

The Board's Minutes of the East Donegal Township Board of Supervisors  
Held on July 19, 2022

The work session of the Board of Supervisors of East Donegal Township was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 8:30 AM in the East Donegal Township Municipal Building, 190 Rock Point Road, Marietta, PA 17547.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Esbenshade.

Supervisor Esbenshade led with a Prayer and Pledge to the Flag.

Roll call of Supervisors: Present were Vice-Chairman Allen D. Esbenshade and Supervisor Scott Kingsboro. Jeffrey Butler, Township Manager, Jodi Diaz, Township Financial Officer and Robert Ansell, Township Public Works Director, were also present. Chairman Thomas M. Jones was absent

Mr. Rob Troxell, Upward Broadband, was present to discuss Upward Broadband's effort to bring wireless internet to unserved and underserved areas of Lancaster County. Mr. Troxell stated that their studies indicate that approximately 757 homes in East Donegal Township lack reliable internet.

Upward Broadband has submitted an application to Lancaster County for American Rescue Plan Act funds to implement the essential infrastructure needed to provide wireless internet service. The total project cost is \$2.8 million. Upward Broadband will invest \$564,000 in the project. Based on the estimated number of unserved residents they could reach, Upward Broadband is asking for \$70,000 from the Township to assist in project costs.

There was general discussion regarding areas already served by Upward Broadband and the levels of internet service they provide. Mr. Troxell indicated that, to date, no other municipality has committed funds for the project.

Mr. Troxell left information with the Board and asked to be on the agenda for the August 16, 2020 work session agenda for additional discussion.

#### FINANCE

Mr. Butler highlighted a few projects that were discussed as part of the budget process to be funded with monies received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Two cost estimates have been received for the potential upgrade of meeting room A/V equipment to allow for the live streaming of meetings. The prices are in the \$13,000 to \$17,000 range. After reviewing and comparing the proposals, along with additional meetings with vendors, a project proposal will be presented to the Board.

Mr. Ansell has been working with contractors to get quotes for the replacement of the front doors to the Municipal Building with motion activate automatic doors. So far, the cost estimated have been in the \$30,000 range.

The Township Engineer is working on bid plans and documents for improvements at the Chickies Creek Day Use Area. The improvements include repaving access drives and installation of a paving parking lot. In addition, the existing gravel drive will be paved as a pedestrian walkway.

Finally, ARPA funds would be used, if needed, for the completion of the Evans Run streambank restoration project. However, grants funds awarded to the Township for the project may cover all project costs.

Ms. Diaz presented information regarding delinquent trash/recycling accounts. The accounts discussed all have had one lien, and in some instances more, placed on real property for outstanding balances. There was general discussion regarding an attempt to have as many accounts brought current through a process of waiving lien fees that are added to outstanding balances. A request for the Board to waive lien fees on accounts that are paid in full by December 31, 2022 would be presented to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION

Mr. Butler briefly shared the concept plan for the addition of a paved parking area in the park. The design reflects the improvements depicted on the recently prepared Park Master Plan. When plans and documents are finalized, the Board will need to authorize advertising for the receipt of bids.

#### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Township Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of a lot add-on plan for Burma Road Associates at it meeting held on July 8, 2022. That plan will be placed on the Board agenda for August 4, 2022.

There are currently no cases scheduled before the Township Zoning Hearing Board.

All the permits have been secured for the Evans Run Streambank Restoration project. Funding is provided through two grants awarded the Township. Bid plans and documents are being finalized.

GSK, one of the property owners hosting the project, has asked about enhancing the meadow areas through additional plantings they are willing to pay for. A meeting with GSK to detail the additional work is being scheduled.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

The Board was provided an update on a property sent a violation notice involving the Township

Solicitor.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Butler stated that the most recent bridge inspection of the Long Lane Bridge, located just west of Route 441, highlighted a number of deficiencies to be addressed. The Township is now in a position where a plan of action to address the deficiencies must be provided to PennDOT consultants. A proposal to prepare the needed plans/studies and secure the necessary permits to complete the needed improvements/repairs totaled \$44,000. The proposal did not provide an estimate for the completion of the improvements/repairs.

There was general discussion regarding options to repairing the existing structure. Part of the discussion identified the intersection of Long Lane and Route 441 as a location of numerous accidents and near-misses. Closing the bridge and vacating a portion of the roadway between the bridge and Route 441 would eliminate the need to improve/repair the bridge structure and would reduce the volume of traffic using the Long Lane/Route 441 intersection.

Because Route 441 is a state roadway, PennDOT will be contacted to identify any issues they may have with any potential closing of Long Lane.

#### ADMINISTRATION/PERSONNEL

The possibility of a part-time seasonal employee in Public Works was discussed. This is the first year in many that the Township did not hire a part-time seasonal employee, mostly dedicated to park maintenance.

Mr. Ansell is to monitor the situation and recommend an additional employee, if needed. The part-time seasonal employee should also be part of the budget conversations held later this year.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Esbenshade and seconded by Mr. Kingsboro to adjourn at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey L. Butler, Township Secretary