

Notes from South Butler Public Forum – September 15, 2008

Dorothy Wiggins, Town Historian

- Summary of the historical events that occurred in South Butler.
 - Area used to have several factories. Cash register and wooden porch shades invented in South Butler.
 - Several community service buildings were moved from South Butler. Opera House building was moved to the Genesee Country Museum in 1971. A church building was moved to Savannah. A firehouse was moved to McCann and Butler Center Road.
 - A historical marker acknowledges Antoinette Brown, the first woman ordained as a minister in the United States.
- Documented in book – Butler Revisited – published by the Butler Historical Society
- See attached for a transcription.

Sharon Lilla, Director, Wayne County Planning Department – Housing Programs

- Small Cities grants offer opportunities to obtain funds for housing rehabilitation. Program must focus on correcting code violations. May assist owner-occupied or renter-occupied housing. However, the residents who benefit must have low or moderate incomes. Recent examples in Wayne County include the Town of Huron – 30 homes – and the Village of Sodus – 24 homes.
- Small Cities grants can also provide funding install public sewer and water systems. The project must address health and safety issues and at least 51% of the benefitting population must have low or moderate incomes. An income survey needs to be conducted to demonstrate eligibility for the grant.
- Issues raised by participants:
 - Lots in South Butler are too small to accommodate both on-site wells and wastewater disposal systems.
 - The closest public water line serves the Audubon Center in Savannah – 3 miles away.

Town of Butler Agricultural & Comprehensive Plan

- Savannah's experience in addressing sewer issues in the hamlet of Savannah may be a good model for South Butler.
- In order for the Town Board to proceed in obtaining grant funding for water or sewer improvements, it needs to know that a majority of residents are in favor of such action. Gene VanHeusen suggested that the residents organize a petition in support of the creation of a water or sewer district.

Chris Ball, Pastor, Lighthouse Church

- 20th year as Pastor.
- Membership is involved in community service activities, such as trash cleanup. Building is available for community activities such as flu shots, emergency shelter.
- Church's membership is regional, drawing from Mexico, Romulus, Webster as well as local municipalities. Average of 380 people/ week attend services.
- Expansion project is underway, using funds raised from membership. The first phase is under construction. Long range plans include the construction of a 10,500 sq. ft. foyer, which would serve as the entrance to a 1,000 seat auditorium. Other components include a new children's church, converting the existing children's church into a youth building, a small chapel for more intimate events, and a café which would be open to the public.

Issues raised by participants

- Youth activities are needed, such as employment or basketball courts to keep youth off streets
- A small store would be welcome
- Speeding through the hamlet is a safety concern
- Properties need to be better maintained – buildings as well as yards.
- Drainage ditches need cleaning. A ditch along East Main Street was improved by Wayne County to direct stormwater into the creek.
- Positive attributes of South Butler include the people, good neighbors, and the quiet atmosphere.