

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

October 1, 2024

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
Twp. Manager:	Steve Sawyer
Bookkeeper:	Valerie Roark
Solicitor:	Anthony Schimanek
Engineer:	Jim Caldwell

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 September 17, 2024 Supervisors' Minutes and to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

EPHRATA PUBLIC LIBRARY – ABIGAIL BALMER

Abigail Balmer, Executive Director, and Brian Frey, Library Board member, were present on behalf of the Ephrata Public Library. Ms. Balmer thanked the Board of Supervisors for the financial support that the library has received from the Township. She provided the Board with copy of her presentation highlighting the programs and activities of 2024 and a comparison of statistics from 2023 to 2024. The Board also received a copy of her letter requesting a 2025 contribution from the Township in the amount of \$44,250.00. The Ephrata Public Library is requesting a 10% increase from all of the municipalities in the Ephrata Area School District. The Board of Supervisors stated that they will consider the library's request as they work on finalizing the 2025 budget and thanked Ms. Balmer for her presentation.

ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO THE EPHRATA TOWNSHIP TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

Manager Sawyer advised the Board that the proposed Ordinance has been advertised and it could be acted on by the Board at this meeting. Manager Sawyer stated that the ordinance amends Ordinance No. 279 – the Ephrata Township Traffic Ordinance, to

provide updates to sections regulating speed restrictions, stop intersections, restrictions as to the size of vehicles on certain streets, parking restrictions, and penalties for violations. Chairman Stauffer opened the public Hearing on the Ordinance. There was no one in attendance to offer any public comment on the proposed ordinance.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to approve the Ordinance to update the Ephrata Township Traffic Ordinance as prepared and advertised. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

The ordinance will be in effect five (5) days from the date of the hearing.

STAFF REPORTS

Manager Steve Sawyer

- **Schoeneck Road / - Truck Turning Restriction.** Manager Sawyer provided the board with a letter from PennDOT dated September 24, 2024 authorizing the Township to restrict trucks with trailers over thirty-five (35) feet making right turns at the intersection of Schoeneck Road and Stevens Road. The Township is responsible for purchasing and posting the signs.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to authorize staff to prepare and advertise an Ordinance to amend the Ephrata Township Traffic Ordinance to prohibit right hand turns for trucks with trailers over 35 feet in length at all four approaches to the Schoeneck Road and Stevens Road intersection. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **Custom Computer Proposal – E-mail Upgrades.** Manager Sawyer provided the Board with a proposal from Custom Computer to upgrade the Township's email platform. Custom Computer has strongly recommended that the Township upgrade our email platform for security purposes.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to approve the proposal from Custom Computer to upgrade the Township's email platform to Microsoft 365 in the amount of \$2,100.00. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **LCATS Meeting – Thursday, November 7th @ 8:00 AM.** Manager Sawyer reminded the Board of Supervisors of the LCATS meeting to be held at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland, Thursday, November 7, 2024.
- **Budget Work Session – October 15th ETBS Meeting.** Manager Sawyer stated that staff has prepared a draft of the 2025 Budget and a budget work session is scheduled for the next Board of Supervisors Public meeting on October 15, 2024, following the regular meeting business.

Solicitor – Tony Schimaneck

Solicitor Schimaneck informed the Board that his office has been working with Manager Sawyer on the Ordinances amending the Traffic Ordinance and that his office has been working with Township staff on collection of street light assessments.

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

- MS4
- Akron Road Culvert Project
- Jonathan Martin – Lot Add-On Plan and Storm Water Management Plan
- Ephrata Mennonite School – EAJA Auto Flusher Issue
- Autumn Hills Financial Security Reduction
- NPDES Permit – Cocalico Creek Stream Restoration Project
- Concrete Walls Unlimited Land Development Plan

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 he did not have any additional information to discuss.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Clark R. Stauffer

J. Tyler Zerbe

Anthony Haws