

EAST BUFFALO TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg, PA, 17837
February 09, 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/Treasurer Jolene Helwig; Assistant Roadmaster Jeff Oberdorf; Secretary Aleigh Heckman; Township Solicitor Peter Matson; Planning/Zoning Tom MacDonald and Christa Dorman.

Members of the public in attendance: Dale A. Dorman; Chief Dan Embeck (BVRPD); John Rowe (BVRA); Vincent Difonzo (Standard Journal); Tina Prowant; Jayne Kubat and Justin Strawser (Daily Item).

Chairman Knight called a Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM to Consider the ordinance amending Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances regarding inspections for streets and related stormwater facilities and amending Chapter 27, Part 2 and 4 of the Code of Ordinances regarding adding Churches as permitted use in the General Commercial Zoning District and providing a definition for churches within East Buffalo Township.

Public Hearing Comments:

- Justin Strawser (Daily Item) asked if the supervisor could give a brief explanation of what the amendments would do for each of those chapters.

Chairman Knight Closed the Public Hearing at 5:33 PM.

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Supervisor Evans to adopt **Ordinance 431** amending Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances regarding inspections for streets and related stormwater facilities and amending Chapter 27, Part 2 and 4 of the Code of Ordinances regarding adding Churches as permitted use in the General Commercial Zoning District and providing a definition for churches within East Buffalo Township.

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

Hearing of Visitors:

- John Rowe (BVRA Director) provided the supervisors with updates on the park, pool, and gym grants. BVRA received a Degenstein grant to cover the pool sandblasting and painting with no expected out of pocket cost. They received \$61,000 from the Local Shares Account (LSA) grant for new gym equipment; funds remain pending after 18 months of processing. Preparations for summer operations are in the work for pool startup, summer camps, and peak gym programs.
- Chief Dan Embeck (BVRPD) provided the supervisors with updates on the police department. A couple of officers are out on short term disability, not work related; a cruiser parked at the farmer's market was hit; hiring process for new officer is moving forward schedule date is March 2nd; one sergeant is planning to retire this summer but official retirement date will be in September; and the new cruiser was ordered but they don't expect delivery until May, June or maybe later.
- Dale Dorman asked the supervisors about the cat problems in East Buffalo Township; wanted to know who was responsible for issuing fines for feeding or for running at large; questioned as to why the township does not require the owners to have the cat(s) licensed if a dog needs to be.

Report of Officials:

- Chairman Knight

- Reported a virtual meeting with HRG, regarding our safety action plan on street and road safety, on January 29. HRG provided us with a report on all the crash data they have received.
 - On February 2nd, Brian Auman and I met with the environmental studies group from Bucknell to be working on a trail project at Turtle Creek Park.
 - Announced that Senator Fetterman's office contacted the township on February 5th to let us know that East Buffalo Township was awarded the Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation CDS grant in the amount of \$1,800,000 for the West Market Street project. Senator Fetterman's office will be sending out a press release shortly, but we have been waiting 18 months for this announcement.
 - He mentioned that the Township received a DCED Multimodal Transportation grant for West Market Street for \$410,000; this is only a portion of the amount asked for, therefore we will need to provide them with an updated budget on how funds will be allocated.
 - Informed the Board we did not receive the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund grant for fiscal year 2026 and 2027 and reached out to the representative to verify the reason behind the application being turned down. Money was only available for 40 or 50 projects depending on the case and dollar amount, but they received 171 applications; he was instructed to resubmit the grant application.
- Vice Chairman Zorn:
 - Mentioned he attended the executive meeting on January 27th.
 - Supervisor Evans: nothing to report.
 - Township Manager Helwig
 - Informed the Supervisors they all should have received HRG's Engineer's Report on Friday.
 - Informed the Supervisors that the Union County Rail Trail Authority was awarded a DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program grant for \$161,100, to do work on the rail trail from North 10th Street to North 8th Street.
 - Updated the Supervisors that she contacted Bob Huntington and Joe Delgrippe concerning the 902 Recycling Grant reimbursement funds; disbursements are being issued now, all payments were put on hold due to the budget impasse that lasted four or five months.
 - Called for an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.
 - Assistant Roadmaster Oberdorf
 - Mentioned that PP&L are in the process of putting down pads and tearing some stuff down because they are going to be starting a big project, replacing power lines through the township.
 - Steve and I had a meeting with Comcast on February 5th; they plan on drilling and pulling lines along State Route 45 (SR0045).
 - Township Secretary Heckman
 - Mentioned attending the HRG meeting on January 29th.

Chairman Knight acknowledged Board receipt of the December 2025 Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department Report.

Chairman Knight acknowledged Board receipt of the January 2026 Central Keystone Council of Governments (CKCOG) Report.

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to accept **Resolution 04-2026** authorizing the 60-day extension for the Israel Wengerd Land Development Plan to work through the approval process.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Supervisor Evans to approve the L&P Lewisburg Professional Office Building Financial Security base upon HRG recommended reduction of \$603,440.34 from the original amount of \$800,263.76 leaving a remaining balance of \$196,823.42 per the attached tabulation. Developer will need to resubmit a new Letter of Credit with the remaining balance.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to approve the January 26, 2026, Work Session meeting minutes as distributed.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Supervisor Evans to approve the expenditures for January as presented.

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

The Board of Supervisors took no action on the streetlight at the intersection of Hilltop and Smoketown Road. Instead, they agreed to table until next month and to see if any of the letters sent to the residences that would be affected by the streetlight are returned.

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to ratify the Declaration of Disaster Emergency **Resolution 05-2026** declared on January 23, 2026, due to a severe winter weather event. Said declaration was effective immediately and expired January 28, 2026.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to approve the submittal of five hundred (500) tons of sodium chloride for the 2026-2027 COSTARS sodium chloride (road salt) contract.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Supervisor Evans to accept Dominic Silvers' resignation from the East Buffalo Township Zoning Hearing Board effect as of January 29, 2026.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to accept the Lease Agreement from the Lewisburg Area School District to use Smith Baseball Field providing the Lewisburg Little League is of mutual agreement.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to approve the 2025 Annual Township Report and Executive Summary Report.

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

Motion by Vice Chairman Zorn seconded by Supervisor Evans to approve **Resolution 06-2026** to amend the annual maximum compensation rate of \$2,500 yearly; (\$208 before taxes) monthly; to the new annual maximum compensation rate of \$4,190 yearly; (\$349.166 before taxes) monthly.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Supervisor Evans to approve **Resolution 07-2026** to adopt the Central Keystone Council of Governments Code Enforcement Department Agreement to provide Municipal Property Maintenance Administration Services for Residential Rental Unit Licensing and Inspection fee schedule.

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

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to accept the Township GIS Implementation Proposal for Professional Services Supplement not to exceed the \$16,000 for continue support with the ArcGIS mapping system.

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

For the Good of the Order:

- Township Manager Helwig reminded the Supervisors that Conrad Siegel has confirmed that March 23rd, at 11:00, for the Pension Review Meeting.
- Planning/Zoning Officer MacDonald introduced Christa Dorman, the newest member from the Planning and Zoning Department to the supervisors.

Announcements: no comments

Press Time:

- Justin Strawser (Daily Item) asked for clarification on to awarded grants that the township has received and asked for clarification on the L&P Lewisburg Professional Office Building Financial Security.

Motion by Chairman Knight seconded by Vice Chairman Zorn to enter an Executive Session at 6:50 PM.

Motion by Vice Chairman Zorn seconded by Chairman Knight to exit from Executive Session at 7:10 PM.

Motion by Vice Chairman Zorn seconded by Chairman Knight to adjourn at 7:10 PM.

Alegh Heckman
Secretary

James E Knight
Chairman, James Knight

Thomas F. Zorn
Vice Chairman, Thomas Zorn

online
Supervisor, Katie Evans