

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING

October 15, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors: Clark Stauffer
 Ty Zerbe
 Tony Haws
Tw. Manager: Steve Sawyer
Bookkeeper: Valerie Roark
Police: Sgt. Matt Randolph

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no one in attendance to provide public comment on an item that was not on the agenda.

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 October 1, 2024 Supervisors' minutes and to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Department – Sgt Matt Randolph.

- **Monthly Report.** Sgt. Matt Randolph was in attendance and provided the Supervisors with a summary of the calls for service within Ephrata Township for the month of September totaling 417 incidents. There were 12 arrests and 16 traffic citations. In addition, the Supervisors were provided with Reports from September of 2023 and August of 2024 for comparisons. The monthly report will be kept on file in the office.

Manager Steve Sawyer

- **Autumn Hills Phase 3 – Financial Security Reduction.** The Township received a request for a financial security reduction for Autumn Hills Phase 3. The Board was provided with a letter from Rettew Associates dated October 11, 2024 recommending a

financial security reduction of \$29,578.00 which will leave an outstanding balance of \$19,200.00.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe authorizing a reduction in the financial security for Autumn Hills Phase 3 to a new outstanding financial security amount of \$19,200.00. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **Akron Road Culvert Project – Project Update.** Manager Sawyer reported that he was in contact with Eric from A.H. Moyer about the timing of the project. The precast headwall and end-wall are in production and should be ready in three to four weeks. The project will begin shortly after that. A preconstruction meeting will be conducted in the next few weeks.

Township Engineer Jim Caldwell was not present at the meeting.

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 reminded the board of the upcoming LCATS meeting on Thursday, November, 7 2024.

2025 BUDGET WORK SESSION

Manager Sawyer presented the proposed 2025 general fund budget and the 2025 liquid fuels / highway budget to the Board. Staff has prepared two versions of the draft budget, one with no tax increase and one with a .1 mill tax increase.

The Board discussed a possible tax increase. Manager Sawyer stated that a .1 mill tax increase will result in \$85,968 of additional revenue for the Township. The Board was in favor of a tax increase primarily due to the increasing cost of police services. Total 2025 expenditures for police services will be \$2,124,140, which is 48.8% of the general fund budget. This amount is \$242,540 more than the 2024 police cost due to a one-time loyalty credit of \$200,000 the Township received from Ephrata Borough in 2024 for signing a new five-year police contract with a term of 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2029. Ephrata Township's police cost has increased by \$310,754 over the past five years. The Board reviewed and discussed the entire preliminary budget and the liquid fuels / highway budget.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to approve the 2025 Ephrata Township preliminary budget with a .1 mill tax increase and the liquid fuels / highway budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

The 2025 preliminary budget will be advertised and available for review by the public during regular business hours. The 2025 budget is scheduled to be adopted by the Board at their regular meeting on December 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

October 15, 2024 Supervisors' Meeting minutes continued

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 AM. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Clark R. Stauffer

Anthony K. Haws

J. Tyler Zerbe