

CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP

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TUES & THURS 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Castle Rock Chronicle

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November and December 2010, January 2011

Castle Rock Board of Supervisors

Meet monthly - 2nd Tuesday-7:00 p.m.
Russell Zellmer, Chair 651-463-4064
Drea Doffing, Vice chair 651-463-3121
Mark Molitor 651-463-9590
Dave Nicolai 651-463-2327
Pete Schaffer 651-460-8293

Jane Bistodeau, Clerk 651-463-2253
Colette Mumm, Treasurer 651-463-4839

Castle Rock Planning Commission

Meet monthly last Monday-7:30 p.m.
Sandy Weber, Chair 651-463-4725
Arlyn Lamb, Vice-Chair 651-460-4927
Lori Abeln 651-460-6342
Monique Berg 651-463-3699
Mark Wagenknecht 651-460-6838

Building Official

Scott Qualle 952-442-7520
MNSpect, Inc.

Road Maintenance

Mark Henry

Communication Committee

Pete Schaffer (Supervisor)
Volunteers:
Randy Becker
Jane Bistodeau
Colette Mumm

Finance Committee

Colette Mumm

Parks Committee

Mark Molitor (Supervisor)

Roads Committee

Russell Zellmer (Supervisor)
Ken Betzold, Chair
Elaine Wikstrom, Secretary
John Day
Mark Henry
David Mumm
Jim Ozmun

Official notices are published in the Farmington Independent and the Cannon Falls Beacon. They are posted at the Town Hall, Farmers Mill & Elevator, and the Castle Rock Banks in Farmington and Castle Rock.

From the Chairman of the Board

Hello from the Chairman of the Board.

Hope you are all well when reading this. It has been a wonderful fall and most of the farmers are nearly complete with their fall work. The township has faced some difficult times this year and is moving forward nonetheless. The roads are in good shape and will hopefully stay that way for the winter. Stay warm and enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

Russ Zellmer, Chair

Mail Box Tampering According to Federal Law by Jim Franklin

Mailboxes can become easy targets for tampering and vandalism. Isolated mailboxes, like those in remote areas, are subject to higher risk. Once a mailbox is put into use, it is considered federal property. As such, federal law states that it is a crime to tamper or vandalize a mailbox or its contents. Anyone found guilty of such crimes can be fined and incarcerated.

Federal property is any property owned, leased, or otherwise managed by the federal government. When a mailbox is put into use for the purposes of sending and receiving mail, it becomes federal property. The government agency responsible for managing mailbox property is the U.S. Postal Service. The USPS delivers mail to residences and businesses.

Mailbox tampering is considered any act that interferes with another person's letter box or other receptacle. This can include: destruction of the mailbox itself, theft of mailbox contents, the placement of items in mail receptacle by persons other than postal employees. Or any action intended to obstruct or damage mail or mailbox property. In short, anyone other than mail recipients and postal employees should not touch a mailbox or its contents.

There are several laws governing mail and mailbox property. Title 18 of the U.S. Code covers crimes and criminal procedure. According to Section 1705 of Title 18, "Whoever willfully or maliciously injures, tears down or destroys any letter box or other receptacle intended or used for the receipt or delivery of mail on any mail route, or breaks open the same or willfully or maliciously injures, defaces or destroys any mail deposited therein, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both." This means that violators can serve a prison sentence up to three years for each act of vandalism. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service notes that a fine of \$250,000 can be levied.

Section 1708 of Title 18 describes the penalties for possessing stolen postal property such as mail. This section imposes a greater jail sentence on violators. From the U.S. Code: "Whoever buys, receives, or conceals, or unlawfully has in his possession, any letter, postal card, package, bag, or mail, or any article or thing contained therein, which has been so stolen, taken, embezzled, or abstracted, as herein described, knowing the same to have been stolen, taken, embezzled, or abstracted...Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both."

Victims of mailbox tampering can take steps to combat the problem. Report tampering or destruction of mail or mailbox property to your local postmaster or postal inspector. They may request that you fill out tow forms. One is Postal Service (PS) Form 1510, which is a Mail Loss and Rifling Report. The other form is PS Form 2016 for Mail Theft and Vandalism. You can also obtain Label 33 from the Postal Inspection Service. This is a sticker that is attached to your mailbox. It warns that destruction or damage to mail or mailbox property is a federal crime. You can reduce theft of the mailbox itself by making sure it is secure and properly installed. Before considering the installation of any mailbox lock, check with your local postmaster to see if a lock is allowed.

Letter to the Editor

Castle Rock Township is a nice place.

For the most part, we all enjoy the solace and comfort that separates us from din and disruption of city life.

However, this has not left us in complete harmony with each other. A few of us are not content, but rather seek to impose their values on others within the Township. Interestingly, these few tend to be relative newcomers to our township, and thus presume to direct the rest of us to follow their wishes.

If the malcontents have personal issues with the Township and its leadership, maybe it's time they returned to the city or from wherever they came.

Arlo Finney

Voice Your Opinion

Castle Rock residents are welcome to submit story ideas or suggestions about the Chronicle to the Township. You can also submit letters to the "Editorial" section to voice your concerns and opinions. Remember to sign your letters .

Road Report

There has been some dissatisfaction with the Roadsides for Wildlife signs being used to mark the township's right-of-ways. These were originally used to save the township money, approximately \$500, because they were free from the DNR. If you would like yours replaced with the more traditional ROW marker, please contact the townhall.

The Town Board of Castle Rock Township would like to remind citizens to be courteous to their neighbors and not leave snow ridges across the town roads during driveway clearing operations. Technically, leaving snow on the town roads is illegal.

Did you know....

- An average fire department call costs the township approximately \$2,800.00?
- An average rescue call costs the township approximately \$1,500?
- On the average, to replace a road sign costs the township between \$75.00 and \$100.00?
- On the average, to remove and dispose of roadside waste costs the township at least \$60.00 per occurrence?

Planning Commission

This past summer has been busy for the Planning Commission. Along with the Board of Supervisors, we attended a workshop given by the township attorney. Topics for discussion were things like zoning, conditional use permits, interim use permits, subdivisions, variances, and procedural matters. The planning commission found the information very useful and will help us to work together with the Board of Supervisors.

We held some public hearings for interim use permits. The planning commission reviewed building permits and checked the setbacks for said permits. Public meetings were also held on clustering. The recommendations for public hearings and building permits were then forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

It is now the fall of the year and the sun sets earlier in the evening. Remember when driving to watch for those slow moving vehicles, animals, and children that may all of a sudden appear in front of you.

Happy Holidays to all Residents of Castle Rock from the Planning Commission.

Sandy Weber, Planning Commission Chair

March 2011—Election/Meeting Info.

In March there will be one Board of Supervisor position on the ballot. Affidavits of Candidacy need to be filed at the town hall between Tuesday, December 28th, 2010 and Tuesday, January 11th, 2011. The Board of Supervisor's position is a three year term. There is no town question on the ballot this year.

Election day is Tuesday, March 8th, 2011. The Annual Meeting will follow starting at 8:30 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors March regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 7th, 2011, at 7:00 pm.

The Reorganizational meeting will be on April 12th, 2011 before the Board of Supervisors regular April meeting. If interested in becoming an election judge, please call the Clerk for information.

Please contact the clerk with any questions by phone or email castlerocktownship@frontiernet.net.



We thank the following businesses for their support!

4	Meeting Calendar
3	Advertisers
2	Did you know....
2	Planning Commission
2	Township Elections
2	Letter to the Editor
2	Road Report
1	Mailbox Tampering
1	From the Chairman of the Board
	Inside this issue:

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Meeting Calendar



Board of Supervisors	Tuesday, December 14th, 2010
Regular Meetings	Tuesday, January 11th, 2011
7:00 PM	Tuesday, February 8th, 2011
	Monday, March 7th, 2011
Planning Commission	Tuesday, November 23rd, 2010
Regular Meetings	Tuesday, December 28th, 2010
7:30 PM	Tuesday, January 25th, 2011
	Tuesday, February 22nd, 2011