

**Upper Paxton Township Board of Supervisors  
Monthly Meeting  
September 27, 2023**

Those in attendance: Robert Stoner, John Orr, and Bob Coleman, Supervisors; Pete Howland, Solicitor; Luanna Zimmerman, Secretary/Treasurer; Rich Wiest, Roadmaster; Ben Warner & Jerry Duke, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; Joe Underkoffler, Marty Etzweiler, Elaine Moran, Doug Moran, Kim Martz, Rod Lebo, Rhonda Lebo, Douglas Snyder, Adam Hoke, and William Burch.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stoner at 10:00 a.m. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Bob Coleman made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2023, meeting. Second by Robert Stoner. With all in favor, motion carried. After reviewing the list of bills to be paid, John Orr made a motion to approve the bills for payment. Second by Bob Coleman. All in favor, motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None

**Roadmaster's Report:** Rich Wiest presented the Board with a list of items that the roadcrew has been busy doing. They are as follows: cut up and chipped trees and removed debris from roads due to various storms, mowed grass, cleaned inlets & outlets, equipment maintenance, street sweeping, filled potholes, hauled 2A stone for shoulder work, did shoulder work on Fulkroad & Etzweiler Roads, worked with the contractors on the paving and seal coating projects on various Township roads, met with PennDOT, and installed a new hot water heater in the Township Garage.

**Old Business:**

- 1. & 2.** Chairman Stoner said that the Board will ask the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association for a financial report at the end of this month to determine if we need to contribute funds to the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association in October. Bob Coleman said that he has a point for consideration. He said that if the Millersburg Ambulance Association has a shortfall of funds and asks Millersburg Borough and Upper Paxton Township for money, he would like to see Upper Paxton Township purchase the Millersburg Ambulance Building. Coleman said it would free the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association up from their debt and give them operating money. He said they could continue to operate out of the current building but if they fail we would have a building for another ambulance service to operate out of. Coleman said he would like to explore and see what needs to be done to purchase the building. He said he would not expect this to happen immediately but over a 2 – 3-year period of time. Township Resident Rod Lebo asked what price we would be looking at and Bob Coleman told him that is unknown at this time. It was discussed that there is an agreement that the Millersburg Ambulance building and assets default back to the Millersburg Fire Company if the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association folds. Rod Lebo asked how much UPMC gets involved with the ambulance calls. Supervisor Orr informed him that the Millersburg Ambulance

Association does not provide Advanced Life Support and when that is needed UPMC gets involved and then gets a percentage of the insurance payment. Orr said that UPMC had recently met with the Millersburg Ambulance Association and compared Northern Dauphin County and Southern Dauphin County. Bob Coleman added that UPMC does want to work with the Millersburg Ambulance Association. Doug Snyder said that recruiting and retaining EMS workers is an issue that all companies are facing. Chairman Stoner asked Luanna Zimmerman to contact the Millersburg Ambulance Association to arrange a meeting.

3. A new hire for the roadcrew was discussed. Roadmaster Wiest said that he would like to see someone hired before we get snow/ice to get them familiar with the trucks. Luanna Zimmerman said that applications were received. This was tabled and will be revisited.
4. Township Resident Joe Underkoffler provided the Board with an update on his efforts to TNR cats in the Nelson Terrace area. Underkoffler said that he has trapped 2 more cats for TNR and that he and his wife have adopted some kittens into their home. He also said that the Mecks have taken in some of the cats as well. Underkoffler said he has stopped feeding the feral cats in the neighborhood as of 9-12-2023 and that he will continue to TNR. Chairman Stoner told him that he will be visited by Zoning Officer Marty Sowers in the near future.

### **New Business:**

1. The current and past zoning pertaining to the minimum lot size in the Agricultural Zoning District was discussed with Jerry Duke and Ben Warner from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. The Board expressed their interest in modifying the current zoning which states that the minimum lot size for the Agricultural District is 20 acres. John Orr said he would like to see farmland with class 1 & 2 soils be more restricted. Bob Coleman said that there are areas in the Ag District that cannot be farmed but would make good places for homes. The zoning for the current Lenkerville school was also discussed. Duke said that he and Warner would work to get some ideas and modifications to the Board for their 10-25-2023 meeting. William Burch was also asked to provide some information to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission for these modifications. This was tabled and will be revisited at the 10-25-2023 meeting,
2. The Fire Tax millage for 2024 was discussed. Doug Snyder said the Millersburg Fire Company is 100% volunteer. Snyder provided information on the number of calls the Millersburg Fire Company has responded to in 2022 and in 2023. He said that recently a new ladder truck in the amount of \$1.8 million was ordered. He said the fire company paid \$600,000 out of their apparatus fund as a downpayment. Snyder also said that it will take about 4 years to get delivery of the new ladder truck. They plan to pay more at delivery and finance the rest. Township Resident Joe Underkoffler asked what the value of the existing ladder truck is. Snyder

informed him that it is valued at approximately \$250,000 currently but has no idea what it will be worth in a few years. Snyder informed the Board that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get parts for the current ladder truck. Adam Hoke, of Millersburg Borough Council, asked the Board what they thought about increasing the Fire Tax to 1 mill for 2024. The Board will revisit the Fire Tax millage for 2024 at a future meeting.

3. Robert Stoner made a motion to give the 2023 Commonwealth State Aid Allocation supporting the volunteer fire relief association, in the amount of \$24,631.82, to the Millersburg Fire Company Relief Association. Second by Bob Coleman. With all in favor, motion carried.
4. Robert Stoner made a motion to sell winter materials (salt/anti-skid) for the 2023 - 2024 winter season to Millersburg Borough and Gratz Borough at cost. Second by John Orr. All in favor, motion carried.
5. The date of October 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. was chosen to hold a meeting to establish the Township Budget for 2024. This meeting will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors on 10-25-2023. This will be advertised in The Citizen Standard.

**Public Comments:** None

Robert Stoner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m. Second by Bob Coleman. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanna Zimmerman,  
Secretary/Treasurer