

REGIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING OF  
CONOY TOWNSHIP, ELIZABETHTOWN BOROUGH,  
MOUNT JOY TOWNSHIP, WEST DONEGAL TOWNSHIP,  
AND ELIZABETHTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
August 30, 2018 - Minutes

A meeting of the region's municipal elected officials was held on Thursday, August 30, 2018, at the Bainbridge Elementary School cafeteria. Elizabethtown Area School Board President Terry Seiders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following introductions were made and attendance noted:

Conoy Township Supervisors: Stephen Mohr, Gina Mariani, Kevin McKain, Clyde Pickel; Staff: Kathy Hipple.

Elizabethtown Borough Council Members: Marc Hershey, Neil Ketchum, Tom Shaud, Phil Clark, and Bill Troutman; Staff: Roni Ryan, Ann Roda, Pam Craddock.

Elizabethtown Area School Board: Terry Seiders, Caroline Lalvani, Craig Hummer, James Read, Menno Riggelman; Staff: Michele Balliet, Rebecca Maxwell, Richard Schwarzman, George Longridge, Troy Portser, Richard Toth, Amanda Baxter.

Mount Joy Township Supervisors: Lisa Heilner, Gerald Cole, David Sweigart, Deb Dupler, Gerald Becker;

West Donegal Township Supervisors: Roger Snyder, Philip Dunn, Eric Kreider, John Martin; Staff: John Yoder and Wayne Miller.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Elizabethtown Regional EMA

Elizabethtown Borough: Mr. Ketchum moved to approve the appointments of Phil Clark and Ed Cunningham as members of the Elizabethtown/West Donegal/Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Council. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

Mount Joy Township: Mrs. Dupler moved to approve the appointments of Gene Galeschewski and Mark Mayberry as members of the Elizabethtown/West Donegal/Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Council. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

West Donegal Township: Mr. Snyder moved to approve the appointments of John Yoder and Don Klinepeter as members of the Elizabethtown/West Donegal/Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Council. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

Elizabethtown Borough: Mr. Clark moved to approve the ratification of the appointments of Gene Galeschewski and Mark Mayberry by Mount Joy Township and the appointments of John Yoder and

Don Klinepeter by West Donegal Township as members of the Elizabethtown/West Donegal/Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Council. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

Mount Joy Township: Mrs. Dupler moved to approve the ratification of the appointments of Phil Clark and Ed Cunningham by Elizabethtown Borough and the appointments of John Yoder and Don Klinepeter by West Donegal Township as members of the Elizabethtown/West Donegal/Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Council. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

West Donegal Township: Mr. Martin moved to approve the ratification of the appointments of Phil Clark and Ed Cunningham by Elizabethtown Borough and the appointments of Gene Galeschewski and Mark Mayberry by Mount Joy Township as members of the Elizabethtown/West Donegal/Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Council. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

Elizabethtown Borough, Mount Joy Township, and West Donegal Township: Mrs. Dupler moved to accept the resignation of Warren Mueller, Jr. as Emergency Management Coordinator of the Elizabethtown / West Donegal / Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Agency effective upon appointment of a replacement by the Governor of Pennsylvania. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

Elizabethtown Borough, Mount Joy Township, and West Donegal Township: Mr. Clark moved approve the nomination of Eugene P. Galeschewski as Emergency Management Coordinator of the Elizabethtown/West Donegal/Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Sweigart seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

Elizabethtown Borough, Mount Joy Township, and West Donegal Township: Mr. Cole moved to approve the designation of Mount Joy Township as the agent for the Elizabethtown/West Donegal/Mount Joy Township Zone Emergency Management Council for the purpose of paying the expenses of the Agency as required by the Emergency Management Services Code. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

#### Elizabethtown Magisterial District Court

President Judge Dennis Reinaker and Deputy District Court Administrator Russell Glass shared details of a proposal to the PA Supreme Court for redistricting the Lancaster County magisterial districts and their thinking and reasoning regarding the proposal to close the Magisterial District Court in Elizabethtown. Also present was Mark Dalton, District Court Administrator. There is now a 30-day public comment time. The written input received will be included in the proposal that goes to the PA Supreme Court for their consideration. Judge Reinaker explained he is taking complete responsibility for this proposal moving forward and that he was not asked by the Supreme Court to make this move. He noted that in 2016, the Elizabethtown office was one of the four considered for closing and because now the position at the Elizabethtown office has become vacant they are moving ahead with the recommendation for its closure. According to Judge Reinaker, from a numbers standpoint in Lancaster County, Elizabethtown continues to be at the top of the list of the offices that should be closed. Judge

Reinaker and Mr. Glass have met with municipal officials to discuss this decision, and they don't feel it would be a hardship to have to travel to the Mount Joy office. They indicated they might consider relocating the Mount Joy office to a more central location in the future. The Mount Joy office would absorb the entire Elizabethtown magisterial district caseload.

#### Questions & Comments from Elected Officials

Stephen Mohr, Conoy Township Supervisor, expressed his concern for the proposal to close the Elizabethtown Magisterial District Court and suggested the comparisons should be done differently, comparing caseload and workload and asked why this proposal is coming now and about the proposed financial impact from this closure.

Bill Troutman expressed his concern that the Elizabethtown court closing will affect the local communities and local budgets. By closing the Elizabethtown office, the Mount Joy office will have more cases and likely cause tax increases so he cannot support this proposal.

Marc Hershey noted how Elizabethtown is ranked 101, inquired about the rankings of Mount Joy 88 and Lititz 64, and asked about the definition of a case.

Neil Ketchem said that when looking at efficiencies at the County level we might not all be viewing it the same. We are looking at the best for our citizens and to have input on it.

Philip Dunn is opposed to the proposal and was pleased to hear that the location might be moved closer to Elizabethtown if this plan is approved.

David Sweigart asked what was done to verify the ranking numbers. He noted that it is a good think that Elizabethtown ranks low in the numbers and noted that there may be a reason for this. He also noted the population outlooks.

Lisa Heilner shared that the Elizabethtown office is about relationships with the school district, the students, the truancy officer, Echos, and the police officers. Those are things you can't put a dollar figure on. She also is concerned about the four-mile distance people will have to travel to get to the Mount Joy office for those that don't have transportation. She is opposed to losing the Elizabethtown office. She also noted that Mount Joy Township is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the county.

Gina Mariani, speaking as a taxpayer, asked about the cost of taxpayer time, and she shared the amount of time it took for a court appearance she had this week. She is opposed to this office being closed. Since the office in Manheim was already closed, she would like to know why the proposal is to close another office in the same side of the county instead of one on the other side of the county. She is sorry for those students who need to make a court appearance and don't have transportation and will now have to travel and extra four miles.

Marc Hershey asked why this proposal when Denver has a smaller caseload than Elizabethtown.

## Public Comment

Frank Ember, police officer, spoke about caseloads versus workload figures. He asked if the parking ticket figures are counted in the caseload numbers. Since the Mount Joy office just expanded, it isn't a good idea to relocate it now. The Elizabethtown office has had facility problems for years that haven't been fixed.

Amy McEvoy of Communities That Care asked for clarification about population numbers in counties, what their case loads are made up of, if it is a good comparison, and how many are repeat offenders and are coming through multiple times a year.

Gail Viscome, Director of Communities That Care, explained how they partner with the schools and businesses to help families and young people thrive. She asked for a delay in the proposal until after the June census figures are gathered. She has seen many people who can't get social services because of distance. The Mount Joy office won't be an easy access to get to by using the bus.

Enos Martin, pastor and psychologist, is concerned how the closure of the Elizabethtown office will affect the local area. He noted that in the past options have been put together that have kept people out of jail and provided treatment options.

Dan Stephenson suggested people should submit their comments in writing to be submitted with the proposal. These comments can be submitted to the local municipal and school district offices by September 10. They will be gathered and then forwarded to the courthouse by September 17. He is opposed to the proposal. The Mount Joy office is only four miles from the Elizabethtown office but a lot of people walk to court and they won't be able to walk to Mount Joy. People will be paying extra money to attorneys to make that drive.

Maggie Wheale, who worked in the Elizabethtown MDJ office for ten years, asked why that office is being closed if there isn't a directive to close it since this office has been an enormous help to the town and area. She doesn't believe that the savings will be that big, and that once an office is closed it will be extremely hard to regain it.

Ralph Horne talked about the cost savings for salary and benefits if the Elizabethtown office is closed and asked what will be done with the lease until it runs out and asked if it necessary to close the office now.

Judge Michael Cabry of the Special Court Judges Association, noted he believes the important thing is the number of people who will be affected. He stated that local people should have their local judge, who knows what the schools and the police are doing. Now people will be going to a judge that they didn't elect and don't know. He suggested waiting until after the census numbers are finalized before a change is proposed.

Jamie Stoner noted that she gets parking tickets on a regular basis and got sent to the Columbia office when the Elizabethtown magisterial district office was temporarily closed. She believes that the tax money that is being saved is now coming out of the citizens' pockets for further transportation. She suggested waiting until the census figures are in and then making a decision.

Walt Gadzicki, a retired Judge, talked about caseloads and the importance of getting cases reserved for families. He noted that the number of local magisterial district judges is going down while the number of common pleas court judges are increasing.

Maggie Wheale talked about the three previous clerical positions from the Elizabethtown office and the plan for how they will be used in the future.

Steve Mohr Jr. said he can't imagine closing an office in Lancaster City without access to justice. He asked about residents who have issues getting travel assistance and do not have a connection to the community. He noted they should wait to make a decision regarding closing the Elizabethtown office until they have more information.

Dan Baranoski, a Judge in Bucks County, talked about the increase in overtime costs and in waiting time for municipalities.

Deb Dupler believes there are times decisions need to be made using your heart and head. She hopes this decision wasn't made as a final decision until they have listened to this community.

Gina Mariani asked what a reasonable time is to wait for a court appearance. She had to wait a long time and now figures this will be longer when the caseloads are doubled.

Mr. Seiders thanked everyone for their comments and for coming to the meeting. He noted that written comments (no emails will be accepted) can be mailed to Mr. Glass or they can be dropped off at school or municipal offices by September 10 and they will be forwarded to Mr. Glass by September 17th

#### Municipal & EASD Updates

Due to the lateness of the meeting, no Municipal and EASD Updates were shared. Everyone was referred to the school district and municipal websites.

#### Other Business – None

Proposed Next Meeting: November 29, 2018, location TBD.

#### Adjourn

With no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Maxwell, EASD