

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING

March 15, 2022

The Ephrata Township Supervisors met this date at 7:00 a.m. at the Ephrata Township Office Building, 265 Akron Road, Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

Present were Supervisors: Clark Stauffer
Tony Haws
Ty Zerbe
Manager: Steve Sawyer
Admin Assist: Jennifer Carvell
Police: Chief John Petrick

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clark Stauffer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS NON-AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to close the Public Comment Period. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Tony Haws to dispense with the reading of the March 1, 2022 Supervisors' minutes and to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Department – Monthly Report.

Chief Petrick provided the Supervisors with a summary of the calls for service within Ephrata Township for the month of February totaling 320 incidents. There were 8 arrests and 8 traffic citations. The monthly report was provided to the Township and will be kept on file in the office.

Chief Petrick notified the Board of Supervisors that the Ephrata Police Department has received accreditation status from the PA Chiefs of Police Association. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. The accreditation status is in place for three years and will be displayed on all of the patrol vehicles. The effort began within the Department approximate a year and a half ago.

Manager Steve Sawyer

Manager Sawyer stated that Jim Caldwell of Rettew Associates was not able to attend the meeting, but Rettew Associates provided the Township with the anticipated project

schedule for the Cocalico Creek Project at Autumn Hills Development. Final Completion date is May 23, 2023.

- **Resident Letter – Truck Traffic on Pleasant View Drive.** The Township received a form letter that was submitted and signed by three (3) residents that live along Pleasant View Drive. The reason for the letter was to express their concerns regarding the amount of truck traffic using their street. The three (3) residents are requesting the Township post the road “No Truck Traffic”. Manager Sawyer notified the Board of Supervisors that there are local businesses in the area that may be the majority of the truck traffic and that there are specific PennDOT warrants that must be met in order to prohibit truck traffic on a road. Manager Sawyer recommended tabling this item until the next meeting to get input from the Township Engineer.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to table action regarding this complaint received regarding truck traffic on Pleasant View Drive until such time input has been received from the Township Engineer. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **ZHB March Hearings.** Manager Sawyer stated that two (2) Zoning Hearing Board Applications were received and will be heard this evening by the Zoning Hearing Board. Manager Sawyer gave a brief overview of each application. The Board of Supervisors did not wish to participate or present testimony in either hearing.
- **Custom Computer Quote-Firewall Update.** Manager Sawyer presented to the Board of Supervisors a proposal from Custom Computer to update the Township’s SonicWall firewall. Custom Computer has informed the Township that the current firewall is 7 years old and the security license has expired. The typical life expectancy for this type of equipment is 4-5 years. Based upon the information received from Custom Computers, Manager Sawyer recommended accepting the proposal received in the amount of \$1,199.95 for the firewall upgrade.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to approve the proposal to update the Township’s SonicWall Firewall in the amount of \$1,199.95 as quoted by Custom Computer. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **East Mohler Church Road Subdivision – Time Extension to Act on Plan.** Manager Sawyer notified the Board of Supervisors that Ephrata Township received a letter from Dautrich Engineering dated March 7, 2022 granting an extension of time of 90 days to act on the East Mohler Church Road Subdivision Final Plan. A list of updated items that need to be addressed were provided.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to accept the 90-day time extension granted by East Mohler Church Road Subdivision for the Township to act on the final plan. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **2022 Bids – Escalator Clause Resolution.** Manager Sawyer requested the Board of Supervisors approve a Resolution for price adjustment of bituminous materials

for small quantities. This Resolution will allow an escalator clause for bituminous material to be included as part of Ephrata Township's 2022 bids for road projects and materials. The escalator clause will follow PennDOT regulations. Manager Sawyer stated that the local asphalt companies will not bid a project if the Municipality does not include an escalator clause.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to approve the Resolution to allow an escalator clause for bituminous material for 2022 bids for road projects and materials. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **Weaver SWM Plan - FSR.** The Board of Supervisors were provided with a letter from Rettew Associates dated March 14, 2022 regarding a request to release the Financial Security in full for the Storm Water Management Plan for the Weaver Residence on Black Diamond Road. Rettew Associates has recommended a reduction in the financial security of \$15,790.33, leaving an outstanding balance of \$1,754.48 plus interest, until the site is fully stabilized.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to approve a financial security reduction for the Weaver Residence Storm Water Management Plan in the amount of \$15,790.33 leaving an outstanding balance of \$1,754.48 plus interest. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **Resolution – Disposition of Records.** Staff prepared a Resolution for the Disposition of Township Records. The proposed disposition of Township records is in accordance with the PA Records Manual.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to approve the disposition of Township records as identified in the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **Mohler Church Road Bridge Damage.** Manager Sawyer reported that the bridge has been repaired from the accident that occurred in January. The cost of the repairs totaled \$6,034.00. The Township contacted the insurance company listed on the police accident report and was informed that the policy expired prior to the accident. Staff contacted the truck owner, Yare Express, LLC and emailed an invoice. The trucking company has not responded with new insurance nor payment to date. Manager Sawyer requested approval from the Board to have the Township Solicitor send a letter to the trucking company.

A motion was made by Tony Haws directing Manager Sawyer to send a certified letter notifying Yare Express, LLC that if payment is not received, the Township will proceed to file civil complaint with the local magistrate which will result in additional fees. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **LCATS Spring Meeting – March 29, 2022.** Manager Sawyer notified the Board of Supervisors that the LCATS Spring Meeting is being held at Enck's Catering Facility on March 29, 2022. RSVP's are needed this week to attend.

Road Superintendent – Randy Groome

Randy Groome was present and gave an overview of the salt and labor costs for snow removal this year versus budget amounts. In addition, Randy gave a brief overview of the upcoming projects scheduled for this year. The Maintenance Department will also be working at the community park to prepare the baseball field and clean the pavilion and restroom. It was discussed that sandbox has been a problem due to sand being removed and deposited in the playground, water fountain and other areas. The Supervisors directed staff to post signage near the sandbox reminding parents that the sand is to remain in the sandbox. If the problem continues then the Township may consider removing the sandbox from the park. The Board also directed staff to get soil samples done to determine the correct fertilizer requirements for the turf areas.

Township Engineer – Jim Caldwell

Mr. Caldwell was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to accept the list of checks written and to pay any bills pending. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tony Haws stated that he did not have any additional information to report at the meeting.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 A.M. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Clark R. Stauffer

Anthony K. Haws

J. Tyler Zerbe