



West Pikeland Township

ATTENDING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	ATTENDING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL
Thomas J. McLewee Jr., Chair	Joseph L. Romano III, Township Manager
Noreen Vigilante, Vice Chair	Joan Blatcher, Township Manager in Training
Steven F. Costa, Supervisor	Dorene Guistwhite, Treasurer
Harold M. Hallman III, Supervisor	Tom Goggin, Chief of Police
Bryan Maher, Supervisor	Jennifer Wachsmuth, Township Secretary

Mr. McLewee called the meeting to order on March 2, 2026 at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McLewee asked all attendees to join in a moment of silence for the brave men and women of this nation’s military forces who stand in harm’s way as they confront hostilities in defense of our freedom.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McLewee reported an executive session was held on February 17, 2026 regarding personnel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Vigilante made a motion to approve the March 2, 2026, Board of Supervisors agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costa and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, February 17, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vigilante. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

a. Chester Springs Library Report

Nancy Niggel, Library Director, provided a Review of 2025 for the Chester Springs Library. It was quite the year starting with the February 17th Tree breaching the building. As a result, the remainder of 2025 was spent relocating the contents of the building and moving programs to alternate locations. A highlight for the year was the purchase of a 20-Station StoryWalk for installation in Walnut Lane Park, to be installed this spring, weather dependent.

Currently the anticipated return to the Library is trending toward late April, and a celebration will be planned. New staff will be sought to fill the empty positions. Happily most of the books were not affected by the event. New board books will be purchased as those have been discarded.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to address

NEW BUSINESS

a. Officer Matthew McBride Promotion

Mr. Romano reported that over the past three years, since February 2023, Officer Matthew McBride has consistently demonstrated sustained exceptional performance, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to the community he serves. His commitment to excellence, reliability in carrying out his duties, and strong work ethic have made him an invaluable member of the department. Officer McBride has continually exceeded expectations, contributing not only through high-quality police work but also by supporting the department's mission to provide dependable, responsive service always. In recognition of his outstanding service and to further our ongoing efforts to build and maintain a professional 24/7 police force, Chief Goggin is recommending that Officer McBride be promoted to a full-time officer effective immediately.

Mr. Hallman made a motion to approve Officer Matthew McBride's promotion to full-time police officer for West Pikeland Township effective immediately, seconded by Ms. Vigilante. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McLewee administered the Oath of Office to Officer McBride. Once complete, Mr. McLewee thanked him for his service and wished him well on his promotion.

b. Certificate of Appropriateness (1441 Horseshoe Trail Rd.)

Mr. Romano reported that on February 11, 2025, the West Pikeland Historic Commission reviewed Mr. Cola's application for renovations to the property at 1441 Horseshoe Trail Road, Chester Springs, PA. The residence consists of a late-1700s stone core, an 1830s southwest gable addition, and a 2004 northeast gable addition with an angled main body and rear wing. The proposal preserves and enhances the historic sections by replacing non-original and deteriorated windows with in-kind mahogany units featuring traditional detailing, retaining the attic gable windows, and adding a pent roof and six dormers to unify the façade and improve light and access. The 2004 rear wing will be retained and raised to align floor levels, while the incompatible angled portion will be removed and replaced with a five-bay center hall addition inspired by regional precedents such as Pottsgrove Manor and Vincent Forge Manor. The new work is designed to appear as a thoughtful 18th-century expansion. Based on the Commission's recommendation, the Board of Supervisors, pursuant to Section 804.D(5)(c), issue a Certificate of Appropriateness authorizing the approved scope of work. The applicant is out of town. However, present for the applicant is the Architect, Pat McDonough and contractor, Field Benton.

Ms. Vigilante made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 1441 Horseshoe Trail Rd, seconded by Mr. Maher. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution 2026-10 (Declaration of Emergency)

On the advice of counsel previously, the subject Resolution was drafted and electronically approved by the Board of Supervisors in preparation for the recent winter storm event, 22-23 Feb 26. Signatures have been obtained.

Mr. Costa made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-10, Declaration of Emergency for 22-23 Feb 2026, seconded by Ms. Vigilante. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Historic Structures Update Project (Historic Commission)

Mr. Romano stated that the objective of this effort is to update and validate the Township’s Historic Register to ensure it accurately reflects current property conditions and remains consistent with the intent of the 2005 ordinance that established the Historic Commission. Upon reconvening in 2024, the Commission determined that the existing property list appeared to pre-date its formation and no longer reflected present realities, as several structures had been demolished or materially altered. To address this, the Commission conducted a comprehensive assessment, gathering current photographs, documenting available construction dates, and reviewing publicly accessible records to evaluate each property’s status. Supervisors were provided an inventory on Feb 17, 2025 which summarizes these findings and identifies properties recommended to remain on the protected list, be removed, or undergo further evaluation. The Commission respectfully seeks the Board’s review and feedback this evening, with the intent of finalizing and present it to the leadership group in April. Mr. Romano turned the presentation over to Mark Ashton, Chairman of the Historical Architectural Review Board and HARB. Mr. Ashton reviewed the committee’s suggestions with the board.

Mr. Costa and Ms. Vigilante expressed appreciation to Mr. Ashton and the Historic Committee for their time and effort.

Mr. Hallman asked if Mr. Ashton ever considered delivering a program of the history of West Pikeland. Mr. Ashton suggested going to the West Pikeland Township website to access a document he prepared on the history of Chester County, including Anselma and Historic Yellow Springs. Mr. Ashton also has a prepared a “driving tour” outline of historic landmarks that he would be happy to share with Mr. Romano.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Maher reminded all residents that a Public Burn Ordinance Working Session is planned for Thursday March 19th at 7:30pm, hosted by the Environmental Advisory Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McLewee stated that the next Board of Supervisors meeting will be on Monday, March 16, 2026 and Monday, April 6, 2026 at 7:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to address, Mr. McLewee requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hallman made the motion, seconded by Ms. Vigilante. The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Wachsmuth
Township Secretary