

EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING

September 17, 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
Twp. Manager: Steve Sawyer
Admin Assist: Jennifer Carvell
Bookkeeper: Valerie Roark
Police: Chief McKim
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

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 August 20, 2024 Supervisors' minutes and to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

STEVE ARONSON, FRIENDS OF THE EPHRATA POLICE FOUNDATION

Steve Aronson was present on behalf of an organization that is in the beginning stage of being created that will be called "Friends of Ephrata Police Foundation". The reason he requested to be on the agenda was to educate the Board of Supervisors about the Organization and the ideas that they have for the future. The main goal of the organization is to help with funding additional items to benefit the Ephrata Police Department without using tax funding. Research has been completed in hopes to provide a K-9 Unit to the police department in the future. The cost would be paid fully by the organization by donation and fundraising. Six (6) residents/business owners have committed to serving and being involved with the organization. The organization is looking for more interested residents to be involved. The model that they are currently using to begin this organization is from a similar organization in West Lampeter Township.

The Board of Supervisors thanked Mr. Aronson for sharing the information and welcomed Community involvement for future needs of the Ephrata Police Department.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Department – Chief Chris McKim.

- **Monthly Report.** Chief McKim was in attendance and provided the Supervisors with a summary of the calls for service within Ephrata Township for the month of August totaling 441 incidents. There were 18 arrests and 15 traffic citations. The monthly report will be kept on file in the office.

Manager Steve Sawyer

- **Traffic Ordinance Amendment – October 1, 2024.** Manager Sawyer stated that the Traffic Ordinance Amendment was advertised for the October 1, 2024 Supervisors Meeting. One of the items included in the Ordinance was updated parking violation penalties to be consistent with Ephrata Borough parking violation penalties. Chief McKim thanked the Township for including the parking violation penalties in the proposed ordinance because it makes enforcement more efficient for the officers.
- **Schoeneck Road / Stevens Road – Truck Turning Restrictions.** Manager Sawyer stated that he received correspondence from Ron Grier of PennDOT since the last meeting in response to the letter that was sent concerning truck turning restriction at the intersection of Schoeneck Road and Stevens Road. The Township has received numerous complaints regarding tractor trailer trucks trying to make right hand turns at this intersection. Manager Sawyer stated that Rettew Associates provided truck turning templates that were forwarded to PennDOT that clearly show large trucks cannot make right turns at this intersection. Manager Sawyer stated that he has informed PennDOT that the Township is requesting that PennDOT authorize signage prohibiting right turns for trucks with a trailer over 35' from all four approaches. PennDOT will be providing a formal letter to the Township after they complete their review. No action was needed at this time.
- **Time Extension – 887 East Main Street.** Manager Sawyer stated that on July 2, 2024 the Board of Supervisors accepted a ninety (90) day time extension to act on a waiver of land development plan processing for the 887 East Main Street Project. This extension will expire at the end of September. The Board of Supervisors were provided with a copy of a letter dated September 11, 2024 from Goldy Singh, Owner of 887 East Main Street, granting an additional (90) day time extension to act on the waiver of and development plan processing due to needing to hire a new consultant.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe to accept the ninety (90) day time extension granted to act on the Waiver of Land Development Plan Processing for 887 East Main Street. The new deadline for the Township to act on the waiver is December 29, 2024. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

- **CB Burkholder – Financial Security Release.** The Board of Supervisors were provided with an email from Kevin Varner of Diehm & Sons on behalf of CB Burkholder dated September 10, 2024 requesting the release of the financial security for the improvement guarantee for their project. All of the items in Rettew Associates Review Letter dated November 17, 2023 have been completed. Staff recommended approving the release of the financial security as requested.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to approve the full release of the financial security for CB Burkholder in the amount of \$30,294.00. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **Ephrata Township Park Rules – Fishing and Boating.** Manager Sawyer provided the Board of Supervisors with a draft Amendment to the Ephrata Township Community Park Rules. If the Board of Supervisors decides to allow boating on the lake, an ordinance will be required to amend the existing park rules. Staff would also need to order signs to post the boating regulations. Chairman Stauffer questioned whether there was enough interest in boating by our residents to incur the cost of advertising an ordinance and purchasing signs. Staff was directed to try to get feedback from local residents by placing a request for input on the Ephrata Township website

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

Zimmerman – Zoning Amendment
Blue Ridge Cable – HOP
Truck Study – Lake View Road
MS4 Annual Report

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 attended the Ephrata Borough Safety Committee meeting last evening. The Pioneer Fire Company reported that they are in need of a new Fire Police Vehicle and requested that the vehicle be funded by the Ephrata Police Department.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 A.M. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

Clark R. Stauffer

Anthony K. Haws

J. Tyler Zerbe