

Board of Supervisors Meeting

ATTENDING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	ATTENDING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL
Thomas J. McLewee Jr., Chairman	Joan Blatcher, Township Manager
Noreen Vigilante, Vice-Chairman	Tom Goggin, Chief of Police
Steven F. Costa, Supervisor	Jennifer Wachsmuth, Township Secretary
Harold M. Hallman III, Supervisor	
Bryan Maher, Supervisor	

August 17, 2026, 7:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Chair Thomas McLewee Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Chair McLewee noted that an executive session was held on August 3, 2026, on the topic of personnel, and a second executive session was held on August 17, 2026, on the topic of real estate.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair McLewee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda for August 17, 2026 was made by Supervisor Costa and seconded by Vice Chair Vigilante. The motion carried 5-0, with affirmative votes from Supervisor Costa, Supervisor Hallman, Supervisor Maher, Vice Chair Vigilante, and Chair McLewee.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Monday, July 6, 2026, Board of Supervisors

Motion to approve the minutes of Monday, July 6, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting was made by Vice Chair Noreen Vigilante and seconded by Supervisor Costa. The motion carried 5-0, with affirmative votes from Supervisor Costa, Supervisor Hallman, Supervisor Maher, Vice Chair Vigilante, and Chair McLewee.

b. Monday, July 20, 2026, Board of Supervisors

Township Secretary Jennifer Wachsmuth noted two minor modifications to July 20th minutes prior to approval. The first correction was to a sentence in the second paragraph of Police Chief Goggin's report to read "citations per day for speeds well above the limit." The second modification was the addition of a note on the fourth page stating that the motion to adjourn had passed unanimously. The Board agreed to incorporate these changes into the approval.

Motion to approve the amended minutes of the Monday, July 20, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting was made by Supervisor Maher and seconded by Vice Chair Vigilante. The motion

carried 5-0, with affirmative votes from Supervisor Costa, Supervisor Hallman, Supervisor Maher, Vice Chair Vigilante, and Chair McLewee.

V. Reports

a. Police (Chief Goggin)

Chief of Police Thomas Goggin presented the department's report for the month of July 2026.

Incident and Traffic Reports: The department received 236 incident reports for July, with no statistically significant patterns noted. There were three property damage crash reports, one of which required towing. The department issued 122 citations during the month, of which 106 were speeding violations on Route 113. Chief Goggin reported that two speed deterrent signs are posted on Route 113 and officers are deployed there daily, with positive community feedback on the enforcement efforts.

DUI Checkpoint: On July 24, 2026, Officer Matthew McBride participated in a county-wide DUI checkpoint in the Phoenixville Borough. Chief Goggin noted that funding exists to support this participation and that the department anticipates joining a similar checkpoint the following month at another Chester County location.

Fleet: Two decommissioned police vehicles, units 34-2 and 34-4, have been fully stripped of decals with assistance from the Public Works Department and are prepared to be listed on municipal bid.

Records Management / Trax System: The department plans to acquire a software bridge for its Trax electronic ticketing system. Currently, citation data generated electronically in the patrol vehicles must be manually entered into the department's records management system. The new bridge will automate that data transfer, reducing staff workload in that area by an estimated 75%.

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency: Chief Goggin reported that the department underwent its annual inspection related to juvenile records management, confirming that policies and recordkeeping for juveniles are current and that juvenile records are properly maintained separately from adult records. The department received a letter of approval.

Pennsylvania State Police Leadership Program: Chief Goggin noted that he was invited to teach a module on expectancy and goal setting at the Pennsylvania State Police Leadership and Development Program in Hershey on July 29.

Supervisor Hallman confirmed Chief Goggin's intent to sell the retired police vehicles and advised that the board needs to authorize the sale because they will exceed the threshold. The Township Manager advised she will investigate further.

b. Approval of Bills

Township Manager Joan Blatcher presented the financial report. Cash balances as of July 31, 2026 were reported as follows: General Fund, \$2,900,000; Escrows, \$153,000; Open Space Fund, \$3,500,000; Liquid Fuel Fund, \$591,000; and Library Tax Fund, \$3,000. Township Manager Blatcher noted that net income in the General Fund is running approximately \$20,000 under budget, attributable to a pending \$100,000 police vehicle grant that has not yet been received.

Supervisor Costa indicated he had no questions on the current bills but wished to defer a broader discussion about financial reporting formats to the next meeting when the Treasurer will be present. Motion to approve the bills was made by Vice Chair Vigilante and seconded by Supervisor Maher. The motion carried 5-0.

VI. Unfinished Business

Chair McLewee announced there was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

a. Open Space Easement Purchase

Township Manager Blatcher presented Resolution No. 2026-18, authorizing the acquisition of a conservation and preservation easement on property located in West Pikeland Township, identified as tax parcel 34-1-56. The Township is allocating \$41,450 from Open Space funds to a land trust for this purpose. The resolution designates the property for open space use in accordance with the Open Space Plans Act, 32 P.S. § 5003.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-18 for the acquisition of a conservation and preservation easement on land located in West Pikeland Township was made by Vice Chair Vigilante and seconded by Supervisor Costa. The motion carried 5-0, with affirmative votes from Supervisor Costa, Supervisor Hallman, Supervisor Maher, Vice Chair Vigilante, and Chair McLewee.

b. Snow & Ice Removal Bid

Township Manager Blatcher presented the proposed Snow and Ice Removal Bid for 2026–27. Supervisor Hallman requested that this item be tabled, citing several concerns he wished to discuss with Township Manager Blatcher before the Board acted.

Township Manager Blatcher acknowledged Supervisor Hallman's concerns. A broader discussion arose regarding the contract term. Supervisor Hallman, Supervisor Maher, and Vice Chair Vigilante expressed a preference for seasonal contracts—covering the winter period from approximately November through April—rather than an annual calendar-year contract, which was the structure currently proposed. Township Manager Blatcher noted that annual contracts had been recommended by the Township Solicitor to avoid the complication of a departing supervisor binding future boards but indicated a seasonal term could be used for the current cycle given that no supervisor's term is expiring imminently. The Board reached consensus to table the item to allow Supervisor Hallman and Township Manager Blatcher to confer and revise the documents accordingly.

c. Tree Removal Bid

Supervisor Hallman raised similar concerns regarding the Tree Removal Bid. The Board reached consensus to table this item as well, pending the same staff-level review.

d. Equipment & Labor Bid

Supervisor Hallman requested that the Equipment and Labor Bid also be tabled. He expressed a substantive concern about designating a single contractor for general public works tasks, stating that the Township had moved away from that approach approximately 22 years ago in favor of project-by-project bidding with engineer-prepared specifications.

Township Manager Blatcher explained that the intent of the bid was to streamline procurement for smaller, routine maintenance tasks that do not rise to the level of full project bids, drawing on a model used by neighboring West Vincent Township. She clarified that the arrangement would not address work currently being done by the Township's public works staff. Supervisor Costa sought further clarification on how the process would integrate with the annual road review and project planning cycle.

Supervisor Hallman maintained his position that work should be individually prepared by an engineer and competitively bid on a project basis and expressed concern that the approach could be a step toward reducing in-house public works capacity. Township Manager Blatcher affirmed that was not the intention and offered to discuss the matter further. The Board reached consensus to table the item pending further discussion between Supervisor Hallman and Township Manager Blatcher.

VIII. Public Comment

Rob Kocher of Hunt Club Lane: inquired about the status of the 2027 budget process. Supervisor Maher explained that the preliminary phase, in which department committees submit their budget requests, was currently underway, and that formal budget sessions were anticipated for September and October 2026. The Township Manager confirmed that any Budget Work sessions will be advertised in advance and open to the public.

Ryan Leithead of Bodine Road: addressed the Board regarding Cayden's Corner, a sand play area at Pine Creek Park that he constructed in memory of his son who passed away seven days after birth. (Full comment attached as Appendix A)

Mr. Leithead reported that he had recently learned the ongoing playground upgrade project may result in the relocation of the sand play area, its associated equipment, and the memorial signage. He stated that he is not opposed to playground improvements but asked the Township to preserve Cayden's Corner as part of the project.

Vice Chair Vigilante, who chairs the playground committee, explained that the sand play area's current location sits within the fall zone of the existing swing set, which presents a safety and compliance issue identified by the professional playground designer engaged for the project. She stated that the committee's plan is to relocate and expand the sand area, make it fully ADA compliant, and retain the memorial for Cayden. Mr. Leithead disputed the characterization that the current placement is non-compliant.

A broader discussion among Board members addressed the degree to which the playground committee's decisions require formal Board approval. Supervisor Costa and Supervisor Maher indicated that they had not yet seen a draft design and expressed interest in reviewing it. Vice Chair Vigilante noted that a draft design is in process and has not yet been released by the design team. Township Manager Blatcher indicated she would work to circulate the draft design to the full Board when available, and that the Board would have an opportunity to review it prior to final approval.

Chair McLewee affirmed that the final playground plan would come back to the Board of Supervisors for approval and encouraged Mr. Leithead to remain engaged in the process.

Robbie Merow, VP of SALT Performing Arts: asked when will 1645 Art School Road be put up for sale, and if any stipulations will be imposed on any future owner to ensure that the building remains centered on Arts and Culture. The Township Manager advised that no date

for the sale has been decided and that other than the regulations/restrictions of the Historic nature of building, no additional restrictions would be added.

Glenn Wenger, EAC and Open Space member: started a discussion on Road Salt usage in winter months because of the negative environmental effect it has on well water and streams. Requests that we calibrate our trucks annually for efficiency. Supervisor Vigilante advised that we purchase our salt by the ton, and this salt is used by our staff and the outside contractor that we employ for Snow and Ice removal. Supervisor Hallman added that PennDOT clears the State Roads in West Pikeland Township.

Reagan Sarmento of Fairfield Lane: A resident reported that the yellow and green turn arrow signals at the intersection of Routes 401 and 113, in the direction of the left turn toward Route 113, appeared to be non-functional. Township Manager Blatcher confirmed the Township has a service contract for that signal and committed to contacting the service company the following day.

Supervisor Costa also noted a related safety concern at the same intersection, observing that during rush hour, vehicles have been observed traveling in the opposing lane to bypass the wait to access the turn queue, and suggested periodic police presence at the location.

IX. Announcements

Chair McLewee announced that the next Board of Supervisors meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 and Monday, September 21, 2026, both at 7:30 PM.

X. Adjourn

Vice Chair Vigilante made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Costa. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Appendix A:

Good Evening Supervisors, My name is Ryan Leithead. I am a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, a West Pikeland resident, and most importantly, Cayden's father. My wife Denise is here with me tonight, and this is her first time attending a Board of Supervisors meeting. In December of 2022, my wife and I experienced every parent's worst nightmare when our son Cayden passed away just seven days after he was born. Like many families who suffer a loss like that, we struggled to find a way to channel our grief into something positive. Working with the Township, I proposed the creation of a sand play area at Pine Creek Park that would become known as Cayden's Corner. What was created was far more than a donation. I personally funded the project. I selected the equipment and design with the assistance of a trusted and certified local playground contractor. I helped raise additional funds and secure labor and material donations from members of our community totaling more than \$25,000 in value. I personally built much of the project with my own hands over the course of several months, working from plans reviewed by the Township engineer and supported by Township leadership at the time. I also assisted with the original playground grant effort by securing a professional playground design and layout at no cost from the same playground contractor and by providing letters of support and community-impact information for both grant applications. The project was completed and dedicated just before the first anniversary of Cayden's passing. For my family, Cayden's Corner is not simply a playground feature. It is a memorial. It represents countless hours of work, healing, remembrance, love, and community support during one of the most difficult periods of our lives. Over the past two years, I have watched hundreds of children enjoy that space. That has brought comfort not only to me, but to my family as well. It was recently brought to my attention that the current playground planning process may significantly alter Cayden's Corner, including the potential relocation of the entire sand play area and associated equipment, as well as the possible removal of the memorial sign and designation. That is why I am here tonight. I fully support improving Pine Creek Park Playground and I am not asking the township to halt the project. I am asking the Township to preserve Cayden's Corner as part of that project, consistent with the commitment the Township made in writing when the project was donated, approved, and dedicated to the memory of my son. If there are accessibility improvements that need to be made, I have repeatedly asked to be included in those discussions and would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively toward solutions that improve accessibility while preserving the memorial. But I am asking that every effort be made to preserve the memorial that already exists before deciding that it must be removed or relocated, particularly when it was created through significant personal effort, community support, and Township partnership. I am also deeply concerned by discussions regarding the potential removal of the Cayden's Corner memorial sign and designation. For my family, the name, sign, and dedication are an important part of the memorial. After everything that went into creating Cayden's Corner in the aftermath of our son's passing, the possibility of removing that dedication feels deeply hurtful and difficult to understand. The name, sign, and dedication are an important part of the memorial and should not be discarded. Before any final decisions are made, I respectfully ask the Board to consider what Cayden's Corner means to my family, the circumstances under which it was created, and whether there is a path to improve the playground while preserving the memorial that already exists. When most people look at Cayden's Corner, they see a sandbox. When they hear our story they begin to see what my family sees. We see a memorial built for a little boy who never had a chance to play there. We see a place where our two living children can play alongside their brother in spirit, and where community children can play in Cayden's Memory. And I see something I built for my son. Thank you for your time.