

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

December 5, 2023

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

Present were Supervisors:	Clark Stauffer
	Tony Haws
	Ty Zerbe
Manager:	Steve Sawyer
Township Engineer:	Jim Caldwell
Solicitor:	Anthony Schimanek
Admin. Assist.	Jennifer Carvell

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 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 November 21, 2023 Supervisors' Minutes and to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Manager Steve Sawyer

- **2024 Ephrata Township Budget.** Manager Sawyer stated that staff prepared a draft of the 2024 Budget and a budget work session was held at the October 17, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting. The Board approved the preliminary budget at this meeting and authorized Manager Sawyer to advertise that the preliminary budget was available for review by the public. The proposed budget does not include a real estate tax increase. The milage rate will remain at 1.27 mills. Manager Sawyer stated that at the November 21, 2023 meeting, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to increase the 2024 Ephrata Ambulance Association contribution to \$10,000 and include a 5% increase in the 2024 Ephrata Public Library funding.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to approve the 2024 Ephrata Township Final Budget as presented and recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **Mervin Hoover – Waiver of As-Built Survey & Financial Security Release.**
An email from Ted Cromleigh of Diehm & Sons on behalf of Mervin Hoover dated November 28, 2023 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review prior to the meeting. Mervin Hoover is requesting a Waiver of the requirement of a complete as-built survey but in the alternative providing field survey documented information detailing installation of the storm water facilities according to the recorded subdivision plan. The project included less than an acre of earth disturbance so there was no NPDES permit required. In addition, a final inspection by Rettew Associates is being requested and the full release of the Financial Security.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to approve the waiver request of the complete as-built survey requirement, but in the alternative provide field survey documenting that the storm water facilities were constructed per the plan along with approving the full release of the financial security conditional upon a site inspection by Rettew Associates. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **Mohler Church Road Bridge – Scour Repair.** Manager Sawyer stated that the Township received an email from Mackin Engineering regarding the Mohler Church Road Bridge. Mackin Engineering conducted bridge inspections throughout the Township as part of the PennDOT bridge inspections program that are required every two (2) years. Their inspection report identified repairs due to scour that must be completed within six months. The Board of Supervisors awarded a contract for the Mohler Church Road Bridge scour repairs to JVI Group in the amount of \$15,000.00. Manager Sawyer reported that the repairs were completed on November 21, 2023.
- **Akron Road Culvert.** Manager Sawyer stated that the Akron Road culvert was damaged by a hit and run accident which occurred in May of this year. The police department investigated and cited the driver of the tractor trailer who caused the damage. Rettew Associates are working on the engineering for the design of the bridge and an environmental study is also being completed. The project will go out for bid in the spring of 2024. This project will be paid for with the American Recovery Funds received and budgeted for 2024.

Jim Caldwell - Engineer

Jim Caldwell provided a list of plans/projects that Rettew Associates is currently working on:

Ephrata Crossing – Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3 & Phase 4
300 N. Reading Road – Flood Plan Project
Comcast – Charity Gardens
Akron Bridge Repair Project
501 Alexander Development
Marzec Properties – SWM Plan
Tommy's Carwash

Solicitor – Tony Schimaneck

Attorney Schimaneck stated that he did not have any additional information to add to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to accept the list of checks as 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 that has not already been discussed.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Clark R. Stauffer

J. Tyler Zerbe

Anthony Haws