

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP & TULPEHOCKEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Joint Meeting - Weidner Bridge on Salem Road
April 4, 2017**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting was called to order by Chairman Jake Meyer and the Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Deck at 7:00pm. In attendance were Gary Deck, Lester Feick, Richard Kramer, Jake Meyer, Carl Kauffman and Lisa Ilus. Supervisor Mike Graby was absent. One representing officer from each Township Police Department was also present. Representing the County were, County Commissioner Kevin Barnhart, Facilities and Operations Director Ryan Hunter and Transportation Planner III Alan Piper. The meeting was held in the Bethel Township Meeting Room at 60 Klahr Rd, Bethel Township. A few other interested persons were also present.

Gary Deck started the discussion of the meeting with the Townships are looking for suggestions/ideas of how to keep heavier and wider traffic off Salem Rd., in order to preserve the integrity of the bridge.

Discussion ensued on looking at the roads themselves on each side of the bridge and can the road hold up to the traffic imposed on it. Alan Piper distributed a packet of information to each Township. Chapter 15 – Weight Restrictions on Highways from Pub 23 – Maintenance Manual. Along in this packet of information is a form for engineers to fill out, sign and seal when they perform a traffic study on the condition of roads. Jake stated from being a semi-truck driver himself, he thinks weight limit and truck route detour signs would be very useful. Which turned the discussion to the placement of the signs. Carl Kauffman left the meeting at 7:16 pm. Since Salem Rd connects two PennDot roads, (Rt 501 & Rherersburg Rd) the sign placement would be on their roads and would need approval of placement by PennDot. This course of action is a 3 step process.

1. The engineers report as mentioned earlier
2. An ordinance by each Township, designating actual weights, widths and other restrictions deemed in order. Fine amounts for violations should also be entered along with violation enforcement.
3. The 2 above steps submitted to PennDot for approval. The County will submit an endorsement letter to be sent along.

Gary Deck made a motion to have the Tulpehocken Twp engineer and solicitor do the necessary steps to start the Salem Road restrictions process, seconded by Richard Kramer. All agreed. Motion carried.

More discussion on the best placement for the signs and a possible 10T weight limit. The weight goes in 5T increments. There would be no restrictions on emergency vehicles using the bridge/road and also farm implements. Farmers need to be wary of the width of the bridge with their equipment. Carl returned at 7:36pm.

Carl Kauffman made a motion to have the Bethel Twp engineer and solicitor do the necessary steps to start the Salem Road restrictions process, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Both Townships would like to see their engineers get together and discuss plan of action.

A motion was made by Tulpehocken Supervisor Richard Kramer, seconded by Lester Feick to adjourn.

A motion was made by Bethel Supervisor Carl Kauffman, seconded by Jake Meyer to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Ilus