

MEMORANDUM

From: Gary Jury, Harlem Township Supervisor

To: Harlem Township Board

Re: Appointment of Road Commissioner

Date: 1/11/23

I wanted to take this opportunity to document our process for the selection and appointment of a new Township Road Commissioner.

We discovered through a post on Facebook that Harlem Township Road Commissioner Mike Meier had become ill and was found unresponsive in bed and was incapacitated. Upon learning this, I contacted Township Attorney Gino Galluzzo to learn how we would handle the situation of maintaining operations during Mike's illness. This was important because the Levy had not been completed, appropriations were not done, and we were unaware if any salt had been ordered for the season. Furthermore, the bills for the Road Commission required the approval of the Commissioner or Deputy to be paid. As a result, the Board, on November 9, 2022, approved my appointment of Ed Tegland as Deputy Road Commissioner. Ed's resume showed that he was well qualified for the job, and he had several references demonstrating that he had the leadership skills to perform the role of Deputy.

Unfortunately, we also found out approximately November 9th, that Mike Meier had passed away. This created a vacancy in the position of Township Road Commissioner which, according to the Township Code was to be filled by the Board. In the interest of a fair and open process, the position was advertised, but there were no other applicants other than Ed Tegland. On December 16, 2022, the Board voted to appoint Ed as Road Commissioner. The only additional requirement for Ed to meet was that, by statute, he had to be of the same political party as had been Mr. Meier. Ed represented that he had voted as a Republican in the last primary election, which was sufficient to show that he, like Mike Meier, was a Republican.

I am pleased to report that Ed has proven to have been a good choice. Since taking office, Ed has had the garage and office cleaned and organized and made certain that the Road Commission bills are in order and accurate. He has resolved the snowplow issue that had been present and purchased a dump truck/snowplow at approximately 50% of the original estimate. He was able to get the Road Levy timely completed by December 14th and is planning for future projects and improvements. Ed has also established regular office hours and is engaging with his constituents. While we were all saddened by Road Commissioner Meier's death, the Highway Commission is in good hands with our new Commissioner, Ed Tegland.
