

THE FOREST CITY NEWS



For our readers, lots of news happening in area towns and Townships—Forest City Borough with zoning and code enforcement issues; Clinton Township with a new Board chairman; Clifford Township with road and zoning matters; Vandling and Union Dale with the regular issues facing every town. We try our best to bring this all to you. Meeting reports Theresa Opeka, Tammy O'Reilly, Patricia Striefsky and John Kameen do their best to bring this news to you.

You'll see in another item on this page that we have an intern, Elizabeth Faddis, Clifford Twp., who started last week and has a menu of items on her agenda. They include doing interviews with area folks of interest. If you get a call please say yes to an interview. It will help her and will be of interest to our readers.

One of the items we gleaned from a recent Clifford Twp. meeting report was that Clifford Twp. Fire & EMS responded to 877 calls in 2019. That is more than 2.5 calls PER DAY! Amazing, for a volunteer fire and ambulance company.

Jim Griffin, of Forest City, told the story of the plight of area snowmobilers in the Times-Tribune recently. Jim is president of the Sno-Trails Snowmobile Club with its HQ in Forest City. The group has not been able to use the nearby Rail-Trail this year due to lack of snow. We've had about 25 inches of white stuff but it comes in dribs and drabs, and then melts. Some local snowmobilers loaded their rigs on trailers President's weekend and motored to Courtland NY where there is lots of the white stuff.

In contrast, my friend Dr. Lee Gerchman, of Allentown, played 36 holes of golf in Allentown last week. I guess, as realtors always say, "Location, Location, Location!"

Note the ad on page 5 with new hours for Red Cross Pharmacy, definitely one of our busiest Main St. businesses.

Forest City will be putting on its best airs in the near future for a one hour program "Our Town" on WVIA-TV. A meeting to set the stage was held here Feb. 19. We will be telling you more about it in the coming weeks.

Another meeting to make plans for a March 25th Town Rally was to be held Feb. 26th. We'll also have more on this community event as details emerge.

Bingo Feb. 29 To benefit FC Softball Team

The Forest City Softball Parents Club will hold a BINGO on February 29 at St. John's Hall, 700 Hill Street, Mayfield. Doors open at 3 PM with BINGO starting at 4 PM.

Food will be available. (No outside food or alcohol.) There will be 16 regular games, four specials, 50/50 & baskets.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from any softball player or coach, Judy Graham, 570-862-0370; Jill Bailer, 570-960-1198; or Peggy Ursich, 570-328-5923.

Also on sale are tickets for the Pot of Gold Lottery Frame. The Grand Prize is over \$300 worth of PA Lottery Tickets. All proceeds will benefit the Lady Foresters Softball Team. You must be 18 to win, no exceptions. Tickets are 1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00. Winner need not be present at the drawing on Feb. 29 to win.

Clinton township discusses zoning, windmills, and new sewer advisory board

by Theresa Opeka

Many items, including looking into the possibility of zoning, were discussed at the Wednesday, February 12 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors.

GlidePath was discussed. Supervisor Dr. James Zefran said they are looking to take electricity from the windmills. The company wants an easement on Smith Road of about 150 feet. "I am the lead person dealing with the attorney, Mr. Farrell, and GlidePath. We sent a proposal to them and they sent it back. They wanted it changed. We will send it back several times until we get something acceptable to the board and residents or we will vote it down. They want to put in a powerline from the top of the mountain to the easements then to Smith Road to Route 296 through Waymart. Some lines would be above ground and some underground. My personal opinion is it should be underground. It's an H-shaped telephone pole. It would be visible for a considerable distance. We asked for certain amount of money for easement on Smith Road and they came back with a different amount. They want to use an air bridge to bring equipment on Ravnarik Road. They will also redo Route 247 to paved section. At the last meeting, they presented their ideas. Under legal counsel's suggestion, we made a motion we will not accept what they proposed the first time and renegotiate. Unfortunately, because of the Sunshine Law, they don't want more than one supervisor with them," he said.

John Lillie asked, "Why do they want to come up Flat Rock?" Zefran replied, "They are in litigation with property at the top of the mountain to get the electricity out and this would be their alternative."

Lore Vadella said, "Since I live on Ravnarik Rock, would they be shutting down the whole road to do the work on it and would families have to go in the opposite direction?" Zefran said, "All of that will be in the agreement. You can voice your opinion at the time the agreement is presented." Zefran made a motion to reject the proposal and renegotiate. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

PLANNING COMM.

Next to be discussed was a Sub. Division and land development Ordinance addition. Zefran said he went to the Planning Commission because the township has no zoning. "With the windmill issue, I wanted to know if there are any precautions we could take and there really aren't but I wanted to include wording from Preston Township's telecommunications ordinance into ours. The setback is 1 1/2 the height of the item," he said. He made a motion to forward it to the Planning Commission. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

ZONING

Ken Coles said Attorneys Jeff Treat and Chris Farrell suggested they look into zoning while Coles was a supervisor.

Zefran said, "Glad you brought that up." Supervisor Russ Curtis replied, "I am not for it." Supervisor/Road Master Brian Non said, "I think it is worth looking into." Curtis said, "It will cost people more money to do things." Coles replied, "Certain things can only be done in the township. It protects the public. We are vulnerable right now."

Zefran made a motion for an exploratory committee of five taxpayers to look into zoning. Those that volunteered are: Jeff Weinberger, John Lillie, Ken Coles, Zach Spewak and Karen Fitzsimmons (Jim Fitzsimmons did volunteer first but Zefran said he wanted a woman on the committee).

WAGE TAX

Zefran said according to Berkheimer, some people in the township are not pay-

ing the wage tax. They sent a list as to who is paying. He said he got in touch with their tax collector and she will cross reference lists. He said Berkheimer said there may be some who owe for the last three years.

FIRE BOARD

Tom Baileys asked if there would be a fire board for the township. Browndale Fire Chief Josh Debevec said there would be a fire board if there was a fire tax. Coles said, "The majority of the public didn't want the fire tax. We put it out several times."

MINUTES ON WEBSITE

Matt Curtis asked about when the minutes from the meeting would be posted on the township's website. Zefran said they asked for volunteers to run the website. Curtis said he thought everything was set up. It was mentioned that Clifford and Herrick Townships' secretaries run their townships websites. Zefran said he would look into it.

SUPERVISORS PAY

Zefran apologized to the public for the supervisors being paid twice last month due to a special meeting for the budget. "I want to make a motion to do special meetings for free." Russ Curtis asked for the road workers to be paid twice a month. Zefran said they would look into it at the end of the quarter.

BANKING

Zefran discussed banking for the township. He said he contacted the Dime Bank, Honesdale National Bank, First National Bank and Wayne Bank where they currently have their accounts. Most accounts currently have a rate of .05% but they said they could go to .20% FNB said they could give .6% for business checking and 1.6% for a money market account with up to six checks a month. Non made a motion to go with FNB starting March 1. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

SOLICITOR PAY

The supervisors voted in favor of having Township Solicitor Jeff Treat attend each meeting at the cost of \$175 a meeting.

SEWER ADVISORY COMM.

Zefran made a motion to start a five member Sewer Advisory Committee in case of an emergency. He said they should know what grants are out there. All voted in favor. Motion passed. They will look at volunteers at next month's meeting.

AUDITORS MEETINGS

The supervisors voted in favor of having the auditors meet every three months.

FIRE REPORT

Browndale Fire Company had 10 calls for January.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11 at 7pm.

Voting becomes more secure, convenient

To meet Homeland Security's 21st Century standards of security, auditability, and accessibility, Susquehanna County has chosen the Unisyn OpenElect systems for immediate use in this year's elections. All residents are encouraged to learn more about the machines and the ease of use at www.vote.susqco.com. There are tutorials and information so everyone can understand the process!

Voters that wish can still use a paper ballot by employing the new mail-in ballot. You can find out more information regarding the mail-in and absentee ballots at www.votespa.com.

Remember that the Susquehanna County website and app are both available as well! All the above information will be linked and included at our own County Elections Webpage at www.vote.susqco.com.



WVIA will produce "Our Town Forest City" in the coming months. Pictured are over 40 people in attendance at the first planning meeting held on the third floor of the Borough Building on February 19.

Many respond to call for participation in WVIA "Our Town Forest City" production

The next few months will bring some excitement to Forest City as WVIA begins production of the "Our Town" series featuring the faces and stories of people in Forest City and the surrounding area.

Lisa Mazzarella, Our Town series producer, held a planning meeting on the third floor of the Borough Building on Wednesday, February 19 to discuss what will be happening with production from now until the premier in June.

Over 40 people attended the meeting and Mazzarella was in awe saying that it was the most people in attendance at a planning meeting since she starts the series 10 years ago.

She said the series will bring unity and spirit into the town. It will be bringing the past, present and future together for generations to come. The stories will be chosen by the people in the coming weeks. "It will tell a story through the voices of the people who live in the community," said Mazzarella.

Mazzarella explained that it is a business booster and when people see the show they will want to come to Forest City to see what it is all about. "It is a forward momentum piece, where people in attendance are the producers and it is the spirit that tells the story," explained Mazzarella.

A general community meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 PM and she would like as



Lisa Mazzarella

many people as possible to attend. People will tell key points Forest City has to offer. The following week a white board session will be held where all the ideas are brought to the table. People will be given four weeks to gather material for the piece, through pictures, movies, slides, and any other format they may have. After the four weeks, they will hold two interview days, April 25 and May 2. Each interview will last up to 10 minutes but will then be cut down to about three minutes. The length of the show will be 55 minutes total.

She asked that no scripts be written for the interviews. "Prepare like you were sitting down to have a cup of coffee with someone. It will be grassroots and basic which is the most cost effective marketing tool. Who knows better than the people in the town who are proud to call Forest City home," Mazzarella said.

Vandling to advertise for new solicitor

Vandling Borough Council accepted the resignation of Borough Solicitor Paul Smith at the monthly meeting on Monday, February 17. The resignation will take effect on June 1, 2020 or earlier if the Borough finds a new solicitor before then. Atty. Smith is retiring from practice.

Councilman John Carachilo said Atty. Jeff Levine of Carbondale is interested in the position. Council discussed whether or not they had to advertise the position and Councilman Bill Boyle said they needed to so they made a motion to advertise the position.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received a letter from the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission regarding updates needed to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The secretary and Council will need to fill out worksheets and forms. Council was also invited to attend a Plan Update meeting on Feb. 25.

The Department of Elections requested use of the Borough Building for the April 28 election. Council approved the use.

A letter was received from Lackawanna County Arts and Culture inviting Vandling to apply for a \$500 art grant. Council has received the grant for the past few years. They agreed to apply for the grant and discuss what it will be used for.

Lackawanna County Community Relations is offering a free service researching grants for area communities. Council will contact them and see if there are any grants available for Vandling.

Pennsylvania American Water informed Vandling Council that they are required to conduct a testing of the backflow assembly again this year. Councilman

Bill Matos said he would take care of it.

Adams Cable Service sent a letter informing its subscribers about a rate increase beginning March 1.

Council approved the Lackawanna County Planning Commission evaluation for the Linde Subdivision and Land Development.

Council received a certified letter from FEMA regarding updates needed to the flood plain map which need to be done by Aug. 5

The Lackawanna River Basin Sewer Authority requested a letter from Council concerning the Vandling Pump Station Gravity Sewer project. The project will affect Vandling and Clinton Twp.

B'DALE FIRE REPORT

The Browndale Fire Company had 10 incidents for the month of January and logged 151 hours of training.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Joe Brady asked if something could be done with some of the potholes in the borough. He noticed some deep ones and was also contacted by some residents. President Fran Pantzar said some of them are being addressed.

PETERLIN DRIVE BID

Council discussed advertising the Peterlin Drive Sewer project. They had hoped that KBA Engineering would be in attendance at the meeting to discuss the matter but they were not. Council would like prints and more information from KBA.

Councilman John Carachilo said the bid can't be more than \$161,000 and \$16,000 in engineering has already been used.

Secretary Nancy Perri said she would ask KBA to drop off a set of plans.

The project will give people a chance to step back and look at the town with a different perspective, a refreshed one. WVIA will handle all of the press releases, promotion and editing of the show.

Amy Zellers, director of corporate development at WVIA, also commented about it being the largest turnout for a first meeting that she has seen. She explained that she will be going around to businesses in the coming months looking for sponsorships for the show. She said that the night of the premier in June, all the people involved in the show will be invited to a premier night and party where they will see the finished product.

Following the premier, Mazzarella said the town will become more aware of where they live. The show will be a legacy to leave for the future.

She asked that people jot down ideas and bring them to the next meeting in March. "Make it your own and make it unique. The stories are there to be told and passed on to future generations," told Mazzarella.

The show is a fundraiser for public television and will be seen four times on the air and DVD's will be available for purchase.

Mazzarella concluded by saying, "This will be a preservation of history. All we have is us to stay together as a community!"

Council agreed to advertise for bids for the project.

FLOOD PLAIN

Council approved the advertising of Ordinance #1 of 2020 Permit Requirements for the flood plain management. Solicitor Paul Smith was not in attendance but the secretary said he has reviewed it and said it was okay to advertise.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Murnin said she is having problems with County Waste not picking up her garbage. She said she has had to call them every other week because they are not consistent and sometimes drive right by without picking it up. She has stopped the driver on numerous occasions and sometimes he says she is not on his route.

Council told her new owners have taken over since the new contract and the service is terrible.

President Pantzar said if it continues he will call the company.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 16 at 7 PM.

News intern Doing series Of interviews

Elizabeth Faddis, Clifford Township, is serving an internship at The Forest City News. One of her jobs will be to conduct interviews of area people to get their insights into local government, business and activities.

If and when you are contacted we urge you to make an appointment and devote a short time for her. It will be good for her internship goals and will be interesting for our readers.

