

HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 19, 2024

The regular meeting of the Hereford Township Board of Supervisors was held in person at the municipal building and via Zoom. Those present were Supervisors John Membrino, Keith Masemore, Karla Dexter and Secretary Hannah Edwards.

Guests: Harold Albitz, Matt Lorish, Irene Donovan, Dean Marks, Eric Miller, Mark Levensgood, Cliff Kerchner and Josh Borowski

Zoom: Tom' Connor and Candace Perry

Mr. Membrino called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Membrino made a motion to approve the November 5, 2024 meeting minutes Ms. Dexter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Payment of Bills and Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Ms. Dexter seconded to pay the bills and approve the Treasurer Report. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Personal Appearances – No Report

Fire Companies

Hereford Fire Company- Mr. Borowski reported 24 calls for the month of October, very busy. He reported only one brush fire last week, and he predicts that number to stay low. Mr. Borowski mentioned he would like Hereford Township to follow the Berks County resolution with the Burn Ban. Mr. Borowski also presented the BOS with a 2024 tally sheet for Hereford Township volunteer firefighter who would currently fall under the stipend program, which the township is looking into creating for 2025. He mentioned there would currently be 9 firefighters who are eligible, he predicts having more activity once the program starts.

Mr. Borowski reported their will be a meeting December 8th at 9:00am at the fire house to discuss the issue with state police and responding to calls in the township, he invited all BOS members.

Seisholtzville Fire Company- Mr. Miller reported 19 calls for month of October with 4 recalls, the total for Seisholtzville for the 2024 year is 141 calls. Mr. Miller reported there were 4 representatives who participated in the VRT class. Mr. Miller also reported the 2024 financial statement was in their packets for review. Seisholtzville also plans on hosting a VRT class in the spring, they also accepted a new member last month. Mr. Miller also wanted to give the road crew some appreciation for taking care of the Sigmond tree that was down covering the road. Mr. Miller reported 3 or 4 active members who are eligible for the stipend program. Mr. Miller mentioned they are still waiting for EMR class due to teacher scheduling issues.

HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 19, 2024

Hereford Fire Police – Mr. Albitz reported the only event they will be assisting coming up is the East Greenville Christmas parade on December 1st at 1:00pm.

Seisholtzville Fire Police – No report

Bally Ambulance – Mr. Membrino mentioned discussion will be held later in the meeting down in the approval of the advertisement of the budget.

Emergency Management – Mr. Leets submitted a report for a training he attended on October 30th, updating operations plan which is now completed. He also mentioned there will be a post on Facebook concerning thanksgiving cooking safety.

Recreation Committee – No report

Environmental Advisory Committee – No report

State Police Report

The report was not sent, Ms. Edwards plans on touching base again to get October to share at December's meeting.

Unfinished Business – No report

New Business

1. Discussion about having the office closed in December
 - a. December 24, 2024 Christmas Eve – use vacation day
 - b. December 26, 2024 – use vacation day
 - c. December 27, 2024 – use vacation day

-Mr. Membrino made a motion to close the office on December 24th, December 26th and December 27th in the use of vacation days for Ms. Edwards. The office will re-open December 30th at 7:00am. Mrs. Dexter second this motion. All in favor, motion passed.

2. Approve Hereford and Seisholtzville Fire Police to assist Borough of East Greenville in their annual Christmas Parade on December 1, 2024 starting at 1:00pm

-Mr. Membrino made a motion to authorize both fire companies to assist East Greenville Borough with their annual Christmas parade of December 1, 2024. Mr. Masemore second this motion. All in favor, motion passed.

3. Approve Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract from Signal Services for a 2 year agreement in the amount of \$525.00 yearly

-Mr. Membrino made a motion to authorize the traffic signal maintenance contract from Signal Services for 2 years in the amount in \$525.00 yearly. Mrs. Dexter second this motion. All in favor, motion passed.

4. Approve Bond Release for 247 Mulberry Hill Road (Molis Stormwater Maintenance) in the amount of \$37,944.58.

HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 19, 2024

-Mr. Membrino made a motion to approve the bond release for 247 Mulberry Hill Road stormwater maintenance in the amount of \$37,944.58. Mr. Masemore second this motion. All in favor, motion passed.

5. Approve to have the 2025 budget published in Town and Country for 30 days.

-Mr. Membrino mentioned there was an annual Center for Excellence in Local Government report for Emergency Providers sent out. In this report it covers the problem with funding and possible solutions for the government. There was a meeting out in Eastern Berks, a presentation was published. Many municipalities have stepped forward with their annual contribution increase since their report was published. Mr. Membrino asked to take note Hereford is inadequate with their funds for service that is provided. Mr. Membrino is considered a conflict of interest to vote on that line item in the budget since he is a board member for the bally ambulance committee. Mr. Masemore asked if the budget was balanced completely or if there would be a left-over amount, Ms. Edwards reported there would be a left-over amount for the 2025 budget. Mrs. Dexter mentioned from her reading and understanding the ambulance is full-time paid and that is why the funds are being requested? Mr. Membrino mentioned they have been fulltime for many years, the problem with the funding is the staff needs to be active for 27/7. The only solution to make up the funding is from the municipalities and as a township we are required to provide adequate safety with fire department and ambulance service. Other townships are looking at creating a tax for their residents, but Mr. Masemore and Mr. Membrino do not agree to create a tax for our residents. Mr. Masemore concern is simply that Bally Ambulance is requesting this increase to close to the end of the budget season, he feels Hereford already has their budget in place and ready to approve and is concerned with the fact that no one from Bally Ambulance has showed up to a meeting to address these questions and requests. Mr. Membrino mentioned him being an active member on their board is why no one feels the need to attend due to him being able to answer any questions or concerns. Mr. Masemore believes if we push to get an increase in budget for the ambulance then we should provide a higher increase for our full-time employees. Mr. Membrino mentioned if there is a motion on the table, he will have to abstain his vote unless the board agrees to take out the budget line item for the bally ambulance. Mrs. Dexter feels their needs to be a compromise on the situation. She agrees there needs to be a member that can come to a meeting and express their request along with educating the board members as to why they are requesting the funding increase. She also agrees with Mr. Membrino that it is the townships responsibility to provide these services to the community. Mr. Borowski also mentioned in all his years of being Chief at Hereford, bally ambulance has never once made an appearance, when the fire department requests funds or needs more, they always make sure they are present in the request. Mrs. Dexter would like to revisit it next year and make the amount right and feasible.

-Mr. Masemore made a motion to publish the advertisement of the 2025 budget in the Town and Country for 30 days. Mrs. Dexter second this motion. Mr. Membrino abstained his vote unless the board agrees to change the ambulance line item. Motion passed.

Mr. Membrino also wanted to talk about creating a special board meeting to approve the budget for 2025.

-Mr. Membrino made a motion to hold an additional board meeting on December 19, 2024 at 7:30pm at Hereford Township Municipal Building. Mrs. Dexter second that motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Miscellaneous Correspondence and Additional Information

1. Next board meeting will be held on December 3, 2024 @ 7:30pm

HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 19, 2024

2. Friendly Reminder- Office will be closed November 28 and November 29 for Holiday
3. Friendly Reminder – Office will close early November 25 at 11am and will re-open November 26 at 7am
4. November 20, 2024 PC meeting is cancelled
5. No EAC meeting for November.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Resident mentioned – the state representatives have been giving out many grants to townships for multiple projects to be completed. The resident was asking if the township has a representative who is staying on top of all the grants being offered to see if the township could be eligible for any of them. Mr. Membrino did mention we have an individual who is watching and tracking all the grants to see if any could be an option for the township.

There being no further business, Mr. Membrino made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Masemore. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

–
Hannah Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer