

Eldred Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting
June 14, 2023

This meeting was held at the Eldred Township Building.

Call to order at 4:29 PM by Chairman Greeley.

The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Dan Park asked if a few trees could be trimmed higher in a couple of areas on Greeley Road. There are limbs hitting his farm equipment.

Jean Dush asked if Greeley Road was fixed. She said that there are still potholes in the middle of the road and the berms are bad. Supervisor Ross said that he would like to get a moon paver so that the road crew could do the berms themselves. He also said that 108 tons of gravel was put on Greeley Road and 61 tons was put on Warren Road. Chairman Greeley said that he talked to Jefferson Paving about costs for widening a section of Greeley Road and was told it would cost \$70,000 to \$90,000 to do something like that.

A motion to approve the May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report was made by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Total Receipts (May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023): \$126,137.64

Total Expenditures (May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023): \$46,479.77

Total Balance (all accounts): \$363,870.00

A motion to approve payment of the invoices for May 2023, in the amount of \$34,144.55 was made by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve payment of the payroll expenses for May 2023, in the amount of \$12,335.22 was made by Supervisor MacBeth. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

ROADMASTER REPORT:

Supervisor/Roadmaster Ross said that preparations are being made for work on the Dirt and Gravel Road projects. All of the pipes have been delivered, but he needs to order stone. The guys have been getting the 2004 International set up with the side belt so they can put blacktop where it needs to go, and they have been mowing and getting ready for the seal coat projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Update on Bottom Road Bridge Replacement Project

Supervisor Ross took part in a meeting by phone with PennDOT's Project Manager and members of Gibson Thomas Engineering. Letters were sent out to landowners to notify them of "the intent to enter" their property for surveying and other purposes. At the next meeting they will discuss they type of bridge to be built.

2. Dirt, Gravel, Low-Volume Road Grant Update

The Township received three grants this year. Supervisor Ross said that all three projects involve underdrain work with new cross pipes. Some sections will be raised 1.5 feet to provide a more solid roadbed.

The Grant amounts that were approved are:

Beers Road: \$25,131.00

Miller Road: \$15,768.40

Sharp Road: \$59,052.00

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Seal Coat Bid Opening

Three bids were received:

- Russell Standard Corporation \$99,807.22
- Hagar Paving \$103,591.38
- Jefferson Paving Corp. \$85,143.60

A motion to accept Jefferson Paving Corp.'s bid of \$85,143.60 and award the contract for the seal coat project to Jefferson Paving was made by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

2. Equipment Sale Bid Results from Municibid.com

The sale of the 1999 Gradall, the 2001 Mack dump truck, and the 2004 Ford F550 dump truck was advertised in the Courier Express. The ad mentioned that details were available, and bids were being taken, on Municibid.com.

The high bidders from the online auction held on Municibid.com were:

- 1999 Gradall model G3W: Michael Chovan with a high bid of \$6,050.00
- 2001 Mack Tandem dump truck: Nahum Amaya with a high bid of \$8,525.00
- 2004 Ford F550 Super Duty dump truck: William Spangler with a high bid of \$12,100.00

- A motion to accept the bid of \$6,050.00 from Michael Chovan for the 1999 Gradall model G3W made by Supervisor Ross. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

- A motion to accept the bid of \$8,525.00 from Nahum Amaya for the 2001 Mack Tandem dump truck was made by Supervisor Ross. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

- A motion to accept the bid of \$12,100.00 from William Spangler for the 2004 Ford F550 Super Duty dump truck was made by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

- A motion to accept the second highest bid if the high bidder is unable or unwilling to make payment and remove the equipment, was made by Supervisor Ross. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote 3 ayes. Motion carried.

3. Property, Auto, Liability Insurance

G.J. Giangliulo from H.A. Thomson Company attended the meeting to answer questions about the PIRMA (Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Risk Management Association) policy. Olivia McKinney and Sarah Sorek attended the meeting to answer questions about the Matson Insurance Agency's Astra-Great American Insurance proposal.

The following was discussed:

- Matson's proposal is based on replacement cost. Thomson's policy is based on "actual cash value." Ms. McKinney and Ms. Sorek said that the replacement cost allows the equipment to be replaced with new (up to the maximum insured amount). Mr. Giangliulo said he wouldn't recommend replacement cost coverage because you pay the premium on the higher amount.
- Matson's proposal limits liability coverage to \$500,000. Thomson's policy limits liability coverage to \$10,000,000. Ms. McKinney and Ms. Sorek said that government immunity kicks in after \$500,000. Mr. Giangliulo said that PIRMA has a limit of \$10,000,000 because there is no statute of limitations in the Federal Court. He said that he knows of suits in Federal Court that have cost Municipalities millions of dollars.

Supervisor Ross said that his opinion would be to stay with H.A. Thomson's PIRMA policy. He made a motion to renew the Property, Auto, Liability policy with PIRMA and H.A. Thomson. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

4. MS-339 Resolution for Jefferson County Liquid Fuels Aid

The Jefferson County Commissioners sent a letter to Eldred Township stating that they will be distributing \$379,651.11 of the County's Liquid Fuels funds. Eldred Township can apply to receive up to \$15,465.57 in aid from the funds. The amounts of aid available for individual municipalities in Jefferson County was calculated using a PennDOT formula based on road mileage and population. Application for the aid must be completed using PennDOT's online MS-339 Form, that serves as a Resolution for requesting county aid. The funds must be used to reimburse purchases that qualify for liquid fuels payment but were paid from the general fund. Eldred Township's PennDOT Municipal Representative said that the easiest way to apply is to use the seal coat project that was just bid as the project to be listed on the MS-339 Form. Invoices must be submitted to receive the funds, if approved. Chairman Greeley made a motion to declare Eldred Township's intent to apply for the full \$15,465.57 in Jefferson County Liquid Fuels fund aid by completing the MS-339 and adopting the Resolution that it represents. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried and MS-339 Resolution adopted.

5. GDC Oil

Supervisor Ross received a quote from Zircon Industries for Glycerin DC-100 (GDC) oil at \$2.95 per gallon or \$13,275.00 per load. Last year the Township paid \$3.75 per gallon for the GDC. It is used on the dirt roads for dust control.

Chairman Greeley made a motion to approve the purchase of 4,500 gallons of Glycerin DC-100 oil at \$2.95 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

6. QuickBooks Upgrade

Support and Payroll Service were discontinued on May 31, 2023 for the Township's version of QuickBooks. Security updates are not available without support. QuickBooks Pro Plus was found to be an affordable desktop version. The cost is \$549.00 and requires an annual renewal of \$549.00. The annual renewal for the QuickBooks Payroll Service has been paid for the year, and Lisa Kelso was told that it will transfer to the new version.

Supervisor Ross made a motion to approve the upgrade to QuickBooks Pro Plus. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

7. Road Crew Pay Scale

Ryan Graham has been hired to fill the vacant road crew position. The employee who left was making \$17.58 per hour. The remaining existing employee is making \$16.97 per hour.

After discussion, Chairman Greeley made a motion to approve the following pay scale: the rate of pay for the existing road crew employee will be increased to \$17.58 and the rate of pay for the new road crew employee will be set at \$16.97. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

8. Proposed Ordinance 2023-1 and Agreement

Paul Ross, the Chairman of the Barnett Township Supervisors, and Terri Cunkle from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) were present for the discussion.

Eldred Township's Solicitor, Jay Lundy, completed a proposed joint ordinance for Eldred and Barnett Townships that will authorize and direct the Jefferson County Board of Elections to place a question about the proposed merger with Barnett Township on the November 7, 2023 ballots for both Eldred Township and Barnett Township. The ordinance will also approve an accompanying Joint Agreement for the Merger of Municipalities that would take effect if the merger is approved by the electorate of both municipalities on the November 7, 2023 general election. The Agreement sets some transitional parameters.

Chairman Greeley made a motion to approve the advertisement of the proposed Eldred Township Ordinance 2023-1 and Joint Agreement for the Merger of Municipalities. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Cunkle asked Paul Ross for the date of the next Barnett Township regular meeting. He said that it is next Thursday, at 5:00 PM. She told him that they will need to have a quorum of Supervisors present so that they can approve the advertisement of the proposed ordinance and agreement. The ordinances need to be voted on during the July regular meetings for both Townships so that if approved, it can go to the County.

Ms. Cunkle said that both Townships will want to hold another joint public informational meeting. Supervisor Lawrence Ross said that the Townships should request a list of the "super voters" and send them post cards about the meeting.

Ms. Cunkle said that the list of "super voters" could be obtained from the County. "Super voters" are the people who usually vote at all elections. She said that the Townships would want to educate the "super voters" about the proposed merger.

Chairman Greeley asked what the best time would be to have the meeting. Ms. Cunkle suggested sometime in October and said that the Townships need to educate the public about what brought Barnett Township to this point. Paul Ross said that a lot of people are archery hunters and would be in the woods in October. Supervisor Lawrence Ross suggested the first week of October. Chairman Greeley asked if Wednesday, October 4th would work. Ms. Cunkle said that Barnett Township will need to agree to the date also. Chairman Greeley said that he would contact the Sigel Volunteer Fire Department to see if the firehall is available for October 4th. He said that he would set the tentative date of October 4th for the meeting. Laird Raybuck asked what the time would be. Chairman Greeley said that the April meeting was held at 6:00 PM. Supervisor MacBeth said 6:00 PM would be a good time.

Attorney Lundy said that the Supervisors should talk to the fire department about bridging the gap in the fire tax revenue because it couldn't be put into the ordinance. Chairman Greeley said that if the merger goes through the Assessment Office will have to reassess the Barnett Township properties at the Eldred Township value so that the entire merged township will have the same millage and the same assessed value. Attorney Lundy said that he talked to the Assessment Office, and they told him that Kaylee Bickle would be doing the reassessment.

9. Solar Ordinance

Chairman Greeley asked Attorney Lundy if he could create a solar energy ordinance for the Township. He said that he would like the ordinance to cover the decommissioning and cleanup of the panels, etc. Ms. Cunkle said that PSATS has some good sample ordinances. Lisa Kelso said that she had downloaded the samples and emailed them to the Supervisors. She said that she would email them to Attorney Lundy. Supervisor MacBeth asked what would happen if the Township passed an ordinance and then the state passes a law – if the state law would supersede the Township's ordinance. Ms. Cunkle said that yes it would. Attorney Lundy said that if the state passes a law, then the local ordinance can be more specific. Supervisor MacBeth said that the state Senate legislation doesn't cover 100% of the costs of removal at 25 years. Chairman Greeley said that he talked to Senator Dush's office and was told that the

companies are getting federal money to invest in the projects and if the company then sells or goes bankrupt and the cleanup is not done then the Township is stuck with it. He said that he would like to require a bond to cover 100% of the decommissioning costs.

10. New Building Bid Packet

Chairman Greeley asked Attorney Lundy if he would look over the bid package for the proposed utility building extension. Ms. Cunkle asked if the Township had an engineer create the bid package. Lisa Kelso said the bid package the Township has is an altered version of a sample given to them by Mike Clinger, the engineer who drew the plans. It was originally a Washington County bid package for a fair grounds barn roof project. Lisa said that she swapped out the Washington County information for the Eldred Township information. She said that she would be more comfortable having it checked for completeness because it is a public works project and will be funded with ARPA funds. Attorney Lundy said that he would look over it.

Chairman Greeley said that a motion was already passed to advertise for bids for the new building as soon as the packet is ready.

OTHER SUPERVISOR COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

1. Chairman Greeley reported on the Jefferson County Commissioners meeting he attended on behalf of the Township. The meeting was about the state of emergency medical transportation in the county. Chairman Greeley said that the county is trying to push the costs off onto the townships and want them to raise property taxes to pay for ambulance service. He said that he didn't want to raise property taxes because the people not owning property won't be paying anything, and that the Supervisors from other townships who attended the meeting agreed with that. The Commissioners told him that it costs \$150 per hour for each ambulance and the county can't afford to pay the EMTs because the funding isn't there. Chairman Greeley said that State Representative Brian Smith has a bill in the House that will help with funding. Ms. Cunkle said that funding for EMT services is a problem statewide. Chairman Greeley said that it's not fair that the burden always falls on the property owners.

Chairman Greeley adjourned the meeting at 5:48 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held at the Eldred Township Building on July 12, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

Lisa Kelso
Secretary