Draft Minutes

Durham Township Board of Supervisors

Tuesday March 11th, 2025 7pm

Township Building Meeting Room

Resident Participation in person and via GoToMeeting

You can dial in using your phone.

Access Code:

590-843-445

United States:

1 (571) 317-3122

Call to Order / Pledge to American Flag / Roll Call Attendance: Time: 7:02pm

**Present:** Supervisors: Kathleen Gentner, Chairman

Bartley Millett, Vice Chairman

Richard Johnson, Treasurer

Danielle Cox, Administrator/Secretary

Peter Cox, Roadmaster

**Absent**: Todd Myers, Zoning Officer.

**Approval** of Minutes from February 11th 2025. Motion by RJ second by BM Vote 3-0-0

**Approval** of Monthly Financial Report as of February 28th 2025, Motion by RJ second by BM

Vote: 3-0-0

**Approval** of Accounts Payable/Payroll as March 11th 2025. Motion by RJ, second by BM Vote 3-0-0

**Approval** of Escrow Accounts as of March 11th 2025. Motion by RJ second by BM Vote 3-0-0

**Motion** to approve up to $24,000.00 to replace the retention pond fence at Valley View Estates. Roadmaster P. Cox read two estimates; Costar affiliated County Line Fence Company was the lowest. Roadmaster Cox spoke with Solicitor Nelson and Z.O. T. Myers about liability issues if we reduce the sq. footage of the fence to cover inlet/outlet pipes and a smaller portion of the basin and place the gate on the Kitner Roadside of the property. Both agreed it was ok to reduce the Sq. Footage of the fence. The Roadmaster is working on getting a new estimate. Once the fence is replaced, we will be maintaining the fence. Residents J&D. Nordstrom, the property owners, commented they would like to not have any fence there and would like to see if they could take responsibility for the basin, however a smaller size would be appreciated. Supervisor Johnson explained that it was put in due to a lawsuit. Resident I. Blair stated the Colletti’s put in the retention pond originally and please be sure we use a good quality fence. While we are waiting for the 3rd estimate, the property owner can speak with Solicitor Nelson to see if assuming liability is an option. **Motion** by RJ 2nd by BM Vote 3-0-0.

**Motion** to approve AMS bid for the 2025 Road project in the amount of 230,600.00. AMS was the only bidder; the road work will take place on County line road and Spring Hill East to Stouts Vallery 1000ft. **Motion** by RJ 2nd by BM Vote 3-0-0.

**The** Board tabled a SALDO Review discussion and asked the admin to put it on the May Agenda.

**Motion** to Silver Creek A.A and PAGSL to use the Durham Township Ball field this season for the T ball teams. PAGSL will pay for Porta Johns, Insurance Liability Certificates will be issued. PAGSL will be paying $40.00 per game and will be holding 4 to 5 games. Silver Creek will be making a donation. Supervisors asked that the 2 direct neighbors be notified, Admin will contact them. **Motion** by RJ 2nd by BM Vote 3-0-0.

**UBREMS Discussion** the Board discussed supporting UBREMS in a one or two station model. Chairman Genter reported that UBREMS has been full transparent with their financials, call volumes, donations and subscriptions. The amount needed from Durham if all 9 municipalities that UBREMS provided service to were to stick together and support the same 2 station business model it would be $39.33 per resident, roughly a 2 mill increase that would be a dedicated EMS tax collection. Chairman Genter believes they should not make fundraising a primary focus, the priority should be being service ready and stated she supports a two-station model as it would be what was best for our area. Vice Chairman Millett stated that as supervisors we need to provide safety services to our residents, at this time he is not committing to a specific dollar amount however he supports a two-station model as well. Once it gets closer to budget time and we see how UBREMS has progressed we can discuss a specific dollar amount. Supervisor Johnson agrees with Vice Chairman Millett UBREMS is moving in the right direction however there are too many variables in play with the remaining municipalities to commit to a specific dollar amount yet and stated that only 1 in 4 Durham Residents return their subscriptions .UBREMS chairman A.Mills clarified that the revere station is only closed from 6pm to 6am and they hope to have the station back to 24 hour service in April. The budget UBREMS presented with the tax increase should remain solid for several years. Their largest expenditure is payroll. Resident N. Kugelmass thanked UBREMS for their service and asked what would have happened if legislation did not pass that would allow townships to increase their mileage to 5 mills, A. Mills reported they would have closed completely. N. K also asked what would happen to subscriptions if there were a tax increase, wouldn’t they decline? A. Mills explained that the subscription is not a donation, it is a reduction in your bill if you use the service. Resident T. Connelly asked about response times. Resident D. Nordstrom asked when subscriptions would be mailed, A. Mills stated the mailing list is being updated and should be coming out soon. K. Clark asked how the time frame of the subscription is determined, it will cover 365 days from when the subscription was received. B. Timochenko asked who would fill in if UBREMS was closed. All three supervisors agreed they would support the UBREMS two station business model and discuss cost at budget time.

**LTAP Traffic Study**: Roadmaster Pete Cox read the memorandum from LTAP, stating that the criteria were not met for traffic calming on Red Bridge or Old Furnace. B. Timochenko commented that if we put Policy and procedures in place then we may be able to. Admin remined the audience that if we do anything that PennDOT does not approve we can lose our yearly liquid fuels funds. Chairman Gentner requested this be kept under new business for further discussion.

**Met ed:** No Update

**Act 167 update:** No Update

**Post Office:** No Update

**Pete Cox, Road Master:**  Generator was installed and final inspection completed, working on clearing retention pond fence, AMS was the only bidder for the 2025 road projects. Liquid Fuels monies will be deposited this week, Spring Projects will start soon, public works crew have been seeing a lot of garbage along our local roads, scheduling an appointment to look at bucket truck.

**Zoning/Building**: Report read by administrator.

**Environmental Advisory Committee**: Chairman Timochenko reported Bird Net is working again, link on the Durham Township website. First Hike of the year is in March, Discussed Trout unlimited, watershed conservation plan, timber review was completed for the Ulmer property. Questions were asked about the forestry management plan and L. Oleska asked why we were not following our forestry ordinance. Vice Chairman Millett stated it will be looked into. Roadmaster P. Cox asked if the EAC could do clean up on our local roads not just the state roads.

**Durham Historical Society**: Dave Oleska reported that they submitted the grant application. Members had a photo Opp with Rep. Staats and Senator Coleman when they received their American 250 $5,000.00 grant .April 27 they will host a lecture by Dan Graham on early colonial iron making. The Collage professor will be here Saturday to look at the root cellar.

**Riegelsville Library**: Dave Oleska reported no meeting due to illness.

**Planning Commission**: No report.

**PRFR Report**: Year-end report and read by administrator.

**UBREMS:** A. Mills reported 7 calls (3 transports) in Durham during the month of February.

**PSA**:

* Please return your UBREMS subscription and your PRFR fund drive donations.
* EAC Spring Clean -Up April 5th
* PRFR Breakfast Sunday April 6th from 8am to 12pm at the Springtown Station
* Large Item Clean-up Day April 12th
* Story Time at the Durham Mill 10:30am Wednesday 4/16, 5/21, 6/18, 7/16, 8/20
* Founders Day June 7th 2025 10am to 4pm

**Public Comment**: I. Blair asked about the state roads ditched being full of debris. Roadmaster will reach out to Penndot. L. Oleska Cooks Creek Water Shed Yearly clean-up will be April 5th meet at the Springtown PRFR Station. B. Timochenko asked if he could draw up a model for renting the ball field.

**Motion to Close**: Motion by KG 2nd by BM Vote 3-0-0

Time Closed: 9:07pm

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Chairman Vice Chairman Treasurer