

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 9, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Lehigh Township Municipal Building, 1069 Municipal Road, Walnutport. Chairman Mike Jones called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present: Cindy Miller
Mike Jones
Janet Sheats
Alice Rehrig
Attorney Josh Mazin
Mike Muffley
Roxann Colfer
John Henry
Frank Zamadics

Absent: David Hess
Jerry Pritchard
David Backenstoe

II APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. May 26, 2026. Janet Sheats made a motion to approve the minutes. Mike Jones seconded the motion. Cindy Miller noted she would be abstaining since she was not at that meeting. With only two voting Board members, the minutes were tabled.

III. APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

- A. General Fund Checks 29649 to 29692. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these checks. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Cindy Miller questioned Check 29685 to Intoximeters. Is this a one time expense and we won't need to buy them again for a while. Alice Rehrig noted these are reimbursed the PTS grant. They pay for the replenishment of the equipment. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. State Fund Check 1648. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve this check. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

IV. PLANNING RELATED ITEMS

- A. Engineer's Report. Mike Muffley reported the Planning Commission has an advisory review for a short term rental and two minor subdivisions. The minor subdivisions were the Joseph and Susan Ahearn five lot minor subdivision and the Pastier lot line adjustment for 645 Long Lane Road which is a to correct a driveway encroachment. Both plans received conditional approval from the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission received the draft zoning ordinance on Friday so no one on the Planning Commission had adequate time to review it. Roxann Colfer, Lori Lambert, and himself will be reviewing it to try to keep things streamlined and get the project completed.

V. DEPARTMENTAL/ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

A. Recreation Report. There was no one present to provide a report.

B. Public Works Report. In addition to his written report, Frank Zamadics reported they have begun the repair work on Grainger Road. When that work is completed, they will be moving onto leveling the roads on the oil and chip list, which will include pipe replacement on Municipal Road. The street sweeping will be completed within the next week.

Scott Paukovits, 4049 Cedar Drive, raised concerns about Cedar Drive by his driveway. He lives at the corner of Blue Mountain Drive and Cedar Drive. There is a lot of road deterioration taking place at the intersection and with all the cracks in the roadway, the water is coming through causing his driveway to buckle. Over the winter, his driveway was marred from a plow truck. He cannot do anything with his driveway until the road is fixed. There also is no crack sealing being done on the road. Mike Muffley commented he was out at the site and this is the typical drainage problem where you have drainage from the PennDOT roadway running onto a Township road. The condition of the road is at about where you would want to have the road fixed, but it is not on the schedule yet as a priority. There is not a storm sewer system or defined channel for the water so the water makes its way along the road and there is infiltration taking place along side the road and in the road. Frank Zamadics commented there is a lot of water coming down from the school and there is no place for the water to go until it gets to the drainage pipe that is three properties down from him. PennDOT does not address their water issues which in turn causes a problem for the Township. Mr. Paukovits commented that Cedar Drive is a Township road and it needs to be repaired in order for him to repair the damage to his driveway in order to continue to be able to snow blow it in the winter. It further upsets him that a plow truck marred his driveway. Frank Zamadics commented he doesn't believe that it was one of the Township trucks because there generally is more damage if a plow catches a driveway. He's not saying it didn't happen. It does sometimes happen within the right of way, but this, in his opinion, doesn't look like it came from one of the Township trucks. Cedar Drive was on the list of roads for repair, but Timberline Road took priority for this year. He is hoping to get it back on the list for next year. Janet Sheats commented the water will still be a problem even if the Township fixes the roadway because PennDOT hasn't fixed their road. Mr. Paukovits commented there are a lot of chunks of blacktop getting washed down to his driveway. The

roadway needs to be saw cut milled out and paved as a band aid to correct this issue. Cindy Miller asked Alice Rehrig to contact Representative Mako's office to see if they can help to get PennDOT to take care of their issues on Blue Mountain Drive.

- C. Zoning Report. In addition to the written report that was submitted, Roxann Colfer reported one of the properties from the complaint log who went to the Zoning Hearing Board and was denied relief has now filed an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas. In May, the Zoning Hearing Board granted relief of a front yard setback, in June, there was a withdrawal of an appeal, and there will be a hearing in July for a special exception for a short term rental. There is a possibility of another appeal for July. She is currently working with the individual's attorney as to which direction they will be going.

Paul Nikisher questioned if someone backs out of a permit or a variance, do the get their fees returned. Roxann Colfer commented the fees are non-refundable, but she will talk with them first regarding their options and it is up to them if they decide to file the appeal.

Debbie Leibenguth, 1293 Walnut Drive, Danielsville, reported there is an abandoned vehicle across the street from her residence which hasn't moved in eight years. It has no inspection or registration plate. Roxann Colfer commented if a complaint form is submitted, she will investigate the complaint.

- D. Police Report. Chief Henry reported in May, there were 409 calls for service, 8 reportable accidents, 9 non-reportable accidents, 34 summary citations were issued, and 2 individuals were processed through the booking center. There were also 6 arrests which included arson, confinement of dogs, DUI with a motor vehicle accident, harboring a dangerous dog, drugs, strangulation, simple assault, endangering another person, and harassment.

The written test and interviews have been completed for the process of promoting a sergeant. He would like to have the three candidates come before the Board on July 14 for interviews.

The two new officer candidates have successfully completed all of their required testing and their first day will be Monday.

National Night Out is planned for Tuesday, August 4, from 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Berlinsville Park.

- E. Fire Company Report. John Knoblach, Vice President, of the Fire Company, commented the reporting software at the Fire Company has reached its sunset and is no longer functioning. They are in the process of using new software and trying to get the old data into the new program.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 2026-3, Amendments to ordinances pertaining to noise—Authorization to advertise. Cindy Miller made a motion to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 2026-3 pertaining to noise. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Zach Szoke, 4467 Timberline Road, questioned where the ordinance would be advertised. Cindy Miller commented it will be a public notice in the Home News and also on the website. Alice Rehrig commented since there are sections being removed from the zoning ordinance, it will need to be reviewed by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission so the advertisement will not take place for approximately 30 days while they are reviewing the ordinance. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Awarding of Bids 2026 Oil and Chip Project. Alice Rehrig commented the roads included in the bid are the roads that needed to be cut from last year's project. Only one bid was received for the project. Cindy Miller questioned if it was the same company as last time. Alice Rehrig confirmed it was. Janet Sheats questioned if we knew why we were only receiving one bid. Alice Rehrig commented every now and then, a second bid will be received from another company in Carbon County. It seems like AMS tends to do the eastern part of the State, Gorman Brothers and Midland Paving tend to do more of the central part of the state. Mike Muffley commented there are smaller companies who will bid the projects but they tend to be not as competitive and do not do as good work like AMS. Cindy Miller questioned when the last time was that Municipal Road was oil and chipped. Frank Zamadics commented he believes it has been at least 14 or 15 years ago. Cindy Miller made a motion to award the bid to AMS at a price not to exceed \$197,475.25. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- B. Manager's Report. Alice Rehrig commented she received a letter from Hanover Engineering requesting that Sean Cunningham be added to the list of approved sewage enforcement officers. Jake Schray would still be our primary contact. Mike Muffley noted that Sean Cunningham had recently passed his SEO exam so they are adding him to all their municipalities so he can do the work if it is needed. Cindy Miller made a motion to appoint Sean Cunningham as an additional sewage enforcement officer for Lehigh Township. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

C. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Marzin did not have anything specific to report on behalf of Attorney Backenstoe.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT. John Knoblach commented that as a firefighter, he has been at several accidents with some of the newer officers and they are outstanding from a fire department perspective.

Paul Leibenguth, 1293 Walnut Drive, questioned when the decision was made to lock the ballfield at Danielsville Park. He had rented the pavilion and some of the kids were playing wiffle ball in the grass and the ball went into the ballfield. Since the ballfield was locked, a 9 year old climbed over the fence to get the ball and when he climbed back over the fence, his pants got caught and he fell head first. Fortunately, he was not hurt, but this is a liability to the Township and it is a public park. Why would a township park be locked? **He also questioned if the Board was aware of this? Cindy Miller and Janet Sheats commented this is the first time they are hearing about this.** Mike Jones commented he is there four times a week using the field and has pictures that the field was getting dug up and fences were getting destroyed last year. There were dogs running around inside the field and the owners were not cleaning up after them and then kids were playing ball. He spoke with Frank Zamadics and Alice Rehrig and they agreed the fence should be locked. Paul Leibenguth commented he feels the decision should have been made by the Board, not a few people. It's a public park. Frank Zamadics commented the dogs are a particular problem. Mike Jones commented the fenced area is being used as a dog park. The same situation also occurs in Berlinsville. Janet Sheats commented if the parks are posted as no dog, then something should be done about the dogs in the park. Cindy Miller commented if the dogs are not permitted in the park, then no one should be walking their dog in the park. That is why we have a dog park. Paul Leibenguth commented there is also a sign for no cars beyond this point, but no one pays attention to it, cars all over. He really doesn't care one way or another. He didn't care about the field being locked until his grandson was injured. Mike Jones commented the field can be left open and if things get damaged and chewed on, we just need to replace them. Paul Leibenguth commented he still believes it should be a Board decision because if someone gets hurt, there will be a lawsuit. **Was the insurance contacted regarding the potential liability? Alice Rehrig commented they were not.** Janet Sheats asked Alice Rehrig to contact the insurance company about any issues with having the gates locked and then place this on the next agenda for discussion. Cindy Miller questioned if it is known who is walking their dogs in the park. No dogs is no dogs. We shouldn't have to work around the regulations by locking the park. If people want to use a dog park, then they should go to Delps. This is why dogs are not allowed at the other parks. Frank Zamadics commented if the insurance company is being contacted regarding the locked fence, they probably should be questioned if there is an issue with having tarps and large nails or rebar to hold the tarp down and

someone tripping and falling into them. He understands the importance of covering the mound and home plate, but it is still a public field and can pose a problem if someone gets hurt.

Katherine Mack commented she was doing some research on Farmland Preservation and came across Act 4 which allows townships, school districts, and counties to freeze millage when property is placed into farmland preservation. Is this something that that Township approved? Alice Rehrig commented the Township, County, and School District adopted Act 4 shortly after it was enacted. Katherine Mack noted that means that a property that is in preservation will not be affected by any future tax increases.

Zach Szoke, 4467 Timberline Road, commented the second presentation will be going on Facebook and YouTube this week. They are also in the process of scheduling a Town Hall presentation at Blue Mountain Fish and Game for early July and August. Once the date is confirmed, they will be sending out the newsletter that they did to all the residents. Again, if the Board doesn't want this to be brought up each meeting, get it on the ballot, have people vote on it. If they vote against it, then it is done.

Merion Miller commented one side of this is getting to present as nauseum, where is the balance for the other side. Why is another party not involved to also state facts about this? There should be a counter balance with equal time from the other side where they have colored slides and a nice presentation like what Wildlands put together. It seems to be one sided. It is a public referendum. All points need to be considered. Mike Jones commented other groups may also put something together and hold a meeting. **Mr. Miller** ~~he~~ has been doing as much research on this as possible. In Moore Township, there was only 1 property preserved under the Township specific program in the last 5 years. There were two properties in 2019, two in 2020, and 1 in 2021. They are sitting on a fairly substantial chunks of cash where no one is utilizing it. This is not farmland preservation; that is a falsehood. It is either farmland or wetlands. As far as he is concerned, wetlands have always been protected. Why we would charge taxpayers to preserve wetlands is beyond him. Moore Township's criteria for scoring properties to enter into the program appears to be similar to what wildlands uses. You get 1 to 10 points for items such as how long the property was in the family, how close to certain roads and creeks. What he found to be the most interesting was that you get 20 points, more than any other category, if your property is located next to an already preserved property. You are essentially creating a patchwork quilt as things go along. If a person who owns a slate quarry puts their property into preservation, the neighbor next to him will get scored much higher. urban sprawl is here; it's real. On Moore Township's site, it states farmlands are disappearing at an incredible rate. There is not a single farm for sale in Northampton County. He doesn't understand that we can't get roads paved, but we are going to entertain this. We are already in debt \$9 million at the School District. He doesn't understand the drive behind this. He questioned how many of the 10,593

residents of the Township would be taking advantage of this. The farms will go to Northampton County. Even if 30 or 40 people take advantage of the program, that is a very small number to benefit at the expense of others. This is a small group of people who want to dictate to the rest of the people as to how the Township will move forward. The Township is not moving very fast right now. The tax base has been tough.

Tom Szoke, 4471 Timberline Road, commented he recalls a few meetings ago that there was not any tax money put into the roads. It was only through the State funding. Janet Sheats commented this year, there is tax money going into the roads. Tom Szoke questioned why was it not done in the past? Mike Jones commented it was mostly to not increase taxes. The taxes hadn't been increased. The fire tax has now freed up some money for other things. Cindy Miller commented there was a lot that needed to be caught with the budget. When she came in, she went through things line by line and stopped using the State fund to cover payroll. Salary and benefits should not be coming from the state funds. They should be coming out from the General Fund.

Zach Szoke commented he wants to make it clear that Wildlands has nothing to do with the push for preservation. The preservation is being pushed by himself and Mike Hock on a personal level. There is no organization involved with them. It is just the two of them as individuals.

Cindy Miller commented she just saw that Wildlands preserved over 1,000 acres in Carbon County.

- IX. ADJOURN. Janet Sheats made a motion to adjourn. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.