

Eldred Township Supervisors

Regular Meeting

July 12, 2023

This meeting was held at the Eldred Township Building.

Call to order at 4:30 PM by Chairman Greeley.

The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Supervisors Gordon Greeley and John MacBeth in attendance. Supervisor Lawrence Ross, Jr. was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

None.

A motion to approve the June 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Supervisor MacBeth. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report was made by Supervisor MacBeth. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

Total Receipts (June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023): \$46,573.46

Total Expenditures (June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023): \$70,477.27

Total Balance (all accounts): \$333,916.19

A motion to approve payment of the invoices for June 2023, in the amount of \$56,773.34 was made by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve payment of the payroll expenses for June 2023, in the amount of \$13,703.93 was made by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

ROADMASTER REPORT:

Supervisor/Roadmaster Ross was absent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Chairman Greeley talked to Bob Fye from the Sigel Volunteer Fire Department about the availability of the firehall for October 4, 2023. The firehall is available. Chairman Greeley made a motion to hold the second joint public informational meeting about the Barnett Township merger on October 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Sigel Volunteer Fire Department's firehall. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

A discussion was held about advertising for the meeting. The township is required to advertise in the newspaper. Postcards, radio, and ExploreJeffersonPA.com were discussed. Due to the cost of postcards and postage, Supervisor MacBeth suggested it may be more cost effective to just put a short announcement on Explore Jefferson. The advertisements will be placed in September.

2. The solicitor reviewed the sample solar ordinances from PSATS and wrote a letter to the Supervisors suggesting that they consult with a solar engineer. Chairman Greeley talked to the Jefferson County Commissioners about the issue. There is currently no county solar ordinance. The state legislature is working on legislation. Lisa Kelso is waiting for a call back from the EADS Group.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Eldred Township Ordinance 2023-1 was reviewed. The ordinance authorizes a referendum question about the Barnett Township merger to be placed on the November 7, 2023 general election ballot for Eldred Township and approves a Joint Agreement for the Merger of Municipalities. Ordinance 2023-1 was advertised for public inspection. Chairman Greeley made a motion to ordain and enact Eldred Township Ordinance 2023-1. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

2. A discussion was held about possibly ordering more asphalt millings from PennDOT at \$10 per ton. Milling has started and the PennDOT Municipal Representative sent out an email saying that there would be about 2,500 tons available. Chairman Greeley made a motion to purchase an additional 200 tons of asphalt millings from PennDOT for \$10 per ton. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

3. The Jefferson County Commissioners sent a memo dated June 28, 2023 to all Jefferson County municipalities explaining why they are seeking to decertify Northwest Pennsylvania Great Outdoors (PAGO) as the county's recognized Tourist Promotion Agency and asking each municipality to consider adopting a Resolution to express agreement. A sample Resolution was sent along with the memo. If PAGO is decertified, the Commissioners indicated that the Jefferson County Economic Development Office will handle tourism promotion for the county. Chairman Greeley expressed his support for the decertification. Supervisor MacBeth explained that he feels that the memo from the Commissioners doesn't explain enough about the problems with PAGO and he would like to have more information before making a decision. He also said that a lot of business owners attended the Commissioners' meeting in June and expressed their satisfaction with PAGO. Chairman Greeley made a motion to concur with the Jefferson County Commissioners' desire to decertify Northwest Pennsylvania Great Outdoors as Jefferson County's recognized Tourist Promotion Agency and to adopt Resolution 2023-7, stating the same. The motion failed.

4. The Eldred Township Municipal Authority sent a memo to the Supervisors explaining the Authority's understanding of the procedures to be followed if a residence is within 150 feet of the water system and the property owner declares the residence uninhabitable and does not want to tap into the system:

1. ETMA sends a letter to the Eldred Township Supervisors.
2. The Supervisors give the letter to the County Commissioners for consideration.

Chairman Greeley said that he talked to Representative Smith's office and the County Commissioners office and was told that the Commissioners are the only ones who can condemn a property. He said that he was told that in order to be considered uninhabitable, it must be lacking water, sewage, and heat.

5. At a previous meeting, the Supervisors agreed to revisit the procedures for the hiring and firing of employees. Supervisor MacBeth said that he feels that allowing one person to make the decisions is setting the Township up for problems. Chairman Greeley made a motion to change the wording in the employee handbook to state: "Any hiring and firing in the Township will be done with a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors." The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER SUPERVISOR COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

Chairman Greeley asked if there were any more comments for the good of the Township.

Sue Boring from the Eldred Township Municipal Authority said that the Authority is trying to find funding for a second well and they have money set aside for matching funds.

Laird Raybuck said that the low branches on Greeley Road are beating up Dan Park's trucks and trailers.

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:36 PM by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth.

The next regular meeting will be held at the Eldred Township Building on August 9, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

Lisa Kelso
Secretary