

February 20, 2024

The East Hopewell Township Board of Supervisors held a work session at the Municipal Building, 8916 Hickory Road, Felton, PA at 1:00 p.m. Members present were Dean Miller and Roy Hiller, III. In attendance was John Ricks, Chris Kaltreider, James Leshner, Jason Snyder, Randy Robertson, Kasey Aubel, Laura Vasold, Clarke Becket, Ed Cockey and Victor Grelli.

Dean Miller opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag.

Attendees were notified that an audio recorder was being utilized for the meeting.

Attendees were introduced to James Leshner, PA Department of Transportation District 8 Municipal Services Supervisor and Jason Snyder, Principal Engineer with PSATS and PA Department of Transportation.

Lengthy and interactive discussions between the Board members, work session guests and residents took place throughout the meeting. The conversations included the following:

Pleasant Valley Road will need full-depth reclamation - which will provide a good base for the road. This is the most cost-effective way to repair it. It was suggested that pipes be placed 1-2 years prior to reclamation. James Leshner and Jason Snyder agreed that a proposed idea to fill in/level the road and tar and chip the surface would be a temporary fix and that the base would not be stable.

Most of the roads were once farm roads, with no base, that were turned into Township roads. Numerous roads are entrenched, making the control of water on the roads especially challenging.

James Leshner and Jason Snyder outlined what the Township can do to improve the dirt roads. They advised:

- Do not grade roads when they are dry or soaking wet- surface water saturation is an important consideration when grading.

- Dirt roads should be graded and then compacted with a smooth, vibrating roller.

- Compact the stone in lifts.

- Ditches need to be put in place and filled with stone (R4 or R7) to keep water off roads and prevent erosion. Ditches will last for 10-15 years. Do not use fine particle stone.

- Widen roads and decrease banks.

- Place under driveway pipes to keep water off roads.

Grant opportunities. Grants that East Hopewell would qualify for are not abundant. Grant writers typically charge \$3,000 to \$10,000 but are often necessary. Having road traffic count

information will aid in applying for grants-especially when Low Volume Road grants become available. PennDot will help and provide equipment, at no cost, for the Township to conduct traffic counts. The Township can contact Jason Snyder to arrange this. It was noted that multi-modal grants are gaining political momentum and may be a consideration for East Hopewell Township. Options for loans were also discussed.

The use of millings on Township roads was strongly discouraged because they are not cohesive and they will not stay in place.

A conversation about potholes ensued. Woods Road was recognized as being in poor condition. Recent efforts to fill the potholes were not successful due to the amount of water in the road. The use of hot mix and a hot box was recommended for Township roads. The cost of purchasing and/or renting a hot box was discussed. James Leshar noted that PennDot does not start filling potholes until April 1st due to water saturation issues.

Questions regarding abandonment of roads were addressed. An Ordinance would need to be established and the road owner must agree to maintain the road as it will become private property.

James Leshar and Jason presented information about the impact that trash, cement, fuel, delivery, livestock, feed and grain trucks have on roads.

Water is the number one cause of damage to roads. Keeping water off the roads is essential to being able to maintain the roads.

Everyone in attendance concurred that short- and long-range plans should continually be worked on. It was recommended that East Hopewell current focus be on conducting traffic counts, water drainage, grant opportunities and purchasing needed equipment.

James Leshar and Jason Snyder extended an offer to continue to work with the Township to assess roads, set goals, make recommendations and help however and whenever they can for the foreseeable future.

Roy Hiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dean Miller seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted



Melissa Hiller

Secretary