

**Eldred Township Supervisors**  
**Regular Meeting**  
October 11, 2023

This meeting was held at the Eldred Township Building.

Call to order at 4:29 PM by Chairman Greeley.

The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Supervisors Lawrence Ross, Jr., Gordon Greeley, and John MacBeth in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

None.

A motion to approve the September 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report was made by Supervisor Ross. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

**Total Receipts** (September 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023): \$71,175.14

**Total Expenditures** (September 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023): \$165,311.17

**Total Balance (all accounts) on September 30, 2023:** \$238,739.27

A motion to approve payment of the invoices for September 2023, in the amount of \$154,432.29 was made by Supervisor Ross. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve payment of the payroll expenses for September 2023, in the amount of \$10,878.88 was made by Supervisor MacBeth. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ross. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

**ROADMASTER REPORT:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Eldred Township Municipal Authority requested a letter of support from the Township for their grant application for a secondary well. The letter was sent.
2. Eldred Township Trick-or-Treat hours were set for Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
3. The Township was approved for a general permit to replace the culvert pipe on McManigle Road. The replacement pipe must be the same size as the damaged one. The lowest quote received for a 40 foot section of 72 inch, 12 gauge, aluminized pipe and one band was from Interstate Pipe & Supply for \$9,486.85. The pipe has been ordered but will take 4-5 weeks before delivery. If the pipe is replaced between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> written permission from the PA Fish & Boat Commission is required. A 5/8" steel plate will be put over it until the spring. Supervisor Ross recommended putting millings or DSA around it so the snow plow doesn't move it.
4. The Jefferson County Commissioners sent a letter to the Supervisors asking for support for the Commissioners' intent to certify the Jefferson County Development Council as the recognized Tourist Promotion Agency for Jefferson County. The Commissioners need the approval of 50% of the representative population of the County to be able to complete the certification. Chairman Greeley made a motion to concur with the Jefferson County Commissioners' decision to certify the Jefferson County Development Council as the recognized Tourist Promotion Agency for Jefferson County, Pennsylvania and to adopt Resolution 2023-7 stating the same. There was no second to the motion.
5. The joint public informational meeting held on October 4, 2023 at the Sigel Volunteer Fire Department went well. The voters decide in November whether the merger takes place. Questions asked include:
  - What is the benefit for each Township? (Barnett Township will have road workers to take care of their roads and a larger pool of candidates for elected positions. Eldred Township would take on about 7 more miles of roads and gain more tax base.)
  - How does it specifically benefit Eldred Township?

- If the merger goes through, how will it affect the Tax Collectors and voting places? (If the merger is approved by the voters, the Eldred Township Tax Collector will collect all of the real estate taxes for the Township when the merger is finalized on January 1, 2025. The voting place would stay the same. Currently both townships vote at the Sigel Civic Center.)
  - Will there be a re-assessment for just Barnett Township or both Townships? (Terri Cunkle from DCED said that there would not be a reassessment. Only the County can order a reassessment.)
  - What will it cost? (Terri Cunkle said that she has money set aside for a state grant to help pay for legal fees and other costs. It requires a 10% match. County Commissioner Scott North said that the County may be able to help with some of the cost.)
  - If it doesn't pass, will the state step in for Barnett Township? (Terri Cunkle said that it won't.)
  - If it passes, will there be additional audits to make sure that the money is okay for each Township? (Terri Cunkle said that there would only be the usual yearly audits required by the state.)
  - What would make a merger unsuccessful? (Terri Cunkle said that she's seen mergers fail because people didn't want to lose their local identities and also because some municipalities have separate fire companies and one doesn't want to dissolve a fire company.)
  - Is there a downside for Eldred Township? (Not a lot will change for Eldred Township. The Township will get about 7 more miles of road and a larger tax base.)
  - How will the fire tax work out? (The fire tax will be adjusted to make sure the fire company will still receive the same amount of funds.)
  - Does Barnett Township just get stuck with Eldred Township's Ordinances, including the ATV Ordinance? (Eldred Township's ordinances will cover the entire township if the merger goes through.)
  - If it fails, does that prevent Barnett township from merging with another Township? (No.)
  - What happens with the wet vs dry Townships? (Chairman Greeley said both Townships are wet.)
  - What are the Supervisors doing to educate the residents? (Two public informational meetings and discussions at the regular township meetings)
6. Items for the budget were discussed:
- The need for at least one stainless steel bed and lift system for the dump trucks
  - The need for a tandem dump truck for summer hauling only
- Chairman Greeley said that he wants to try to apply for grants for the roads but needs cost estimates.

**OTHER SUPERVISOR COMMENTS OR CONCERNS**

1. Chairman Greeley said that he has been in touch with an old classmate who may have a solar ordinance that the Township could use.
2. Chairman Greeley gave a brief report on the roads :
  - A 5/8" thick, 4' by 8' steel plate was ordered for McManigle Road so that it can stay open for winter.
  - Warsaw Township may be helping haul gravel to finish the Sharp Road grant project.
  - He is checking into getting a grant to pave some township roads. There may be a \$100 fee to apply.

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:52 PM by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 3 ayes. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be held at the Eldred Township Building on November 8, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

Lisa Kelso  
Secretary