

Board of Supervisors

**MINUTES
 FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

MEETING HELD AT SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BUILDING

Supervisors Present: Dave Long, Pete Kade, Lorna Yearwood, Jim Hopkins, Jim Nilsen

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive session was held on February 5th and 17th to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Frank Hollenbach (Rocky Valley Rd) reported critical issues with power outages caused by dead ash trees hitting power lines. He provided the following outage statistics:

- 2023 – 14 times
- 2024 – 14 times
- 2025 – 22 times

He requested that the board coordinate with state representatives to seek legislative relief regarding tree trimming based upon an earlier suggestion made to him by Senator Coleman’s staff.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

Fund Balances as of January 31, 2026

General Fund	\$1,318,659	Capital Reserve CD	\$239,000
General Fund Reserve	\$412,617	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$133,174
General Fund CD	\$239,000	Liquid Fuels CD	\$239,000
Escrow Fund	\$1,038,722	Open Space Fund	\$951,303
Street Light Fund	\$3,148	Open Space CD	\$239,000
Dedicated Fire Tax Fund	\$89,127	Act 537 Escrows	\$89,638
Capital Reserve Fund	\$1,085,050	Dedicated EMS Tax Fund	\$3,740

Revenue Balances

EIT	\$46,909	Real Estate	\$6,069
LST	\$1,853	Real Estate Transfer	\$17,188

Payment of Bills
 (January 16, 2026 – February 15, 2026)

General Fund	\$263,165.51	Escrow Fund	\$4,116.55
PLGIT Credit Card	\$1,155.33	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$21,423.81	Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0
Capital Reserve Fund	\$13,387.49	Open Space Fund	\$156.00
Street Light Fund	\$714.12		

Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Nilsen, and unanimously approved the payment of bills from January 16, 2026 – February 15, 2026.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade and carried approving the January 27, 2026 meeting minutes, with 2 corrections.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Springtown Rod & Gun Club 100th Anniversary – The event will feature black powder firing, dog search and rescue, local vendors, and hatchery tours. The chairman will deliver an opening speech.

The board discussed utilizing Route 309/Clay Avenue billboard. Usage of the billboard is limited to non-commercial public service announcements.

To commemorate the Township’s 250th Anniversary, a separate celebration including a pig roast and fireworks is being considered for September or October.

2026 Bucks County Department of Health Mosquito Control Program – Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried to authorize the Township to participate in the program and further authorize the Township Manager to provide written approval to the County.

BOS/PLPB Joint Meeting Discussion – The Board discussed holding a joint session with the Parks and Land Preservation Board to align on 2026 projects.

Frank will reach out to the Board at a later date with availability of PLPB members.

St. Luke’s Lease Agreement – The lease for the township-owned garage and modular building involves a \$10,000 reduction in donation from the Township, in lieu of rent. St. Luke’s will handle all active systems (HVAC, plumbing, electrical) and snow removal. The Township will remain responsible for mowing the lawn and plowing the immediate area in front of the garage, which serves a dual purpose for municipal storage.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to authorize the Township Manager to execute the agreement.

Follow up from Planning Commission Joint Meeting – The Board discussed establishing a formal Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for decibel meters. The Township Solicitor and Police Chief advised caution regarding “loaning” meters to citizens due to calibration requirements and legal admissibility concerns. The Police Chief suggested consideration of multiple units to maintain available units for police use.

Discussion on Property Maintenance Code – The Board reached a consensus to adopt the “Long Version” of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) rather than a minimalist reference model.

Discussion focused on weed height limits. While 6 inches was suggested for denser districts, the Zoning Officer and Solicitor recommended an 18-inch standard for larger parcels to allow for natural meadow growth while preventing unmanaged brushes that attract vermin.

The Board prioritized road safety over aesthetics. The consensus reached was to provide for an 18-inch limit for Rural & Agricultural parcels, and a 12-inch limit for the denser residential lots. The new standards proposed will strictly enforce a “clear zone” at intersections: no plantings, trees or structures higher than 3-feet within a 6-foot offset from the road edge to ensure drivers have an unobstructed view of oncoming traffic.

Discussion on Passer Rd – The Township Engineer presented a study on the inappropriate use of Passer Rd by heavy haulers. Most drivers are not using commercial-grade GPS; they are using standard Google/Wayze app that route them down Passer Rd as a “shortest path”, unaware of the narrow shoulders and tight turns.

The study deemed the road unsafe for certain trailer traffic; the Board is exploring restrictive signage and ordinances. After reviewing the report, it was determined that the road is legally postable for “No Trucks” (over 21 feet) in the westbound direction only. Concerns were raised that posting such signage would divert heavy traffic onto Sunrise Dr once it becomes a public roadway.

At this time, no immediate signs will be posted due to concerns of inadvertently diverting trucks onto Sunrise Dr once it becomes a public roadway. The Board intends to invite state officials for a site visit to address regional GPS/routing issues.

Discussion on Purchase of 2026 Police Vehicle – The Police Chief has requested a new patrol vehicle at a cost of \$70,000, due to high mileage on the 2017 (Truck 2) & 2021 (Truck 3) units. The condition of Truck 2 was described as having 127,000 miles and experiencing engine misfires.

The Board declined the new purchase for 2026. Instead, opting to have the officers rotate the duties of Truck 1 (low mileage) and Truck 2 (high mileage) to equalize wear.

In lieu of a new vehicle, the Board will await quotes from the Chief regarding the purchase of a new cloud-based camera system. This system will allow footage to be uploaded automatically via Wi-Fi as the car enters the station, eliminating manual card-pulling and potential data loss.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning - Report posted.

Police – Report posted.

Roads – Report posted.

Solicitor – Report posted.

Engineer – Report received.

Fire / EMS Providers	Report Received	Report Received	Comments
	Yes	No	
Palisades Regional Fire Rescue		☑	
Richlandtown Fire Co		☑	
Richland Fire & Rescue		☑	
Haycock Fire Co		☑	
Coopersburg Fire Co		☑	
St. Luke's EMS		☑	
Upper Saucon EMS	☑		

OTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Planning Commission – No comment.

Parks & Land –

- Frank led a discussion regarding homeowner rights to remove trees within the township right-of-way for safety and line-of-sight. It was noted that while dead trees can be removed, there are township limits on the number of live trees that can be taken down per acre, per year.
- Mowing Moratorium – The board debated a policy to delay mowing Peppermint Park hayfields until after July 15th to protect the nesting cycles of ground-nesting birds. This balances “park aesthetics” with the Board’s environmental conservation goals.
- Bench Donations – The Board accepted 2 donations for benches in the amount of \$1,100 each. The Board prefers physical engraving into the wood/composite or a physical plaque, noting that previous laser-etching plaques have faded, rendering the memorial unreadable within 3 years.

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) –

Historical Commission – Bruce Whitesell states that a report was provided at the beginning of the Board meeting.

Water Authority – The Authority is utilizing a \$500,000 state grant to modernize infrastructure, which includes a plan for installing a three-phase generator at the firehouse to provide a potable water station for residents on private wells during power outages.

The Township Solicitor is continuing his investigation of approximately 50 parcels with 25-year-old unpaid liens relating to the original Zion Hill sewer connection project.

CORRESPONDENCE

Amy’s Ride, Walk and Run is scheduled for Saturday, May 16th. Event organizers have already coordinated with both St. Luke’s and the Springfield Township Police Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Hollenbach (Rocky Valley Rd) made additional inquiry into clearing of trees in right-of-way. The Board confirmed that most property lines extend to the center of the road, meaning homeowners own the trees located within the Township's right-of-way. Residents may remove dead or hazardous trees without a permit, but healthy tree removal is restricted to 5 trees per acre annually. Property owners are currently responsible for maintaining vegetation to ensure clear lines of sight at intersections and preventing trees on their property from damaging utility lines.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Yearwood – Attended Senator Coleman's event last month. She recounted how the Senator's office recommended a pre-meeting if the Township is planning on applying for a grant and would include an individual who is an expert on grant applications. There is also an upcoming meeting on March 20th for Emergency, Fire and EMS Services.

Mr. Hopkins – Update provided on the MAP grant study that is ongoing. Next meeting is scheduled for April 13th at 1pm.

Mr. Nilsen – Inquired about the possibility of hiring an intern again after meeting with Ms. Yearwood to go over what had been worked on in the past.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 9:47 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive meeting to be held following the public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Pursell
Township Manager