

**Tulpehocken Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting of March 12, 2025**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors met on March 12, 2025, in the Township meeting room at 7:00 P.M. In attendance and voting were Supervisors: Chairman Gary Deck, Vice Chairman Lester Feick and Harold Zimmerman. Also present were; Bryan Dronick, Police Chief and Kathy Judy, Township Secretary / Treasurer and Atty. Michelle Mayfield, Township Solicitor.

Members of the audience included Eldon Hoover and Susan Wolfe

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Deck called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.
The meeting continued with the pledge to the American Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2025 Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Joint Workshop - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

Personnel

- Vacant Township Auditor seat – This was discussed and no action taken

Planning Commission Recommendations:

- Florence R. Schrack Revocable Trust Subdivision – a time extension to September 10, 2025 has been granted. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the time extension - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Austin Hurst Ag Operation, 40 New Schaefferstown Road – a time extension to June 6, 2025 has been granted. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the time extension - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - The board discussed the waiver request for Section 302. In accordance with the Planning Commission recommendation, *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to grant the waiver request and approve and allow this to proceed as a one-step, Preliminary/Final Plan - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - The Board discussed the waiver requests for sections 303.1.B, 303.1H, 303.1.L, 501.2M and 602.7 regarding surveying of entire tract and monument and marker requirements along boundaries and directional changes. In accordance with the Planning Commission recommendations, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to partially grant the waiver requests; it will still be required that - monuments must be in place, or be set, along the front on both sides of the road, - the surveyor can seal to those, - all other monuments and pins for the rest of the property are waived and – the waivers and conditions are to be noted on the front page of the project plans - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0)*

- Nolt Investments, 4999 Four Point Road – a time extension to July 11, 2025 has been granted. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the time extension - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Eldon Hoover, 17 Airport Road – Waiver of Land Development. Proposed work would tear down three existing structures to build a 65' x 128' heifer barn utilizing the same concrete base with an additional 28' concrete for the building and 12' x 75' of concrete for the scrape alley. In accordance with the Planning Commission recommendation, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to grant the waiver of Land Development with the condition that a description, to document how stormwater from the additional impervious surface will be captured, is handed in with a Zoning Application and Manure Management Plan - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Norman Brubaker, 11 Parkside Inn Road – Waiver of Land Development. Proposed work includes an addition to the dairy barn, an additional 32 head of cows and an 80' x 100' implementation shed. In accordance with the Planning Commission recommendation, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to grant the waiver of Land Development with the conditions that it's documented that the dairy barn addition drains into the manure pit as it does currently, that an updated Manure Management Plan is submitted and a Stormwater Plan for a seepage pit or basin for the implement shed is provided - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick, and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Solicitor Legal Discussion:

- Village Estates Pump Station Deed of Dedication and Easement Agreement – The Solicitor advised that the Deed of Dedication for lot 10 is prepared. The Solicitor will request the deed of lot 18 to confirm that the easement on that parcel is on the deed or clears a 30' right-of-way from the pump station and lines.

Escrow Release: 54 Midway Road, Harold Case – No action taken.

Correspondence from Zoning Officer / February Update: None.

44 Rehdersburg Road (Gerera / Santiago property) – The Solicitor reported that a praecipe for default was filed asking the Court to enter judgement in favor of the Township; we are awaiting a response from the Judge.

Land Development: None

- Hetrickdale Farms – This agreement is a requirement of the Waiver of Land Development approval for this project. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Stormwater Operations & Maintenance Agreement - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Recreation:

- Lions Park: Maintenance & operation repairs and purchases: No new matters were discussed
- Berks County Planning Commission contacted the Township and is looking into whether any funding for park development may be available through Imagine Berks and the County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan.
- The LSA State Wide Grant application is under review at DCED.
- Eagle Scout project – No update at this time.

STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report – Chief Dronick read the February, 2025 Police report as follows:

	Tulpehocken	Marion
MILES PATROLLED	1935.5	846.5
GALLONS OF FUEL	185	
HOURS WORKED	587.25	60
PATROL HOURS	310.75	37.25
TULPEHOCKEN AREA SCHOOL DIST.	37	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	6	2
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	4	4
MISCELLANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE	64	9
FOLLOW-UP INVEST	4	2
TELEPHONE ASSIGNMENTS	15	11
COMM/RESIDENTIAL ALARMS	1	2
EMS/FIRE ADVISORIES	36	9
TRAFFIC STOPS	27	12
CITATIONS ISSUED	22	12
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	0
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	7	4
WARRANTS	0	0
PARKING TICKETS	0	0
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	3	2
DUI ARRESTS	0	0
MISDEMEANOR/FELONY	0	1
SECURITY CHECKS	24	3
POLICE ASSISTS	13	0
MOTORISTS ASSISTS	4	2
COURT APPEARANCES	6	2
SCHOOL (TRAINING) HOURS	16	

Chief Dronick reported that during the month February there were 178 calls received through Berks County 911; noting that nineteen (19) were for Teen Challenge.

- **Equipment Repairs and purchases** – Conversation continued from the February Board meeting. It was determined that a resolution will need to be prepared to list replaced guns as surplus property. Officers may be allowed to purchase their own service gun; any others should be put on consignment with a dealer who can carry out a public auction on them. It was agreed that they would not be used as trade in for credit toward the new guns; no action taken at this time regarding the five pistols being replaced. Regarding the purchase of four 9mm handguns, *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the purchase of four 9mm handguns, holsters and ammunition for \$7,382.63 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Road Master's Report: Vice Chairman Feick read the February, 2025 report. The work consisted of some snow and ice events, stock piling salt and antiskid, repairing chains, tree trimming along Wintersville Road, reading sewer meters, working on some of the trucks, vehicle maintenance, met with Township Engineer about a couple of jobs, one sewer inspection, attended DEP classes for license requirements, met with Alan Myers to go over 2024 road project, and work to fix fuel pumps.

- **2024 Road Project – Leveling Course** – the Roadmaster reported that he met with representatives from Alan Myers on site. He stated that they disagreed with him about the leveling and overlay, denying that it was laid in one pass. Regardless, confirmation has been received from PennDOT that the Leveling Course is eligible to be paid for with Liquid Fuels funds. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve paying the bill for the 2024 Road Project, in full for \$202,980.96 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and a nay vote by Chairman Deck, motioned passed (2-1).*
- **2025 Road Project** – The Roadmaster reported that Bordner Road broke up quite a bit over the winter and might be worth considering for a 2025 Road Paving Project. He would also like finish out Cherry Hill Road and was considering widening it this year so it's prepared for paving next year.

- The Roadmaster reported that Bechtold is on Bordner Road and has already removed approximately 30 trees for a property owner. They can cut the bank back for the Township while on site. There may also be work on Deck Road, where there are issues with icing, that Bechtold could be hired for, because our equipment can't clear the guard rail. Chairman Deck inquired about the costs, how much a contractor can be hired for before getting quotes and/or bids and asked if bidding requirements were per job or per contractor. The Solicitor confirmed the bidding requirement limits and that they're calculated by Contractor in totality and not piece meal.
- **Mowing Contract with PennDOT** – The Board reviewed a copy of the agreement; mailed originals are expected shortly. \$21,921.46 is the amount of the 2025, 2026 & 2027 mowing contract. Chairman Deck requested that information be gathered on one of the upcoming mowing cycles to help determine the cost effectiveness of the mowing contracts. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement upon receipt, and to adopt Resolution 2025-11 for the 2025, 2026 and 2027 mowing contract with PennDOT - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Fire Chiefs' Report – Vice Chairman Feick reviewed activity for the Keystone Fire Company and read the report for the Rescue Fire Company for February, 2025.

Vice Chairman Feick reported that he reviewed revisions the County required Mt. Aetna Fire Chief to make to his Run Card Change Forms and didn't see any issues. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the revisions and to reaffirm authorization for Chairman Deck to sign the Run Card Change Authorization Form - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

SEWER OPERATIONS:

- **Judgements and Delinquent Sewer Accounts**
 - 6 Magdalena Street – The Solicitor reported that service was evaded. There was a motion to prepare for special service. Another court procedure must be done first then special service will be arranged.
 - 7653 Lancaster Avenue – the judgement was transferred to the County. *Chairman Deck made a motion to proceed with Sheriff Sale - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - 21 East Market Street – the Sheriff sale was commenced for 4/15/25. Upon receiving that, the property owner has reached out and is requesting a payment plan for \$200.00 a month. *Chairman Deck made a motion to approve the payment plan for \$200.00 per month and execute an agreement - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- **Sewer Service equipment repairs and purchases** - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Emergency Services Tax** – The Board is planning to hold special meetings to continue discussing the tax and its possible implementation in 2026. Scheduling dates for these meetings was tabled. No action at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

- America Heritage Girls is planning a service project for cleanup of a location in Mt. Aetna. They need to make arrangements for the trash they gather and bag to be removed and discarded and have contacted the Township to request assistance. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion that the Township Public Works employees pickup and discard the bagged trash for the group - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- PA Chamber of Business and Industry Contribution request – The Board reviewed the request. No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS:

TRAINING AND OTHER INVITATIONS:

- Berks County Public Works Association - registration for 04/09/25 meeting is due by 3/26/25

FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Account Balances for the end of February, 2025 were as follows:

General Account	\$ 8,273.03
1 st Citizens General Holding Acct	\$ 159,390.08
General Prime Account	\$ 439,864.61
State Aid Account	\$ 371,949.34
Street Light Account	\$ 20,364.65
Recreation Fund	\$ 122,384.21
Payroll Account	\$ 36,000.21
American Rescue Plan Account	\$ 101,251.85

Payments of Bills for this March 12, 2025 meeting are:

General Account – Checks #22477 – 22512 in the amount of \$90,314.98

Street Light Account – Checks #517 – 518 in the amount of \$2,895.19

Recreation Fund – Checks #194 - 196 in the amount of \$354.81

Total Expenses for this March 12, 2025 Meeting are \$93,564.98

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the payments of the bills for this March 12, 2025 meeting - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Sewer Accounts balances for the end of February, 2025 were as follows:

Sewer Operation Class Account	\$ 12,420.27
Sewer Operation Prime Account	\$ 112,472.24
Sewer Holding Account	\$ 92,425.80
Debt Service Account	\$ 486,676.98

Payments of Bills in the Sewer Operation Account for this March 12, 2025 meeting are:

Checks #3347 to 3363 in the amount of \$ 22,996.39

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the payments of the sewer bills for this March 12, 2025 meeting - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 P.M. - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Judy, Secretary
Tulpehocken Township