

Hamiltonban Township Highlights

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July 2011

Dear Hamiltonban Township Resident,

It is once again time for our mid-year newsletter. We hope that you find it complete in updating the news that has been happening since January and also in addressing what is coming in the future so please, read on.

Highway news:

Wow, what a Spring! We have some extensive damage again this spring to the roadways. With all the rain early in the season it was difficult to accomplish many of the repairs. Please be assured that the road crew is aware of the needs in your area and will be working throughout the summer to correct drainage and ditch problems that have contributed to the washouts. The 1400 block section of Cold Springs Road continues to have drainage problems during recent storms. Our Township Engineer and Roadmaster Harbaugh will be preparing a plan to address those water issues. The plan may encompass several years of a concentrated effort on the Township's part to correct work that was done in 2006 as a result of another rain storm. Roadmaster Harbaugh has implemented a GIS program for pipe installation that will be a cost savings measure in those engineering plans. The program has plotted each Township roadway crosspipe, sign, road surface application date and other pertinent road information to exact coordinates and measurements.

The lower section of Cold Springs Road is on the schedule for completion this year. We have engaged in a two-year renovation and rebuilding of that section of roadway that will culminate in a new surface by summer's end. Beechwood Drive will have crack sealing done with an applied course of asphalt surface. Various roadways will be sealcoated again this year in order to maintain the integrity of the roadway surfaces.

On Route 16 by Harbaugh Valley Road, Penn Dot has begun a bridge repair project. They have installed stop lights and changed the traffic pattern. Please use caution when traveling through that area until the project is completed.

As soon as the Township receives the "go-ahead" from Penn Dot, Roadmaster Harbaugh will begin the order process and installation of new school zone lights for the Fairfield Area School District school zone. The Township received an ARLE Grant (Automated Red Light Enforcement) this year to cover the costs. This is just one of the five grants applied for. To date we have received four of those submitted grants.

Orrtanna Sewer Plant News:

Not all of our citizens may know about our sewer plant grant and why we applied for its funding. The plant services Orrtanna area residents and therefore is supported by their usage fees. Last year we were notified by DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) that the treatment plant could no longer meet the State treatment standards because of its age. The Township and Municipal Authority have to perform a major upgrade and change how we treat that sewage. In order to do that it is important to the residents of Orrtanna that we find as much funding as possible to keep their usage costs at a manageable level. By staying in constant touch with our State Representative, Dan Moul and State Senator Rich Alloway, they were able to greatly assist us in moving our application for an H2O Community Facilities Grant to the final award stage. That grant of \$496,500.00 alone will fund one half of the plant upgrade costs. We are also applying for funding through Penn Vest, a Pennsylvania grant and low interest loan program to complete our funding needs. In the meantime, we will be continuing with the maintenance program to our manholes and lines. Roadmaster Harbaugh also oversees the maintenance to the sewer plant and its lines. You will notice work going on in downtown Orrtanna in the coming months. Please drive carefully while our men are at work.

Municipal Facilities:

Renovations to the Hamiltonban Township Municipal Office Building continue with the construction of an ADA compliant restroom. This was made possible by two grants received this year. The Board would like to formally invite all our citizens to attend our meetings. The Board of Supervisors meeting is held on the **first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please also make note of all other meetings listed at the end of this newsletter.**

Secretary/Treasurer Deborah Feiler has continued to upgrade our administrative efficiency. She has directed file reconstruction and consolidation for ease in locating the older as well as our newest documents. Grant awards require meticulous accounting of the funds and require submittals of those accountings at the end of each project. We have been submitting and receiving more grants than in the past and Secretary/Treasurer Feiler has done a great job with those required grant records. Secretary/Treasurer Feiler also acts as the Orrtanna Sewer Plant treasurer.

The site work and Carrolls Tract Road driveway entrance for the new Municipal Maintenance Building and Salt Shed was completed last year. The bid documents to begin the construction phase have been advertised and the bid will be awarded in the very near future. We hope to be able to move into our new garage facility by October/November of this year. **Please watch for an Open House invitation around that time to tour the building.**

Township Finances:

The reassessment has caused us all anguish and has prompted some misunderstandings of the tax rate received by Hamiltonban Township. The tax rate assessed by Hamiltonban Township has not changed over the past six plus years. There has been **no property tax increase** by this Board of Supervisors. We have consistently generated just over \$300,000.00 in real estate property taxes at the previous 6.5 mills. When Adams County performed and certified its assessment numbers, by law, Township, Borough and County governments cannot receive any more tax than the year prior to the reassessment. Therefore, our tax rate millage was decreased to maintain our collection of the same \$300,000.00.

As a major cost savings measure, the Board of Supervisors recently voted to stop providing health insurance for Board members at the end of their current term. This will result in three (3) Supervisors being ineligible for Township insurance coverage at the end of 2011, with one Supervisor being eligible to continue this expense until the end of 2013 and one other Supervisor eligible to continue his coverage until the end of 2015. After December of 2015, no Supervisor will be eligible for Township funded health insurance and therefore none shall be provided.

Fire and EMS:

Please make sure that your house numbers are on your mailbox and, especially if your house is not on the same side of the road as your mailbox, at the foot of your driveway and/or on the house itself. It's hard for Fire Department EMS units and Police to find you if your house is not well marked. Please visit the Hamiltonban Township website at www.hamiltonban.com for more Fire Company information and contact numbers. Hamiltonban Township is served by FOUR (4) volunteer fire companies and is home to the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Company. The money that fire and EMS units receive to provide fire and emergency medical services to our community comes from membership dues in a fire organization, an ambulance club, your donations to fund drives, bingo, dinners and from insurance company payments for our services (no one is ever turned away, whether or not they have insurance).

Every Fire Department's heartbeat is its volunteers. Without volunteers they will cease to exist. Please look deep into your heart and see if there is time for you to volunteer at your local Fire Company. Make it a Father-Son, Father-Daughter, Mother-Son, Mother-Daughter, Husband-Wife or **FAMILY** activity. Your reward will be in your giving and will help tremendously. They are waiting just for you!

Glatfelter/Michaux State Forest Land Exchange:

In 2007 Hamiltonban Township supported the acquisition of the former Glatfelter Tree Farm, in part, because of maintaining our Forested Land Use in the area and also to preserve the integrity of Tom's Creek, Middle Creek and the habitats of animals and plants that are present in this beautiful landscape.

In 2008 the Adams County voters passed a Land and Water Bond referendum that enabled the completed purchase of the former Tree Farm.

In 2010 The Conservation Fund who gathered the grant and bond monies together for the purchase, turned control and ownership over to the State of Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) as an addition to Michaux State Forest.

In 2010 DCNR entered into an agreement with International Specialty Products (ISP) to exchange properties that were of interest to DCNR and would be purchased by ISP for exchange of a 110 acre parcel of the former Tree Farm off of Gum Springs Road.

In January of 2011, public comment was solicited by DCNR regarding the land exchange.

The Board of Hamiltonban Township opposed a land exchange of any parcel of the former Tree Farm. In February the Adams County Commissioners withdrew their support of the exchange. This opened the door for a "conversation" between DCNR, Hamiltonban Township, Adams County Commissioners and ISP. That "conversation" was initiated with the assistance of State Senator Richard Alloway and Mr. Chris Abruzzo, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Corbett.

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors is continuing conversations with the interested parties in the hopes, that should the Adams County Commissioners allow the land exchange to proceed forward, that the Board can represent the interests of all its citizens without the penalization of one citizen's livelihood against another citizen's right to hold and maintain property of value without a negative impact to that value. Not only is that in itself a daunting task but the original intent of trying to preserve and protect the area's habitat and the Tom's Creek waters must also be addressed.

We are hoping for a resolution to this issue in the near future and will do our best to keep our constituents advised of our progress.

Receive Township Information by e-mail:

To better communicate with our citizens, Hamiltonban Township maintains an e-mail distribution list of all residents who are interested in receiving information from the Township via e-mail. Information that is distributed includes emergency notifications and road closures, special notices, news of interest, happenings in the Township and surrounding areas, budget messages, and the like.

Your e-mail address will be kept **CONFIDENTIAL**. It will not be sold or given to anyone and will only be used for official business. Also, your e-mail address will not be displayed in the e-mail itself, so no one else will be able to see who is receiving the e-mails.

We highly encourage you to sign up for these emails so that you may stay on top of all Township news. Please contact the office at 717-642-8509 or e-mail your information to: hamiltonban@embarqmail.com.

The Township website www.hamiltonban.com is always up to date with the latest Township information. You can also access meeting minutes, ordinances and Township forms from the site.

Additional Information:

Robert L. Gordon, Supervisor, Chairman & Road Cord.
Coleen N. Reamer, Supervisor and Vice Chairman
James Grinder, Supervisor and Police Coordinator
Harry Rood, Supervisor, Office Cord. & Webmaster
Douglas Woerner, Supervisor
Deborah Feiler, Secretary/Treasurer
John A. Harbaugh, Jr., Roadmaster

Board and Commission meeting times:
Board of Supervisors: 1st Tues of month @ 7:00 PM
Rec and Park Commission: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 PM
Planning Commission: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Board Workshop: Last Thurs of month @7:00 PM

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
8:00AM to 4:30PM (Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)
Office Address: 23 Carrolls Tract Road
PO Box 526
Fairfield, PA 17320

Volunteers are currently needed for the Rec and Park Commission. Please contact the office at 717-642-8509 to volunteer.....Thank you!!

Office Phone: 717-642-8509
Toll Free: 866-956-8509
Office Fax: 717-642-9511
E-mail: hamiltonban@embarqmail.com
Web site: www.hamiltonban.com

Volunteers are also appreciated in giving of their time to spruce up flower beds, trim shrubs and do small maintenance items such as painting or raking around the Municipal Building. Please call the office at 717-642-8509, we would enjoy having you!!

Police Officer: Juanita Larmer 717-642-9708
Emergencies: Dial 911
Emergency Management Coordinator: 717-642-8820
Donald F. Wills, Jr.
Deputy Officer: Herbert Milligan