

## EPHRATA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

March 5, 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
Manager:	Steve Sawyer
Solicitor:	Anthony Schimaneck
Engineer:	Jim Caldwell
Admin. Assist.	Jennifer Carvell

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 February 20, 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.**

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 January totaling 404 incidents. There were 21 arrests and 20 traffic citations. The monthly report will be kept on file in the office.

Sgt. Randolph reported that they are in the process of receiving their new fleet of cars. The new fleet will be white and 12 new vehicles should be in use in the near future.

Sgt. Randolph also reported that three (3) newly hired officers have completed their training and all positions are currently filled.

#### **Manager Steve Sawyer**

- **Damage to Rt. 322 / Walmart Traffic Signal.** Manager Sawyer notified the Board of Supervisors that there was an accident at the East Main Street /Walmart access intersection. The vehicle struck the traffic signal controller cabinet that houses all of the electronic to operate the traffic signal. CM High was able to

make repairs so that the traffic signal could continue to operate, but the cabinet, controller and other equipment needed to be replaced. The driver's Insurance Company, Geico, was contacted and a claim was filed. Geico notified the Township that the insured only has limited liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000.00. The estimate received from CM High is in the range of \$30,000.00 - \$40,000. Manager Sawyer contacted the Township's Insurance Company, Philadelphia Insurance Company, and filed a claim for any amount that is not paid by the responsible party's insurance company.

- **Lancaster Barnstormers Relay (Running) Race.** The Township received an email from Jason Logue, President of Every Mountain Outdoors and Run PA dated February 14, 2024 notifying the Township of a Stormn' Lancaster Relay Race to be held in September of 2024. This is a fundraiser event with the Lancaster Barnstormers. Jason has reached out to all of the Municipalities within the mapped relay race to request approval. The race is a total of 179 miles to be run by teams in a 24-hour time period. The Township's portion of the race proposes to use the Warwick to Ephrata Rail Trail, East Fulton Street and Diamond Station Road. The runners are projected to be in the Ephrata area around late afternoon to early evening and will be required to wear lighted gear. Sgt. Matt Randolph stated that he has reviewed the information and the Ephrata Police Department does not have any objections or concerns at this time.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to not object to the Stormn' Lancaster Relay Race to be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> as presented. A motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

- **Blue Ridge CATV Underground Projects - Update.** Manager Sawyer notified the Board of Supervisors that Blue Ridge CATV is planning to install new conduit in several Ephrata Township developments to replace old cable lines with new fiber lines. Manager Sawyer met with BRC Engineers on February 20<sup>th</sup> to describe the type of plans that will be required to receive a Highway Occupancy Permit. The requirements will be the same as the Township required of other utility companies such as UGI and Comcast.
- **2024 Winter Budget Status.** Manager Sawyer prepared a Memorandum dated February 28, 2024 with the current costs for salt, snow contractors, and township labor to date. The total winter snow removal budget includes salt, contractors and Township employee wages. The amount spent to date for salt and contractors is at 50.8% of the budgeted amount and Township Wages are at 41.8% of the budgeted amount.
- **ZHB Hearing – Weaverland Mennonite Homes & Caring Acres Communities.** Manager Sawyer reviewed with the Board a zoning hearing Applications for the March meeting. Weaverland Mennonite Homes & Caring Acres Communities are seeking approval to establish a life care facility on property with an access from Cindia Lane. The property is located to the west of the Sycamore Acres Park and is in the Residential Medium Density Zoning District. Previously, Diehm & Sons and Caring Cares presented to the Board of Supervisors a sketch plan of the proposed development. Manager Sawyer asked

the Board if they would like the Township to become a party to the hearing or present any testimony at the hearing.

A motion was made by Ty Zerbe directing staff to not to take a position or present testimony at the zoning hearing for Weaverland Mennonite Homes & Caring Acres Communities. The motion was seconded by Tony Haws and carried unanimously.

**Solicitor – Tony Schimaneck**

Solicitor Schimaneck informed the Board that he did not have anything additional information to report at this time.

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

- Akron Road Culvert Project
- Signature Custom Cabinetry – PennDOT HOP for Future LD Plan
- SWMP – Darin Weaver
- Rothsville Road – Gerry Balmer 2<sup>nd</sup> Dwelling Unit
- Blue Ridge Cable – HOP
- SWMP – Marzec
- Shannon Hurst/537 Stevens Road – Revised Final Plan
- Allen Auker – SWMP
- Mennonite Central Committee - Expansion Project

**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 there was no additional correspondence that has not already been discussed.

A motion was made by Tony Haws to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ty Zerbe and carried unanimously.

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Clark R. Stauffer

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J. Tyler Zerbe

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Anthony Haws