

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

August 26, 2025

MEETING HELD AT SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BUILDING

Supervisors' Present: Pete Kade, Lorna Yearwood, Bill Ryker, Jim Hopkins and Dave Long.

Also present: Rich Pursell (Township Manager), Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor), Mike McDonald (Police Chief) & Tim Fulmer (Township Engineer).

Mr. Kade called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT

An Executive session will be held after the public meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Ryker stated the financial report and balances are posted.

Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Long and unanimously carried, approving the financial report as presented.

Fund Balances as of July 31, 2025

General Fund	\$1,894,844	Capital Reserve CD	\$239,000
General Fund Reserve	\$317,231	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$384,112
General Fund CD	\$239,000	Liquid Fuels CD	\$239,000
Escrow Fund	\$1,082,424	Open Space Fund	\$720,286
Street Light Fund	\$6,645	Open Space CD	\$239,000
Dedicated Fire Tax Fund	\$205,770	Act 537 Escrows	\$89,009
Capital Reserve Fund	\$1,010,602	Dedicated EMS Tax Fund	\$2,623

Payment of Bills

(July 16, 2025 – August 15, 2025)

General Fund	\$76,036.35	Escrow Fund	\$4,894.55
PLGIT Credit Card	\$1,242.32	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$40,000.00
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0	Dedicated Fire Fund	\$70,344.00
Capital Reserve Fund	\$11,734.11	Open Space Fund	\$2,184.56
Street Light Fund	\$551.39		

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously approved the payment of bills from July 16, 2025 – August 15, 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving the July 22, 2025 meeting minutes.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Resolution 2025-09: Citation for Karlye Teman – A citation was read for Karlye Teman, a lifelong Springfield resident and 2025 graduate of Palisades High School, recognizing her outstanding softball career. She distinguished herself as one of the best pitchers in school and area history. Her career included 78 wins, a 1.93ERA, and 1,106 strikeouts, one of the highest totals in Pennsylvania history. She was named The Morning Call's Pitcher of the Year for 2023, 2024 and 2025. Karlye is now a freshman at East Stroudsburg University, where she is continuing her softball career.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously passed to approve Resolution 2025-09. The board encourages residents to bring forward other individuals deserving of recognition.

Ryszewski Subdivision and Land Development Plan Approval – The application was reviewed for a two-lot subdivision on Clay Avenue. The plan proposes one lot for a contracting use and another to remain residential. The Planning Commission recommended preliminary and final approval. Scott Mease, applicant's engineer, detailed the plan, which includes two new buildings for contractor services, separate wells, and stormwater management systems. The applicant proposes widening Clay Avenue along the frontage and improving the intersection at Route 309 to accommodate larger vehicles. Truck traffic will be limited to left turns only out of the driveways.

The township has secured a grant for its own improvement project on Clay Avenue, which includes pipe replacement and an overlay. The board and applicant discussed coordinating the two projects and establishing an escrow agreement for the applicant's overlay obligation, which the Township may complete as part of its larger project.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to grant both preliminary and final approval for the Ryszewski Subdivision and Land Development, subject to the conditions in the Township Engineer's letters date July 29th, 2025, and August 12th, 2025, and including coordination with the Township on the Clay Avenue grant work.

Discussion on Solar RFP – The board discussed issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit technical and professional proposals for a turnkey solar installation project to avoid missing potential Federal incentives for solar installations.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and Mr. Ryker voted against this. to authorize the Township Engineer to proceed with drafting an RFP to be presented at the next meeting. The Township Engineer will work from an existing draft document provided by specific members of the board.

Knights of Columbus Jack-O-Lantern 5k & 10k Run - Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to authorize the Knights of Columbus to use the Upper Bucks Rail Trail for their 5k & 10k Jack-O-Lantern run. Insurance is in place, and fire police will be handled by the organizers.

Authorization to Advertise 2026 Budget Meeting – Motion was made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to authorize the advertisement of the 2026 budget meeting for Thursday, September 4th, 2025, at 2:00PM at the Township Building.

2026 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) Review – The board reviewed the 2026 MMOs. Due to strong performance of the financial markets, the required contributions are down, and the police pension plan received a credit of approximately \$12,000.00.

Motion was made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to authorize the Township Manager, as pension administrator, to sign the MMOs for the police and non-uniform pension plans. Both plans continue to remain funded appropriately.

Resolution 2025-10: 2025-2026 Salt Bid Acceptance – Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 2025-10, accepting the rock salt bid from Morton Salt Inc for the 2025-2026 season. The bid was awarded at a price of \$61.86 per ton delivered and increase of just under \$1.00 per ton from last year.

Steering Committee for Route 309 & Villages Study – The board has announced the formation of a steering committee to guide the Route 309 & Villages Study. Five residents have volunteered, and consultant Lynn Bush, has also been asked to participate. The committee kickoff meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 7:00PM at the Township Building. A public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 7:00PM at Springfield Elementary. Participants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Comprehensive Plan, RFP for this study, and the proposal from Gilmore & Associates in order to ensure everyone is up to speed with the purpose and direction of the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously carried to advertise the kickoff and public meetings.

Local Share Account Grant – Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously carried to pursue a Local Share Account Grant through Millennium Strategies to purchase a new dump truck, estimated \$220,000.00. The grant writing service would be a flat fee of \$3,500.00.

Purchasing of Boom Mower – The Township Manager has recommended purchasing a new boom mower, as the current model is being discontinued and the price for the replacement model is increasing from \$35,000 to nearly \$60,000. The current mower was recently out of service for two months awaiting parts from overseas.

Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to purchase a Tiger RFB 150 rear mount boom mower from Stephenson's Equipment at a price not to exceed \$35,040, to be paid from the capital reserves.

Building Improvements – The board discussed allocating a \$10,000 contingent to the previously approved \$25,000 for building improvements, citing the volatility of material prices. The project includes flooring, walls, closets, and furniture. An initial plan to add storage above a stairwell was amended due to zoning/code issues; cabinets will be installed instead.

Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Long, and unanimously carried to approve the building improvements at a cost of \$25,000, with a \$10,000 contingency from capital reserves.

Purchase of Storage Shed – The board considered the purchase of a 45' x 80' outdoor storage shed to protect Township equipment from the weather. While unbudgeted, the Township Manager noted that deferrals of other capital items, and cost savings would offset the additional expense in 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to purchase the storage shed in accordance with the quote from ClearSpan of \$76K

Protocol for Use of Decibel Reader – Discussion was held at length regarding the protocol for the Township's decibel reader. The Township Solicitor advised that with proper procedure (calibration, testing, accuracy, establishing a legal foundation), evidence from the meter can be successfully used in court by police, zoning officers, or even trained residents.

Board members stated that the Police Department should be responsible for the meter, as most noise complaints occur at night or weekends. The Police Chief noted that most complaints are reported after-the-fact, making enforcement difficult unless a pattern is established.

Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to formally place the decibel meter under the responsibility of the Police Department, with a request for the Chief to provide a progress report on procedures and training within 90 days.

Execution of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agreement – The Township Solicitor summarized the proposed EMS agreement with St. Luke's, which is set to acquire and take over the operations of Upper Bucks Regional EMS (UBREMS). The agreement is for an initial five-year term with a three-year renewal option. The net annual cost to the Township will be \$85,000 (\$95,000 payment to St. Luke's minus a \$10,000 annual rental fee from St. Luke's for use of the Township facility). The agreement is contingent on St. Luke's successful acquisition of UBREMS.

Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, and unanimously carried to approve the execution of the EMS agreement with St. Luke's.

Diamond Communication / PPL Property – A proposal was discussed from Diamond Communications to lease space for wireless equipment on Met-Ed transmission towers located on a PPL-owned property off Hickon Road to generate revenue for the Township.

The Township Solicitor recommended entering into a contingent lease agreement with Diamond *before* proceeding with a subdivision acquisition to secure the revenue source.

Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously carried to continue investigating the opportunity, including pursuing a contingent lease agreement with Diamond, dependent on a successful subdivision and acquisition of the property.

Passer Community Center Discussion – Discussion included potential ways to support the Passer Community Center, including the use of Township Open Space funds. The Township Solicitor clarified the Open Space Land Acquisition Act allows for the purchase of property for historic preservation. Board members discussed that for Passer to receive public funds, it would need a clear mission, bylaws, and transparent governance. The possibility of the center housing a senior center was also discussed as a potential mission.

A consensus was reached to direct the Township Solicitor to research permissible uses of Open Space funds beyond direct acquisition and to outline criteria for local organizations seeking support.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning - Report posted.

Police – The Chief noted that recent statistics showing Bucks County as #3 in the state for school bus stop sign violations are directly correlated to the county receiving grant funds for bus cameras, proving the systems are effective.

Roads - Report posted.

Solicitor – Report Received. The Township Solicitor reported that Haycock Camp Ministries has appealed the trial court's conditional use decision to the Commonwealth Court. The trial court upheld the Township's approval but struck two conditions related to the shooting range. The board will need to decide whether to actively participate in the appeal; a decision can be made after the specific points of the appeal are filed in the coming weeks.

Engineer – Report received.

Fire / EMS Providers	Report Received Yes	Report Received No	Comments
Palisades Regional Fire Rescue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Richlandtown Fire Co	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Richland Fire & Rescue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Haycock Fire Co		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Coopersburg Fire Co		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
UBREMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Upper Saucon EMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

OTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Planning Commission - Continuing to work on the scenic overlay and has completed road trips to collect video data

Parks & Land – A presentation was provided on the upcoming Schoolhouse Tour, a joint event with the Historical Society and Passer Community Association, on Saturday, September 13, 2025. The self-guided tour covers over 30 miles and 14 historic school sites.

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) – An e-waste collection event is scheduled for October 11th with a new vendor that will accept air conditioners and dehumidifiers.

Water Authority – The authority is awaiting a grant and continuing work of the Kenderdine property. They recently held an aerator and low-flush toilet distribution event.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carla and Patrick Sessions (Maple Ave) reported four recent incidents related to traffic, noise, and shooting on a Sunday. They were advised to call the police while the incidents are in progress for noise or safety issues and to file official complaint forms with the township for potential land use or condition violations.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

General comments included thanks to neighboring supervisors for collaboration on the regional EMS agreement and well wishes for community member Bobb Carson, who was recently injured in a bicycle accident.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 9:58 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To be held following the public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Pursell
Township Manager