

EAST BUFFALO TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC WORK SESSION MEETING
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg, PA, 17837
May 27, 2025

Chairman Knight called the Board of Supervisors Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Those present: Chairman James Knight; Vice Chairman Tom Zorn; Supervisor Katie Evans; Township Manager Jolene Helwig; Assistant Road Master Jeff Oberdorf and Secretary/Treasurer Gayle Boudman.

Members of the public in attendance: Judy Datcher, Tina Prowant, Renee Sosland, Kate Durso (Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba Law Firm), Nicole Bluard (Geisinger), Rajir Panikkar (Geisinger), Joe Stender (Geisinger), Randi Hines (Geisinger), Patrick Jacobs (Geisinger), Alex Zimmerman (Geisinger) Mayur Patel (Laughner Patel Designs), Lamart Suettenise, Jean Warren, Sharon Ryder, Justin Strawser (Daily Item); Gawhara Abou-Eid (Standard Journal); Maggie Waggoner, Bob Campbell, Harry Gural, and Shira Vergauwen.

Chairman Knight announced an Executive meeting was held on May 22, 2025, to discuss the PSATS Conference.

Chairman Knight called a Public Hearing to order at 5:31 PM to consider the adoption of an ordinance to amend Chapter 27, Part 4, Section 408.1 of the Code of Ordinances of East Buffalo Township regarding adding Health Care Facilities as a Permitted Use in the Highway-Commercial Zoning District in East Buffalo Township.

Public Comments:

- Tina Prowant asked for proof of the road study showing the traffic on Route 15 where they plan on putting in the facility and why the Supervisors did not have it.
- Judy Datcher questioned why the Supervisors did not want to see the road study.
- Tina Prowant questioned Kate Durso (Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba Law Firm) if a comparison study was done showing the traffic at the Geisinger Center located in Kelly Township vs the new location on Route 15 and wanted to know how much traffic it was.
- Harry Gural asked if the traffic study was dated before or after it was announced that Geisinger would be building on the Route 15 site.
- Harry Gural stated that he filed a Right-to-Know request with PennDOT, and he found important mistakes in the information provided to him and that it was missing information.
- Harry Gural questioned why the Supervisors did not put off voting on the motion until PennDOT provided the information he felt was missing.
- Tina Prowant stated that she was told that Geisinger was going to give a donation in lieu of the taxes that would be paid to the township and whether it would be a perpetual donation.
- Vice Chairman Zorn had concern about the traffic safety issue and the timing of the PennDOT study vs the statement by Geisinger that they were going to be taking over the property. He wanted to clear up whether to have additional traffic studies done by PennDOT.
- Harry Gural felt that the volume of traffic, the line of site distance and the grade on Route 15 were misrepresented to PennDOT and wanted the Supervisors to contact PennDOT and have it put in writing that the information in the traffic study was correct.
- Supervisor Evans had concerns about the change in the speed limit to 55mph before entry to the site.

Chairman Knight closed the Public Hearing at 5:47 PM.

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to adopt **Ordinance 424** to adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 27, Part 4, Section 408.1 of the Code of Ordinances of East Buffalo Township regarding adding Health Care Facilities as a Permitted Use in the Highway-Commercial Zoning District in East Buffalo Township.
Knight-y; Zorn-y; Evans-n; Motion Carried

Hearing of Visitors:

- Tina Prowant asked what the township was going to do about stray cats.

Reports of Officials:

- Chairman Knight
 - May 15, 2025, Jo & I met with Brian Almun to discuss the Growing Greener Grant that he is working on for Turtle Creek Park.
 - May 19, 2025, meeting with Lewisburg Borough, PennDOT and the Rail Trail Authority regarding the trail crossing on Route 15; primarily how the crossing would affect the timing of traffic lights and what upgrades would be required for the traffic signals.
 - May 20, 2025, met with a forester at Turtle Creek Park in regard to a Land Management Plan for the park.
- Vice Chairman Zorn
 - May 14, 2025, attended the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Commission meeting.
 - May 22, 2025, attended the executive session at the township building on the PSATS conference.
- Supervisor Evans
 - May 27, 2025, attended a meeting with the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Commission Planning Committee.
- Township Manager Helwig
 - Received the Zoning Permit for the new Salt Shed scheduled for 2026.
 - Northumberland County Conservation District tire collection event held on May 19, 2025, collected 389 tires.
 - May 27, 2025, attended a meeting with Township Treasurer Boudman and Klacik Accounting firm to discuss the 2024 audit.
 - May 27, 2025, attended a meeting with Township Treasurer Boudman and Susquehanna Community Bank to finalize the paperwork to open a new bank account for the PIB funds.
 - HRG's engineering report has been sent out to the Supervisors.
 - May 28 & 29, 2025 will be in a training session with Township Treasurer Boudman from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Municipal Money Matters presented by PA Training Hub.
 - The Spring Brush and Yard Waste curbside pickup has been completed. Fall pickup will begin on September 8, 2025. The drop off site on Pheasant Ridge Road will remain open and follow the same schedule as the recycling center located at the township building.
- Assistant Roadmaster Oberdorf
 - The Paving Contractor is doing base repairs and finished on the east side of Route 15 this afternoon and they moved over into Spruce Hills.
 - Weather pending work will start on Turtle Creek Bridge project May 28th or 29th.
 - One of the road crew is out doing all the road mowing and clean-up around all the bridges and guide rails was completed today.
 - Aiden from HRG hopes to have a letter in reference to Countryside to the Supervisors by the end of the week.

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Supervisor Evans to approve the May 13, 2025, business meeting minutes as distributed.

Knight-y; Zorn-y; Evans-y; Motion Carried

Motion by Vice Chairman Zorn seconded by Supervisor Evans to amend the Code Of Ordinances Chapter 2 Animals, Part 1 General Regulations, Section 105 (1) Running At Large be amended to insert after the word cat the phrase except for those covered under section 301.

Knight-y; Zorn-y; Evans-y; Motion Carried

Motion by Vice Chairman Zorn seconded by Supervisor Evans to amend the Code Of Ordinances Chapter 2 Animals, Part 3 Cats Section 301 Responsibilities of Cat Owners Regarding Stray Cats be amended to add after residence of its owner (in the agricultural preservation agricultural residential and woodland preservation zoning districts).

Knight-y; Zorn-y; Evans-y; Motion Carried

Motion by Vice Chairman Zorn seconded by Chairman Knight to move the Township revert back to the method used pre 2018 for the collection of street light tax and that is based upon front footage assessment for properties that benefit \$0.50 per foot of improved property \$0.12 per foot of vacant property.

Knight-n; Zorn-y; Evans-n; Motion Not Carried

For the Good of the Order:

- Vice Chairman Zorn stated that the townships Emergency Operations Plan Officer never met with the supervisors. He thinks the supervisors need to have him sit down and talk to all of them to explain what their responsibilities are in an emergency; to develop a plan he has to talk to the supervisors and tell them what they are supposed to do, and the supervisors should be part of developing the plan.

Vice Chairman Zorn called for an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Press Comments:

- Justin Strawser asked for clarification on what the street light mils are currently.
- Justin Strawser asked for clarification concerning the June 27th date from PennDOT for the speed study.
- Justin Strawser asked for clarification on the Public Hearing motion and the next steps in the process for Geisinger.

Motion by Chairman Knight to enter into an Executive Session at 6:27 PM.

Motion by Chairman Knight and seconded by Supervisor Evans to exit the Executive Session at 6:30.

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Supervisor Evans to adjourn at 6:30 PM.



Gayle Boudman, Secretary



James Knight, Chairman



Tom Zorn, Vice Chairman



Katie Evans, Supervisor