



# 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	Madison Kerr, Township Secretary
Steven F. Costa, Supervisor	Sergeant Wayne O'Connell, Officer-in-Charge
Thomas J. McLewee Jr., Supervisor	Guy Donatelli, Township Solicitor
Carin Mifsud, Supervisor	Officer Kurt DeForrest, Police Officer

Ms. Vigilante called the meeting to order on August 18, 2025, at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Costa made a motion to approve August 18, 2025, Board of Supervisors agenda. Seconded by Mr. McLewee. This motion passed unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting. Seconded by Mr. McLewee. The motion passed unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Hallman reminded Ms. Vigilante that an executive session was held July 31, 2025, where personnel was the topic of discussion.

## **REPORTS**

*Police:* Sergeant O'Connell (Officer-in-Charge) reported that for the month of July 2025 there were 603 calls handled, 608 hours were worked, 4,648 miles were traveled, 113 traffic citations were issued, 3 non-traffic citations were issued, and 4 warnings were written. Sergeant O'Connell stated that out of 603 calls, 1 was handled by the State Police.

*Letter of Commendation – Exemplary Performance:* Mr. Costa expressed his gratitude to Officer DeForrest regarding actions taken while on patrol in his neighborhood regarding a suspicious person later determined to be a registered Sexually Violent Predator. Mr. Costa asked Sergeant O'Connell, OIC to read a letter of commendation citing actions by Officer DeForrest. The Board thanked Officer DeForrest for his service.

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

*Library Update:* Ms. Kim Marino, (President Board of Trustees, Chester Springs Library) gave a summary of the programs that have been held by the library at various other locations since Feb

2025 when the Chester Springs Library was damaged by a down tree. Following Ms. Marino's report, Mr. Tim Compton, Executive Director of Historic Yellow Springs (HYS), gave an overview of the tree damage incidents at the library. Mr. Compton stated HYS will be giving monthly updates to the residents regarding the library renovations on the HYS website. Ms. Vigilante asked Mr. Compton if HYS had any available space to host the library. Mr. Compton stated that HYS will provide space as it becomes available. Ms. Vigilante asked for an update regarding the insurance and when construction will begin. Mr. Stephen Cottone, from the HYS Board of Directors, informed the Supervisors that the insurance company is currently only offering to cover the cost of replacing the roof with its original materials and construction methods. However, the Township's Building Code Official (BCO) has stated that the original roof construction does not meet current building codes. Mr. Cottone is hopeful that a letter from the BCO will help to address this issue with the insurance company. Ms. Vigilante inquired about extending the library's lease for an additional year, considering the time lost due to tree damage and construction. Mr. Compton confirmed he would look into this matter. Regarding the renovation timeline, Mr. Hallman asked for an update. Mr. Cottone explained that once the insurance company approves the plans, permit approval is expected to take a maximum of two weeks, followed by approximately two and a half months for construction. Mr. Hallman also asked if other upgrades would take place during this time, and Mr. Cottone explained that the roof will be restructured and rebuilt.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Ordinance 2025-03 (Open Burning):* Mr. Romano explained that the Township of West Pikeland finds that regulating the open burning of waste is necessary to protect public health and safety. Mr. Romano added that only natural, organic materials that grow may be burned; all other materials are prohibited. This ordinance is established in response to the dangers posed by open fires, the resulting air pollution, and the need for responsible waste management. Mr. Romano added it is intended to preserve the peace, order, and general welfare of the Township and safeguard the health and safety of its residents. This ordinance was coordinated with the township solicitor. Mr. Romano stated that The Planning Commission reviewed and discussed the proposed "Burning Outdoor" Ordinance and shared with Mr. Romano they agreed that an ordinance is a good idea, but found this draft difficult to understand and therefore difficult to comply with and to enforce. Mr. McLewee made a motion to postpone the vote until the concerns from the Planning Commission are resolved. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The vote passed unanimously.

*PA Chiefs of Police Assessment:* Mr. Romano explained that on Wednesday, July 31, 2025, the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police delivered their management and cultural assessment of the West Pikeland Police Department. Upon receipt, the assessment was forwarded to the township solicitor for review to ensure that any personally identifiable information (PPI) or other content authorized for redaction under the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act was properly addressed. Mr. Romano added that following this review and any necessary redactions, the final version of the assessment was made publicly available on the township's website on Friday, August 1, 2025.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*Ordinance 2025-04 (Referendum):* Mr. Romano explained that in accordance with Section 3205 of the Second-Class Township Code, this ordinance requests that Chester County Voter Services

determine whether a referendum may be placed on the November 2025 ballot. The proposed referendum would ask registered voters of West Pikeland Township to approve an increase in the real property tax millage rate specifically to fund and maintain the West Pikeland Police Department. Mr. Romano added that this ordinance was coordinated with the township solicitor. Ms. Mifsud made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-04 (Referendum). Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion passed unanimously.

*Ordinance (Compensation for the Supervisors of West Pikeland Township):* Mr. Romano explained that the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted Act 94 of 2024, which sets compensation for supervisors of townships of the second class. The act provides that supervisors of townships having a population of not more than 4,999 may be compensated in an amount not to exceed \$3,145 per year. Ms. Vigilante clarified that any increase would exclusively apply to newly elected supervisors. However, Mr. Hallman expressed satisfaction with the current salary and is not in support of the increase. Following a discussion amongst Supervisors, the Board decided not to proceed with the salary increase and agreed to remove the proposed Ordinance from all future agendas.

*Resolution 2025-13 (Destruction of Municipal Police Records):* Mr. Romano explained that the effective records management program allows for the reduction of township records. Non-permanent records such as those listed in the Resolution require a Resolution approved by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Romano added that this Resolution was coordinated with the township solicitor. Resident, Dunham Hollister questioned the records being destroyed. Mr. Costa read the records from the Resolution. Mr. Hallman made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion passed unanimously.

*Cultural Center (Damaged Stucco):* Mr. Romano explained that following an inspection of the damaged stucco above the front door, it has been determined that the damage is beyond repair and not patchable. He stated the estimated cost to fully reapply stucco ranges between \$5,800 and \$8,900. Alternatively, the damaged stucco can be removed and replaced with Hardie Board at a significantly lower cost of \$3,200. Mr. Romano recommended proceeding with the removal of the existing stucco and installation of Hardie Board, with the work to be completed by Jara Construction for the quoted price of \$3,200. Approval was requested to move forward with this cost-effective and durable solution. Mr. Hallman made a motion to approve Jara Construction, Inc. to remove stucco and replace it with Hardie Board for the amount of \$3200. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion passed unanimously.

*Resignation of Township Secretary:* Mr. Romano stated that Ms. Madison Kerr informed him she was resigning effective August 22, 2025. Ms. Mifsud made a motion to accept the resignation of Madison Kerr as Secretary effective August 22, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion passed unanimously.

*Township Secretary Appointment:* Ms. Mifsud made a motion to appoint Mr. Romano as Township Secretary effective August 22, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hallman raised a question regarding Mr. Romano already being Assistant Secretary. Mr. Guy Donatelli assured Mr. Hallman that he would ensure actions necessary are in order.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Guy Donatelli stated that comments would be limited to ensure the meeting remained orderly and on schedule.

- Resident William Quain thanked the Board for denying the salary increase for supervisors.
- Resident Jeffery Kern inquired about the next steps for the police department. Ms. Vigilante clarified that the referendum is the next step in the process. Additionally, Mr. Kern suggested naming Sergeant O'Connell as Chief and initiating the hiring of new officers to expand the department.
- Resident Gordon McElroy stated he believes that burning times should not be limited and that residents should be permitted to burn organic matter resulting from storm damage as they deem necessary.
- Resident Bob Boden is concerned about the closure of the recycling yard in East Pikeland Township by the PA Department of Environmental Protection and its impact on our local recycling efforts.
  - o Mr. Hallman asked Mr. Romano what will the township be doing having learned of this closure. Mr. Romano responded he will ask Public Works.
- Resident Susan Ohren read a letter of concerns from Bob Ohren who could not be present. Ms. Ohren stated that her husband is opposed to the proposed burning ordinance for the following reasons.
  - o Inconsistencies and differing restrictions between days of the week, weekend days and holidays.
  - o Inconsistencies in the allowable times to burn on any given day.
  - o The distance restrictions are overly intrusive and largely limit placement for a burning pit.
- Resident Wayne Freese questioned if the library could have a supervisor as a liaison just like the other committees do.
  - o Ms. Vigilante explained that the library is not a West Pikeland Committee and therefore cannot have a supervisor liaison.
- Resident Jacob Sivak stated he could not find the police study on the township website.
  - o Ms. Kerr explained where he could find the post.
- Resident Diana Urbanski stated that the extended waiting periods for residents to burn their brush piles increase the danger when they are finally able to do so.
- Resident Jeff Kern shared concerns about the air handler noise and asked if the township would look into purchasing a sound system to mitigate the noise.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at the Township Building, 1645 Art School Rd., Chester Springs, PA. on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, and Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:30 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Mifsud made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph L. Romano III  
Township Secretary