

West Earl Township Board of Supervisors, 157 West Metzler Road, Brownstown, PA 17508

In Attendance:

Chairman:	John Ford	Member:	Jennifer Prunoske
Vice Chairman:	Keith Kauffman	Manager/Secretary:	Jenna Seesholtz
Member:	Harold Keppley, Jr.	Roadmaster:	Neil Stoltzfus
Member:	David Thornton	Police Chief:	Eric Higgins

Others present: Karen Stauffer-151 Pleasant Valley Road, Andrew Casey-Eagle Disposal, Brenden Curry-LNP, Colin Nolt-Goods Disposal, Fred Stutz-Goods Disposal.

Call to Order

Chairman Ford called the October 9, 2023 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

**September 25, 2023 Meeting minutes** – Chairman Ford noted that the words “no quotes needed” should be removed from the 4th sentence under the Ordinance 266 heading. Moved by Chairman Ford, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to approve the September 25, 2023 regular meeting minutes as corrected. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment

**Andrew Casey from Eagle Disposal** – Mr. Casey addressed the Board and said that he feels there is not much difference in the trash hauler contract bids between Eagle Disposal and Goods Disposal. He mentioned that Eagle Disposal’s bid includes toters and recycle bins.

Special Business

1. **Award trash hauler contract** – The Board reviewed the bids and the recommendation of the Township Manager. A brief discussion followed about toters and recycle bins. Fred Stutz, Sales Manager for Goods Disposal, said they could supply a totter to any customer that would want one for approximately \$50. He said that Goods customers are not required to use toters. Moved by Member Thornton, second by Chairman Ford to award the trash hauler contract to Goods Disposal alternate bid #1. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Ordinance 267 Brake Retarders** – The Ordinance has been advertised. Moved by Member Keppley, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to adopt Ordinance 267 brake retarders. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business

1. **Volunteer Fire Credit Ordinance discussion** – Member Thornton attended the recent Fire Company meeting and received some feedback on the proposed ordinance from the West Earl & Farmersville Fire Companies. Several items discussed include:
  - The number of hours required for support staff to qualify for the credit. The Fire Companies recommend 40 hours for basic and 75 hours for advanced rather than the proposed 75 hours and 150 hours.
  - Add a definition for support staff – to include training and maintenance work and not just fundraising activities.
  - Add dollar figures to the Ordinance.The Board discussed the ordinance and the suggestions from the Fire Companies. There was a consensus among the Board members to make the following changes to the ordinance.
  - Add a definition for support staff and include training and maintenance.
  - Change the required support staff hours to 40 and 75.
  - Further define Earned Income Tax by specifying that the Ordinance is referring to the Township’s 50% portion of the Earned Income Tax only.
  - Add a definition for Administrative Staff.
  - Add the dollar amounts as follows:
    - Level 1 is \$125
    - Level 2 is \$250
    - Level 3 is \$125
    - Level 4 is \$250

- Level 5 is \$50 with a minimum of 40 hours work
- Level 6 is \$100 with a minimum of 75 hours work

The Board asked Manager Seesholtz to make the requested changes.

Member Thornton reported that the Fire Companies told him the new fire tax fund is going well and they've seen no significant drop in donations. The Fire Companies voiced concern about the intersection at Cat's Back Road & Farmersville Road and the number of accidents that happen there. The Roadmaster said that Cat's Back Road and Farmersville Road are both state roads. Moved by Member Thornton, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to ask PennDot to take a look at the intersection of Cat's Back Road & Farmersville Road and consider installing a 4-way stop sign. Motion approved unanimously.

#### New Business

1. **Accreditation Meeting Date** – Chief Eric Higgins has proposed November 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> for the accreditation meeting. There was a consensus to schedule it for November 8<sup>th</sup> with a backup date of November 9<sup>th</sup>. Manager Seesholtz will advertise the meeting.
2. **West Earl Fire Company Road Closure Request** – The West Earl Fire Company will have an open house on October 17<sup>th</sup> and has requested the closure of School Lane Avenue between 5:30 and 8 pm on that day. Moved by Member Thornton, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to authorize the closure of School Lane Avenue on October 17<sup>th</sup> between 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **2024 Budget Discussion** – Manager Seesholtz requested that this topic be moved to the end of the meeting.

#### Financials

1. **Payment of Bills** – Moved by Member Prunoske, second by Member Thornton to pay the bills as presented. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Budget vs. Actual** – For the Board's review.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – None.

#### Reports

1. **Zoning Officer's Report** – Provided written report for the Board's review.
2. **Code Enforcement Officer's Report** – None.
3. **Police Chief's Report** – Provided written report for the Board's review.
4. **Roadmaster's Report** – Provided written report for the Board's review.
5. **Manager's Report** – Manager Seesholtz said she heard from the applicants for the 328 Akron, LLC zoning amendment petition. They asked if a hearing was going to be scheduled right away. She informed them that the Board of Supervisors will be waiting for comments from the LCPC before scheduling a hearing.

#### Supervisors' Comments

- **David Thornton** – Member Thornton requested an executive session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss labor contract negotiations.
- **Harold Keppley** – Asked Manager Seesholtz whether there has been any word on the Zoning Hearing Cases that the Township appealed last year. Manager Seesholtz stated that she has not heard anything about the cases yet.

#### 2024 Budget discussion

Roadmaster Stoltzfus reviewed his 2024 budget items with the Board.

No other action taken.

The Board entered executive session at 8:59 p.m. to discuss Police labor negotiations. The Board returned to their regular session at 9:21 p.m.

#### Adjournment

Moved by Member Thornton, second by Vice Chairman Kauffman to adjourn the October 11, 2023 regular meeting at 9:21 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Sara Service  
Zoning Officer