

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING

November 17, 2020

The Ephrata Township Supervisors met this date at 7:00 AM at the Ephrata Township Office Building, 265 Akron Rd., Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

Present were Supervisors:	Clark Stauffer
	Tony Haws
	Ty Zerbe
Twp. Manager:	Steven Sawyer
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 November 2, 2020 Supervisors' minutes and to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Department – Chief John Petrick.

Chief Petrick reviewed the October monthly police report with the Board. Chief Petrick also informed the Board that the EPD was going to contact the new Home 2 Suites hotel to discuss proactive measures to try to reduce the number of police calls from the hotel. Chief Petrick stated that the EPD has been active in the schools conducting “walk throughs” to engage and interact with students, teachers and administrators.

Manager - Steve Sawyer

- **Engine Brake Retarder Issue – Schoneck Road and Stevens Road.** Manager Sawyer stated that Scott Sweigart has contacted Chairman Stauffer several times and sent emails to the Township concerning the use of engine brake retarders or jake brakes at the intersection of Schoneck Road and Stevens Road. Mr. Sweigart is requesting that the Board consider adopting an ordinance to prohibit engine retarders. Manager Sawyer informed Chief Petrick that the Township considered this issue earlier in the year but based on advice from the Ephrata Police Department and the Township Solicitor, the Board decided not to pursue an ordinance at that time. Manager Sawyer provided Chief Petrick with copies of meeting minutes and other background information on this issue. Chief Petrick stated that he is not opposed to the Township considering an Ordinance to prohibit engine brake retarders but would like to do more research to provide input to the Board.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to table action on the issue to get input from Chief Petrick before making any decisions. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **Comcast – Lincoln's Meadow and Sycamore Acres.** Manager Sawyer informed the Board that Comcast is currently working in the Lincoln's Meadow development. The approved plans require that Comcast core bore / open cut the street at all locations where their boring crosses gas, water and sewer mains. Due to the depth of the sanitary sewer, the Township has notified Comcast that they do not need to core bore / open cut the street where their boring crosses sewer mains. There are approximately 32 road openings that Comcast has made in Lincoln's Meadow to verify depth of gas and water mains. Comcast's contractor did not core bore the openings. The openings were saw cut which will now require a 2' x 2' patch or larger in the roadway. Manager Sawyer discussed this issue with the Township engineer and is recommending that the Board require all future road openings to be core bored as opposed to open cut. There is a PennDOT approved core bore / vacuum / flowable fill detail on the approved plans that should be followed. Manager Sawyer spoke with David Burkholder from Ephrata Borough and this is the method that the Borough is requiring for this type of street opening. Manager Sawyer also informed the Board that the Township Road Ordinance allows the Township to prohibit any non-emergency road openings between November 15 and March 15.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to allow Comcast to continue working between November 15 and March 15 but to require all Comcast street openings to be core bored and vacuumed instead of open cut and to require Comcast to follow the PennDOT approved core bore / vacuum / flowable fill procedure for restoration that is on the approved plans. If the final restoration is not satisfactory to the Township, Comcast will be required to replace the asphalt following the core bore restoration detail on the approved plans. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **Lincoln's Meadow – Sidewalk Issue.** Manager Sawyer informed the Board that he has received an email from Dave Donnelly of the Lincoln's Meadow HOA concerning sidewalk that has not been installed on two vacant lots in the development. The Developer of Lincoln's Meadow, Rich Hurst, still owns these lots and has been working with an engineering firm on how he wants to develop the lots. Manager Sawyer recommended sending a letter to Rich Hurst informing him that the sidewalk must be completed by the end of 2021 unless a time extension is granted by the Township.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to direct staff to send a letter to the Developer, Rich Hurst stating that the sidewalk shall be completed by December 31, 2021. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **International Dump Truck.** Chairman Stauffer has been in contact with Navistar, Inc. regarding the Township's 2015 International dump truck. Chairman Stauffer has requested that Navistar give the Township an extended warranty to provide engine coverage due to ongoing problems with the truck. Navistar has sent a letter to Ephrata

Township agreeing to provide engine coverage through December 31, 2021. Chairman Stauffer will contact Navistar to attempt to get additional engine warranty based on miles instead of an ending date.

- **Ephrata Township Building – Polling Location.**

Ephrata Township has received several complaints concerning the use of the Township building as a polling place. The Township building does not have sufficient parking and the building is not large enough to provide adequate space for voting lines within the building. Voting has also created issues with operating the municipal office on election day due to space limitations. It was discussed that there are several large new Churches on Hahnstown Road which are in the Murrell voting district that could be explored as potential polling locations.

A motion as made by Tony Haws to direct staff to send a letter to the Lancaster County Board of Elections notifying them that the Ephrata Township Municipal Office will not be available as a polling location for future elections. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

The Board also discussed that the Township Building has been used as a meeting place for political committees in the past.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to not approve the use of the municipal building for meetings of political committees in the future. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **2021 Preliminary Budget Discussion.**

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to authorize the Township Manager and Road Superintendent to set the pay rate for seasonal emergency snow plow operators between \$18 and \$22 per hour based on whether the individual has a CDL, operator experience and the type of equipment/truck being used for snow removal. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

Manager Sawyer provided the Board with a recommendation on 2021 wage increases for the Township employees. A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to approve staff's recommendation for employee wage increases for 2021. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

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

There was no additional correspondence to report at this time.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 A.M. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Clark R. Stauffer

Anthony K. Haws

J. Tyler Zerbe