

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – JUNE 14, 2021

Members: Richard, Chairman; Martin, Member; Reinhold, Alternate; Burkholder, Staff

Attendees: Richard, Chairman; Martin, Member; Reinhold, Alternate; Rowe, Council President; Ressler, Council Member; Barr, Council Member; Thompson, Burkholder, Staff; Lt. McKim, Ephrata Police; 1 Guest

The Highway Committee met on May 24, 2021 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a disposition of assets request to dispose of a 2007 Ford Ranger, VIN #1FTYR15E67PA72292 with 103,500 miles on the odometer. The estimated value of the vehicle is \$5,382.00 and is planned for disposal through Municibid. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve this asset disposal at their June 14, 2021 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a request from Erik Schlosser, Boy Scout Troop 73 Committee Chairperson, per his letter dated May 3, 2021, to use the Locust Street parking lot and have the opportunity to staff the West Franklin Street parking lot during the 2021 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. has agreed to compensate Boy Scout Troop 73 for lost revenue in the amount of \$1,500 provided they invoice The Ephrata Farmers Day Association, Inc. in a timely manner following the completion of the 2021 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 of Ephrata as additional insured at their June 14, 2021 meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee further discussed truck traffic on Apple Street and Lt. McKim with the Ephrata Police shared highlights of his recent meeting with the Garden Spot Auto Auction's General Manager. The Auction is being proactive about steering trucks clear of Apple Street by distributing educational pamphlets and directing trucks and car haulers to use other roads as they exit the Auction's facility. The Committee directed Staff and the Ephrata Police to continue to monitor truck traffic in this area and follow up with the primary complainants by the end of this year.
2. The Committee further discussed a resident's parking concern at 241 Railroad Avenue where motorists frequently park along the curb between driveways at 239 and 241 Railroad Avenue making it a challenge, and sometimes impossible, to enter and exit the driveway at 241 Railroad Avenue. Lt. McKim of the Ephrata Police suggested that this approximately 14 feet long area along the curb line be posted as no parking. Council Member Martin also suggested that overflow trail head parking at East Fulton Street be directed, via signage, to the Borough Hall parking lot after 5 pm on weekdays and weekends. The Committee directed Staff to draft a resolution for a 90-day experimental no parking restriction in this area for review at their next meeting.
3. The Committee further reviewed data associated with traffic concerns along a certain portion of South State Street between Lime Street and Old Mill Road previously brought forth by Council Member Barr. Staff advised the Committee that implementing certain traffic calming measures

can be effective in controlling vehicle speed but can be expensive to construct. Lt. McKim of the Ephrata Police offered to arrange for a greater police presence in this area prompting motorists to check their speed. No further action necessary at this time.

4. The Committee further discussed a previous resident request to provide permit parking in the West Franklin Street parking lot. Staff provided information regarding leased parking spaces at the Locust Street parking lot per Committee request for their review. The Committee requested additional information for review and discussion at their next meeting.
5. The Committee reviewed an email received by Borough Staff on April 13, 2021 from Lisa Walker of 1162 Joann Avenue asking that ADA ramps be installed at the intersection of Joann Avenue and Susan Avenue to accommodate her husband who is handicapped and uses a power wheelchair. Borough Manager Thompson advised the Committee that the Americans with Disabilities Act is law and requires a municipality to respond to such requests. Borough Staff will obtain quotes from at least three (3) contractors to complete the construction of the ramps at 1142 Joann Avenue and 406 Susan Avenue to be paid for with Street and Alley Program Capital Reserve funds.
6. The Committee discussed a citizen concern regarding low manholes and a low water valve box in North Maple Street between East Walnut Street and East Pine Street. Staff advised Committee that the street in this area has lifted over the years due to freeze and thaw action allowing the manholes and water valve box, which have remained in place, to become lower than the street. Public Works will place rubber gaskets under the manhole covers raising them to an elevation closer to that of the street improving the issue and addressing the recent citizen concern. Permanent repairs will not be made due to the existing condition of the street. The water valve box will be repaired in the future as it requires a more complicated fix.

Old Business Items:

1. Borough Staff continues communications with PennDOT regarding the South Oak Street bridge pedestrian railing/vehicle barrier with regards to PennDOT's plans for replacing similar barrier on their West Main Street (SR 0322) over Cocalico Creek Bridge. Staff will also contact the consultant performing the bridge inspection in November to discuss concerns regarding the pedestrian railing/vehicle barrier.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Staff updated the Committee on UGI gas line and Comcast underground cable installations in the Borough. Comcast will likely begin Borough approved projects in the Brickyard, Pioneer View and Heatherwood Heights developments in the near future awaiting PA 1 Call clearances and resident notifications. UGI has completed their required final pavement restorations following gas service line installations approximately 18 months ago at various locations in the Borough. UGI's subcontractor plans to begin sidewalk restorations within 1-2 weeks. Comcast has submitted numerous new extension plans recently and Staff plans to review in the coming weeks. UGI has advised Borough Staff that they plan to submit gas main extension plans in July for the Lincoln Heights development.