



# West Pikeland Township

ATTENDING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	ATTENDING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL
Noreen Vigilante, Chair – Call In	Dorene Guistwhite, Township Treasurer
Harold M. Hallman III, Vice Chair	Joseph L. Romano III, Township Manager
Steven F. Costa, Supervisor	Madison Kerr, Township Secretary
Tom McLewee, Supervisor	Sergeant Wayne O’Connell, Officer-in-Charge
Carin Mifsud, Supervisor	

Mr. Hallman called the meeting to order on April 21, 2025, at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Mr. Hallman stated that an executive session was held on April 14, 2025, with the topic of personnel.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Mifsud made a motion to approve April 21, 2025, Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting. Seconded by Ms. Mifsud. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS**

*Police:* Sergeant O’Connell read his report for the month of March 2025. The Board thanked Sergeant O’Connell for the report.

*Treasurer Report/Approval of Bills:* Ms. Guistwhite provided the written report to the Board. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the bills. Mr. McLewee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

-Ms. Rachel Kramer stated that she had researched other townships that have disbanded their police forces, such as Honeybrook Township, and are now trying to reestablish their own police force. Ms. Kramer requested that the Board host a larger meeting space for all residents to attend. She also expressed concerns about the reduced visibility of the police department's patrols. Ms. Kramer concluded by asking the Board if the public is allowed to record/stream the meetings online.

- Ms. Mifsud explained that the police department is maintaining its standard operating hours of service.

- Mr. Hallman stated that members of the public are welcome to record the meeting if they choose to do so.

- Mr. Edward Gallen raised the question of why the police topic has never been a specific item on the agenda. He suggested forming a committee that could organize a meeting to address residents' questions directly. Mr. Gallen expressed his concern that the Board intends to disband the local police department and hire the state police due to their services being offered at no cost.

- Ms. Mifsud assured Mr. Gallen that the Board's plan does not involve disbanding the police department. She explained that the Board is currently reviewing the DCED report and exploring ways to improve the department and better align its budget with its needs. She further added the police department is fully funded for CY2025, and clarified that the topic regarding police has not been a dedicated agenda item because disbanding the local police was never the intention.

- Ms. Tori Goodrich inquired about the duration the police department has maintained the 20/4-hour schedule. She also asked which Troopers typically respond to a scene when called.

- Sergeant O'Connell stated that the 20/4-hour schedule has been in place for 20 years. Regarding the PSP Troopers, Sergeant O'Connell indicated that whichever officer is on duty at the time of the call will be the one to respond.

-Mr. Ara Chalian suggested adding an update on the police-related subject to the agenda.

- Ms. Linda Reilly inquired about the specific amount the township is allocating to the library for building repairs.

- Ms. Mifsud clarified that the township is not involved, nor funding the repairs to the damaged library. The situation rests with Historic Yellow Springs.

- Ms. Reilly inquired about the lack of police response to the incident on April 18th and asked what actions the police would have taken had they been present.

- Sergeant O'Connell explained that the West Pikeland Township Police were not on duty at that time. He further stated that if they had been on duty and present, they would have initiated CPR and provided pre-treatment. Following this, he gave Ms. Reilly a detailed account of the events that occurred that morning.

- Ms. Reilly reiterated her belief that the Board is not being transparent and proposed the establishment of a committee. She also stated that the residents are not inclined to wait until September for a large town hall meeting.

- Ms. Mifsud clarified that all part-time police officers are currently working their normal shifts and confirmed that the police department is funded through the year 2025.

- Mr. Costa responded that the Board would be willing to hold a meeting before September if it can be arranged.

- Mr. Hallman explained that scheduling meetings during the summer months can be challenging due to vacations.

- Ms. Reilly asked who will ultimately make the final decision regarding the police.

- Ms. Mifsud stated that if this topic is put on a referendum, the residents will make the final decision.

- Mr. Paul Huzar requested that the report being prepared by the police chief's association be made available to the residents as soon as it is completed. He also requested that future police reports include relevant statistics from the state police.

- Sergeant O'Connell addressed this by reading the current state police statistics aloud and stating that he will ensure they are included in future police reports.

-Mr. Joseph Chico stated that the Board had acknowledged the police operating with reduced hours. He then questioned why the police were not on duty at the time of the incident on April 18th.

- Ms. Danielle Mitchell voiced her concern regarding the response times of the state police. Ms. Mitchell also expressed concerns about the increased presence of tractor trailers traveling down Route 113 because of the new warehouse in Uwchlan Township. Additionally, she suggested exploring potential grant opportunities for the police department.

- Sergeant O'Connell stated that a grant is in the works for new police vehicles.

- Ms. Rachel Kramer brought up the example of Honeybrook Township, which previously had the West Brandywine Police providing coverage. However, she noted that Honeybrook Township could no longer afford this arrangement.

- Mr. Jeffery Kern acknowledged the standard 20/4-hour schedule for the police and inquired when this schedule might have changed.

- Sergeant O'Connell clarified that in April 2025, the police operated on a revised schedule. However, he also noted that the regular 20/4-hour schedule is set to resume on May 1, 2025.

- Mr. Kern suggested that in the event the local police's working hours deviate in the future, the residents should be informed.

- Ms. Diana Sisum asked for confirmation that if the residents vote in favor of the referendum, that outcome will be the final decision.

- Ms. Mifsud confirmed this to be the case.

- Mr. Edward Gallen asked Sergeant O'Connell to estimate the response time of the local police to a potential shooting incident at the Montgomery School.

- Sergeant O'Connell stated that the police could be anywhere within the Township in approximately three (3) to five (5) minutes.

Ms. Vigilante added that in the event of such an incident, all surrounding police departments would also respond.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Township Employee Handbook:* Mr. Romano explained that this collaborative effort with Paychex HR specialists and Township solicitors allowed for the updating of the Township's Employee Handbook. Mr. Romano recommended approval.

- Ms. Mifsud made a motion to approve the Township Handbook. Seconded by Mr. McLewee. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Mifsud thanked the staff for their efforts.

*Approval of Resolution 2025-11 PA Small Water & Sewer Program Grant application:* Mr. Romano stated that West Pikeland Township's request for a PA Small Water and Sewer Program grant of \$286,293.77 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Pikeland Road Drainage Project (Flood Control). Mr. Romano stated that the matching Township funds are \$50,522.43, about 15%.

- Ms. Mifsud made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11: PA Small Water & Sewer Program Grant application. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion was unanimously approved.

*Purchase police body and vehicle camera cloud-based storage manager:* Mr. Romano explained that a new cloud-based storage system will replace the dated equipment from 2018. This upgrade addresses one of the DCED findings related to technology and ensures compliance with regulations for secure data storage and retention. Mr. Romano presented two options to the Board:

1. A body camera and cloud-based storage management system.
2. A body and vehicle camera and cloud-based storage management system.

Mr. Hallman asked Sergeant O'Connell for his recommendation, and Sergeant O'Connell stated that he recommends the option with both body and vehicle cameras to ensure the most effective results.

- Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the purchase and setup of the body and vehicle camera and cloud-based storage management system for \$60,381.00 with payment being \$13,869.00 initially, and \$11,628.00 annually through 2028. Seconded by Ms. Mifsud. The motion was unanimously approved.

*Approval of Resolution 2025-12 Emergency Operations Plan:* Mr. Hallman explained that the Pennsylvania Emergency Management mandates that municipalities prepare, maintain, and keep current an emergency operations plan to prevent and minimize injury within the municipality. He also noted that he, Mr. Chico, and Mr. White have worked with Chester County Department of Emergency Services to review and update West Pikeland Township's emergency operations plan.

- Ms. Mifsud made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12 Emergency Operations Plan. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hallman thanked Mr. Jeff Kern for assisting with traffic control during a recent accident in the Township. Mr. Hallman shared the importance of volunteerism and appealed to everyone the value of volunteering for fire and ambulance services and reaching out to the township staff if anyone is interested.

The next Board of Supervisors meetings are scheduled for: Monday, May 5, 2025, at 7:30 PM, and Monday, May 19, 2025, at 7:30 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Mifsud made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Madison Kerr  
Township Secretary