

CONEWANGO TOWNSHIP

Conewango Township
Spring Newsletter 2017

Township Supervisors & Department Managers

Ed Seebeck
Chairman

Vince Duckett
Vice Chairman

Jeff Zariczny
Supervisor

Jennifer Riggan
Secretary/Treasurer

Jason Peters
Chief of Police

Randall Sleeman
Road Foreman

From the desk of Chairman Seebeck,

2016 was a real challenge for the township. Together, the supervisors, auditors and police department successfully investigated the former secretary and received reimbursement from the bond companies for the stolen funds. The secretary pled guilty at her recent appearance in court and has been officially sentenced.

A freak tornado created a summer nightmare for North Warren residents. Your road crew and supervisors invested many hours in clean-up, especially at Wetmore Cemetery. After an extended bid process, the supervisors accepted a bid to have the cemetery raked, seeded and strawed before Memorial Day 2017.

Frustration and delays with the non-release of funds from PA prevented replacement of the River Road bridge in 2016 as planned. And residents concerned with speed limits on North State Street were as frustrated as we were with the processes and road-blocks inherent in trying to alter state road limits.

In addition to those issues, we work diligently to keep the roads, buildings and property of the township in good repair. On your behalf, we have put in countless unpaid hours to maintain and improve township services and processes. In that respect, our newest Supervisor has been a real asset to your Township's Board with his knowledge of building codes, storm water management, and other land-related issues.

Together, we make a great team.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact the Township office, attend a meeting or give me a call. My phone number is 723-1541, if you are unable to reach me at the Township office.



Township Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment.

Township Meetings

are held at the township office on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 4:00 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings and to participate in issues brought before the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors are here to serve the residents of the Township and welcome any concerns, suggestions, or comments you might have.

Ways to communicate your concerns:

In person, at a meeting is preferred.

Email:
conewangotowship@gmail.com

Website Contact page:
www.conewangotwp.com

TOWNSHIP GOES LIVE

The Township has a new website! Please visit us at www.conewangotwp.com to check it out. We are looking for feedback to ensure it will be useful and purposeful for our residents and the general public.

The Township also has a Facebook page. "Like" us at @conewangotwp on Facebook to stay up to date on township news and events.

TOWNSHIP TAXES REMAIN FLAT FOR 2017

The Conewango Township Board of Supervisors adopted the final 2017 budget at the December 28, 2016 meeting with no tax increase.

TOWNSHIP SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, May 6, 2017

9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Township Building.

The Township will NOT be accepting the following items.

Oil, Paint, Liquid Hazardous Waste, Asbestos, Propane Tanks, Yard Waste, Household Garbage, Electronics, NO COMMERCIAL WASTE.

Driver's Licenses will be checked to verify Township Residency.

The cost will be as follows:

\$10 per car or van load \$20 per truck or trailer load

Unloading will be done by the resident.

Contact the Township for more information at 814-723-6410

PERMITS REQUIRED

Remember that the following require a permit from the Township office:

1. Driveways
2. Sluice Pipes
3. Overweight Hauls
4. Storm Water Certification
5. Firework Displays
6. Transient Business
7. New construction

For Building Permit, the Township inspector is:

CONSTRUCTION CODE INSPECTORS, INC.
 4885 U.S. 322 SUITE 1
 FRANKLIN, PA 16323
 cci@constructcodepa.com
 www.constructpodepa.com

ZONING PERMITS

Remember Zoning Permits are required for the following from Warren County Zoning and Planning.

1. Sheds
2. Garages
3. Porch/Decks
4. Houses
5. Barns
6. Storage Buildings
7. Commercial Buildings
8. Backyard Chickens

For Zoning Permit, contact:

WARREN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING
 204 4th AVE
 WARREN, PA 16365
 814-728-3512
 www.warrencountypa.net

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Are you looking to get involved in your community? Do you have courage, dedication, and a desire to help others in need? If that sounds like you, have you considered becoming a volunteer firefighter? Conewango Township is in need of firefighters for both fire stations. The Fire Department Auxiliary would also welcome people looking to become involved. No experience is necessary. They will train the right people. If you are interested in seeing what the fire department is all about, you are welcome to attend a meeting. North Warren meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Starbrick meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Applications are available at each fire department office or from any fire officer.



North Warren Volunteer Fire Department
 12 South State St. Warren, PA 16365
 (814)-723-2881
 www.northwarrenfire.org



Starbrick Volunteer Fire Department
 5 Fireman St, Warren, PA 16365
 (814) 726-0282
 www.starbrickvfd.org

The North Warren Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. is a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization focused on public safety via education, hazard mitigation, and property preservation. Volunteers participate in weekly in-house training, as well as formal trainings on tasks related to Fire Suppression, Vehicle Rescue, HAZMAT Emergencies, and other specialized skills; providing a high level of quality service to the residents of North Warren and surrounding communities.

The Starbrick Volunteer Fire Department was formed in the fall of 1955 to provide for protection for the village of Starbrick and the second voting district of Conewango Township with Robert Smith as Chief. In the 60 year that have followed the have been 7 other members that have held office of Chief. They are Albert Toner, Jim English, Harry Rosequist, Jim Page, Bob Carberry, Mark Bupp, Tim Wiltsie and the current Chief Kirk Foust.

Current Projects/Needs:

NWVFD: They recently purchased some new hand tools to add to their compliment. They are looking to purchase additional hardware and mounting kits for them to be secured in the apparatus. The department also bought new fire nozzles, which are more modern and have better capability to help our fire fighters stay safe and minimize the property damage to homeowners. They would like help to recoup some of those costs.

SBVFD: They are in need of new turnout gear for their crew. The current gear is several years old and needs to be replaced. Turnout gear for one crew can cost several thousand dollars.



Conewango Township Police News

When you see it, when you hear it, REPORT IT!

Immediate complaint can result in an immediate resolution.

Our goal is to have a safe Community that others would strive to replicate.

Since our last news letter (3/23/16 – 4/5/17), the current stats from your Police Department: Traffic Citations = 198, Summary Non-Traffic Citations = 59, Misdemeanor Criminal charges = 247, Felony Criminal Charges = 93, Motor Vehicle Crash Investigations = 86, Parking Tickets issued = 36, Offense Reports = 508 Calls to service; including everything from Vacant home checks to Felony arrests = 7,731.

Update on the Criminal Investigation involving the former Conewango Twp Sec/Tres, Kathleen Swartz: On 10/11/16, your Officers arrested Ms. Swartz and charged her with 12 Felonies and 3 Misdemeanors for various Thefts and Forging of documents. Following her arrest she was remanded to the Warren Co. Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bail. On 11/3/16, Swartz was charged again for a Forgery she completed on 5/26/16 involving an Annuity Surrender Request Form which Swartz forged the signature of the new Township Secretary/Treasurer. This document was revealed on 11/1/16 to Officers during an annual review. On 2/2/17, Swartz entered a Guilty plea to a Felony of the Third Degree for Theft by Deception, a Misdemeanor of the First Degree for Tampering with Records or Identification and a Felony of the Third Degree for Forgery. On 2/17/17, she was sentenced to 1 to 2 years in the Warren Co. Jail, pay all restitution totaling \$72,712.52, and will be on probation for at least 5 years following incarceration. Your department completed an exhaustive review of township records, bank records and on-line records covering any outgoing or incoming funds. Special thanks to our current Township Secretary/Treasurer for not only having to deal with past events but also assisting in this investigation and gathering documentation for a successful outcome. Findings included; numerous checks issued to Swartz which she documented to have gone elsewhere, forgery of Township Supervisor's signatures, padding and forgery of her payroll to include increased overtime, vacation and personal time, forgery of township minutes to receive larger annual pay increases, false reimbursements for trainings and conferences, false credit card purchases, and other areas all of which she falsified documents in an attempt to hide the acts. Findings were reviewed by a certified CPA and were found to be "thorough and well documented". The Township has already been reimbursed for \$65,288.44 by the Bonding Companies of which Swartz will have to pay them and the remaining \$7,424.08 to be paid to the Township by Swartz.

Sincerely, Chief Jason Peters

CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROJECTS IN THE TOWNSHIP:

RIVER ROAD BRIDGE: Construction started on March 6, 2017. Check out our Facebook page for pictures and updates.

SCOTT RUN ROAD BRIDGE: This bridge is currently under review by the Township Engineer for an upgrade.

LOGAN ROAD: The Township is slated to receive a grant this year from the Warren County Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume road program to make much needed improvements to the drainage on this road.

NATHAN STREET/JACKSON RUN RD AREA: The board has been reviewing storm water management issues that were brought forth late last year for this area of the Township. The board hopes with continued collaboration a resolution can be identified.

EXTRA SHOUT OUTS:

TAXES: Reminder that the 2016 real estate taxes are due to the Tax Collector by April 15, 2017

PRIMARY ELECTION: Tuesday, May 16th, 2017

ELECTION POLL LOCATIONS: Starbrick Fire Department and North Warren Presbyterian Church

Conewango Township

4 Firemen Street Warren, PA 16365

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

Storm Water Management is only one of many mandated requirements the Township must enforce but it affects every property owner who wants to change or improve their property. In simple terms, any change to the surface of a property requires a storm water management certificate from the Township. Both residential and commercial developments require an approved Storm Water plan prior to construction. Any property owner that is planning a change or developing their property should acquire a copy of the Conewango Township Storm Water Management Ordinance 2011-1. It is available on our website, under the FAQ section or by stopping in the township office. Please note, that prior to making any changes to the property, a land owner is encouraged to discuss the changes with their contractor, design professional and the Township. Additional requirements for any land disturbance may include contacting the Warren County Conservation District for information on a Erosion and Sedimentation Control plan.

AND BEFORE YOU DIG:

PA ONE-CALL: PA ACT 287 as amended requires excavators as well as private land owners to call (Dial 8-1-1 or 1.800.242.1776) three business days before any kind of digging occurs with powered equipment. This important call will alert all utilities and any other jurisdictions to mark their underground facilities before you dig.

Disclaimer This newsletter is published by the Conewango Township Board of Supervisors to facilitate communication between the elected officers of our community and the citizens. Any opinions expressed by writers in this newsletter are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Supervisors as a board. All facts presented as such have been reviewed by all three Supervisors and, as near as can be determined, said facts are correct as of the date of publication.