

## Minutes for Regular Meeting of East Union Township Supervisors

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

- **Time Meeting Called to Order: 5:30 pm**
- **Supervisors/Officers Present at the Meeting:** Present: Chairperson – K. Mummey, Vice-Chairperson – W. Danchision, Supervisor – J. Careyva, Solicitor – D. Karpowich, Engineer – D. Yannuzzi, Treasurer – M. Gaizick; Absent – Secretary - S. Van Gieson

**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.*

A. Austrá – Gerneth – Advised that the ALTA survey was completed and that the October meeting minutes did not reflect the correct information. S. Gerneth stated that this was advised multiple times throughout the minutes on multiple pages. D. Yannuzzi stated at that time he did not have the ALTA survey results with the initial submission, as this is why the recommendation was to have this completed on Benesch’s comment letter. A. Austrá-Gerneth stated that he did indeed have this, where D. Yannuzzi verified that this was not the case; however, although, he now does have a copy.

- Motion to approve October’s Regular Meeting Minutes: TABLED – Motion to table was made by W. Danchision, seconded by J. Careyva.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- Motion to approve October’s Special Meeting Minutes (10.17.24) – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- Motion to approve October’s Special Meeting Minutes (10.24.24) – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- Motion to approve October 2024 Treasurer’s Report – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by J. Careyva. Motion to approve all bills for payment – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

- **Township Officers’ Reports:**

- Solicitor’s Report:
  - ✓ Motion to approve Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan extension request of 129 Phineyville Road Solar Project until December 31, 2024: Motion made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.

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

- ✓ Motion to approve Resolution 2024-021 for Board of Appeal fee and application: Motion was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

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

- ✓ R. Lex Zoning Hearing Board application: ZHB meeting will be held December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- Engineer's Report:

- ✓ Motion to approve two payment applications for Lehigh Asphalt: Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

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

- ✓ Motion to approve Resolution 2024-022 to apply for the LSA Grant: Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.

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

- Police Report:
- Road Report:
- Code Report:
- Zoning Report:
- Pump Project Report:
- Other Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report: The decoration light fees will be taken out of the light fund. The Sosna property has paid all invoices in full and has a zero balance. The township will be reimbursed from Cargill from the road concerns that need to be addressed/fixd.

Solicitor's Report: The Phineyville Solar project will have a 30-day extension for the variance request that will be heard by the ZHB on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Property maintenance appeal – this will need to be had, as the concerns have been addressed and resolved.

*There will be a \$750.00 fee for all appeals (Resolution 2024-021). Motion be it resolved that the BOS establishes the amount of \$750.00 for an appeal application request for a public hearing before the EUT Board of Appeals under the IMPC 2018 addition or any other ordinance requesting property maintenance, health, and public safety. Motion was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.*

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

Lex & Phineyville Solar – D. Karpowich questioned if his office would be representing EUT's Zoning officer for these hearings. K. Mummey advised, yes. D. Karpowich advised that there will need to be a special meeting in December following the hearing for the BOS to vote on

the Phineyville Solar plans. D. Karpowich stated that he has been in contact with Verizon regarding the cell tower; however, has not received a fully executed contract back from them yet. J. Careyva was asking if there was an advertisement completed for the position of police chief? She had mentioned that she had not seen anything. W. Danchision stated that all applications would be sent directly to her email address.

Engineer's Report: The first application is for the dual pickleball and basketball court at the American Legion Park. The second is for paving numerous streets over last month. M. Gaizick advised that it would be best to split the cost between the General Fund and Liquid Fuels. He stated that \$262,000.00 will come from LF and the remaining will be paid from the General Fund (total \$317,429.69).

The LSA grant will be in the amount of \$350,000.00 for a municipal building with EUT matching/covering the remaining balance. K. Mummey and W. Danchision (Chair and Vice-Chair) will be authorized signers on all grant documents. This is a highly competitive grant application process which the whole state may participate in. W. Danchision asked if this can be applied for every year – yes. D. Karpowich stated that there was a grant awarded in Higgins for about \$300,000.00. The representatives do have some say in this process and there really is not a downside to applying. He asked the cost of this and D. Yannuzzi stated that it's approximately \$750.00.

Police: There were quotes researched for two new tasers as the current tasers are out of service and/or coming to the end of their life expectancies. The first payment would be for \$2,232.13 and every year for 5 years there would be an additional yearly payment. D. Karpowich stated that he would be looking into a taser policy to avoid any liability for the use of tasers. Pioneer Pole Buildings made a \$5,000.00 donation to the police. TRAX, a new system has been established in one of the police vehicles. This allows the officers to print citations immediately, instead of having to return to the office to complete them.

Road Report: D. Danchision advised that it was top priority to get all culverts cleaned out; Oneida has been completed, Sheppton is next, and then it will be Phineyville and Brandonville. He stated that he is in negotiations with MediCo regarding an invoice for the backhoe. There were issues that were corrected but then turned out not to be the root of the problem. The road crew has been cleaning up garbage on the roadways. K. Mummey mentioned that Hazleton has a vacuum that can be utilized to clean out culverts to avoid having to do this manually. They have lent the machine and an operator in the past. J. Careyva asking if cold patch can still be done. D. Yannuzzi advised that the product may be available due to the warmer weather that we have been having.

▪ **Old Business:**

- Motion to approve advertisement of the 2025 proposed budget for public inspection – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by J. Careyva.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
- Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-023 to participate in the PSATs health plan – Motion made by W. Danchision, seconded by J. Careyva.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_

2025 Budget: there was a work session that was had. J. Careyva was asking if raises were in the budget and if there was an increase in taxes. M. Gaizick advised that there was not an increase based on the proposed information he provided. She also would like to see how

much money was spent this year, as she has concerns that more funds were spent than what was budgeted for. M. Gaizick advised that this year started with a deficit with a negative amount in the State Fund. He also advised that the 2024 budgeted amount for tax funds was over estimated and EUT did not receive what they had anticipated. He also informed that the police force decreased. He advises that there should be approximately \$400,000.00 to start the new year with.

PSATS insurance: this insurance will not only be medical but also dental. The participants can opt in or out based on their needs.

▪ **New Business:**

- Motion on the approval of the minor subdivision and annexation of the Sosna property (09-10-0061.000 & 09-10-0062.000) – Motion was made by J. Careyva, seconded by W. Danchision.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
  
- Motion to update internal server and computer systems –Motion to spend up to \$12,500.00 was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_X\_\_\_
  
- Motion to increase Officer in Charge salary – Motion to increase hourly rate to \$28.00 with the retroactive date of 10.21.24 was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_X\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_abstain\_\_\_
  
- Discussion on the amount of Liquid Fuels Funds to be used for the paving project – handled.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Discussion on the American Legion Post 616 library donation – handled.  
Roll Call: Mummey \_\_\_\_\_; Danchision \_\_\_\_\_; Careyva \_\_\_\_\_

Sosna: D. Yannuzzi advised that all recommendations were met and addressed.

Computer system: W. Danchision stated that there was a company that completed an assessment of EUT's computer system/software/etc. They advised that there is not proper security in place, nor is there proper storage capacities. The company classified EUT is in the poor/basic range for this. W. Danchision also voiced her concern that there is no back up system in the event the power/system fails and that the township needs to purchase Microsoft Business, not the current home version which is what is being utilized now.

Officer in Charge pay: K. Mummey stated that since the previous chief's resignation, officer Litwhiler has assumed the responsibilities; scheduling, working additional hours for coverage, contact for the county and PSP when needed, among other necessary tasks. J. Careyva asked if there were any current applications received; W. Danchision advised her two. The new pay increase will be for \$28.00 and retroactive for the date officer Litwhiler took over the OIC position (10.21.24).

Library Donation: Mariann Petrylak advised that the Legion Post 616 Auxiliary would be donating an additional library to the township. This would be additional books for more advanced readers. The township road crew will be installing.

**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.*

R. Yurcho: voicing his concerns that there is a property owner in an Oneida that is running a business while the property is zoned for residential use. K. Mummey said that the code officer was looking into this. D. Karpowich advised that if the owner was just getting lumber or dirt delivered there and not delivered and having resent out, that would be different. He advised that the zoning officer look further into this.

S. Gerneth: explained the importance of cyber security and avoiding any attacks that may occur. He also mentioned additional speed signs as he feels like that are really making a difference with slowing down speeding. K. Mummey stated that there is a pending grant application for additional signs in the process.

R. Trojan: voicing his concerns with the drivers on 924 and how they are doing 60+ mph. He is asking that someone contact PennDOT to remove the speed sign before the "S" turn as the speed limit is not accurate. He thinks that this is causing more of a hindrance than a help. He also mentioned the side by sides that are speeding by his home (6+). He wanted them to be confiscated and impounded. K. Mummey did advise that a new ordinance was passed that will allow the police to hold on to the machines.

Unknown: when will the speed signs be installed on W. Market and W. Pine St. Shepton. W. Danchision advised that they have been ordered and should be arriving shortly.

Unknown: asking if there would be a special meeting for the taser concerns. They stated this is a serious safety issue and unfortunate things can happen within 30 days.

R. Gabardi: mentioned about the spending money and the agenda. K. Mummey advised that it needs to be an agenda item. He also mentioned about the Fire fund and when the money would be transferred to the SOVFC.

*Motion to release Fire Funds to SOVFC in the amount of \$29,745.00 was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.*

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

There will be a meeting at the American Legion (basement) Wednesday at 6:00 pm for the Community Christmas Celebration.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made by W. Danchision, seconded by K. Mummey.
- **Time Meeting Adjourned: 6:55 pm**
- **Members of Public in Attendance (please see attached sign-in sheet):**