

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

September 12, 2023

The Ephrata Township Supervisors met this date at 7:00 p.m. at the LCBC Ephrata Campus, 6 Hahnstown road, Ephrata, PA for a special meeting concerning future police service in Ephrata Township.

Present were Supervisors:	Clark Stauffer Tony Haws Ty Zerbe
Manager:	Steve Sawyer
Solicitor:	Anthony Schimanek

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clark Stauffer. Mr. Stauffer welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked the LCBC Church for allowing Ephrata Township to hold this meeting at their building. Mr. Stauffer introduced the other Supervisors, Township staff and the representatives for the Ephrata Police Department and the Northern Lancaster County Police Department.

Chairman Stauffer stated that the purpose of this meeting is for everyone in attendance to learn more about the two police departments and for the public to provide input on this very important issue. There will be no deliberation or decisions made by the Board of Supervisors at this meeting. He then turned the meeting over to the Township Solicitor, Tony Schimanek, to explain the format for the meeting.

Solicitor Schimanek stated that the Ephrata Police Department will present first followed by the Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department. Following the presentations, the Supervisors and the public will be given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the two presentations. The Board of Supervisors will not be answering any questions this evening. The public will then be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

Ephrata Police Department Presentation – Police Chief Chris McKim

Chris McKim reviewed a power point presentation that was displayed on the large video screens. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chief McKim provided a QR code of the presentation for the public and also stated that the presentation will be posted on the Ephrata Police Department's Facebook page. A copy of the presentation will also be posted on the Ephrata Township website.

Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department Presentation – Police Chief Josh Kilgore

Chief Kilgore reviewed a power point presentation that was displayed on the large video screens. A copy of the presentation will be posted on the Ephrata Township website.

Question Period

The public was given the opportunity to ask Chief McKim and Chief Kilgore questions. Questions were asked concerning the benefits of each department, impacts of capital expenditures, the ability to handle calls from Wal-Mart and Green Dragon, the total square miles covered by each department, officer turnover, youth commitment, the cost to terminate service, liability issues, current officer residency, officer retention and the ability to hire new officers.

Comment Period

The public was given the opportunity to provide comments to the Board of Supervisors. Trevor Graham provided the Board with a petition signed by 687 individuals in favor of keeping the Ephrata Police Department. Comments from the audience included the following:

- Ephrata Township has already bought in to the Ephrata Police Department the past 18 years.
- NLCRPD will not provide coverage equal to the EPD.
- Very satisfied and comfortable with the EPD.
- EPD is very community oriented.
- With an increase in crime, it is not the time to consider changing.
- It was great to hear both sides but we want to keep EPD
- Ephrata Police Department has given Ephrata Township excellent police service.
- NLCRPD will not be involved with the community like the EPD.
- Willing to accept higher taxes to keep Ephrata Police Department
- It was a bad idea to request a study and proposal from NLCRPD.
- Ephrata has a serious drug problem and the Township needs to stay with the EPD.
- NLCRPD gave an excellent presentation but their business model does not work for Ephrata Township.
- EPD provides better assistance to emergency services than NLCRPD.
- If it isn't broke, don't fix it. No reason to switch – we want to continue with what works.
- The two departments are like comparing apples and oranges. Business vs. service.
- The community wants more dialogue before a decision is made.

The public comment period ended at 10:00 PM. Chairman Stauffer thanked everyone for their attendance and input and stated that the Board has two public meetings per month. Chairman Stauffer adjourned the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Clark R. Stauffer

J. Tyler Zerbe

Anthony Haws