to Mr. Miller. Permits were issued to Richard Terry for a storage shed, Gary McCallister for a pole building, Dennis Adams for an in-ground pool, Robert Jackson for a new home and Charles Arnold for an addition/remodel. No occupancy permits were issued. Mr. Jackson was issued a road permit.

Mrs. Crum responded to a letter from Atty. Battersby regarding a resident who did not have a permit for a building/remodeling. All proper permits have been acquired. She researched several properties and zoning regulations for individuals. Two zoning books were sold to Mr. Lalima. She handled complaints regarding zoning issues: one regarding trash/junk and another regarding digging activity within the township. Her expenses: 20 - \$34 cent stamps, 100 copies @ \$.10 and mileage was 50 miles.

Planning Commission

- Mr. Sites made a motion to approve Mr. Robert Weikert's and Mr. Starnier's subdivision plans. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Roadmaster Report

- Mr. Miller stated they fixed the ditch on Wenschhoff Road and did snow removal.

Final Comments

Mr. Sites stated that the township used Wm. F. Hill and Associates for 6-8 years, and they did a good job. During that time, Mr. Sites got to know Gil Picarelli and Tim Knoebel who worked at Hill & Associates. Mr. Picarelli notified Mr. Sites that he and Mr. Knoebel were starting their own company before the meeting. Mr. Miller and Mr. Alexander both said the men did a great job.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM based upon a first motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Alexander. The next meeting will be February 5, 2002.

Board of Supervisors February 5, 2002 Meeting (draft)

By Natalie A. Williams, Secretary

The Board of Supervisors of Liberty Township meeting began at 7:30 PM. Mrs. Williams called the roll; present were Leonard Sites, John Miller and Charles Alexander.

Chair's Opening Remarks:

Mr. Sites stated that America is still united. We should say a prayer for the Olympians in Salt Lake City and for the safety of the people. He is grateful for the cold weather. Ski Liberty provides money to the township for the one trail that is in our township.

Public Participation:

- Mrs. Crowley is renewing NPDS, which must be signed by the Supervisors, which will be done after the meeting.
- Dan Mirmochie would like a drain on his road to stop flooding, which runs into his house, barn and cellar. The supervisors will look at the problem.
- Priscilla Stors, the township historian, asked the township to pay the annual dues for the Historical Society.
- Mr. Sites made a motion for the township to pay the fee. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller and Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion passed.

Minutes:

Correction: Mr. Sites said Mr. Miller has been with the township 19 years, not 9 years. Mr. Sites made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7th meeting as corrected. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - See page 10

Approval of Bills

Mrs. Williams asked the supervisors about a bill remitted by Carroll Valley Borough. It will not be paid until it is verified. Mr. Sites made a motion to approve the bills. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Sites, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Alexander voted to approve the bills.

Other Business

- Valley Quarries sent a letter stating they are raising their rates.
- Hill & Associates was represented by Mr. Hill regarding the appointment of Gil Picarelli as the SEO. He asked the supervisors to reconsider their decision.
- The supervisors recessed the meeting at 7:55 PM for ten minutes to discuss the Hill matter. The meeting was back to order at 8:05 PM.
- Mr. Sites made a motion that the township stays with KPI as the SEO. Mr. Sites voted yes, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Miller voted no. Motion not passed; rescinded.
- Mr. Sites made a motion that the township appoint Hill & Associates as the SEO and Engineer. Mr. Sites and Mr. Miller voted no, Mr. Alexander voted yes. Motion not passed.
- Mr. Sites made a motion that the township appoint Hill & Associates as the Engineering firm and KPI as the SEO. Mr. Sites and Mr. Miller voted yes, Mr. Alexander voted no. Motion passed.
- 2002 election dates are May 21st for the Primary and November 5th for the election.

Solicitor

- Allen Beckett's attorney sent a letter answering Mr. Davis' letter. Mr. Davis asked that this matter be discussed in private.
- The Noise Ordinance will be advertised to be approved at the next meeting. Mr. Davis will advertise it.
- The Spray Irrigation Agreement will be renamed "Effluent Spray Irrigation." Mr. Davis to make the change.

Police Officer's Report : Please see page 7.

Continued on Page 9

Liberty Township Police Department's Address and Phone Numbers

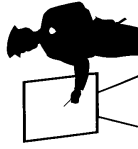
39 Topper Road, P. O. Box 58, Fairfield, PA 17320
Emergency Phone Number: Dial 911
 Non-Emergency county control phone number: 334-8101
 Office phone numbers: 642-6103 and 642-5307
 E-mail address: libertypd@cvn.net

January 2002 Police Report

- Mrs. Donna Powers, Mr. Jim Powers, and Mr. William Orth took the oath of office as police officers of Liberty Township from Mr. Sites.
- Chief Holler gave the Supervisors copies of the Police Policy and Procedure Handbook.
- Chief Holler stated the police officers have new uniforms and all of the vehicles have been fixed to be the same.
- Chief Holler stated that the new officers would be working weekends only.
- Residents were advised to report anything suspicious!

February 2002 Police Report

- Chief Holler reported the police worked a total of 323.5 hours and drove 2,303.7 miles.
- Chief Holler advised that cable tv was installed in the office for free by Adelphia.
- He asked for residents to volunteer to plan a youth field day in May.
- Stated we received a bill from the Magistrate after their books were audited by the state. It says we owe \$759. Mr. Davis will resolve the matter.
- Chief Holler asked if Jessica Myers could continue to work for his office until May. The supervisors said yes.
- Chief Holler will clean the building. He also asked if the other rooms could be painted.
- The Supervisors stated they would take care of that matter.



2001 Police Report

Police Chief Holler's report for 2001 includes the following statistics:

- The police department worked 2,637 hours in 2001 compared to 2,467 in 2000.
- The police responded to 690 police-related incidents in 2001 compared to 657 in 2000.
- State police responded to 42 incidents in Liberty Township in 2001 compared to 26 in 2000.
- The Liberty Township police responded to 5 burglaries in 2001 compared to 7 in 2000. There were 23 reported thefts in 2001 compared to 8 in 2000.
- The police made 62 criminal arrests in 2001 compared to 113 in 2000.
- In 2001, the police spent 49 hours in court compared to 51.5 hours in 2000. Police were in court for a total of 62 times in 2001.
- During 2001, a total of 290 hours was spent on traffic enforcement. 210 traffic citations were issued and 315 traffic warnings were given.
- In 2001, the fine revenue was \$7,342.14 compared to \$11,638.06 in 2000 and \$10,300.37 in 1999.
- There were 37 auto accidents in Liberty Township in 2001. State Route 16 had 16 accidents.
- 40 trucks were inspected in 2001; 10 trucks were placed out of service, 49 warnings were issued and 19 citations were issued.

Please see Chief Holler for a complete report of the Liberty Township Police Department