



# West Pikeland Township

ATTENDING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	ATTENDING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL
Noreen Vigilante, Chair	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	

Ms. Vigilante called the meeting to order on July 21, 2025, at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hallman moved to remove "Approval of Ordinance 2025-03 (Open Burning)" from the agenda. The motion did not receive a second.

Mr. Costa made a motion to approve July 21, 2025, Board of Supervisors agenda, which was seconded by Mr. McLewee. This motion passed unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Ms. Mifsud made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

*Police:* Sergeant O'Connell (Officer-in-Charge) reported that for the month of June 2025 there were 506 calls handled, 608 hours were worked, 4,649 miles were traveled, 32 traffic citations were issued, 34 traffic warnings were written, 2 criminal arrests, 1 suspicious vehicle was cleared, 1 fraud, and 7 suspicious conditions.

*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 with Mr. Hallman abstained, citing a conflict of interest from check number 10566 as payment is a potential conflict of interest.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association Evaluation & Assessment Report:* Mr. Romano provided a brief update regarding the status of the police report originally due on May 16, 2025. He stated while the consultant has made significant progress, a combination of logistical and scheduling challenges have impacted his ability to deliver the report by the initial deadline. Coordinating interviews with key stakeholders—including police officers and Supervisors—proved more time-consuming than anticipated. Ensuring their availability and capturing their input thoroughly was essential to maintain the integrity and accuracy of the report. Additionally,

a public listening session was held on June 16, 2025, to solicit valuable community feedback on expectations for police services. This session was a vital component in ensuring the report reflects both internal perspectives and community sentiment. Mr. Romano stated in addition, the PA Chiefs of Police Association continues to balance multiple competing priorities across the state, which has further influenced the timeline. Mr. Romano anticipates the assessment to be completed by July 31, 2025. Mr. Hallman believes that a breach of contract exist since the dates the reports were due were missed twice (May 16 & June 30), and asked Mr. Romano to discuss this matter with the Solicitor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Approval of Ordinance 2025-03 (Open Burning):* Mr. Romano stated with the dangers of open fires, the air pollution from fires, and the management of waste removal and disposal necessitate regulation to protect the peace, good order, and welfare of the Township and the health and safety of its citizens. Mr. Romano stated this ordinance is a coordinated product between the staff and Mr. Donatelli, Solicitor, who found the document legally sufficient. Moreover, in compliance with the township code, section 1601, the proposed ordinance was published in the Daily Local News on May 20, 2025. Mr. Costa put forth a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03. At the same time, resident Bill White expressed a desire to voice questions and concerns, which was echoed by other residents present. Following this, Ms. Vigilante inquired if the Board wished to open the floor for public comments. Mr. McLewee then proceeded to open the discussion to comments from the residents.

- Mr. Bill White stated he believed that the proposed ordinance was not presented properly. Mr. White also questioned the number of fire-related incidents that have occurred. Mr. White suggested the Board table the Ordinance until the Township Solicitor is present.
- Ms. Susan McElroy questioned why the current burn ordinance is being replaced with the proposed burn ordinance.
  - o Mr. McLewee stated that changes were necessary due to outdated items. Mr. McLewee stated the proposed ordinance will apply to properties that are 4 acres or less, and it will limit burning during the summer months as well as restrict the types of materials that can be burned.
- Ms. Andrea Fiorillo stated her concerns about the ordinance and desire to maintain a neighborly atmosphere within the township. She asked whether there has been an increase in calls or complaints related to fires.
  - o OIC Sergeant O'Connell stated that there have not been any calls or complaints this year.
  - o Mr. McLewee asked OIC Sergeant O'Connell to give details about the fire off Conestoga Road.
  - o OIC Sergeant O'Connell stated there was a field fire that occurred. He added that the fire started because a resident was burning yard waste, and the fire subsequently got out of control.

- Mr. Gordon McElroy explained that he doesn't feel it's necessary to limit when residents can and cannot burn. He stated that residents should be able to burn brush from storm damage without restrictions. Mr. McElroy stated that the residents ought to see the exact ordinance that is being proposed.
  - o Ms. Vigilante asked the Township Secretary, Ms. Madison Kerr, to post the draft Ordinance on the township website.
- Mr. White commented that he understands and agrees with the need to limit what materials can be burned.
- Mr. Hallman asked Mr. Romano if any public input was gathered. And if the ordinance was presented to the WPT Planning Commission
  - o Mr. Romano stated the ordinance was posted in the Daily Local on May 20, 2025, and that no public input was received. Mr. Romano also stated that the was not presented to the Planning Commission.
- Mr. Steven Costa recalled his motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03. Mr. Costa stated that he would like the Township Solicitor to look at the steps that have been taken.
- Mr. Hallman stated that public input is most important. He stated that township funds should not be spent on readvertising until the ordinance is vetted for a month or two.
- Ms. Tory Goodrich asked how residents can stay informed about items on the agenda.
  - o Ms. Vigilante stated that the township staff will be placing draft documents on the website moving forward.
- Ms. Rachel Kramer provided insightful examples of how the Downingtown School District conducts its meetings. She also emphasized that if there is no immediate urgency in approving this ordinance, the decision should not be rushed.
- Mr. Boden is concerned that leaving the brush piles on the property could lead to more problems than burning them. He also noted that larger brush piles are more likely to get out of control if burned.
- Mr. Bob Gober stated that his insurance threatened to drop his policy if he didn't get rid of the brush pile on his property.
- Ms. Vigilante stated that the Ordinance will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mr. Bill White thanked Mr. Romano and OIC Sergeant O'Connell for adding the police report to the website. Mr. White questioned the hiring of officers for the police department. He stated the department is currently down two full-time and one part-time officer, and suggested the township begin the hiring process as requested earlier by Mr. Hallman previously.

- Ms. Rosie Nicholas stated she heard that there are plans to repeal the library tax and believes this would have a detrimental impact on the community. She explained that the community has been heavily involved in the construction and development of the library, and it holds a great deal of importance to everyone. Ms. Nicholas stated she is concerned that if the library were to close due to this, it might never reopen.
  - o Mr. Costa stated that Township Supervisors are not considering a repeal of the library tax.
- Mr. Bill White questioned if the open space tax was to be reassessed after a period of time.
  - o Ms. Dorene Guistwhite stated that the balance of \$7 million will not be reassessed.
- Mr. Hallman encouraged the public to attend the upcoming Kimberton Fair.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at the Township Building, 1645 Art School Rd., Chester Springs, PA. on Monday, August 18, 2025, and Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 7:30 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Mifsud made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Madison Kerr  
Township Secretary