

## Minutes for Regular Meeting of East Union Township Supervisors

Held on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30 pm located at 10 E Elm St. Shepton PA 18248

- **Time Meeting Called to Order: 5:33 pm**
- **Supervisors/Officers Present at the Meeting: Present:** Chairman – Kyle Mummey, Vice-chairperson – Wendy Danchision, Supervisor – Jill Careyva, Treasurer – Michael Gaizick, Secretary – Stephanie Van Gieson, Solicitor – Attorney Karpowich, & Engineer – Dominic Yannuzzi.  
**Absent:** Zoning/UCC officer – Henry Mleczynski & Code Officer – Rich Verbonitz.

**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.

Jo Anna Shovlin – SR 924 Eagle Rock proposed traffic study. Mrs. Shovlin voiced her concerns about the speeding and traffic congestion at the entrance of Eagle Rock and continuing to the “S” turn. There was an accident that occurred in 2022. The vehicle was traveling at such a high rate of speed and jumped the berm subsequently landing in the middle of the pond. The fountain system was removed earlier that week; however, if it was not, the outcome may have turned out to be much different. Mrs. Shovlin stated that Eagle Rock is a key contributor to taxes, and she would like to ensure that the residents have a safe and secure entrance/exit. She advised that exploring the avenue of a study completed by PennDOT, if they agreed, may assist with the safety of all drivers in that area. If PennDOT determines the study is not necessary, at the very least the Supervisors attempted to assist and took their concerns into consideration (this study is at the discretion of PennDOT). Mr. Trojan agreed that there is concern for the amount of traffic that passes through the location mentioned between the hours of 7:00-7:330 am – an excess of 300 vehicles. Mr. Gabardi informed there was a project previously to add additional lanes; however, was never completed.

- Motion to approve February Regular Meeting Minutes: Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
  - Motion to approve February 2024 Treasurer’s Report / Motion to approve all bills for payment: Motion was made by W. Danchision, seconded by J. Careyva.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- **Township Officers’ Reports:**
- Solicitor’s Report: Motion to approve report was made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
  - Engineer’s Report: Motion to approve report was made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

✓ SR 924 Project

- Police Report: Motion to approve report was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- Road Report: Motion was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- Code & Zoning Report: Motion was made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision (Zoning). Motion made by J. Careyva, seconded by K. Mummey (Code).  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- Pump Project Report: Motion was made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- Other Officer Reports: NONE

**Treasurer's Report:** There was a surplus at the end of the month. WEX cards have been activated and one transaction has been completed (Police/Road Crew). The Retirement plan is being looked further into. Attorney Karpowich asking if this should be added to the codification in the Employee Handbook; yes. J. Careyva was seeking clarification on how much the rates would be, match, etc. M. Gaizick stated that they would receive a packet on how this program will work and that it is strictly voluntary for employees. J. Careyva asking why the Township has yet to receive a bill from the Solicitor, where Treasurer stated that we previously had a credit with Solicitors firm.

Motion to add the Employee Retirement (which can be amended at any time) with the 457 B, was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

**Solicitor's Report:** The Supervisor By-Laws were distributed to the Board according. Attorney Karpowich stated that these can be amended at any time. The retirement plan, crime watch (non-profit corp.), rec board (5 members, updating the board member requirements, stagger the terms and non-residents are permitted to join), updated zoning/ordinances/map/fees/etc. will all be added to the codification.

Motion to adopt Resolution on By-Laws for East Union Township Supervisors was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva abstain

**Engineer's Report:** There will be a project that is occurring with PennDOT – SR924 Bridges. The bridges will be being replaced and detours will be administered until the bridge completion has concluded. This will be attempted to be completed as quickly as possible, ideally in one season. Roadway Evaluation Report – the goal is to ensure that roads that are maintained by EUT have 33 ft. right-away to ensure they are added to Liquid Fuels. The evaluation is to confirm that requirements are met or conclude what needs to be done. This will then be sent back to PennDOT. Barker & Barker were contacted regarding correcting the issues that occurred. Mr. Yannuzzi advised that when he spoke with them that they did not have a clear-cut scope of work or design(s). Benesch Engineering is gathering more information

about whether Barker & Barker should be retained to fix concerns or if the project should be re-bid. A Resolution will be needed for the construction of the Sheppton Mine Disaster Park Grant. The cost estimate currently is approximately \$150,000.00. The approximate cost to the Township at this point would be \$48,000.00. J. Careyva asked when this would occur. Mr. Yannuzzi stated that ideally it would commence November 2025. The information must be reviewed by PennDOT and can take anywhere from 3-6 months. He will try to have their conclusion expedited for ideally July 2024. Jo Anna Shovlin asked about donations for the Miners Memorial, of which Attorney Karpowich advised that is something that can be investigated. Ray Trojan asked where this memorial would be. K. Mummey stated that it would be the corner property in Sheppton that was taken for eminent domain around 2021.

Motion to draft Resolution for the Sheppton Mine Disaster Memorial was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

Marty Kutsko was asking for clarification on the Bridge project. Mr. Yannuzzi advised that the detours may be in place for approximately 40 days.

**Police Report:** The additional full-time police officer that was hired is currently being trained. He will likely be ready to be on his own next week. Marty Kutsko asking why the police were getting lunch on Saturday. K. Mummey advised they are entitled to a lunch break and his concerns will be passed on to the Chief.

**Road Report:** The road crew has been doing a great job with the snow/ice/overall inclement weather that occurred at the beginning of this year. They have been diligently removing hazardous, dead trees to alleviate any future issues. Stone was purchased and is being placed throughout the Township. Currently it was added at the Township building and is making a substantial difference with the excessive rainfall. It is alleviating the muddy, washed-out conditions that have been occurring.

**Pumpy Report** – Shenandoah Borough met with their Engineer for preliminary plans for \$10,000.00 which they approved.

**Millings** – K. Mummey advised that the millings were moved from Girard Manor to another site. The millings were supposed to be returned to EUT, as they are Township property; however, have not been. The police are now involved.

**Spring Clean Up** – A date is to be set that all volunteers be able to clean up the same day (EUT, Sheppton American Legion, SOVFC). The Township clean up will remain at \$10.00, as it has been in the past. The dates will be offset from garbage pickup to ensure there is no confusion and everything is collected accordingly. The dates will be posted in advance on the website, Facebook, post offices, etc. D. Danchision advised that there are parts of these roads that PennDOT is responsible for, and they should be handling this.

**Camera/Security System** – there will be quotes provided for the whole building. K. Mummey advised he will be speaking with the Chief for a resolution as the system(s) are extremely outdated.

**EMS Coverage** - Lehigh Valley will be taking over the Northern Areas and covering for the absence of Greater Hazleton. K. Mummey advised that there would be no gap in coverage. The changes will occur within 90 days and notice will be given, and information will be updated with the 911 Center.

**Police Vehicle** – K. Mummey stated that the older Explorer has high mileage and is basically inoperable. W. Danchision asked about alternatives: sell/trade/diagnose issue(s)? Sargent Dimmick stated that the

vehicle will not exceed over approximately 40 mph. It was suggested that there should be two police officers on at a time if applicable – one in an SUV and the other in a car. J. Careyva stated that she was advised by the Chief that there would only be one officer on at a time. She also stated that EUT currently doesn't own the current police vehicle. K. Mummey replied that if the other vehicle goes down, there will only be one vehicle for use. K. Mummey suggested adding the vehicle to Municibid. D. Danchision advised that having the vehicle diagnosed may be a good idea. He stated that his business can attempt to diagnose what is wrong and itemize a breakdown on issues and if the repair would even be worth it. Sargent Dimmick stated that the vehicle is unable to be utilized at all since it is not capable of vehicle pursuits.

Motion to have the police vehicle evaluated by 924 Auto and post on Municibid if/when necessary was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

**L&B Landholdings** – summary was given as the outcome that occurred with Zoning.

**Vacancy** – UCC appeals Board has a vacancy. This position will be advertised on the website and Facebook. This position requires experience of the uniform construction code: contractors, architects, engineers, etc.

**GPS** – this would be utilized for the Road Crew and Police. Prices will be sought out. Sargent Dimmick spoke about electronic speed signs that were approved last year but were never purchased. The speed sign that is outside the Township building cannot be set up to register speeds of passing vehicles on the display. D. Danchision advised that it has been some of a deterrent for speeders as they have been slowing down in the area. Sargent Dimmick advised that he has done some research on solar powered signs that are mounted to a telephone pole. These were around the \$3,000.00 mark. W. Danchision recommended that there should be two purchased; one for Brandonville and the other for Sheppton. Attorney Karpowich suggested that fundraiser held by the Crime Watch can assist with the aid of these purchases. Mr. Gabardi advised that there may also be grants for these purchases, as well.

▪ **Old Business:**

- Motion/Discussion on dates for the Recreation Board / Crime Watch dates – Tabled during February meeting – **TABLED** – Motion made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision. EUT is still accepting letters of interest for anyone who would like to volunteer.

**Rec Board:**

DATES:

TIMES:

Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

**Crime Watch**

DATES:

TIMES:

Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

- Discussion on Girard Manor Road milling – discussion held.
- Motion/Discussion on Spring Clean-Up dates – discussion held.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_\_\_

- Motion/Discussion on Road Clean-Up dates – discussion held.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_\_\_

▪ **New Business:**

- Motion/Discussion upgrading the camera/security system – Motion to receive quotes/prices on a new system was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

- Motion/Discussion on EMS Coverage – Motion was made by J. Careyva, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

- Motion/Discussion on purchasing an additional Police vehicle – discussion held.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_\_\_

- Discussion on L&B Landholding’s development determinations – discussion held.

- Motion/Discussion on the vacancy of the Appeals Board – discussion held.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_\_\_

- Motion/Discussion on GPS Monitors in Township Vehicles – Motion to receive prices/quotes was made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

- Motion/Discussion on letter to Representative Watro regarding proposed traffic study (Eagle Rock) – Motion was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

- Motion/Discussion on electronic speed signs – discussion held.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Executive Session – Personnel Matters

Motion to enter Executive Session was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

Start Time: 6:37 pm

End Time: 7:06

Motion to exit Executive Session was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

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Ray Trojan – voicing his concerns with PennDOT, tractor trailer traffic and them utilizing their jake breaks all hours throughout the day and night. Attorney Karpowich recommended that the proposed road study for SR 924 could include this area.

Travis Martz – advised of concerns with speeding issues, entering, and exiting driveways, etc. K. Mummey suggested that this should absolutely be investigated and that it should be added to the letter for the proposed road study that was passed earlier in the meeting.

Bob Gabardi – advised that there will be a detour for the completion of the roads/bridges in the industrial park. J. Careyva voiced her concerns about detours and how Phineyville Rd. is heavily utilized. She also stated that she has concerns that the roads are not equipped for the weight and freight of tractor trailers. K. Mummey advised that roads that should be posted for weight limits can be added with the codification. He also advised that there should be participation from EUT when these meetings occur.

Ray Trojan – Crime Watch – he was instructed to put in a letter of interest. The posting for members would be added to the website, as well as Facebook.

Dino Cicconi – stated that when the weather breaks that he could assess the buildings' concerns if the Supervisors wanted to move forward with that.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Motion was made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- **Time Meeting Adjourned: 7:16 pm**
- **Members of Public in Attendance (please see attached sign-in sheet):**