



West Pikeland Township

ATTENDING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Thomas J. McLewee Jr.

Steven F. Costa, Supervisor

Bryan Maher, Supervisor

Minutes from the Burn Ordinance Working Session Thursday, March 19, 2026 Ordinance 2026-01

This meeting was held after the passage of the West Pikeland Ordinance 2026-01 to allow residents to provide feedback on the new Ordinance.

The meeting was announced at the March 2nd and March 16th Board of Supervisors meeting, inviting the public to attend and participate. It was also posted on social media and the West Pikeland Township Website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- The window of time that permits burning is November 1 – March 31
- The driest months of the year in PA (based on historical climate data) are typically February and October.
- The greatest danger of wildfires in Pennsylvania occurs during the spring months of March, April, and May, and the autumn months of October and November.
- Suggest defining what is meant by a "campfire" (In Scouting, a campfire is a small, controlled and intentional fire built for warmth, cooking, and light, serving as a center for unity, fellowship, and tradition.)
- Suggested establishing a pre-burn requirement: contact local fire department or non-emergency number.
- Suggested establishing ability to impose restriction during droughts.
- Why the 4 acre restriction?
- Concern on smaller lots; smoke can be intrusive.
- Setbacks could be very restrictive on smaller lots. There isn't much space for burns on 1 acre lots.
- Should exceptions be made for invasive removal?
- Concerned that alternative ways to address debris outside of burning are difficult.
- Higher recent winds could increase risk.
- How do we distinguish between responsible fire stewards and negligent behavior?

- Is 9am-5pm a viable time range to burn? Request to extend this a bit to accommodate work hours. Consider sunrise to sunset.
- Could cleanups for multiple properties which collectively total over 4 acres constitute an exception?
- If smoke the real problem, suggested a nuisance ordinance might be more appropriate.
- How do you define/determine what constitutes a nuisance fire?
- Request to add/define acceptable methods to extinguish fire.
- Everything should be explicitly defined.
- Suggested a fire safety course for residents to attend.
- Consider allowing residents to acquire “fire safety certification” which would equal higher permissions.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisors thanked the attendees for their input. Consideration to these suggestions will be incorporated in the discussion the next time the ordinance is up for revision.