

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2026

MEETING HELD AT SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BUILDING

Supervisors Present: Dave Long, Pete Kade, Lorna Yearwood, Jim Hopkins, Jim Nilsen

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

Mr. Long 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

Pete Jones (Salem Rd) reported significant unauthorized activity by PP&L near the intersection of Salem Rd & Tumblebrook. He described contractors cut a 200-foot road through the woods and constructed a 1,000SF platform made of railroad ties that directly touches his property line – outside of the established right-of-way. The Township Manager and Zoning Officer reported they were unaware of the work and had not issued any permits for tree removal or construction.

Alan Miller (Township Rd) addressed the Board regarding a derelict and dangerous property he owns at 1871 Route 212. He confirmed that a contract had been signed with LMB Demolition and Salvage, but the work originally scheduled for January 22nd was delayed due to severe snow and the contractor's existing workload. The Solicitor noted that if the demolition is not completed soon, the Township may proceed with litigation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried, approving the financial report as presented. \$150,000 was transferred from the General Fund into the Capital Reserve Fund.

Fund Balances as of December 31, 2025

General Fund	\$1,721,949	Capital Reserve CD	\$239,000
General Fund Reserve	\$293,973	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$138,933
General Fund CD	\$239,000	Liquid Fuels CD	\$239,000
Escrow Fund	\$1,039,094	Open Space Fund	\$926,440
Street Light Fund	\$3,522	Open Space CD	\$239,000
Dedicated Fire Tax Fund	\$87,522.24	Act 537 Escrows	\$89,529
Capital Reserve Fund	\$966,969	Dedicated EMS Tax Fund	\$3,471.67

Payment of Bills
 (December 16, 2025 – January 15, 2026)

General Fund	\$267,063.10	Escrow Fund	\$26,196.57
PLGIT Credit Card	\$10,336.67	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0	Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0
Capital Reserve Fund	\$64,392.62	Open Space Fund	\$611.38
Street Light Fund	\$583.82		

Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously approved the payment of bills from December 16, 2025 – January 15, 2026.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Ms. Yearwood and carried approving the November 25, 2025 meeting minutes, with Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Nilsen abstaining.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Ms. Yearwood and carried approving the December 9, 2025 meeting minutes, with Mr. Nilsen abstaining.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried to approve the January 5, 2026 meeting minutes.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Request for Fire Police – Plumstead Township – Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried to approve the Springtown Fire Company Fire Police to assist at the Blaze of Glory 5K Run Event on Saturday March 21, 2026.

Approval & Ratification of Police Collective Bargaining Agreement – Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Ms. Yearwood and carried 4-1 to approve and ratify the 2026-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Nilsen opposed.

Discussion focused on an “income protection” provision for off-duty injuries. This provision protects the officers when and if they sustain a serious injury and is only utilized during that time when they are recovering. A specific series of claims in 2025 under this clause resulted in a combined payout of \$50,000-\$60,000. These amounts were already contained within the police budget and are not an additional cost. While some Board members expressed concern over these unique payouts, the Board ultimately ratified the agreement to avoid the potentially higher costs of arbitration.

BOS/PC Joint Meeting Discussion – The Board discussed holding a joint session with the Planning Commission to align on 2026 priorities. PC members expressed frustration over spending months on ordinances (such as those for event venues and noise) that are ultimately not passed by the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried to advertise a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission to be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Villages and 309 Corridor Study – The next meeting with Gilmore & Associates will take place on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 7PM here at the Township Building.

Discussion on Water Authority – Discussion focused on reconstituting the Springtown Water Authority back to the original Springfield Township Authority established in 1976. This would restore the Authority to address water, wastewater, and add stormwater needs throughout the entire Township, particularly along the Route 309 corridor as identified as needed in the Comprehensive Plan and currently being addressed by the Gilmore study. A key focus is reclaiming the right to the Zion Hill sewer system from Milford/Trumbauersville Area Sewer Authority, per a contract agreement executed 25 years ago. The Board emphasized that the Authority remains a separate entity from the Township budget, and the Board's primary role is appointing its members.

Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Long discussed an initiative aimed at capturing lost revenues from properties in Zion Hill, which have changed hands without the Township being notified of outstanding debts.

Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Ms. Yearwood and unanimously carried authorizing the Solicitor to search for a minimum number of unrecovered Township liens, as described.

Discussion on Fencing – The Heritage Conservancy requested a waiver for an 8-10-foot-high fence (exceeding the 7-foot) limit) required for bird and habitat protection. Rather than forcing a costly variance process, the Board discussed amending the zoning ordinance to allow taller fences for agricultural and conservation purposes. In the interim, they agreed to waive the Zoning Hearing Board fee for the Conservancy.

AG Security Update – The Board is currently seeking (one) farmer and (one) citizen-at-large to fill vacancies. There was a proposal to expand the board's role to include the promotion of local food and the protection of soil, as outlined in the Township's Comprehensive Plan.

Appointment of Emergency Management Coordinator – Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried to appoint Mike Italia of Barry Isett & Associates as the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Additional motion was made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to appoint Barry Isett & Associates as the Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator.

Opening of New Bank Account – Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried to open a new bank account at QNB for the new Road Equipment Tax.

Appointment to Historic Commission – Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to appoint William Ryker to the Historic Commission for a term ending 12/31/2027.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning - Report posted.

Police –

- Summary given of challenges faced transitioning over to the new CODY Pathfinder database.
- A Speed study was conducted on School Rd, which showed an average speed of 22mph, and a max speed of 46mph, which did not support resident claims of chronic speeding.

- Next National Drug Take Back Event will be held at the Township Municipal Building on April 25, 2026

Roads –

- Report posted
- Springfield Township is not responsible for damage to mailboxes due to snow removal.
 - Majority of wintertime mailbox damage is due to the force of snow leaving the plow blade impacting the mailbox during road clearing.
 - Damage caused by physical impact of a Municipal vehicle where the vehicle goes off the road will be honored.

Solicitor –

- H&K – Appeal period has passed with no further appeal.
- Liptak (Moyer Rd Subdivision) – Both minor subdivisions have now been recorded.

Engineer – Report received.

Fire / EMS Providers	Report Received		Comments
	Yes	No	
Palisades Regional Fire Rescue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Richlandtown Fire Co		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Richland Fire & Rescue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Haycock Fire Co		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Coopersburg Fire Co		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
St. Luke's EMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Upper Saucon EMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

OTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Planning Commission – Announced Angela Kelly's appointment as Chair and Neil O'Brien's appointment as Vice-Chair for the 2026 year.

Parks & Land – A local resident had applied to dedicate a park bench to honor their late son's life. Exact location is TBD.

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) – Comments received from residents and council members raised concern about mowing near bird nesting habitats. A recommendation for Heritage Conservancy suggests ceasing mowing from mid-March through September.

Mr. Nilsen and Ms. Yearwood brought concerns about the overgrowth around Bluebird boxes and tick-borne illnesses for volunteers.

Historical Commission – Bruce Whitesell states that a report was provided at the beginning of the Board meeting.

Water Authority – Addressed in meeting agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged correspondence from the Bucks County SPCA, thanking the Township for their 2025 donation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Whitesell wanted to make mention of the new meeting room layout and complimented the acoustics for those that are hard of hearing.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hopkins –

- BCATO conference in February and gave a reminder to the other Board members to register if they would like to attend.
- He attended meetings at Representative Staats. Senator Coleman is hosting a Local Leadership Grant Seminar at DeSales University on February 19, 2026.

Ms. Yearwood – PPL property update on acquiring property involving Diamond Communications. The Board is waiting for receipt of the final lease language.

Mr. Long – Contacted by a resident about a desire to donate a significant piece of artwork to the Township. It would be a large-scale mural, approximately 4ft x 8ft and would serve as a central backdrop in the main meeting room. Mr. Long will obtain an image of the mural to present to the Board for further evaluation.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Yearwood, and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 9:04 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To be held following the public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Pursell
Township Manager