

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING

April 6, 2021

The Ephrata Township Supervisors met this date at 7:00 p.m. at the Ephrata Township Office Building, 265 Akron Road, Ephrata, Pennsylvania. The meeting was conducted in person and virtually utilizing Microsoft Teams.

Present were: Supervisor Clark Stauffer
 Supervisor Tyler Zerbe
 Supervisor Tony Haws
 Township Manager Steve Sawyer
 Township Solicitor Tony Schimaneck

Participating Virtually: Administrative Asst. Jennifer Carvell
 Township Engineer Kara Kalupson

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A motion to close the public comment period was made by Ty Zerbe. 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 16, 2021 Supervisors' Minutes and to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Manager Steve Sawyer

- **Communication Tower / Antenna Ordinance.** The Board of Supervisors at a previous meeting authorized staff to finalize the draft ordinance based on the Board's direction. Staff prepared a final draft that was provided to the Board of Supervisors for their review prior to the meeting. Manager Sawyer discussed the changes that were made to the draft. Staff recommended that the Board move forward with the proposed ordinance and authorize sending it to Lancaster County Planning Commission and the Ephrata Township Planning Commission for their review and comments.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe authorizing staff to move forward with submitting the Communication Tower / Antenna Ordinance to the Lancaster County Planning Commission and the Ephrata Township Planning Commission for their review and recommendations. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **East Mohler Church Road Subdivision – Review No. 1.** The Board of Supervisors received a Review Letter from Rettew Associates dated March 24, 2021. Manager Sawyer stated that there are numerous comments that need to be addressed. The 90-day time frame for the Township to act on the plan is May 24, 2021. In order for the Board of Supervisors to act on the plan by May 24th, the Ephrata Township Planning Commission would have to review the plan in April. Township staff has offered to meet with the applicant and his engineer to discuss the comments but have not yet received a response. Manager Sawyer stated that he will place this item on the next Supervisors' Meeting Agenda for discussion and possible action by the Board if we have not received a response from the applicant.
- **Carpenter Road – Temporary Road Closure.** Manager Sawyer stated that PennDOT will be closing Lincoln Road for a Bridge Replacement project starting in June 2021 with an expected completion date of November 2021. Warwick Township, Clay Township and Ephrata Township are concerned that this will increase traffic on Carpenter Road and the Carpenter Road bridge which has a weight limit of 3 tons. The bridge is co-owned by Ephrata Township (25%), Clay Township (25%) and Warwick Township (50%). Warwick Township has recommended that the three municipalities approve a temporary road closure for Carpenter Road during the PennDOT closure of Lincoln Road. PennDOT plans to post State Roads as the detour route so this closure will not impact their detour plans. Manager Sawyer recommended that the Board approve the temporary closure of Carpenter Road. Attorney Schimaneck stated that he would also recommend the temporary road closure for the justification provided.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to approve the temporary closure of Carpenter Road during the Lincoln Road Bridge Replacement project. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **Vertex Mechanical – Annual HVAC Maintenance Proposal.** Manager Sawyer provided the Board of Supervisors with an email dated March 26, 2021 and Commercial Service Agreement for the HVAC system that was installed approximately a year ago from Vertex Mechanical. Manager Sawyer recommended approval of the proposal for annual maintenance to prolong the life of the system and ensure warranty coverage.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to approve the HVAC Commercial Service Agreement with Vertex Mechanical as presented. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Letter.** A letter dated March 16, 2021 from Ben Gunzenhauser of Bergstrasse Lutheran Church was provided to the Board of

Supervisors for their review prior to the meeting. The Church has concerns with the cost to continue to care for the cemetery. In 2020 the mowing and trimming of the cemetery was \$19,400.00 and \$200 for snow removal. The number of memberships has declined to 40 active members. The Church is requesting an annual bequest to cover some of the expenses to continue to maintain the cemetery grounds. Manager Sawyer and Attorney Schimaneck stated that they do not recommend approval of the request because there are numerous other churches with cemeteries in the Township that could request similar funding.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to deny the Bergstrasse Lutheran Church's request for funding for maintenance of their cemetery. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

Solicitor Tony Schimaneck

Tony Schimaneck stated that he sent a letter to an Attorney representing a truck driver from New York that hit and damaged the Mohler Church Bridge. The insurance information that was given at the time of the accident is expired and new insurance information has not been provided.

Engineer Kara Kalupson reported that there is nothing further to report.

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 there was no additional correspondence at this time.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Clark R. Stauffer

Anthony K. Haws

J. Tyler Zerbe