

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – JULY 8, 2019

Members: Barr, Chairperson, Ressler, Richard

Attendees: Barr, Richard, Ressler, Rowe, Thompson, Burkholder, N. Thomas,
7 Visitors

The Highway Committee met on June 24, 2019 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a request from Richard Gehman, Boy Scout Troop 73 Committee Chairperson, per his letter dated June 3, 2019 to use the East Locust Street parking lot and have the opportunity to staff the West Franklin Street parking lot during the 2019 Ephrata Fair to park cars as a fundraiser. Because the West Franklin Street lot is occupied by vendors during Fair week, The Ephrata Farmers Day Association, Inc. (TEFDAI) has agreed to compensate Boy Scout Troop 73 for lost revenue provided they invoice TEFDAI in a timely manner following the completion of the Ephrata Fair. The Committee will recommend, as part of the Consent Agenda, that Borough Council conditionally approve the request subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured at their July 8, 2019 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a resolution authorizing execution of an application for traffic signal approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for planned signal modifications at East Main Street (SR 0322) & Bethany Road associated with the proposed Ephrata Crossing land development in Ephrata Township. The Borough is the traffic signal permittee for this signalized intersection. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt Resolution #2019-12 authorizing the President of Borough Council and the Borough Secretary to execute the application for traffic signal approval for planned signal modifications at East Main Street (SR 0322) & Bethany Road at their July 8, 2019 meeting.
3. The Committee heard about a community storm water education project from Nick Thomas, Public Works Foreman and two teachers from Highland Elementary School. The project promotes “Only Rain in the Drain” to ensure a healthy environment and clean water supply. As part of the community education program, encouraging the importance of a clean storm sewer system, the storm water catch basin inlet markers are being updated and 3rd grade students at Highland Elementary School were asked to work collaboratively on a new design for the markers. The Highway Committee reviewed six marker designs and chose the “Don’t Even Bother to Pollute the Water” entry as their recommendation to Borough Council to accept as the winning entry at their July 8, 2019 meeting.
4. The Committee reviewed and discussed UGI’s latest natural gas extension plans through certain areas of the Borough. Proposed gas main extensions comprise East Fulton Street from Lake Street to the municipal boundary line east of Bethany Road, Jeff Avenue, and a section of Tom Avenue. The Committee was updated by Project Manager Burkholder regarding UGI’s current project and was advised that UGI has not begun any final

pavement or concrete sidewalk restorations at this time but that UGI has been in recent contact with the Borough to schedule a walk-through of the areas that require final restoration. Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve the gas main extensions subject to the three (3) separate Agreements (“Get Gas Program” Agreement and two (2) “Street Opening and Gas Service Extension” Agreements) between UGI Utilities, Inc. and the Borough of Ephrata. This includes any required performance bonds and certificate(s) of insurance being in a form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor and Borough receipt of a \$107,813.35 payment from UGI in lieu of pavement restoration. This payment is to serve as compensation to the Borough for future costs to final restore those affected portions of East Fulton Street and Jeff Avenue and physical reduction of UGI’s current construction footprint by providing final pavement and concrete sidewalk restoration along West Pine Street and North and South State Streets between West Pine Street and Fulton Street. This is to be done as soon as possible, no later than August 30, 2019, in a manner consistent with the approved plans and satisfactory to the Borough at their July 8, 2019 meeting.

5. The Committee reviewed Municipal Winter Traffic Services Renewal Agreement #3900038016, year 4 of 5, by and between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Borough. The Agreement area consists of 2.97 linear miles along East and West Main Streets (SR 0322) from Bethany Road to Market Street and compensates the Borough at a rate of \$1,168.77 per travel lane mile for snow and ice removal during the 2019/2020 winter season. The total anticipated reimbursement to the Borough is \$6,942.49 plus any applicable adjustment to offset severe winter conditions. There is no fuel cost adjustment factored into the Agreement. The Committee will recommend as part of the Consent Agenda that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to execute Municipal Winter Traffic Services Renewal Agreement #3900038016 with PennDOT at their July 8, 2019 meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a Christmas in Ephrata 2019 Events Request from the Christmas in Ephrata Committee of Mainspring of Ephrata. A downtown Ephrata merchant was present and aired her concerns regarding the planned 3:00 PM street closure of East Main Street between State Street and Lake Street and how it impacts her business on the biggest shopping day of the year. Council President Rowe asked that representative(s) of the Christmas in Ephrata Committee and Mainspring of Ephrata contact downtown merchants for their feedback regarding the start time of the road closure. This item has been tabled for further discussion at the July 22, 2019 meeting of Highway Committee.
2. The Committee discussed a citizen concern regarding Grape Alley parallel to and between Washington Avenue and Grant Street running from East Locust Street to Marshall Street. Primary concern is a lack of signage. Committee was advised that signage, particularly stop signs, has not been installed in alleys because signage is regularly knocked down by garbage trucks in alleys. Travel direction is not restricted throughout Grape Alley. Staff will discuss painting stop bars and STOP legends where necessary in this area as directed by Committee. Staff was also directed to contact complainant to answer her concerns.

3. The Committee discussed a citizen traffic concern raised at the June 19, 2019 Council meeting. The concern being additional traffic volume on North Academy Drive approaching the West Main Street (SR 0322) intersection. This temporary increase in traffic volume is due to PennDOT's bridge rehabilitation projects currently occurring along SR 0222 in Ephrata Township and East Cocalico Township. Work along SR 0222 is currently impacting southbound travel into August 2019 when the northbound travel lanes will be impacted into October 2019. Travel in impacted lanes along SR 0222 is delineated to one lane creating slow-downs causing motorists who typically travel SR 0222 to seek alternate routes. Staff will contact PennDOT to discuss traffic concerns in the Borough caused by their projects.

4. The Committee heard from Comcast representatives regarding planned installation of underground cable to be installed in various locations throughout the Borough. Comcast is currently working in the Borough installing overhead facilities. Comcast appeared before the Committee with the intent to socialize their underground installation project so there are no unnecessary delays in the future regarding requests to install those facilities. Staff will work with Comcast to move their project forward at a pace that Staff is comfortable with.