

Eldred Township Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

August 10, 2022

This meeting was held at the Eldred Township Municipal building.

Call to order at 4:25 PM by Chairman Greeley.

The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Supervisors John MacBeth, Lawrence Ross, and Gordon Greeley in attendance

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

John Hanley had questions about the ATV permits and asked what is being done about riders who don't have a sticker.

Jeep McMichael reported that there is an overabundance of ATVs speeding, doing wheelies, and causing other problems. Mr. McMichael asked for a copy of the ledger with permit numbers and names.

Ed Kerchinski said he is in favor of the permits and anyone with problems should write down the buggy number and tell the police.

Tina Tarr asked if another vote would be held for Tax Collector. Supervisor Greeley responded that the position will be up for vote when the current term is expired.

Sally Lelless asked what is being done to enforce the ATV rules. She has had confrontations with riders and has called the State Police. She said she wants them to slow down and be respectful.

Bob Nisnik said he supports the ATV permits. He asked about the road maintenance schedule. Supervisor Ross said that some of the maintenance has been pushed back due to erosion because the weather has been so dry. He said they are about 70% done with the first lap of the mowing.

Theresa Shick said she would like to be Tax Collector.

Connie Moore said that she has been a Tax Collector for a long time, and she will help her sister, Theresa Shick, if she is appointed Tax Collector.

A motion was made by Supervisor MacBeth to approve the **July 13, 2022 minutes** and the **Treasurer's report**. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross, who added that the Treasurer's report may not be correct as Lisa Kelso's training is still ongoing.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Total Receipts Listed: \$12,376.97

Total Expenditures Listed: \$94,547.85

A motion was made by Supervisor Ross that payment of the invoices be approved. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Greeley.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Ross that payment of the payroll be approved. The amount listed was \$8,111.39. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

ROAD MASTER REPORT:

Supervisor Ross reported that they have been doing maintenance, tar and chipping and mowing. He said next week they will begin working on Turner Road as part of the Dirt and Gravel Road Program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The supervisors reported that they would like to develop a website, but it would only be for the distribution of information and contact questions only. They do not want it to be a platform for public comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Siltop Visions LLC

Paul Silvis from Siltop Visions LLC thanked the supervisors for giving him an opportunity to talk about his property. He explained the history of the property. He said he intended the area to be a "local treasure" and developed waivers to help with admission. He explained that there are four things that will ruin the property: speed, loud mufflers, loud music, and disrespect for neighbors. He said that the property is not an ATV park and was never intended to be. He disagrees with disrespectful behavior and will kick out people who are disrespectful.

Supervisor Greeley stated that he went for a ride on the property with Mr. Silvis because he wanted to see if there was any ecological damage. He said that he witnessed slow riders and was impressed with the limestone creek crossings.

Paul Silvis introduced Ken Dworek and asked him to speak about his role in enforcing the rules of the property. Mr. Silvis stated that Ken has walked the perimeter of the property and placed signs on the boundary that notify people where the property ends and tell them not go on the neighboring property or park there. Ken said that he has no authority on the local roads, but if he catches someone being disrespectful and violating the rules on Siltop Visions property he will pull their pass and give them a refund. He said that he has only had a few cases in nine years where he has had to call the State Police. He also said that if anyone gives him the pass number of someone causing problems, they will remove the person.

Supervisor MacBeth stated that he wanted to clarify that he doesn't have a problem with Siltop Visions pass holders. He said that he has a large parcel along Big Dam Road and has concerns about safety when driving on the road.

State Representative Brian Smith said that he always gets questions about ATVs and wanted to share some information:

- The expansion of DCNR trails for the public is going well and that in the future they are hoping for trail connectors between states.
- The top two things in the state are tourism and farming and that they are working on ATV opportunities to encourage tourism.
- By state law ATVs/UTVs must have a DCNR plate but do not have to be inspected. Some local municipalities have their own inspection requirements and have people bring them to be checked.
- By PA Code Title 25, for watershed protection, it is prohibited for anyone to run an ATV or UTV up and down streams. Only direct perpendicular fording is allowed.

Representative Smith said that he has given Paul Silvis a lot of information on the laws that some of the people are violating. He said to contact him with any questions about state ATV laws.

Jamie Lefever from the Jefferson County Department of Development said she thinks what Paul Silvis is doing is a good thing. She said that we want people coming in and spending money here and that ATVs bring in money.

State Police Captain Scott Neal said the job of the State Police is to ensure that ATV operation is safe, and they haven't had a huge issue with complaints. He said they will increase patrols. Captain Neal agrees with the permits because he feels that not having them won't get rid of the problems.

Bill Maco and Mary Maco from Big Country Campground said they are happy with everything.

Brandon Means said he likes the Siltop Visions property, his family follows the rules, and they don't see many breaking them, especially locals.

Sally Lelless added that if the township is bringing in extra money from the ATV permits that maybe she can get the ditch by her house fixed. She said the ditch causes ice problems in the winter, and she has been fighting to get something done for about 30 years. She said the township referred her to the state and then the state referred her to the township. Supervisor Ross said that he is working with PennDOT to solve the problem.

Chairman Greeley thanked everyone for their comments and concerns.

2. Tax Collector Appointment

The current Tax Collector, Deborah Gillung, passed away and the Supervisors need to appoint a new Tax Collector. Chairman Greeley said that Amber Siar, Deb Gillung's daughter and the current Deputy Tax Collector, doesn't want the job, and that the appointee would finish the current term of two years until the next election.

Theresa Shick said that she would like to be appointed Tax Collector. Her sister Connie Moore announced that she, herself, has been a Tax Collector for a long time and she would help train Theresa if Theresa is appointed.

After some discussion, Chairman Greeley made a motion to appoint Lorie Park as Tax Collector. Supervisor Ross made a motion to appoint Theresa Shick as Tax Collector. Supervisor MacBeth suggested tabling the matter until the solicitor could be contacted to clear up any possible legal questions about the appointment process. Supervisor Ross agreed with tabling the matter and asked both Lorie Park and Theresa Shick for some information about each of their backgrounds to determine if one was better suited for the position. Chairman Greeley tabled the appointment until the Supervisors can talk to the solicitor. The Supervisors agree to meet at the township building tomorrow morning to call the solicitor and an Executive Meeting is set for afterward.

3. The possible appointment of a new Auditor is also tabled.

4. Chairman Greeley made a motion to approve the hiring of Lisa Kelso for the Secretary/Treasurer position. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

5. Supervisor Ross made a motion to approve the removal of Kelly Ross and Deborah Gillung from the S&T Bank accounts and the addition of John T. MacBeth and Lisa Kelso to the S&T Bank accounts. The motion was seconded by John MacBeth.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

6. Chairman Greeley made a motion to approve the removal of Deborah Gillung, Kelly Ross, and Mike Caldwell from the PLGIT bank accounts and the addition of Gordon R. Greeley, John T. MacBeth, and Lisa Kelso to the PLGIT bank accounts. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

7. Chairman Greeley made a motion to approve the purchase of a fire-resistant box and equipment for backing up the Township's digital records. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

8. Supervisor Ross made a motion to approve the addition of a credit card account for Lisa Kelso. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

9. Underground Tank

Supervisor Ross reported that the underground fuel storage tank failed inspection the last two times and is still not up to code. He got an estimate from Total Tank Works in Butler, PA for the work necessary to make the tank pass inspection. The estimate was \$4,000.00.

Chairman Greeley asked if it would be cheaper to just go with an above-ground tank.

Supervisor Ross said that he just completed the necessary training for the operation and inspection of the underground tank and said the township would have to deal with the removal and disposal of the underground tank if an above-ground tank is used. He said that the tank needs to be inspected once a year by a third party and to keep using the existing tank, the township would have to either hire someone to get it up to code or get a new one.

Chairman Greeley said he would like to get more quotes for the work and would like to table the matter until more quotes are procured.

Supervisor MacBeth agreed that the township needs more than one quote.

Supervisor Ross said that he has a website with a listing of companies that do this type of work and that anything under \$10,000.00 doesn't need to have bids. He made a motion to act as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER SUPERVISOR COMMENTS OR CONCERNS:

Supervisor Ross said that Warsaw Township is considering buying some dust-control oil and wanted to try some of Eldred Township's oil to see if they like it before they buy any. Warsaw Township will buy the oil from Eldred. Supervisor Ross suggested that Eldred Township could spray the oil for Warsaw in exchange for the time that Deb Wilson, the Warsaw Township Secretary, spent helping in the township office. A motion was made by Chairman Greeley to approve the spraying. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth.

Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Chairman Greeley adjourned the meeting at 6:11 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held at the Eldred Township Municipal Building on September 14, 2022, at 4:30 PM.

Lisa Kelso
Secretary