

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

October 28, 2025

MEETING HELD AT SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BUILDING

Supervisors Present: Pete Kade, Lorna Yearwood, Bill Ryker, Jim Hopkins and Dave Long.

Also present: Rich Pursell (Township Manager), Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor) & Mike McDonald (Police Chief).

Mr. Kade called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT

An Executive session will be held after the public meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Pat McGinness (Springtown Rod & Gun Club) announced the club will be celebrating its 100th year anniversary on May 2nd, 2026, with a large event. He highlighted the club's community activities, such as supporting the high school trap program, sponsoring kids, and working with Silver Creek and the fire department. The club is offering an "unofficial community event" where any local business, organization or individual can set up a table free of charge to sell items. The club requests Township recognition for the event and assistance from the police chief and board to arrange for fire police to direct traffic. Pat also mentioned a pork and sauerkraut event on New Year's Day and a sauerkraut-making session this Thursday at 9:00AM.

Patrick Sessions (Maple Rd) stated that a group of neighbors had their lawyer send a complaint letter to the Township over a month ago regarding camp activities believed to be outside their conditions. He noted the camp is supposed to be shut down for business from November 1st through March 1st and asked what the Township plans to do. The Township Solicitor responded that the Board authorized him to send a letter to the camp's attorney. The camp attempted to withdraw their conditional use application, but the Township's position is that they cannot. This is because hearings were held, a final decision was issued, and the case was appealed to both the trial court and Commonwealth Court. The Township's letter addresses enforcement, permitted use, and other compliance issues, and the Township Solicitor is awaiting a response. The Township Solicitor clarified that the Township is not ignoring the issue and has issued enforcement letters; he urged residents to continue notifying the Township of active violations.

Celia Malmad (Stony Garden Rd) asked if the conditions, including a yearly inspection, are currently in effect. The Township Solicitor replied that the camp's position is that they are not developing per the master plan and are only using their pre-existing use, so the new conditions do not apply. The Township's position is that they do. This is a legal issue that a judge may have to decide. Celia then asked about building without permits, mentioning trusses. The Township Solicitor stated that building without permits is unlawful and advised residents to get photographs from non-private vantage points if possible.

Carla and Patrick Sessions (Maple Rd) expressed appreciation for the Board's efforts. They stated they plan to install a camera on an adjacent property to monitor activity. They complained about an increasing "barrage of shooting", intensive shouting, and loud music on weekends. The Township Solicitor recommended residents fill out the Township's official complaint form with details and dates to create a

documented history. Patrick additionally mentioned the camp's prior operation of amusement rides for 13-14 years without permits from the Department of Agriculture.

Harry Squares (Winding Rd) complained of "almost unlivable" amplified music for 8 hours on Saturday and into Sunday. He stated that when they call police, no one answers, and the State Police say they cannot enforce Township ordinances. The Township Solicitor confirmed the Township's letter addresses the noise ordinance and asked for video/audio evidence. Mr. Hopkins mentioned the Chief is developing a procedure for its use, which should be ready in about 30 days. The Township Solicitor agreed that having police use the meter would be preferable. The Chief refuted the idea that police do not work weekends, stating they have coverage, though it can be altered by vacation or sick days. He explained that 911 calls go to State Police only if the Township officer is on another call or not logged on. He confirmed 911 is the correct number to call and that residents should state it is a "noise complaint" and not an emergency. Mr. Hopkins asked residents to document their attempts to contact police so communication can be improved.

Raymond Blaisse (Potter Ln) recalled he has bordered the camp since 1978 and said, "It's not the camp I dealt with". He noted new signs banning residents from walking paths they have used for 35 years. He asked for the exact date the camp must comply with the one-caretaker (off-season) rule. The Township Solicitor replied that this is the Township's position, and a demand has been made, but no response has been received. The Solicitor is ethically barred from contacting the camp directly, only their attorney. The Board stated they cannot give a specific date, as it is a legal process requiring patience. Ray also noted the camp is a nonprofit placing a burden on taxpayer-funded services (police, fire, roads).

Carla Sessions (Maple Rd) raised safety concerns about School Rd, citing multiple vehicles from the camp going into a ditch and a near-accident involving a camp vehicle failing to stop at a stop sign.

Jim Nilsen (Pleasant View Rd) provided an update on EMS operations. On November 9th/10th, employees will transfer from UBREMS to St. Lukes. They are moving forward with the transition while awaiting a court date and will lease vehicles to St. Luke's. The state budget impasse is slowing down some processes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Kade stated the financial report and balances are posted.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried, approving the financial report as presented.

Fund Balances as of September 30, 2025

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|
| General Fund | \$2,089,889 | Capital Reserve CD | \$239,000 |
| General Fund Reserve | \$313,007 | Liquid Fuels Fund | \$160,553 |
| General Fund CD | \$239,000 | Liquid Fuels CD | \$239,000 |
| Escrow Fund | \$1,090,695 | Open Space Fund | \$817,398 |
| Street Light Fund | \$5,310 | Open Space CD | \$239,000 |
| Dedicated Fire Tax Fund | \$193,080 | Act 537 Escrows | \$89,216 |
| Capital Reserve Fund | \$953,292 | Dedicated EMS Tax Fund | \$3,080 |

Payment of Bills

(September 16, 2025 – October 15, 2025)

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|
| General Fund | \$316,118.85 | Escrow Fund | \$3,362.50 |
| PLGIT Credit Card | \$3,986.30 | Dedicated EMS Fund | \$0 |
| Liquid Fuels Fund | \$226,199.54 | Dedicated Fire Fund | \$0 |
| Capital Reserve Fund | \$25,038.91 | Open Space Fund | \$886.14 |
| Street Light Fund | \$558.70 | | |

Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously approved the payment of bills from September 16, 2025 – October 15, 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the September 23, 2025 meeting minutes.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Authorization for Engineering Expenses on PPL Property – The property is part of the comprehensive plan to improve cell coverage. A company (Diamond) identified 4 towers on the property, 3 of which are usable (one is in wetlands). The Township only needs 2 towers for the major 3 carriers. Potential annual revenue is estimated at \$30,000.00. The Township Engineer noted the existing wetland delineation is very old (pre-2003) and recommended a new study before subdivision to ensure the area is usable. The Solicitor noted PPL declined to pay for subdivision costs.

Discussion amongst the Board recalled a prior agreement to obtain a draft lease from Diamond Communications before spending Township funds. No action was taken.

Contract Agreement Change Order for MAP Grant – Discussion held requested to change orders for the MAP Grant study being conducted by Gilmore & Associates. Orders changed are:

1. Extend the “village limits” on the maps to include areas previously omitted by Gilmore (ex. In Springtown, Passer Pleasant Valley)
2. Expand the 309 Corridor study from just bordering properties to the entire western section of the Township, including Development District and Zion Hill.

The two change orders total \$3,588 and \$9,910. Mr. Hopkins noted that the Township has been billed 25-30% but has received little data and has requested more information before the next payment. Ms. Yearwood expressed frustration that Gilmore did not confirm the boundaries before starting the work.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and carried 4-1 to change the orders. Mr. Long opposed.

Request for Fire Police – Trinity Lutheran Church – Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried to authorize the use of Springtown Fire Company Fire Police (PRFR) at the Living Nativity Event scheduled at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 6th, 2025 from 2:30PM-6:00PM.

Hiring of Part-Time Road Crew Member – Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously carried to approve the hiring of Mason Nicholas as a part-time employee with the Road Crew.

Donation Acceptance for Police – A \$1,000 donation was received from Gasket Goons for police traffic control assistance. The funds are to be used to pay officer overtime, with the remainder deposited into the Police Donation account.

Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Kade, and carried to accept the donation. Mr. Ryker abstained from voting due to personal involvement with the event.

Additional motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to accept a previously submitted donation intended for a speed trailer contingent on receipt of an executed signed letter from the donor.

Authorization to sell 2007 F-550 Dump Truck – Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to accept the bid of \$16,100.00 for the sale of the vehicle.

Setting Township Meeting Dates and Times for 2026 – Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to authorize the advertisement of the 2026 Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 5th at 7:00PM and advertise the Board of Supervisors regular monthly meetings to be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM, with exception to November and December which will be held on the 3rd Tuesday.

Adoption of 2026 Fiscal Year Budget, Resolution 2025-12 – Budget was advertised in The Intelligencer newspaper on 10/1/2025. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 2025-12.

Defined Contribution Plan Approval – The Auditor General found that the Township's current plan is not recognized by the state. The options were to pay back \$81,000 or switch providers. An RFP was issued, and the Township's actuary recommended PSATS. PSATS will handle all state-required document reporting for \$400/year. Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to authorize PSATS as the new record-keeper, replacing RPG.

Township and Police Server – Discussion on purchase of a new server for the municipal building. The price includes a new server, a gateway device for the police's new CODY software system, and a wall mount panel. The server will be moved upstairs.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously carried to authorize the purchase for a cost not to exceed \$14,000.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning - Report posted.

Police – The Chief discussed the new CODY System project cutover date from the old "Visual Alert" system to the new CODY Pathfinder system is December 9th. Data transfer, dating back to 1997, is expected to be complete by February.

The officers participated in active shooter training at St. Luke's Upper Bucks Campus.

The Drug Take-Back event yielded 38.93 lbs at the event, while the permanent box collected 23.62 lbs. The event itself was impacted by a crash on 212 which shut down the road. The Chief proposed moving future Take-Back events from the elementary school to the municipal building, as it is a more appropriate location, especially now that they accept sharps.

Roads - Report posted.

Solicitor –

- **976 Passer Rd** – The Solicitor noted the Board previously authorized a petition to enforce a settlement agreement. After the petition was filed, the property owner performed some remediation (stump and branch removal) but more remains. The Township is awaiting a hearing date.
- **H&K Appeal** – The Solicitor, who is not participating in the appeal, spoke with H&K's attorney. The attorney felt the oral argument went "extremely well" in favor of upholding the Township's conditional use decision.

Engineer – Report received.

| Fire / EMS Providers | Report Received Yes | Report Received No | Comments |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Palisades Regional Fire Rescue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | See Below |
| Richlandtown Fire Co | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Richland Fire & Rescue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | See Below |
| Haycock Fire Co | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Coopersburg Fire Co | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| UBREMS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Upper Saucon EMS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |

PRFR – The Township Manager stated the previous contact, Jeff Mease, has left. A Pete Cox called regarding the pending audit report. The Township is still withholding funds pending receipt of financial documentation.

Richland Township Fire & Rescue – Bob Hite reported that the federal government is mandating a new incident reporting system (NERIS) is to replace the old one (NIFRS) due to security issues. The new system is effective January 1st. Reports may be lagged or in a different format during the transition. He also noted that cheesesteaks are done for the season.

OTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Planning Commission – No comment

Parks & Land – No comment

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) – The electronics recycling event was "very successful". The new vendor worked well, and 93 cars participated.

Historical Commission – No comment

Water Authority – Mr. Kade discussed the \$250,000 grant application. The grant would fund the replacement of 4-inch pipes, upgrades to the pump station, and creating a public water distribution point at the firehouse for use during emergencies/power outages. Also being explored are backup generator options, including a portable trailer unit.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional public comment.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hopkins – Announcement made that a new Township map and community guide will be mailed to residents. The last mailing was in 1995. The project was funded by advertisers listed on the map. The back of the map shows responding Fire and EMS districts.

Mr. Ryker – Discussed the future challenges of EMS and Fire Services as addressed at the BCATO event, citing a presentation by Chuck Pressler (Central Bucks) who warned of the difficulties in mixing paid staff and volunteers

Mr. Kade – Raised concerns about the future of the Water Authority. The 5-person volunteer board is “aging out” and the Township will need to address hiring people to manage the system. There is a risk of losing “tribal knowledge” from long-time volunteers. The authority’s audit costs also doubled after their previous auditor retired.

Ms. Yearwood – Proposals are expected soon for the Solar RFP, which closes October 31st.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 9:12 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To be held following the public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Pursell
Township Manager