**East Union Township Regular Meeting**

**Thursday December 7th, 2023, 6:00 PM**

**10 E. Elm St.**

**Sheppton, PA 18248**

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

**This is a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Union Township.**

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
   1. Roll Call: Supervisors and Officers – Chairperson – Jill Careyva, Vice-Chairperson - Jon Dettery, Supervisor – Kyle Mummey, Attorney Hobbs, Jonathon Biros, Liza Verges, Joe Zocofski.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA**
   1. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.
   2. Attendees may make public comments on Agenda items only.

Robert Gabardi had questions on 6.2 Solicitor Report

1. **MINUTES** 
   1. Motion to Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for November 2nd, 2023: Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.
   2. Motion to Approve Special Meeting Minutes for November 20th, 2023. Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.
2. **TREASURER’S REPORT** 
   1. Motion to Accept Treasurer’s Report for November 2023: Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. Kyle Mummey – Nay. Motion carried.
   2. Motion to Approve and ratify the accounts payable from the general fund account and grant permission to pay interim bills. Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. Kyle Mummey abstained from voting. Motion carried.
3. **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

Solicitor asks if the Treasurer resigned. Kyle Mummey states yes, it was sent via email. It was stated that the Treasurer will stay with the Township until end of year.

* 1. DEP referral on property 10 E. Elm Street – no action taken
  2. Zoning Board appointments – Zoning Board members/alternatives every 5 years; a review must be done to validate who is up for reappointment. (By Resolution to Zoning Ordinance).
  3. Alternate Zoning Officer inquiry – the current Zoning Ordinance this in not required/enforced; a conflict officer can be included.
  4. Motion to Accept Solicitor’s Report for November 2023: Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

1. **BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT**
   1. Motion to Accept Zoning Report for November 2023: Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

4 permits were issued, 2 under review. (Alternative zoning officer is on a strict time frame)

1. **POLICE AND CODE REPORT**
   1. Motion to Accept Police Report for November 2023: Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.
   2. Motion to Accept Code Report for November 2023: NONE

If there is a code question/complaint – call the police line

No updates on the grant for the Police vehicle (deadline was Nov. 30th).

1. **ENGINEER’S REPORT**
   1. Motion to Accept Engineer’s Report for November 2023. Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

Paving project – Girard Manor Rd. was completed; swale need to be cleaned up.

Contractors submitted certification for the second part of Project – paving 2nd Blvd. in Brandonville. Completing drainage, then paving in the Spring.

Plans were submitted for the American Legion Park – project suspended for the meantime. No updates from PennDOT, will wait for the ZOOM conference call.

Jill Careyva asked who suspended the project, Kyle Mummey advised himself. Kyle Mummey advised that an email was received from Bill Bogart stating that no correspondence has been received in over a year (email received November 6th, 2023). Joseph Zocofski requested access after the email was received to DCNR. Kyle Mummey had questioned why the Township was billed for services regarding that project for 2023, before the email was received. Mr. Zocofski stated that the Township was billed for current plans submitted, as well as, for the Grant application. This was handled as soon as he was aware of the no correspondence. Mr. Zocofski advised that he create a project manual to date, research equipment, etc. Mr. Mummey had concerns that there was a invoice for 10 hours of work. Mr. Zocofski advised that this was for the following: measurements, paved areas, mulch areas, extent of the PennDOT right away, utility pole work, measured some acreage. Kyle Mummey stated that the Township was billed multiple times by Gail Gazdick under general engineering. Mr. Zocofski advised this is due to her being the billing Secretary. Mr. Mummey had questioned if Rose Chapello was a certified engineer that was working on the paving project; Mr. Zocofski responded that she is not.

1. **ROAD REPORT**
   1. Motion to Accept Road Report for November 2023. Motion made by Jill Careyva seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

The plows monitor in the back was not working and the warranty has since expired. Road Master disputed, and the company was able to cover this under the warranty.

1. **PUMPY PROJECT REPORT**
   1. Motion to Accept Pumpy Project Report for November 2023. Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

A $70,000.00 grant was submitted; there is paperwork that needs to be caught up on. Shenandoah assisted with the grant process (Dave Sarno).

1. **OLD BUSINESS**
   1. DCED Police Survey update. Motion to accept updates was made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

Police portion of the survey was completed. The Treasurer’s needs to be completed. Jill Careyva advised that this was indeed completed. The information was received from Eric Brown with Sianna Law. Kyle Mummey stated that the motion was made in February to start in March to get the process started. Mr. Mummey stated there was concern that it is now December, and nothing has been completed or fully submitted. Ideally, more information will be provided for the next meeting.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Discussion on location and use of pavement millings from Girard Manor Road Project.

Related to the Engineer: there was a section of the road that was paved and milled. The intention was to use the millings for paving. They removed it and placed it nearby? The millings are located at 519 Phineyville Rd. – private property. The property owner advised the Township to be able retrieve the millings that are owned by the Township. It was stated that the Township would have had to add the cost of mobility – this should have been agreed upon and factored into the original bid.

Mr. Mummey asked how many hours were the Engineer(s) paid for to oversee this job and why they were a contract; however, the Township Road Crew was there assisting with work? Ms. Careyva stated that the swale was not in the contractual agreement.

13.2. Motion to publish 2024 Proposed Budget (20 days available for public inspection). Motion made Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

13.3. Motion to advertise End of Year 2023 Special Meeting set for December 28, 2023. Motion made Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

13.3. Motion to advertise 2024 Organizational Meeting set for January 2, 2024, at 6:00pm. Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

13.4. Motion to discuss and advertise 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule. No action was taken.

13.5. Motion to advertise for a Treasurer and Right to Know Officer. No action was taken.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS)**

14.1. Attendees may make public comment; your name and address may be recorded in

meeting minutes.

14.2. Comments/questions not serving a legitimate Township purpose may not be answered by the Supervisors.

1. **ADJOURNMENT – No motion made; 7:29 pm.**
2. **MEMBERS OF PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE (Please see attached sign in sheet)**

Lou Onore (EUTSA) – thanking the Board of Supervisors for the Service. Mr. Onore advised that the Authority is seeking monies for unforeseen equipment failures. Muffin Monster will be approximately $20,000.00, the back-up battery charger for the main generation is approximately $700.00, audits that need to be completed will be approximately $16,000.00 for 2022-2024. The insurance may/may not cover the cost of the Muffin Monster. A resident asked if they could raise their rates. Mr. Onore advised that this has been reviewed and they are in the range of other municipalities/boroughs that are being charged for monthly sewer services. Jill Careyva stated that EUT has already given the Authority $25,000.00. Lou Onore advised that they appreciated the generous amount given but this was used for manhole repairs that was well over the $25,000.00. He advised that the Authority has been running smoothly other than having an aging plant and dealing with unforeseen equipment failures and other issues that may arise. EUTSA is attempting to collect the $100,000.00 in debts; however, the fees accompanying collecting these balances are also high. He also stated that are properties that are on this delinquent list that the monies can never be recovered (i.e. – buildings that the township took for blight. These properties were not required to pay these outstanding fees back; of which is well over $10,000.00 +. Jill Careyva stated that this will be investigated for 2024’s budget and that this wouldn’t be the time to be given funds. Kyle Mummey stated that the EUTSA has been aggressively attempting to collect the delinquent funds and move the plant forward. Jill Careyva stated that they have limited funds such as paying for roads, police, etc. Marty Kutsko stated that Martin’s Electric is expensive, and the Board should have shopped around. Lou Onore advised that they have looked at other services and they have been working on this equipment this year. Kyle Mummey advised that there is $237,000.00 + in local service fund, $160,000.00 in the general fund, and $37,000.00 + in another fund. These breakdowns were not expected, and they do not have the extra funds to cover this.

Danny Danchision – encouraged everyone to get along for 2024, watch spending, show concern for getting roads paved, the playground completed, potholes, drains and ditches fixed. He also advised that he was coming out near the Blue Moon in Sheppton and was almost involved in a car accident. A driver passed about five cars and a tractor trailer which almost caused a crash. He was asking where the Township police were when this happened. Jill Careyva asked him why he was stating that nothing was getting done. He explained that that is not what he was complying, but if everyone got along for the greater good this Township would move forward.

Kyle Mummey stated that the Board should re-evaluate the funds that EUTSA is seeking. He advised that these funds should have been reviewed at last month's meeting with the Treasurer. However, nothing transpired. Attorney Hobbs stated that it would be best if the EUTSA should have their Solicitor give a written update regarding this. Jill Careyva asked if EUT would be reimbursed. Lou Onore advised that if may be a possibility.

Edwina Matuszkiewicz – she stated that people in Sheppton did not necessarily want the sewer either. The authority shouldn’t have to beg for money for the things that they need/or will make the system better. She stated that this shouldn’t be viewed as other residents paying that do not utilize the sewer system; EUTSA is a part of EUT. Marty Kutsko asked if the pump was fixed or was it completely compromised. Lou Onore explained that it is still working but not at the compacity it should be. He also advised that adding Brandonville to the sewer system was discussed in the past and this may be re-evaluated in the near future.

Edwina Matuszkiewicz – seeking clarification on the Engineering bills as he is representing the Township. Kyle Mummey stated that he had questions and concerns about the invoices and wanted to receive clarification. He also explained that additional residents have voiced concerns about the permits that were issued when an alternate officer was not decided upon. Jill Careyva stated that this was not going to be rectified and Kyle Mummey advised this needs to be continued to be investigated.

Bob Gabardi – seeking clarification on why properties that were shut off for water and sewer capabilities (Oneida) should they not be evicted/condemned? Attorney Hobbs advised that sometimes this can be a grey area due to having children and such. Jill Careyva advised that the police are handling these issues. Lou Onore stated that these properties may not be reclaimed for funds if they sold at a judicial sale.

Pam Hartz – questioning the Engineering firm and the issued permits. Attorney Hobbs stated that this occurred before he was the solicitor, and it was discussed about an alternative but was never decided upon. Jackie Houser was again seeking why the alternative was not decided upon and the Engineer re-issued the expired permits. Attorney Hobbs advised that this occurred before and that he would look into this. Pam Hartz said this is continuing to happen and was done again in October. The Code officer was not paid but the Engineering firm who charged a lot of money was paid to complete permits. Jill Careyva stated that when Arrow Engineering was representing the Township that they signed off on permits as well. Joe Zocofski explained that the permits were sent to him for clarification. The permits were dated from September 18th, 2023; however, not received until October 20th, 2023. They were not touched for over a month. He advised that no action was taken as he was unsure of who was supposed to be handling. He also stated that there was no Code officer – of which Pam Hartz advised there indeed, was. Kyle Mummey questioned where did the permits were and who received this information? Zoning office, secretary office, etc.? Liza Verges affirmed that she did receive this information via email from Jonathon Biros (Zoning officer) but was unsure what it was and only completed what the email requested, please forward it to the Engineer. Kyle Mummey asked Joe Zocofski if Liza Verges received these and he informed her that she had stated that the Zoning officer wanted to speak with him. He stated that the permits were received on 10/17/23 and 10/18/23 with the accompanying checks for these permits. No one knew if the checks were indeed cashed. Joe Zocofski specified that no action was taken as he was wanted to site plans from Mr. Biros. He then stated that the submission was well over a month and is deemed approved. He advised that Jonathon Biros should be contacted for clarification on this matter. Liza Verges stated that there was no paper-trail and that Mr. Biros advised that if she had any questions to contact him directly. Email was dated October 20th, 2023. Pam Hartz expressed that he is circumventing the system, and these should not have been approved. Joe Zocofski advised that he did not issue, they were renewed. The supervisor need to make a decision on how to handle these situations moving forward when there is a conflict of interest or the Zoning officer is absent. Kyle Mummey asked when the Code officer resigned. Pam Hartz responded that she resigned in September 18th, 2023. Jill Careyva stated that this conversation is not going to be resolved now and to move onto another discussion. Pam Hartz stated that there should not have been extra charges for this – three people were paid: Zoning officer, Code officer, and Carbon Engineering and this was a waste of funds. Jill Careyva stated that hopefully this can be rectified in the new year.

Diane Wright – seeking clarification on what was occurring with the gun range and if any updates were provided. Jill Careyva said she is not aware of anything, as Mrs. Wright stated that seems to be the case with a lot of things occurring. She stated that there are 3 or mor buildings that are there. Kyle Mummey advised that there were two permits for this property.

Jackie Houser – reiterated that the police were now handling the Code matters and were wondering if this position would be advertised. Jill Careyva stated that this will be completed at the reorganization meeting.

Chris ? – stated that he had concerns with speeding on Rattlin Run Rd. Jill Careyva stated that this is being looked into.

Jill Careyva advised that there is a stop sign down Phineyville and Girard Manor and now has since been stolen. A new sign will have to be purchased and replaced.

Lou Onore – advised that EUTSA is a five-person Board, and they currently only have four members.

Rick Grabosky – thanked the Board and Representative Dane Watro for fixing 924. It was grated, nice, and drivers are much more cautious with the new regulations.

Please note that these Meeting Minutes were composed/compiled by the previous Secretary. Information collected for the purpose of the Minutes has been completed by the current Secretary.