

**HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 20221-01**  
**August 2, 2022**

Present were Supervisors John Membrino, Keith Masemore, Karla Dexter, Solicitor Eugene Orlando, Jr., Engineer Jennifer VanDyke and Secretary/Treasurer Diane Hollenbach.

Guests: Cliff Kerchner, Peg Van Schaick, Erin McCormick, Thomas Spaar, Stan & Sandra Perambo, Deb Moyer, Ryan Meier, Joyce Crosby, Rose & Glen Greenawald, Caroline Hammel, James E. Mauser, Joanne Wenslow, Vic See, Kevin Schultz, Matt & Jen Spangenberg, Cecilia Fresco, Matt Moyer, Patrick & Wendy Hiney, Jeff Ney, Steven Keim, George Hiltner, David Dunne, Liz Nichols, Lowell Seip, Donald Zentner, Jr., Mike Freeman, Elwood Harper, Greg Daub, Haywood Weaver, Carolyn Saracino, Janice Coia, John & Dawn Conway, Joy Davies, Albert Ciccarone, Kathy Bean, Robert Boyer, Bob Stockdale, William Honig, Mark Levensgood, Larry & Linda Iampietro, Bill Weaver, Bill & Susan Shea, Christopher Fritchman, Kris Gischel, Sharee & Tim Kenna, Caryl Pettijohn, John Yanan Jr., Matt & Lori Ferdock, Jack Arnold, Peter & Evonne Glenn, Joseph Brooke, Irene Donovan, Thomas, Sherry & Keora Laessig, and John Fisher On Zoom: WFMZ, Candace Perry, Thomas O'Connor, and Patricia Ihlenfeld.

Mr. Membrino called the Public Hearing to order to 7:30 p.m. and turned the hearing over to Solicitor Eugene Orlando.

Mr. Orlando stated that the first order of business is the authentication of the Board exhibits for this public hearing.

Board exhibit #1 is proof of publication of notice of this public hearing which was published in the Town & Country on July 14, 2022.

Board exhibit #2 is a transmittal letter from Orlando Law Office dated July 11, 2022, to the Berks County Law Library evidencing the fact that an attested copy of the ordinance was forwarded to the Berks County Law Library as required by the Second-Class Township Code.

Board exhibit #3 is a transmittal dated July 11, 2022, evidencing the fact that the full text of the ordinance was forwarded to the Town and Country as required by the Second-Class Township Code.

Board exhibit #4 is an attested copy of the proposed ordinance that contains the stamp of the Berks County Law Library dated July 14, 2022, evidencing the fact that the attested copy of the ordinance was received by the Berks County Law Library.

Mr. Orlando stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to solicit comment or testimony regarding the proposed adoption of the ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF HEREFORD TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA REPEALING HEREFORD TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE 2021-01 CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF DISEASED OR DANGEROUS TREES THAT IMPACT PUBLIC SAFETY OR USE OF PUBLIC ROADWAYS.

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Mr. Orlando asked if anyone wishes to offer any statement, public comment or testimony or say anything either in favor of or in opposition to the proposed ordinance.

Dr. Matthew Ferdock of 32 Weaver Road thanked the supervisors and stated he wanted to speak for the people who have been meeting the past few months regarding the ordinance. He urged the supervisors to adopt Ordinance 2022-01 repealing Ordinance 2021-01. Many concerns were expressed in the past, but he wanted to express two main points: the fear of liability, personally and for the township and safety. They aren't tree experts and do not know how to bring down trees. Those were the two main issues. They do have a list of other issues they can share. He also had ten emails and notes from other residents who couldn't be here tonight asking the ordinance be repealed.

Chris Fritchman of 7523 Stein Road spoke in support of Ordinance 2022-01 and was glad the Board went this route.

Elwood Harper of 119 Woods Lane asked how this alleviates the problem with the trees. Mr. Membrino stated that was a good question.

Matthew Ferdock responded that the residents intend to work with the township to develop a plan either buying a truck, going in partnership with other townships, or renting a truck as well as raising money to cover the costs. They want the trees to be the township responsibility. This is not avoiding the issue of taking down the trees. We all agree that the trees must come down. We want to move the ownness back to the township who has always had the rights it needed to take the trees down. There is a Go Fund Me page, and the group has been talking about the money for a while.

John Yanan Jr. of 60 Weaver Road stated the problem is with the overreach. We all agree the ash trees are dangerous. Live trees and trees fifty foot in from the right of way shouldn't have to come down. Two weeks prior on a Sunday, his father and himself, a buddy and a couple of people he hired met to take down some trees and no one from the township closed the road. He had spoken to Diane to notify the township of the road closure. He was charged for a couple of hours the contractor sat there. He called a supervisor directly that morning, but they didn't answer. The township returned his call Monday morning and stated that they thought he was going to close the road. He doesn't have the means or knowledge to properly shut down the road. He wants to work with the township. Those who can will, those who can't, we're trying to help. This is all the more reason 2022-01 should be passed so we can move forward.

Albert Ciccarone of 186 Mulberry Hill Road stated that he has done what many have done, coned off the road and taken down trees. Mr. Orlando stated that is a technical issue and not what the hearing is about.

There were no further questions or comments. Mr. Orlando noted that after the hearing, the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors would convene at which time the proposed ordinance 2022-01 would be considered for adoption by the Board. Seeing no more public comment, Mr. Orlando

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felt that the requirements for the public hearing had been met and turned the hearing over to the chair.

Mr. Membrino asked again for public comment and seeing none, made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:40 PM. Keith Masemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Diane Hollenbach