

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING

July 7, 2020

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 Skype which is a telecommunications application that provides video chat and voice calls between computers, tablets and telephones. Notice was posted on the Township building and on the Township's website.

Present were: Supervisor Clark Stauffer
Supervisor Ty Zerbe
Supervisor Tony Haws
Township Manager Steve Sawyer
Sgt. Matthew Randolph

Participating Virtually: Township Engineer Jim Caldwell
Township Solicitor Tony Schimaneck

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 June 2, 2020 Supervisors' Minutes and to approve them as written. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Report

- **Reports.** Sgt. Randolph provided a summary of the calls for service within Ephrata Township for the month of June totaling 326 incidents. There were 8 arrests and 18 traffic citations. The monthly report will be kept on file in the office.

STAFF REPORTS

Manager Steve Sawyer

- **Ephrata Township Disaster Declaration.** On March 18, 2020, Ephrata Township Board of Supervisors, per the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Code, declared a disaster emergency in Ephrata Township due to the Coronavirus

disease. Since the State has moved Lancaster County into the green phase, many of the municipalities in the County have rescinded their disaster declaration.

A motion as made by Ty Zerbe to rescind the Ephrata Township Declaration of Disaster Emergency. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **MH Eby – Release of Financial Security.** A motion was made by Tony Haws to release the financial security for the MH Eby Land Development Plan. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.
- **Ephrata Mennonite School – DEP Planning Module Exemption.** Manager Sawyer stated that the Ephrata Mennonite School is proposing to build a new school on approximately twenty acres in the 600 block of Stevens Road. Connection to public sewer is anticipated to occur via a sewer connection to the existing Ephrata Township Sewer Authority main located on the western property line. The Ephrata Township Sewer Authority has granted the school's request for ten EDU's of sewer capacity.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to approve the DEP Planning Module Exemption for the Ephrata Mennonite School. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **Community Park – Pavilion Rental.** Manager Sawyer stated that the restrooms and playground at the Ephrata Township Community Park were opened on Friday, June 26th when the State moved Lancaster County into the green phase. The pavilion has remained closed for rentals and money has been refunded to groups that had reserved the pavilion. The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society has issued Recreation and Park Facility Reopening Guidelines for municipalities to follow. The guidelines state that under the green phase, gatherings should be limited to less than 100 but no more the 25 people per separate activity. It would be very difficult for the Township to ensure than no more than 25 people were using the pavilion. In addition, most weekends there are multiple groups renting the pavilion. Making sure that the pavilion is sanitized would be an issue.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to continue the current policy of not renting the pavilion to any groups. Anyone who has paid to reserve the pavilion will be given a full refund. The Board will review this issue again at their August meeting. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **Building Code Ordinance Amendment.** Manager Sawyer recommended that the Board consider an amendment to the Ephrata Township Building Code Ordinance. Jim Phillips retired as the Township's residential building inspector at the end of 2019. Matt White from Associated Building Inspections, Inc. is now our residential building inspector. Matt has brought to our attention that under the current statewide building code, detached garages, carports and sheds less than 1,000 square feet are exempt from the building code. Also exempt are residential alterations and repairs.

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According to Matt, most of ABI's other municipalities have adopted local amendments to their building code ordinance that requires building permits/inspections for accessory buildings greater than 400 square feet and for certain other residential alterations or repairs. Manager Sawyer provided the Board with a copy a building code amendment adopted by Warwick Township and East Cocalico Township. Manager Sawyer recommend that Ephrata Township adopt the same amendment.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to authorize staff to prepare the ordinance amendment as presented and advertise the proposed ordinance for consideration at the August or September meeting. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Engineer Jim Caldwell reported that the following plans are in the review process:

- Autumn Hills – Cocalico Creek / MS4 Project. The Township has submitted the permit application to the LCCD and is waiting for their response. The permit will then be submitted to PA DEP.
- Ephrata Crossing – Phase 2 Construction
- Comcast – Lincoln's Meadow Submittal
- FSR Reductions – Creek Corner and Hoover
- New Enterprise Subdivision
- Autumn Hills – SW Basin #2 conversion
- Denver Wholesale Foods LD Plan

Solicitor Tony Schimaneck

Tony Schimaneck stated that there was nothing further to discuss with the Board of Supervisors at this time.

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

Supervisor Haws informed the Board about the status of the Fire Department Study currently being conducted for the Pioneer and Lincoln Fire Companies. At the last meeting on June 25th, there were presentations by the Warwick Emergency Services Commission and the Garden Spot Area Fire Companies. Both Warwick and Garden Spot have a full-time paid administrator who is an employee of the municipalities. Supervisor Haws stated that the next meeting will be sometime in late July or August.

Supervisors Zerbe stated that he has contacted the Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors regarding the funding for the Lancaster County Drug Task Force. LCATS is recommending that all County municipalities contribute \$1 per capita to the DTF in 2020. LCATS will discuss future funding at the fall convention in early November.

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A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to send Ephrata Township's contribution of \$9,400 to the Lancaster County Drug Task Force along with a letter addressed to both the Lancaster County Commissioners and the Lancaster County District Attorney that strongly requests that the Lancaster County Commissioners fully fund the Lancaster County Drug Task Force in years 2021 and beyond, and that the county end reliance on voluntary donations and forfeiture funds as a means of funding a critical, countywide public safety program. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the August meeting date and directed staff to determine if Tuesday August 11, 2020 would work for members and Township staff.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Clark R. Stauffer

Anthony K. Haws

J. Tyler Zerbe