

Minutes for Regular Meeting of East Union Township Supervisors

Held on Monday, July 1st, 2024, at 5:30 pm located at 10 E Elm St. Shepton PA 18248

- **Time Meeting Called to Order:**
- **Supervisors/Officers Present at the Meeting:**

Public participation on agenda items only (Chairperson reserves the right to limit each person to five minutes). *Note: Attendees may make public comments; your name and address may be recorded in meeting minutes. Comments/questions not serving legitimate Township purpose may not be addressed or answered by the Supervisors.*

J. Careyva: recommended adding what is to come forth at the meetings to ensure that residents were aware of what was going to be discussed.

P. Hartz: voiced her concerns that residents are not able to voice their concerns before the vote(s) have been decided upon. She feels that descriptions are too vague, and the public does not know what is transpiring. K. Mummey advised that this keeps the meeting on track under the time under control. He also stated that if there is something that directly affects the residents, discussions will be taken into consideration.

- Motion to approve June's Regular Meeting Minutes: Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by J. Careyva.
Roll Call: Mummey ___X___; Danchision ___X___; Careyva ___X___
- Motion to approve June's 2024 Treasurer's Report / Motion to approve all bills for payment: Motion made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.
Roll Call: Mummey ___X___; Danchision ___X___; Careyva ___X___

- **Township Officers' Reports:**
 - Solicitor's Report:
 - Engineer's Report:
 - ✓ Grant Opportunities/Updates:
 - Police Report:
 - Road Report:
 - Code Report:
 - Zoning Report:
 - Pump Project Report:
 - Other Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report: REC fund received \$500.00 donation from Twin County Lions. All purchases are within budget (police vehicle, AC unit, water system corrections, etc.). K. Mummey was seeking an update on the LST Fund, M. Gaizick stated that there will be additional funds released in/around August.

P. Hartz: was seeking what is the status for the monies from the former police chief. Attorney Karpowich advised that this was an amount that was agreed upon with the separation agreement. Documents can be reviewed; however, the matter will not be discussed as the matter was handled privately (personnel matter).

Solicitor's Report: Requested an executive session to discuss a complaint/grievance at the conclusion of the meeting.

Engineer's Report: PIB Loan – still waiting for the response. DCNR – playground. There should be an update on approvals within the next week or so (if all portions of the information submitted followed DCNR standards). CDBG – applications are due July 27th. Schuylkill County Development utilizes grants for storm water/sewer opportunities. Attorney Karpowich was seeking clarification if this would be prepping for the road project. D. Yannuzzi stated that this would include 2nd Blvd. He also advised that bids can be received for a ballpark of what the cost would be. He stated that it would be beneficial to see if the grant was awarded, that way if this location was covered with grant funds the bids can be requested upon the recommendation of the Supervisors and Attorney Karpowich. D. Yannuzzi advised that EUTSA will be apply (through the Township) for the low-income block grant to assist with sewer capabilities in Oneida (\$75,000.00). CFA multi-model (\$200,000.00) and will be contacting Watro and Argall for their added support. W. Danchision asked if there was a realistic chance to receive this. D. Yannuzzi advised that it is important to receive strong backing from state representatives. The block grant, if received will be shared with EUTSA however, had separate grant applications. One entity can receive more/less than the other. This is a competitive grant where there are low/moderate income families. For Schuylkill County the funds that are available are approximately \$380,000.00, for the whole county. D. Yannuzzi a Resolution will need to be passed for this grant to ensure EUT is meeting the completion deadline. K. Mummey stated that he thinks that both should be applied for. The Keystone Opportunity Grant can be awarded every three years depending on the necessity. D. Yannuzzi advised that if the grant was awarded that it could be used for the road project. This can offset was taken out for the PIB Loan. Discussion on what the costs may be to complete some roads that are part of the road project. D. Yannuzzi stated that the EUTSA needs funds to correct/manage the I&I issues. J. Careyva asked why they cannot apply for this themselves. D. Yannuzzi/K. Mummey stated that this is not possible as they need to apply through the Township.

*Motion to apply for the CDBG in the amount of \$85,000.00 (2nd. Blvd. Brandonville) –
Motion made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.*

Roll Call: Mummey ___X___; Danchision ___X___; Careyva ___X___

Motion to apply for CDBG for EUTSA for \$45,000.00 (I&I corrections) – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey ___X___; Danchision ___X___; Careyva ___X___

Motion to apply for CFA Multi Model Grant in the amount of \$175,000.00 for street improvements based on the Engineers recommendations – Motion made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.

Roll Call: Mummey ___X___; Danchision ___X___; Careyva ___X___

K. Mummey asked if the bids should be researched now, as they expire? D. Yannuzzi stated that there is time. D. Yannuzzi stated that for the Legion playground there may need to be

called a special meeting to accept bids (due in August). He advised that some changes can be made, if need be. I.e. – basketball court restoration. LSA Grant will be decided around August, early September. PennDOT multi-model are due at the end of November. D. Yannuzzi recommended consulting with the Solicitor to discuss road weight limits, parking, etc. D. Yannuzzi stated that there will need to be an Ordinance completed for no parking sections once a PennDOT studied has been completed.

Police Report: Additional grants are being researched for the purchase of 2 additional speed signs (due date September).

Road Report: D. Danchision advised they are looking to purchase the same road sign that is outside the township building, for Brandonville; slow down/speed deterrent. Garbage patrol continues, water/drainage issue on W. Market was addressed and corrected. Unfortunately, someone was littering right after the clean-up of garbage on the side of the road(s) were completed. Sheppton post office water drainage issues was corrected. Road Crew is keeping up with the summer necessities, lawn care, street sweeping, etc. D. Danchision advised that there were some equipment concerns as upkeep was not properly done. Attorney Karpowich asked if a sharing arrangement was checked on. D. Danchision stated that soon the Township would need to invest in a trailer. K. Mummey voiced his concern about how a lot of the equipment is aging and attachment are a concern of expenses.

Planning Meeting: The EUT Planning Commission will hold a meeting on July 23rd, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Township building. The consultants will need to review the plans the applicants have submitted. D. Yannuzzi advised that there will need to be escrow accounts established for consulting fees, or any other fees incurrent to complete the process.

- **Old Business:**

- Motion/Discussion on DCED Police Survey Results – discussion had.

Police Survey: the survey has been approximately a year plus in the making. DCED did send a 30 + page recommendation on what the Township should consider. J. Careyva stated that their recommendation was to disband all EUT police dept. Other recommendations were that cut all hours of the police force, relinquish requirements/calls to PSP (Pennsylvania State Police) or contract through other depts., and cease on any/all hiring. J. Careyva advised that there is a low-level rate of crime in EUT. K. Mummey stated that he appreciated the efforts to complete this survey; however, he does not agree with any recommendations that were provided.

- **New Business:**

- Motion/Discussion on Sheppton playground/park and utilizing for a Summer Sports Camp with River Mtn. Chapel – Motion made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.
Roll Call: Mummey ___X___; Danchision ___X___; Careyva ___X___
- Motion/Discussion amending the Ordinances, sections regarding Stray Animals, Burning, and Occupancy/Rental – discussion had.

Roll Call: Mummey _____; Danchision _____; Careyva _____

- o Motion/Discussion on amending the Occupancy/Renter application and fees – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey ___X___; Danchision ___X___; Careyva ___X___

- o Motion/Discussion on hiring of part-time police officer Belles at the rate of \$21.50 (per CBA), on the condition hiring procedures are completed and complied with – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey ___X___; Danchision ___X___; Careyva ___X___

W. Danchision asked if a work session can be planned for the discussion of Ordinances. I.e. – burning, cats, etc. K. Mummey stated that he is aware that many other communities struggle with feline concerns, also. P. Hartz recommended euthanasia as feral cats carry diseases. Unknown resident stated that there are grant programs available for spaying/neutering strays and pets. Attorney Karpowich advised that a feral cat Ordinance can be drafted, and the spay/neutering is the only, guaranteed way to ensure the population does not continue to grow. A work session will be set up in the future to continue these discussions.

J. Houser: seeking clarification on the police staff. C. Dimmick advised that there is currently one full-time and three part-time. He also stated that the hiring on officer Abreu did not occur. He stated that training depends on the comfortability of the officers, time spent on the job, etc.

Public participation on non-agenda items only (Chairperson reserves the right to limit each person to five minutes). *Note: Attendees may make public comments; your name and address may be recorded in meeting minutes. Comments/questions not serving legitimate Township purpose may not be addressed or answered by the Supervisors.*

E. Matuszkiewicz: Asking about the Sheppton playground and who/when opens? K. Mummey advised that it is opened in the morning by the Road Crew and typically a resident that is close locks it at dusk. It cannot be left open for security/safety reasons.

There were questions about the Code/Zoning officer's compensation. K. Mummey stated that Code gets a monthly salary, and Zoning Officer only charges for UCC applications/permits. He also stated that the Township is alleviating a monthly expense with not requiring their attendance at the meetings.

M. Kutsko: asking why the Code officer is not in attendance? Attorney Karpowich advised that he was not required to attend meetings when the initial hiring occurred. K. Mummey advised that if there are concerns with complaints, it is imperative that residents follow proper procedures and file a formal complaint.

R. Trojan: he was voicing his road concerns – break retarders, deer crossing/deaths (approximately 3). He also stated that there is a ditch that is caving in on 924. This road is required to be handled by PennDOT as it is a state roadway.

J. Yachera: advising of her concerns with drainage issues; 2nd St. and asking if this issue can be looked into? She also verified that grass clippings can be disposed in the back of the Township building – yes.

P. Hartz: asking what is occurring with Zoom capabilities? *K. Mummey* advised that there is no necessity for it, nor was the added expense necessary. There was also no interest voiced once Covid restrictions subsided. He stated that it is no longer operational, as it was cancelled. *P. Hartz* said a lot of money was spent on that equipment. *K. Mummey* stated that they equipment can still be used for meetings, such as TEAM's; which is a free program to use.

- **Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.**
- **Time Meeting Adjourned: 7:12 pm.**
- **Members of Public in Attendance (please see attached sign-in sheet):**