



West Pikeland Township

ATTENDING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	ATTENDING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL
Noreen Vigilante, Chair	Joseph L. Romano III, Township Manager
Harold M. Hallman III, Vice Chair	Sergeant Wayne O'Connell, Officer-in-Charge
Steven F. Costa, Supervisor	Dorene Guistwhite, Township Treasurer
Thomas J. McLewee Jr., Supervisor	Jennifer Wachsmuth, Township Secretary
Bryan Maher, Supervisor	Guy Donatelli, Solicitor

Ms. Vigilante called the meeting to order on January 5, 2026 at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF HAROLD M. HALLMAN III AS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Judge James C. Kovaleski swore in Harold Hallman III as Supervisor, West Pikeland Township, Chester County.

SWEARING IN OF BRYAN MAHER AS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Judge James C. Kovaleski swore in Bryan Maher as Supervisor, West Pikeland Township, Chester County.

TEMPORARY NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ms. Vigilante called for a vote to appoint Joseph Romano as temporary chair of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. McLewee. The vote passed unanimously.

NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISOR

Mr. Romano requested nominations for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Vigilante nominated Tom McLewee for the position. Mr. Maher seconded the nomination. The vote passed 4-1, with Mr. Hallman registering a vote of nay.

NOMINATION OF VICE CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. McLewee called for the nominations for the Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Costa nominated Harold Hallman. Mr. Hallman seconded the nomination. A vote taken with Mr. Hallman and Mr. Costa voting yea, and Mr. McLewee, Mr. Maher and Ms. Vigilante voting no. The nomination did not pass 2-3. Solicitor Donatelli confirmed that the vote did not pass and advised to request another nomination for Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. McLewee nominated Noreen Vigilante as Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Maher seconded the motion. The vote passed 3-2, with Mr. Hallman and Mr. Costa registering a vote of nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McLewee reported an executive session was held on January 5, 2026 at 6:15pm regarding personnel.

Prior to the review of the Consent Agenda, Mr. Costa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hallman, to reopen discussion of the 2026 Budget. The request was made to allow newly elected Supervisor Mr. Maher the opportunity to review budget in detail. Solicitor Donatelli advised that reopening the budget was well within the Board's authority and encouraged discussion. Mr. Maher confirmed his desire to review the budget, and Mr. McLewee and Ms. Vigilante expressed their support for providing him with that opportunity. Mr. Donatelli acknowledged the discussion and advised that, if the motion passed, he would work with Ms. Guistwhite to ensure all required public notifications and timelines were properly completed. He then directed the Chairman to call for a vote. Mr. McLewee polled the Board, and the motion to re-open the 2026 Budget passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. McLewee asked Mr. Romano to provide an update on the consent agenda. Mr. Romano explained that the consent agenda is an annual formality that had been distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting and requested a motion for approval. Mr. Hallman asked the Solicitor for clarification, specifically whether reopening the 2026 Budget would revert pay scales to 2025 levels. Mr. Donatelli replied he did not believe this would be the case. Mr. Donatelli explained that, upon reopening the budget, the Board would review it in their professional judgement and determine whether any modifications were necessary. He further noted that while code places limits on percentage increases, it does not impose the same restrictions on percentage decreases, as the code specifically addresses increases. Mr. Hallman thanked Mr. Donatelli for the clarification. Ms. Vigilante made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maher and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Commonwealth Financing Authority Local Share Account (LSA) Results

Mr. Romano reported that on December 18, 2025 he received notification from Ms. Brook, CFA Executive Director, that the township was awarded a \$118,000 grant for police vehicles. The Township's grant application for Public Works vehicles was not funded. The Pine Creek Park Playground Rehabilitation grant for \$231,900 and the Pikeland Road Drainage project grant for \$276,000 remain under review, with funding decisions expected in late January 2026. Mr. Romano thanked Officer Kurt DeForrest for his hard work and grant writing efforts contributing to this outcome.

At this time Mr. Maher requested a minor edit to the Consent Agenda Resolution 2026-01 under the Environmental Advisory Council members to correct Nancy Matthews name to be to Nancy Bartley. Action item assigned to Ms. Wachsmuth to complete.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Contract approval for Police Chief

Mr. Romano stated that, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act (65 Pa.C.S. §§ 701-716), all official actions by a board of

supervisors—including the approval of personnel contracts—must be taken at a meeting open to the public. While the Township Code establishes the framework for township governance and contracting authority, the Sunshine Act mandates that both official action and deliberations leading to such action occur in a public meeting and expressly prohibits the taking of official action in an executive session. Accordingly, although the board discussed specific contract terms including salary, benefits, and other conditions during executive sessions held on November 12 and 17, 2025, the formal approval of the personnel contracts was required to occur at a public meeting. Ms. Vigilante then made a motion to approve the contract between West Pikeland Township and Thomas Goggin for the position of West Pikeland Police Chief, effective January 19, 2026. Mr. Costa seconded the motion. Mr. Maher requested to abstain from the vote citing his recent election to the board and his lack of detailed familiarity with the contract. Solicitor Donatelli stated that, in his understanding, an abstention is intended to address a conflict of interest and not appropriately used due to insufficient information. He advised that while Mr. Maher could abstain, it is not, in his view, an appropriate basis to do so and emphasized that he does not direct board members on how to vote. Mr. Maher respectfully reiterated his decision to not participate in this vote, noting that his abstention would not affect the outcome. The motion passed with a vote of four in favor and one abstention.

b. Appointment of Police Chief

Mr. Romano reported that, following an extensive search conducted with the invaluable assistance from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, West Pikeland Township is pleased to announce the selection of Thomas Goggin Township Police Chief. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve this appointment, seconded by Harold Hallman. The motion carried with a vote of Four in favor and one abstention. Following the vote, Judge James C Kovalesski administered the oath of office to Thomas J. Goggin as Chief of Police, West Pikeland Township, Chester County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. McLewee opened the floor for public comment. - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be on:

- Tuesday, January 20, 2026
- Monday, February 2, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hallman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costa and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Wachsmuth
Township Secretary