

## HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the Hereford Township Board of Supervisors was held in person at the Municipal Building and via Zoom. Those present were Supervisors John Membrino, Keith Masemore, Karla Dexter, Secretary/Treasurer Diane Hollenbach, Hereford Fire Chief Josh Borowski, Hereford Assistant Chief Dean Marks, Hereford Fire Police Captain Harold P. Albitz, Ken Garlick, Caryl Pettijohn, Rose Greenawald, Mary & Bryon Young, Robert Bolen, Matthew Lorish, Vic See, Cliff Kerchner, Irene Donovan. Candace Perry, Tom O'Connor, and Patty Lambert attended on Zoom.

Mr. Membrino called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### Minutes

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Ms. Dexter seconded approving the October 4, 2022, regular meeting minutes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### Payment of Bills and Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to pay the bills and approve the Treasurer's report. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### Personal Appearances

#### Fire Companies

**Hereford Fire Company**- Chief Borowski reported twelve calls received and responded to for the month. Fire Prevention activities happened at Hereford Elementary School. Chief Borowski recommended checking smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries and having chimneys cleaned.

**Seisholtzville Fire Company**- Chief Strickland was unable to attend. The Fire Company responded to eighteen incidents. Cruise night is done for the year. The car show had a modest turn out. Soup sales have started.

**Hereford Fire Police** – Mr. Albitz reported that the fire police will be assisting at the local Halloween parades.

**Seisholtzville Fire Police** – No report.

**Bally Ambulance** – There were no questions concerning Bally Ambulance.

**Emergency Management Coordinator** – No report.

**Recreation Committee** – Minutes were received for the June 27, 2022 meeting.

**Environmental Advisory Council** -Mary Young, Chair of the Hereford Township Environmental Advisory Council, addressed seven concerns the EAC had discussed at their October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Young asked what can be done for property owners that had trees marked on private property to allow them to physically unmark the trees and to remove the GPS tags. Ms. Dexter reported that a Zoom meeting was held with the arborist, engineer, solicitor and Ms. Dexter and Ms. Hollenbach. The contract with the arborist is being modified by the solicitor. The arborist will remove the trees from the GPS database that are on private property.

Mr. Young questioned if an arborist with forestry and right of way experience might be a better fit. Mr. Masemore stated that he supports the arborist one hundred percent. Ms. Young suggested that a sampling be taken to determine an estimate of cost for the removal of trees in the right of way. This would save time and money. Ms. Young asked if the township would be monitoring and removing dead trees in the right of way as a one-time event or as an ongoing responsibility. She reported that she had attended continuing education and learned that utilities had received Federal money to remove ash trees that impacted their lines. She also learned that municipalities may raise taxes for tree removal.

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Mr. Bolen asked what the width of the right of way was. Mr. Membrino stated that in many cases it was 16.5 feet from the centerline of the road but there were some roads with a wider right of way of 26.5 feet from the centerline. Ms. Young asked if the township will simply top the trees to save time and cost or take the whole tree down. Can the wood be sold to recoup cost? Mr. Young suggested that the township leave the trees lay and make information available to residents of local sawmills and businesses who might buy the logs. Mr. Membrino felt that many people would be upset if the logs were not removed.

Ms. Dexter then reported on the meeting with the arborist and asked the Board the following questions:

1. The arborist would not be physically marking trees but using GPS tags to electronically mark the dead trees. Should the arborist mark all dead trees in the right of way or only ash trees? The board agreed to mark all dead trees and all ash trees. Ash trees can be marked without leaf cover.
2. Is the arborist measuring the diameters of all dead trees or is there a threshold below which the township thinks the road crew can handle? The arborist believes that most homeowners can manage a tree with a diameter of eight inches or less. Chris Day, roadcrew foreman, reported via email that the road crew has been taking down trees with diameters up to thirty-six inches.
3. Is the Township identifying trees within the right of way or trees whose canopy extends into the right of way where the trunk is on private property? The board decided to mark only trees within the right of way.
4. The Board agreed that the arborist could revisit Quadrants 1 & 4 to identify trees within “groupings” that meet the new criteria to get accurate counts. GPS way points will be eliminated that fall outside the right of way.

The arborist believes he could begin work on Quadrants 2 & 3 the week of November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Township will send letters to homeowners communicating this. The engineer and office will work together on this, and the road crew could put out Tree Survey signs with dates. The arborist provided a name of a company that would be able to evaluate the value of the ash trees but cautioned that the market is inundated with ash and the value is less than what it once was.

Mr. Young asked how property owners would know which trees to take down if the trees were not physically marked and only a GPS data point. Mr. Kerchner was concerned that the data remain secure and in the township’s possession. Mr. Young felt that it should be part of the arborist contract to have the GPS database as a deliverable of the contract. Mr. Membrino stated that it does not matter if a tree is marked or not marked. Everyone knows that a dead tree is a danger.

**State Police Report** –The State Police responded to seventy-nine calls in September.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution 2022-20 Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Acquisition and Shared Use of an Asphalt Zipper**

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-20 adopting and approving an inter-municipal cooperation agreement with Longswamp Township, Rockland Township and Topton Borough for the acquisition of and shared usage of a 720Xi asphalt zipper. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement for the asphalt zipper. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bryon Young of Old Mill Road asked if anyone was contacting Met-Ed regarding the money they received to remove ash trees and where Hereford Township is on the schedule. The Board agreed that the Township Engineer should talk to the Met-Ed liaison she had spoken with in the spring.

Bob Bolen of Grouse Hill Road asked about the asphalt zipper. Mr. Masemore explained that the Co-op would be keeping the old zipper which dug up four-foot-wide sections of asphalt and was purchasing a zipper that could dig up six-foot-wide sections of asphalt.

Vic See of Township Road reported that there was someone who said they were from the County walking private property and mapping the streams. Ms. Hollenbach stated that the Township was not notified that anyone was doing this work and would contact the County to be sure. Mr. Bolen stated that the EAC had a map done after walking and identifying all the streams in Hereford Township a few years ago.

There being no further business, Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to adjourn the October 18, 2022 meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

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Diane Hollenbach, Secretary/Treasurer