

2009 Annual Township Report

Per Section 607. of the Second Class Township Code, it is the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors to annually furnish to the board of auditors information on the construction or maintenance of roads or other matters that have been conducted during the year. The Supervisors are Charlie Hall, Dean Barto and Bill Dewire, who was reelected in November.

The Reorganization Meeting was held on January 5, 2009. Few changes in organization or appointments were made.

Robert Kolbrich resigned from the board of the Hughesville-Wolf Township Joint Municipal Authority. Daniel Thomas, Jr. agreed to complete Mr. Kolbrich's term. Danny was appointed Chairman of the Sewer Authority.

Wolf Run Village Assisted Living will be completed and hopefully open for business before the close of 2009. It is a family-owned and operated facility providing services to seniors and their families. They will offer 24-hour supervision and an assortment of support services. Also, new job opportunities will be available in Wolf Township due to this project.

New maps with road numbers for Trinity Drive, King Street and Kahler Hills Drive were received from Don Free, Municipal Services representative.

With the State of Pennsylvania's struggles in reaching a budget, (100+ days overdue) the Township inherited problems from reductions in funding for mandated programs. State Police fee legislation was discussed this summer. One proposal would charge \$156.00 per person for coverage if a municipality does not have their own police force and relies strictly on PA State Police.

On November 6, 2009, the Lycoming Sanitary Committee closed their doors due to budget cuts. Wolf Township hired Design System Technologies Inc. as the Sewer Enforcement Officer. It has been a smooth transition and enforcement of Act 537 continues. There has been no word, thus far on the financial outcome of the Sanitary Committee and if they plan to assess member municipalities for their debt.

Dean Barto reviewed the current health/dental insurance program and switched to Blue Cross of NE Pennsylvania. The Township will experience significant savings. All full time employees receive insurance.

Building projects were slow and not many new home applications were received. Eight new homes have been started this year adding approximately \$1,504,430.00 to our tax base.

Code Enforcement became a major issue during 2009. The number of neighbor complaints concerning unkempt properties, high grass and junk vehicles multiplied. The various issues initiated many discussions on how user

friendly the ordinances are and the wording of certain sections. The Code of Ordinances update project continues using changes in the Municipal Planning Code and remembering the needs of Township residents due to increased prices and the failing economy. The Board of Supervisors, Zoning Hearing Board, Township Planning Commission, the Secretary/Treasurer and the Solicitor have all worked on various items to finish the project. The Board of Supervisors passed ordinances on cul de sacs, road bonding, outdoor furnaces, contractor's yards and no-impact home based businesses.

Some residents attended meetings complaining that Wolf Township has a lack of Code Enforcement. In August Angela Baxter Snyder joined the staff of Code Inspections Inc. as a Zoning Officer. She has done a wonderful job for Wolf Township. She is matter of fact, does the research necessary and is prompt. Everything is up to date.

The Board of Supervisors supported the Planning Commission and attended a meeting concerning the Rte. 220/405 Intersection. Hughesville Borough Council members were also present for the meeting conducted by Mark Murawski, Lycoming County Transportation Planner and employees of Penn Dot. The Township has designated funds for this project in the Capital Reserve Budget. The Borough later contacted the Township explaining their position and the lack of information to determine this as a problem or a priority.

The road department expenses were reasonable due to using supplies purchased at an earlier date. All equipment is relatively new so nothing needed to be purchased. The only change is the addition of Dennis Barto, who joined the staff in April 2009. He has had several months to get familiar with the Township and learn techniques from Charlie and Gregg. There are always complaints when someone new plows but, with his experience snow season should go smoothly.

The first contact from a drilling company for the Marcellus Shale was in November and only for one road. The application has not yet been received and we feel that once they actually investigate the terrain they may want to try an alternate route.

Charlie installed the signs for bonding some of our Municipal Roads. The information used was from the study by Municipal Solutions. Tom Lyons and Gary Hopple have offered their help with anything we need to become operational.

Wolf Township again participated with the West Branch Council of Governments to bid stone and tar and chip. Road material bids are done jointly. No paving was done in 2009.

Salt is obtained through the State Piggyback bid. The Township has gone with COSTARS for the last four years.

Wolf Township established a Fire Protection Tax that is paid directly to the fire departments servicing Wolf Township. 80% of taxes collected go to Hughesville and 20% goes to Picture Rocks. This year Hughesville received \$46,288.00 and Picture Rocks was sent checks totaling \$11,572.00. These funds are to be applied for Wolf Township's share of Workmen's Compensation for the departments.

This report is submitted for informational purposes. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Township Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you for your service to the Township.