

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Members: Richard, Chairperson, Weiler, Martin, Reinhold (Alternate)

Attendees: Richard, Weiler, Martin, Rowe, Thompson, Shumaker, Withum, Burkholder, 6 Visitors

The Highway Committee met on January 27, 2020 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a request from Kim Malmer received December 26, 2019 via e-mail and heard details about the 6th Annual Pain in the Butt 5K/10K Run for Colon Cancer Awareness from Mark Malmer. The event will use various streets in the Lincoln Heights section of the Borough to conduct the benefit 5K & 10K runs and a quarter mile fun run on Saturday, March 28, 2020 beginning at 8:40 AM. The run route is comparable to the route used in 2019. There will be signs and volunteers at each intersection to direct runners and assist with traffic control. Interim Police Chief Shumaker has endorsed this event. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve the request subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming Ephrata Borough as additional insured at their February 10, 2020 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed the results of Bid #20-1 Traffic Signal Upgrades for emergency vehicle pre-emption installation at the intersections of West Main Street & Market Street, West Main Street & Academy Drive, and South State Street & Fulton Street. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award Bid #20-1 to apparent low bidder: Wyoming Electric & Signal, Inc. from Wyoming, PA in their total bid amount of \$36,540 as part of the Consent Agenda at their February 10, 2020 meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed the results of Bid #20-2 Traffic Signal Systems Maintenance. This is a multi-year contract for semi-annual preventive traffic signal maintenance and inspection in accordance with current Borough and PennDOT requirements. The contract term begins February 18, 2020 and terminates December 31, 2023. Years 2 (2021), 3 (2022), and 4 (2023) are at the Borough's option subject to review of contractor performance. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award Bid #20-2 to apparent low bidder: C.M. High, Inc. from Myerstown, PA for \$4,000 for each year of a 4-year contract as part of the Consent Agenda at their February 10, 2020 meeting.
4. The Committee reviewed a proposed commercial wide area mower purchase. The mower is a new model year John Deere 1600 Turbo Series III and will be purchased through the Pennsylvania Department of General Services COSTARS cooperative purchasing program from the delivering dealer: Deer Country Farm & Lawn, Inc. in Adamstown, PA for the contract price of \$55,199.25 less \$4,000.00 trade allowance for a 2009 John Deere 1600 mower for a total purchase amount of \$51,199.25 which is \$2,249.25 over the budgeted amount of \$48,950. The unbudgeted amount of \$2,249.25 will be paid from account #01-50-501-4360 Parks and Recreation Contract Services. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the purchase of a new model year John Deere 1600 Turbo Series III wide area mower at their February 10, 2020 meeting.

5. The Committee reviewed a disposition of assets form for a 2009 John Deere 1600 Series II wide area mower, Serial #TC1600T070187, with 5,410 hours of use. The engine needs rebuilt and there are hydraulic issues. The mower currently works at approximately 50% of normal range/capacity. The mower has trade-in value of \$4,000. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve this asset disposal at their February 10, 2020 meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a January 20, 2020 letter request from Capstone Design & Build from Lancaster, PA (CD&B) and heard from Josiah Stoltzfus of CD&B regarding an upcoming renovation/construction project at 17–25 West Main Street comprised of planned renovations to the front of 17 West Main Street and new connector link construction between 21 and 25 West Main Street. Discussions ensued regarding proposed long-term pedestrian sidewalk closure and parking restrictions adjacent to the project area. CD&B was asked to revise their plans reducing their planned “work area footprint” as much as possible and propose an ADA accessible, protected pedestrian detour using the parking lane along West Main Street adjacent to their work area. CD&B agreed to submit new plans for review and discussion at the February 24, 2020 Highway Committee meeting.
2. The Committee discussed parking meter rates and the use of parking kiosks and apps in reaction to recommendations to increase parking meter rates and phase out coin-operated meters made in the Parking Management Plan for Ephrata Borough prepared by Derck & Edson in August 2019. The use of parking kiosks and parking apps will increase enforcement of parking violations without increasing the need for additional staff or extended patrol hours. With regard to parking meter rates, understanding you don’t charge to make money but rather you charge to control flow of parking and visitor access to parking, the Committee is interested in increasing parking meter rates as follows: 12 minutes for \$0.10; 24 minutes for \$0.20; and 1 hour for \$0.50. Also shared with the Committee was parking meter parts should be readily available from an established supplier and that current cost to replace a meter is \$203; cost to repair a meter is \$99; and cost to reprogram a meter is a one-time fee of \$350 to rent the component necessary to reprogram the meters. These costs do not include staff time required to physically remove, replace or reprogram meters. Interim Police Chief Shumaker stated that all 84 of the Borough’s parking meters are digital. Parking Kiosks and Apps will be researched and information presented at a future Highway Committee meeting. Parking meter inventory and rates will be further discussed at Work Session and a recommendation may be made at that time.