

ELK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
March 3rd, 2025

The Board of Supervisors' March 3rd, 2025, meeting convened at 7:00 PM at the Elk Township Building. The following Supervisors were present: Chairman Albert Jezyk Jr., Vice Chairman Estace Walters, and Member Milton Rudy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Luitenant Covert from the Avondale State Police Barracks came to introduce himself in his new position.

Lt. Covert provided 2024's service statistics; Elk Township placed 213 service calls, of which 147 needed a response. There were 50 criminal offenses in the Township, 6 DUIs, 21 car accidents, and 13 arrests. Albert Jezyk requested that PSP return to providing the Most Significant Reports to the Township, Lt. Covert promised to look into it. Estace Walters asked if PSP could monitor oversized trucks more closely. Lt Covert replied that they have Officers trained for DOT compliance and for the Township to please let them know where the problem areas are. Milt Rudy asked if Covert could comment on how the Big Elk Creek State Park would impact the department. Covert replied that he communicates with John Lawrence but is unsure to what extent it will affect PSP.

Audience member Mr. Simoff asked if PSP policy has changed regarding asking for immigration status. Lt. Covert replied that they are not allowed to ask for immigration status; however, when someone is fingerprinted, ICE will contact the department if they are a person of interest. Albert Jezyk ended with a question about the Regional Police study, Lt. Covert could not comment on the Oxford Region's aspirations.

Abbie Kessler (Brandywine Red Clay) Lewisville Conservation Easement

Ms. Kessler presented for the Board's consideration a proposal of a conservation easement for two connected parcels on Lewisville Rd. totaling 132 acres. They are requesting that Elk Township take responsibility for 37% of the total request, approximately \$280,000. Brandywine Red Clay (BRC) is seeking state funding for the woodland portion, approximately 41 acres. BRC would also get a trail easement on the properties. BRC has done full title searches and is comfortable with the deal. Abbie also requested everyone visit the two miles of trails they created in the Little Elk Creek Preserve.

Stan Corbett Communication on MS4 Update Comment Period

Michael Corcoran informed the Board of Supervisors that Township Engineer Stanley Corbett reviewed the County updates to the MS-4 requirements and sees no potential issues for Elk Township going forward. Stan recommends not providing commentary to the County on their proposed updates.

PennDOT Liquid Fuels Payment

Estace Walters read a communication from PennDOT notifying the Township that our 2025 Liquid Fuels Payment was set to arrive during the month.

ORPC Meeting Summary

Albert Jezyk informed the audience that proprietary software presented by Scott Rugen of Upper Oxford was discussed to help track septic system pumping. DEP recommends that it is done every three years. The regional policing study was also brought up, Albert asked Milton to summarize the meeting he attended.

Milton read from his notes; Twelve Township & Borough representatives, including the mayor, township manager and chair of the Board of Supervisors attended along with John Lawrence and the Oxford Borough police chief and several officers. The Borough has 10 full-time officers, 6 part-time and a full-time detective. They have upgraded records management and scheduling capability. They have added body cams and “Live-Scan”, a real-time police information portal. The school district has School Resource Officers (SROs). OPD is now one of only 111 fully accredited departments among PA’s 1117 (more than any other state). OPD salaries are in the bottom 1/3 of Chesco police departments. They are seeking a regional partnership with surrounding communities. This would be an Oxford Regional police force and would need to quantify the costs. They have secured grants for the data collection and analysis. 40 % of Borough property is tax-exempt; these unfunded mandates cause financial issues for the Borough. OPD is 43% of the Borough budget. They want to do a study to model Oxford regional policing. They request townships to sign up to qualify for a grant with Oxford for the state-funded study. It would look at road miles, population, number of calls, etc. Being included in the study would incur no cost or obligation; however, full participation is not required to obtain the grant.

Mark Plauger asked what action the Township will be taking. Estace Walters stated that he would prefer we not participate in the study, which would allow them to assign a cost that we could later be pressured to agree to pay. Estace stated that he is happy with the service we get from the State Police.

Union Fire Quarterly Meeting

Michael stated there is a quarterly meeting on March 26th at 7PM, and he and Milton are attending.

Payment Request: Heritage Interpretive Sign - \$1500 to OAHA

Albert Jezyk commented that Blair Fleischmann came to the ORPC about the payment for our sign. Milton Rudy read some notes from Mary Gruber. Michael commented that it would go on the edge of the parking lot by the Mason-Dixon Line. Estace Walters made a motion to approve the sign payment. Milt Rudy seconded. The vote was unanimous.

STAFF REPORTS Secretary’s Report

On a motion made by Estace Walters, seconded by Milt Rudy, the February 3rd, 2025 Board of Supervisors' Meeting Minutes were approved. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer’s Report

Michael Corcoran reported the totals of the bills to be paid for February. On a motion made by Estace Walters seconded by Milt Rudy, the bills to be paid, except Roadmaster, were approved. On a motion made by Al Jezyk, seconded by Milt Rudy, the January and February Roadmaster bills were approved.

Tax Collector

Michael Corcoran read the February Tax Collector Report

Planning Commission

Albert Jezyk read a note from Mary Gruber that the Planning Commission would defer to Stan Corbett for the MS4 comments.

Historical Commission

No Report

Zoning Hearing Board

No Report

Roadmaster

Estate Walters read his monthly report; Brian Carter dealt with a couple of snow storms. Chris Weaver removed a tree from Elk Mills Rd. Estate cleaned up around the township after the winds.

Emergency Management Coordinator

Milt Rudy read his notes from the February 13th meeting; Carrie Bamber has left the Outreach and Resilience position at Chester County. They intend to involve CERT and the Health Dept to expand activities such as health screening. CERT refresher classes are being planned. Some townships are reporting low salt inventories. Web EOC is being set up to tour EOPs. The quarterly training on 18th of February will focus on cybersecurity. 911 staffing has 5 openings. The county is field-testing new radios for an upgraded system.

Avon Grove Charter will have a full-scale exercise for municipal reps on March 17th at the State Rd. campus.

Milt provided information on the 896 project: The Truck detour route is now Rt 1 bypass to 272 to 273; car detour is North on 841 to Stricklersville to Flint Hill to 896 to Gypsy Hill to Hess Rd. South is the reverse. Work may start September of this year.

Oxford Area Recreation Authority (OARA)

No Report. Michael commented that a new member is needed for the Oxford Borough.

TRAILS REPORT

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Milt Rudy reported that he is making some final changes to the Solar Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Estate Walters stated that Township Clean-Up day will be April 12th

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Corcoran
Secretary/ Treasurer