

Approved 12/2/24

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ronald L. Weidner. In attendance were Supervisors Ronald L. Weidner, Jeremy P. Smith, and Ryan M. Groft. Also present was Secretary/Treasurer Megan Carper. Not present were Chad Clabaugh, P.E., from C.S. Davidson and Solicitor Melissa Kelso.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA PER ACT 65: Ronald L. Weidner provided the agenda to the Board of Supervisors. *Jeremy P. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Ryan M. Groft. **The motion was unanimously approved.***

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on October 7, 2024, were presented. *Jeremy P. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ronald L. Weidner. **The motion was unanimously approved.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were made at this time. Ronald L. Weidner announced that public comments would be welcomed after each agenda item.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Comcast Franchise Agreement:** The Board reviewed the updated agreement with the requested changes. *Ronald L. Weidner made a motion to approve the Comcast Franchise Agreement as revised. The motion was seconded by Jeremy P. Smith. **The motion was unanimously approved.***

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Authorization to Advertise the 2025 Township Proposed Budget:** *Jeremy P. Smith made a motion to authorize the advertisement of the 2025 proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Ryan M. Groft. **The motion was unanimously approved.***
2. **Authorization to Advertise the Use of a CPA for the 2024 Audit and Fiscal Year 2025:** The Board discussed advertising for CPA services for the 2024 audit. *Ronald L. Weidner made a motion to authorize the advertisement. The motion was seconded by Jeremy P. Smith. **The motion was unanimously approved.***
3. **State Police Report:** The monthly report is available on the Township's bulletin board.
4. **Northeast Adams Co. No. 32 FIRE Report:** The monthly report is available on the Township's bulletin board.
5. **United Hook & Ladder Co. No. 33 Report:** The monthly report is available on the Township's bulletin board.
6. **Adams Regional EMS Report:** The monthly report is available on the Township's bulletin board.
7. **NOBPA, LLC Upcoming Zoning Hearing:** The next zoning hearing for NOBPA, LLC will take place on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 6:00 PM, at the United Hook and Ladder Building in New Oxford, PA. This hearing is a continuation of the session held on October 28, 2024.
 - a. Mr. Ulrich raised a concern regarding the warehouse development, asking if there is a way to enforce housekeeping or property management, especially when property owners are not local and may disregard the community's appearance. He expressed worry about neglect leading to unsightly conditions. There was clarification that the zoning officer has the authority to address such issues, treating the property no differently than any other within the township. They confirmed that if violations such as debris or improperly stored items occur, the zoning officer would take appropriate action.
8. **Township-Wide Burn Ban:** A burn ban remains in effect until further notice due to dry conditions, per United Hook & Ladder Company #33.
 - a. Donna Vacek asked who should be contacted to report violations of the burn ban. The board clarified that residents could report such activities to the township zoning officer or by calling the local fire control number. Permissible burning is limited to leaves and brush, and fires in screened fire pits or barrels are allowed under specific conditions. Residents were encouraged to check the township website for updates on the burn ban.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION AND / OR STATUS REPORT OF ACTIVE PLANS:

There are no updates or recommendations from the Planning Commission currently.

COMMITTEES AND MEETING REPORTS:

1. **East Berlin Area Community Center (EBACC):** Ryan M. Groft reported that the board meeting was held on Oct. 28, but he was unable to attend due to a NOPBA, LLC zoning hearing. Upcoming events include the indoor yard sale (Nov. 7-9), the Christmas Shop (Nov. 14-20), soup and pie sales (Nov. 27), and Black Friday sales (Nov. 29). In September, 252 volunteers contributed 1,607.5 hours, and retail sales totaled \$10,743.80. A reminder: the Giving Spree deadline is Nov. 7.
2. **Abbottstown Paradise Joint Sewer Authority (APJSA):** Kevin Moul. No Report.
3. **Emergency Management:** Paul Minnich. There was a discussion on technical challenges with audio equipment during NOPBA's zoning hearings being held at the United Hook and Ladder Building. The conversation highlighted issues with ensuring clear audio, particularly when speakers failed to use microphones properly. Suggestions included assigning higher-quality microphones to key speakers. Concerns were raised about audience members struggling to hear discussions, and the need for speakers to speak directly into the microphone.
4. **YATB Tax Board Reports:** Jeremy P. Smith reported that October 28th was a busy night as it was YATB night in addition to the zoning hearing. He noted that third-quarter collections were up, while distributions were slightly down due to timing. Net income for the year is currently at \$1.8 million, largely driven by higher interest rates and increased collections. The 2025 Operating Fund and Capital Reserve budgets were adopted.
5. **ACTCC Tax Board Reports:** Jeremy P. Smith reported that the next meeting is scheduled for this coming Wednesday night.
6. **Roadmaster's Report:** Ronald L. Weidner provided an update, noting that the road crew has been trimming trees along Spangler Road between 700 and Gun Club. A safety concern was addressed regarding dead trees on Boy Scout Road near Dick's Dam Road, where children wait for the school bus. Although Boy Scout Road is private, it was deemed a safety risk, and the crew plans to remove the trees this week or early next week. Winter preparations have been completed with all spreaders and plows installed. Additionally, the John Deere is at the shop for transmission repairs, with an estimated three-week timeline. Once repaired, it will be used for further brush trimming.
7. **East Berlin Area Joint Authority:** Ronald L. Weidner reported that there were no new updates from the last meeting, during which a new member was appointed to the East Berlin Area Joint Authority to fill a vacancy. He noted that the next authority meeting is scheduled for Thursday night, November 7, 2024, and he plans to attend the upcoming authority meeting, before joining the zoning hearing later that evening.
8. **ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Ronald L. Weidner reported on behalf of the engineer, noting there was no new activity to report. He highlighted that Pennwood Products plan has not yet been accepted. Mr. Weidner emphasized that plans should not be reviewed by the engineer or the county until approved by the township office and all necessary fees are paid upfront. The Zoning Officer will follow up with Chad to ensure he is aware of Pennwood Products' status.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Ronald L. Weidner reported on behalf of Solicitor Melissa Kelso. Melissa attended the recent zoning hearing. Regarding the church property, the appraisal for the adjacent land is expected this week. Once complete, the subdivision will be recorded, and Melissa will prepare the necessary deeds to proceed with eminent domain. Melissa also completed work on the Comcast Franchise Agreement, and the board expressed gratitude for her review and recommendations.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT: PMCA— Ronald L. Weidner presented the Zoning Officer's Report. The report indicated that 8 permits were issued, 0 stop work orders, 0 new complaints were received, 4 violations are pending, and 1 upcoming zoning hearing for NOBPA, LLC is scheduled for November 7, 2024. The detailed monthly report is available on the Township bulletin board.

MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS: General Fund. *Ronald L. Weidner made a motion to approve payment of the General Fund bills. The motion was seconded by Jeremy P. Smith. **The motion was unanimously approved.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Dorry Long mentioned that the after-hours office voicemail message needs to be updated. While the daytime message was correct, the after-hours message still contained outdated information. Township staff acknowledged the issue and committed to correcting it on the next business day.

Approved 12/2/24

2. Tony Long inquired if line painting is still on schedule? The township confirmed that the project is still planned, and they are waiting for the contractor to provide a start date. It was noted that the contractor has been busy with other commitments but is expected to complete the work before winter.
3. Ryan Fox expressed gratitude to the township for promptly addressing a hazardous tree near Forest Dr. The tree posed a significant safety risk, particularly to children waiting at a bus stop, and was removed immediately. Ryan shared that his children had been near the tree shortly before it fell, underscoring the importance of timely intervention.
4. Ryan Fox also mentioned observing a truck extracting water from a creek near his property and inquired about its purpose and authorization. The truck, which had no clear markings, was filling large containers and stated it was being used for a project along Route 30. The township speculated that the activity might be related to roadwork or sewer maintenance but encouraged Ryan to provide photos or additional details to aid in further investigation. The township also noted that water extraction from public waterways may require specific permissions and will investigate this.
5. Ryan Fox provided a detailed observation about traffic patterns at the intersection of Route 30 and Route 94 after personally monitoring the area from 6:00 AM to 8:30 AM one morning. He shared that he counted 251 18-wheelers passing through the intersection during that time, equating to one truck every 36 seconds. Additionally, 62 school buses and vans were observed using the intersection. Ryan noted his surprise at the high volume of traffic and mentioned that some trucks were using the Sheetz parking lot as a cut-through to bypass the intersection. The discussion expanded to traffic concerns related to nearby developments and the proposed warehouse project. Concerns were also raised about specific dangerous traffic patterns, including drivers misusing center turning lanes for passing, particularly at Pine Run Road and Dick's Dam Road. These practices, combined with the increasing truck traffic, pose significant risks for accidents. The conversation also touched on state responsibilities, it was highlighted that past opportunities were missed regarding traffic improvements at Cross Keys and the challenges of holding developers accountable for infrastructure upgrades. The township reiterated concerns about traffic flow and safety as critical issues tied to ongoing and future developments in the area.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Ronald L. Weidner: *“Thanks for coming. Hope you had a good Halloween, a scary Halloween, and eat a lot for Thanksgiving and have a good time.”*

Jeremy P. Smith: *“Thanks for coming out tonight. Make sure you all vote tomorrow. And Happy Thanksgiving.”*

Ryan M. Groft: *“Thanks for coming and make sure you're ready to vote.”*

MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Planning Commission, Tuesday, November 19, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Finance & Budget Meeting Tuesday, November 26, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. - **CANCELLED**
- Board of Supervisors Meeting, Monday, December 2, 2024, @ 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: *Ronald L. Weidner made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM. The motion was seconded by Jeremy P. Smith. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Minutes were recorded and transcribed by

Megan Carper

Secretary/Treasurer