

# Millheim Borough Newsletter – December 2011

## **Introduction**

This is the second newsletter for 2011. Borough Council meetings are open to the public and are held at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Borough Building, which is located at 225 East Main Street. Please visit the borough website at [www.millheimborough.net](http://www.millheimborough.net) for additional information. Minutes for all Borough Council meetings are posted on the website. For those who do not have access to a computer, a copy of the minutes can be seen at the Borough Secretary's office. Please refer to these minutes for more detailed information regarding items mentioned in this newsletter.

## **Borough Taxes and Fees**

The Borough Council approved the 2012 annual budget at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. This year Borough Council was able to balance the General Fund budget and Water Fund budget without requiring any increases to real estate taxes, earned income taxes, or water usage fees. In order to balance the Sewer Fund budget, Council was required to increase the sewer usage fee from \$61 per EDU to \$65 per EDU. This was the first increase in the monthly fee since 2008. Even with this increase, current rates are still lower than what the fees were estimated to be when the new treatment plant was built. The Fire tax will also remain the same at 1 mill (0.1%). Beginning in 2012, the monthly rent paid by the East Penns Valley Branch Library will increase. This increase is due to an evaluation of utility use after the new geothermal HVAC system became fully operational.

## **East Penns Valley Branch Library**

The library is open on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Access to computers and the internet is one of the many resources available at the library.

## **Borough Ordinances and Announcements**

Some members of the public have a misconception about the duties of the Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Enforcement Officer responds to complaints from residents of the borough. He is not allowed to patrol the borough looking for infractions. He will respond to obvious violations of the codes, such as, unshoveled sidewalks or unmowed yards.

The following ordinances result in the most complaints and citations. Please be aware of them.

Ordinance Chapter 21, Part 2, section 202 – This is regarding snow removal. Snow must be cleared from sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow, sleet, or ice has stopped falling. If borough employees are required to clean the sidewalk, the owner will be billed for the time and equipment used. Also vehicles must be removed from any street or alley on which the Borough does snow removal. If you are parked on Main Street or in the Municipal lot, please move your vehicle after the storm has ended, so the borough employees can remove the snow.

Ordinance Chapter 15 – This applies to parking. Citations will be issued to people who exceed the time allowed in the areas designated by parking signs. Also, parking in front of fire hydrants is prohibited.

To read the complete ordinance or any other ordinances, look online at the Borough website at [www.millheimborough.net](http://www.millheimborough.net) or contact the Code Enforcement Officer Glenn I. Ripka at 814-349-8177. The office is located in the Borough Building at 225 East Main Street. Other Code Enforcement Agency employees are Ray Hankinson, Code Enforcement Officer, and Beckie Lease, Secretary. The Agency email address is [www.pvcode@verizon.net](mailto:www.pvcode@verizon.net). The fax number is 814-349-8017.

**Notices: A volunteer is needed to serve as the Borough representative on the Penns Valley Ambulance Association board. The only requirements are a current residence in the Borough and age 18 or older.**

**Christmas tree pickup will be done on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please call the Code Enforcement Office at 814-349-8177 to be placed on the list for pick up.**

**The Borough will be hiring a full time borough maintenance employee. Interested persons can submit a resume to the Borough Office at 225 East Main Street.**

**Haines Township has given a verbal commitment to join the Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency. The Agency will then cover Millheim Borough, Penn Township, Miles Township, Gregg Township, and Haines Township.**

### **Borough Improvements**

Phase one of the playground and ball field projects has been completed. This was the construction of a new parking lot and playground area east of the borough building. Phase two, improvements to the ball field, will begin sometime in the summer of 2012. Funding issues necessitated the delay of phase two and requests for bids for this project will go out in January 2012. Completion of the project is expected by the end of 2012.

The other grant the Borough is currently working on is related to replacing the old deteriorating water lines along Main Street. The Borough was working with the Haines Aaronsburg Municipal Water Authority and the Centre County Planning Office to procure funding to install a new water line along Main Street in Millheim and construct an interconnect system between the two water systems.

Unfortunately this project did not work out, so the Borough decided to apply for PennVest grant funding on our own. The Borough is requesting funding of \$1,879,000 and has hired the Uni-Tec engineering firm to assist in completing the PennVest application and designing the water line improvements. The scope of the project will be to replace the main water line from the east end to the west end of the borough. The project would need to be completed by the end of summer 2012

because PennDOT will be repaving Route 45 at the end of the summer or early fall.

The Borough would greatly appreciate any donations to the Downtown Beautification Fund. This account funds the plants and flowers for Fountain Park in the spring and summer. Monetary or volunteer work donations are both welcomed.

### **Membrane Wastewater Plant**

The Millheim Borough MBR Treatment plant is continuing to operate very efficiently. Over the past year our discharge test results have averaged non-detectable for the majority of our samples. With this type of high quality discharge the interest in our plant has continued with engineers and municipalities visiting from all parts of the country.

In order to continue with this success we need all Millheim Borough residents to please remember that water from sump pumps or downspouts are not allowed to enter the collection system or any other kind of debris that could possibly harm pumps or cause backups. Any questions about this please call the Borough Office at 814-349-5350

Millheim Borough is still trying to set up a Public Notification E-mail list, if you are interested please send your name and e-mail address to [www.millheim@verizon.net](mailto:www.millheim@verizon.net)

### **Water Filtration Plant**

Currently the Millheim Water system is operating very efficiently with very low water loss or leakage. Please remember to report any loss in water pressure or snow melting in odd areas this winter as this could indicate a possible leak.

With the heavy rainfall we have had this fall it should insure Millheim to continue to use the Phillips Creek Reservoir through the winter and not have to switch over to our back up source, Elk Creek which is a harder water source

As the snow starts to fall this winter please try and keep your water meter touch pad area clear and if you have a water meter pit please keep it visible. If you need assistance locating either of these feel free to call the Borough Office at 814-349-5350.

## **Neighborhood Crime Watch**

The goal of the Millheim Neighborhood Crime Watch is to help make Millheim Borough a crime free town. If you see a crime, do not hesitate to call 911 for emergency situations. For non-emergencies call (814)355-7545.

**This past summer there were many complaints involving kids and adults riding dirt bikes and ATVs within the Borough. The PA State Police were called on numerous occasions and citations were issued. The State Police stated that these vehicles must be licensed and registered with the state. These vehicles are not permitted to be driven on public streets and alleys. They can only be driven on private property with the permission of the property owner. The state police also stated that they will issue citations if they receive a report which includes the identity of the person riding the vehicle, a description of the vehicle, the time and date of the incident, and the location of the incident. The state police do not have to be there to witness the incident. However, if you call in the complaint, you must be willing to testify at a hearing with the District Magistrate, if the person receiving the citation requests a hearing.**

Crime watch meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are scheduled for the last Thursday of odd number months (January, March, May, etc.). If you have any questions or comments regarding the Millheim Neighborhood Crime Watch or to discuss ways you can get involved, contact:

Alan Ilgen: 349-8191 / 349-5741 or Kevin Shawver 349-2437 / 360-8996

## **Millheim Borough Representatives**

Mayor – Lauralee Snyder	Council Member – Marlene Corl
Council Member – Linn Auman	Council Member – Leslie Warriner
Council Member – Alan Ilgen	Borough Secretary – Sharon Heckman
Council Member – Kay Brown	Code Enforcement Officer – Glenn Ripka
Water, Sewer Operator – Roy Rupert	Maintenance Worker – Lester Kerstetter