

## HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 17, 2023

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 Hannah Edwards.

Guests: Harold Albitz, Jennifer Sacks, Jeff Hoffman, Joe Sajewski, Eric Miller, Tom Ritter, Cliff Kerchner, Tim Bieber, Leigha Lawdenslayer, Josh Borowski, Matt Lorish, Dean Marks, Bret Marks, Irene from Hereford Estates and Blake Sivco

Zoom: Tom O'Connor, Candace Perry

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

### Minutes

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Ms. Dexter seconded to accept the August 1, 2023 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 Report. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

### Personal Appearances – No Report

### Fire Companies

**Seisholtzville Fire Company-** Ms. Sacks reported 16 calls for the fire department in the month of July. For the month of August, they have had 14 calls so far since August 15<sup>th</sup> mostly consisting of tree clean up. Ms. Sacks would like to address the board concerning the decision on having the funding cut. Reports have been submitted monthly since Ms. Sacks was appointed Fire Chief, she is aware that there may not have been a member from the fire department at all the board meetings. She asked the board for a reason as to why the funds were cut and how having those funds cut would benefit the township. Mr. Masemore stated from his understanding, all the calls which Seisholtzville reported were handled by other departments. He also mentioned the number of staff members that arrived on scene was far fewer than the other departments that showed up to help assist. Mr. Masemore mentioned being the first responders on scene, you should not have delegated work to other departments. The board also was unaware that Seisholtzville Fire Department was being funded by another township. Mr. Masemore asked Ms. Sacks what her active number of members was, she stated there are 6 active members in her organization. Mr. Masemore wants to see them succeed, but he felt the money had to be taken to get their attention to the fact that the board wanted to have a conversation with them, and get them to attend the board meeting. Mr. Zajewski stated it's an issue with staffing not money, as a taxpayer he said it's a sense of community. He is aware that funds are being retracted, but he feels you cannot serve the community if the township takes the money. He believes it's more on the staffing interest issue not money. Ms. Dexter stated the struggle comes down to the lack of communication between the fire departments and how they work as a collective whole. Ms.

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Dexter stated the other fire department on either end deserves an answer as to why you are not coming to the calls, it would be a courtesy. Ms. Dexter really appreciates having an updated spread sheet to show the improvement. Mr. Membrino mentions the letter from Longswamp, the fire department mentions they are working with Longswamp to get the contract back on track. Mr. Membrino mentions the importance of an audit, whether it is a formal audit or a spread sheet. The township requirement is whatever money is handed to the fire department from the township, it needs to be documented on how and when it is being spent. Any money given must be accounted for in a return format.

**Hereford Fire Company-** Mr. Borowski reported the fire department responded to 21 calls for the month of July. Mr. Borowski was less than thrilled with how last month's meeting went with the state police. Mr. Borowski was upset that the police officer didn't understand how it worked in the county, and the fact he was requested to be present at the township meeting then acted like it was a waste of his time. Mr. Borowski asked to meet with the officer outside the meeting date to talk over some details. Mr. Borowski wants to try an idea of creating a format where if there is a true emergency that involves the safety of his staff, then the right be granted to reach out to a local municipality police department to see backup.

**Hereford Fire Police** – Mr. Albitz reminded the board that Macungie will be holding an event that requests the fire police (Wheels of Time).

**Seisholtzville Fire Police** – No report.

**Bally Ambulance** – No report

**Emergency Management** – No report

**Recreation Committee** – No report

**Environmental Advisory Committee** – No report

### **State Police Report**

The report shows 42 calls.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **1. Huffs Church/Hunter Forge/Dale Intersection – Response from PennDOT**

- a. Mr. Membrino stated the letter summarizes the requests do not meet the requirements for any significant changes. PennDOT plans to do some striping work on the roads in hopes for some improvement. The intersection seems to have some tree debris cleaned up for better visual view when turning out onto Huff's Church Road.

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2. 218 Old Mill Road - determine what "position" they want to take and if the zoning officer and/or solicitor need to attend.
  - a. Mr. Membrino stated the action tonight would be for the board to take a position, Mr. Membrino will have no comment and excuse himself from any decision as he is expected to do the construction work. He feels it wouldn't be proper for him to comment on that position as he works for the township and is expected to complete the work for this resident.
3. 79 Spring Hill Road – drainage pipe replacement
  - a. Mr. Marks stated he is unable to provide or help assist with any cost that may be incurred with the pipe replacement. He is concerned the ditch is unsafe and doesn't want to see an accident happen.

### New Business

1. Hereford fire police request – Hereford Elementary School (Meet the Teacher Night)
  - a. DATE: August 23, 2023 TIME: 5:30pm – 7:30pm
  - b. Mr. Membrino made a motion to have Hereford Fire Police assist Hereford Elementary School on August 23, 2023 at their Meet the Teacher Night. Mr. Masemore seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried
2. Hereford and Seisholtzville fire police request – Borough of East Greenville (First Friday Events)
  - a. DATE: September 1, 2023 and October 6, 2023 TIME: 5:30pm – 8:00pm
  - b. Mr. Ablitz wants to know if there will be any officers on duty for this event, Mr. Membrino is suggesting to Mr. Albitz to make a request to East Greenville about having on duty police officers in conjunction with having Hereford Fire Police present in these two events. Mr. Membrino made a motion to have Hereford and Seisholtzville Fire Police assist East Greenville on both First Friday Events, upon request and confirmation that East Greenville Police will be on duty and available. Mr. Masemore seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.
3. Hereford and Seisholtzville fire police request – Borough of East Greenville (Halloween Parade)
  - a. DATE: October 29, 2023 TIME: 4:00pm Gathering, Parade Starts: 6:00pm, Requesting 6:30pm closure in East Greenville
  - b. Mr. Membrino made a motion to have Hereford and Seisholtzville Fire Police assist East Greenville on October 29, 2023 for their Halloween Parade. Upon request and confirmation, East Greenville Police will be on duty and available. Mr. Masemore seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

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Miscellaneous Correspondence and additional information – No report

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

There being no further business, Mr. Membrino made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Masemore. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

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Hannah Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer