

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 10, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 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  
David Hess  
Mike Jones  
Janet Sheats  
Jerry Pritchard  
David Backentoe  
Alice Rehrig  
Mike Muffley  
Roxann Colfer  
John Henry  
Frank Zamadics

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. January 27, 2026. Janet Sheats made a motion to approve the minutes. David Hess seconded the motion. Zach Szoke questioned if the comments made by Tom Szoke and Cindy Miller were reflected in the minutes. The Board confirmed they were on Pages 8 and 9. All voted aye. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

- A. General Fund Checks 29373 to 29408. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these checks. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Jerry Pritchard questioned what was included in the bill to Keystone Technologies. Alice Rehrig commented the largest portion is for the screens at the Police Department which are covered under the LSA Grant that was received last year. Cindy Miller questioned the heaters at the police station. Alice Rehrig commented they were for portable heaters for the area where Pam Herschman sits. There has always been a problem getting heat in that area. John Henry commented there have also been a few issues with the heating system, possibly because of the weather getting to the unit. The heating system should be covered under warrantee. Cindy Miller questioned Check 29393 for Leica mapping and training. Alice Rehrig commented it was for the replacement of the Total Station. Cindy Miller questioned if this was included in the budget. Alice Rehrig confirmed that it was. The unit was purchased now because they were only holding the price until January. Linda Roman questioned what Gworks was. Alice Rehrig commented it is the company that we have the financial and permit programs through and there is an annual software maintenance fee. All voted aye. Motion carried.

IV. PLANNING RELATED ITEMS

A. Extension of Time for Plan Recording

1. Tim Pitts Land Development Plan. Mark Leuthe was present to represent this plan. The deadline to record this plan is February 28, 2026, and the Developer submitted a request for an extension of time until November 30, 2026. Mark Leuthe commented they are having issues with the PUC. There is a single family lot in the Tim Pitts subdivision which will not be part of Northwoods, but will be connected to the sewage system. They will not be charging for the sewage and will argue with the PUC regarding this connection. Based on the advice of their attorney and his experience with the PUC, they are requesting a nine month extension because of the amount of time it will take. This is the last piece that is needed so that the plan can get recorded. They will also be looking to see if the lot would meet the requirement to provide on lot sewage which would also clear up the issue. If the Board is not comfortable with providing the nine month extension, he will take whatever the Board is comfortable with and can always come back.

Cindy Miller made a motion to grant an extension of time until August 31, 2026, to record the plan. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Jerry Pritchard questioned why not give the nine months so he doesn't have to keep coming back. Cindy Miller commented with six months we know that there is an attorney working on a resolution. Mike Muffley commented at this point, it is not a matter of making progress. They are waiting on outside agency approvals. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. Engineer's Report. Mike Muffley did not have anything specific to report. The draft of the zoning ordinance continues to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. They received the latest draft yesterday. He believes they are getting close to the end. Hopefully after one more meeting, it will be complete. He has also been working with Alice Rehrig on the road improvement project.

Cindy Miller commented the Planning Commission reviewed the first draft of the Data Center ordinance. They will be reviewing it again at their next meeting and hopefully moving it on to the Supervisors.

V. DEPARTMENTAL/ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

- A. Recreation Report. David Hess commented the Rec Board held their reorganization meeting. He was appointed as Chairman and Keith Hantz as Vice Chairman. He is expecting to have additional information for next meeting.

B. Public Works Report. Frank Zamadics reported the two new hires have started. One is in his second week and the other is in his third week. Even though both of them are familiar with the Township, they didn't realize how large it is and how many roads there are. Both of their trainings are going well.

1. Truck Replacement. When the budget was developed, the single axle truck was included in the budget. After the budget was adopted, it was learned that the Township was awarded \$245,000 towards a tandem truck. The tandem truck is scheduled for replacement next year. If both trucks are purchased in 2026, there will be a savings of \$6,000. If only one truck is purchased, it would be the tandem truck to meet the requirement of the grant. Janet Sheats questioned if there would be a truck purchased next year if both were purchased. Alice Rehrig commented the tandem that would have been scheduled for next year would no longer be included. Cindy Miller questioned if the purchase of both trucks was included in the general fund budget or was it not included until next year because of the grant. Alice Rehrig commented the funding would come from the capital improvements fund. Because of the savings for future truck replacements, there would be enough funding in the Equipment Fund so that additional general fund money outside of the budget would not be needed. The single axle truck was included in the 2026 budget. With the grant funding, there will be enough money in the Equipment Fund to pay for the balance of the truck that is not covered by the grant. Frank Zamadics noted the truck chassis will most likely not be received until the end of this year and the completed trucks will probably not arrive until February or March of next year.

Janet Sheats made a motion to purchase both the single axle truck and the tandem axle truck. David Hess seconded the motion. Paul Nikisher questioned if the grant was a matching grant. Cindy Miller commented the grant amount is \$245,000. Mike Jones commented the Township will owe \$42,047.50. All voted aye. Motion carried.

2. ITP Tree Removal. There is a large tree, approximately 90 feet tall with two chutes and it is splitting. Frank Zamadics has been watching it over the past three months and it has been opening more. There is a concern that it would fall down on the pavilion. The only way to take it down and feel safe about it is to crane it down. He received two quotes, one for \$7,500 and a second for \$5,500. These quotes include the dropping of the tree and its removal. David Hess commented he contacted ABE Lawn and Tree, Inc. and they could do the work for \$4,600 but he hasn't provided a written quote from them yet. He will email the quote to Alice Rehrig tomorrow. This matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Jerry Pritchard commented he thought the Road Crew did a good job with the snow removal during the past storm.

A resident commented there are two pine trees that are hanging over the building at Indiantrail Park and they seem to be dead also. Is there a plan for removing those as well? Frank Zamadics commented he has looked at those trees and they are within reach of what the Road Crew can do. This tree is too tall for what the road crew or a regular tree service can handle which is what made it stand out.

- C. Zoning Report. Roxann Colfer reported there were 35 permits issued in January and there are 10 open code enforcement cases remaining. One of the enforcement cases is a short term rental and has just submitted an appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board. They are requesting either a variance or estoppel, and also appealing her cease and desist. She is requesting that Attorney Backenstoe attend that appeal to represent the Township. This hearing is scheduled for March 12. There is also a zoning hearing this Thursday for 980 South Cottonwood regarding their driveway and slope.

Jerry Pritchard questioned if everything was resolved regarding the Certificate of Occupancy for Mr. Budihas on Walnut Drive. Roxann Colfer commented the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy was extended. Mr. Budihas commented he feels that some of the requirements are a bit ridiculous, such as the removal of the dirt and the concrete sidewalks. He doesn't see anything in the ordinances that require sidewalks. Mike Muffley commented the items that are outstanding are items that need to be completed based upon the grading plan that was submitted with their building permit application. His office conducted an inspection in October and they issued a punch list of minor items that were not completed when they did their inspection. This is why they were given a temporary certificate of occupancy. They have not been called back for a final inspection. He realizes that there currently is snow on the ground. Mr. Budihas questioned if he is required to have a concrete walkway. Mike Muffley commented when they did the inspection, there was an incomplete sidewalk which is why they called it out. It appears as though a subbase was put down with the intention of concrete going over top. That is why they made the comment that there was an incomplete sidewalk. The area can be leveled off with and completed with either additional stone, concrete, or grass and pavers. Paul Nikisher questioned why the pile of ground is an issue. Mike Jones commented the mound of dirt was not on the plan. It would need to have silt fencing or be leveled out.

Jerry Pritchard commented he would like to see the zoning reports go back to the way they previously were. Roxann Colfer commented the report changed because of privacy requirements that are under the Right to Know Law. Information that identifies a person is protected under the law because it protects citizens from

retaliation, harassment, and encourages people to report violations. Jerry Pritchard questioned if that includes the Board of Supervisors. If they don't know what is going on, what are they supposed to tell people when they call. Cindy Miller commented the individuals should be calling the Zoning Officer. Janet Sheats commented the Board can always contact the Zoning Officer if there is a question. Jerry Pritchard commented his main concern was the drama that has happened in the past.

- D. Police Report. Chief Henry reported in January, the Department responded to 418 calls which included 16 reportable accidents, 14 non-reportable accidents, 28 summary traffic violations, 15 equipment repair orders, and one individual was processed through the booking center. In addition there were seven arrests.

Chief Henry received confirmation from PPL security that they have a contractor who will be going up to their property to remove the camp that was created. They are hoping that this will take place in the next few days. The Department will be accompanying the contractor when they go to the site. The Department hasn't see anyone going there, but a neighbor has indicated that they felt they were still going there.

Chief Henry reported the testing and physical agility for establishing a list for new hires is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>. There are 14 applicants who will be taking the test. The testing for sergeant is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>. The three eligible officers will be taking the test. He is also looking to schedule meetings for National Night Out which will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

1. PLCB Grant. Sergeant Roth reported the PLCB grant is coming up for a rewrite which will take the grant to 2028. This grant focuses on underage drinking and high risk drinking enforcement and it also allows for equipment to be purchased. He is asking the Board to consider purchasing license plate readers. These work very well at checkpoints so they don't need to check everyone's registration and makes things move through a lot more efficiently. There will most likely be a cost match to purchasing the readers. He is expecting that match to be around \$6,000 for each reader if there are two readers purchased. There would need to be \$6,000 budgeted in 2027 and also in 2028. He can include \$9,000 for equipment in the grant.

Cindy Miller questioned if we would be the only municipality using the readers or would other municipalities be able to use them. Sergeant Roth commented the readers are installed in the Township vehicles. Cindy Miller questioned if the equipment would have to be turned over at the end of the grant cycle. Sergeant Roth commented the Department could keep the equipment. Janet Sheats

questioned if the readers are interchangeable between vehicles. Sergeant Roth commented they are upfitted for a specific car. If a new vehicle is being purchased, it would make sense to install the reader in that car. The life expectancy of the reader would be about the same life expectancy as the car. Cindy Miller questioned if there is additional software or maintenance that is required. Sergeant Roth commented the price includes four years of maintenance and it is hosted on a national server so there are no additional costs for the server. Chief Henry commented he believes the LPRs are a very useful tool for the Department. They were instrumental in the developing the suspect vehicle for the robbery that took place in Cherryville. Cindy Miller questioned if the LPRs in the cars would be a duplication of what the County will be providing and would it be a duplication if the County were to install more cameras. Sergeant Roth commented these would be different in that the County is proposing fixed cameras at certain locations. These readers would be in the car and reading while the vehicle is driving. He believes there is a place for both because officers will be driving in other areas where the County cameras wouldn't be located. The information regarding time and location are mapped and put into the Resource Information Center. Cindy Miller questioned if there is training included in the cost. Sergeant Roth commented the training is included, but there is not much more than turning it on and off.

Jerry Pritchard made a motion to authorize Sergeant Roth to move forward with applying for the PLCB grant. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Mr. Budihas questioned what happens if there is a cover over the license plate. Sergeant Roth commented it depends on what the covering is, but it is illegal to cover the plates. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Paul Nikisher questioned what the full complement of officers is for the department. Chief Henry commented the full complement is 13 officers. They are currently at 11 officers.

- E. Fire Company Report. Janet Sheats noted the Fire Company has a Fishing Derby coming up at Blue Mountain Fish and Game and this week is the Valentine's Day Sale.
- F. Lehigh Township Municipal Authority. Steve Arnold was present to represent the Municipal Authority. They are currently looking at their options to find a solution to the aging existing treatment plant because it is starting to become obsolete. They are experiencing having problems finding parts and people with experience programming the older system of the plant. The plant is having issues with communicating with the computers of today. They are conducting feasibility studies as to how to best move

into the future with a five year, ten year, and longer period of time, without requiring assistance from the Township. They are also reviewing their staffing needs because they only have one employee who is nearing retirement.

Jerry Pritchard questioned how they are doing at collecting the outstanding balances. Steve Arnold commented they review this every quarter. Janet Sheats questioned how it can be rectified when individuals owe over \$30,000 which appears as though they haven't paid for many years. When do you say enough is enough and go after the property? Steve Arnold commented as a utility, they have to follow certain guidelines. When they get past a certain point, they are allowed to do things, but the timeline is ridiculous. Attorney Backenstoe commented the Authority has the ability to file a municipal lien when they get to a certain point. They are eventually able to execute the municipal lien and force the sale at a sheriff sale. Steve Arnold commented this process requires quite a bit of legal expenses on their behalf and nothing is guaranteed so they need to be careful from a budgetary standpoint.

Steve Arnold commented that with the growth of the Authority, they will be developing a budget moving forward. One of their benefits is that there are long time members on the Board and they are using the knowledge they have as they work on moving forward. Cindy Miller questioned if they will also be working on a capital plan. Steve Arnold commented they will be. They currently do not have one.

Paul Nikisher questioned how much the Authority is in the red right now. Steve Arnold commented they have a water operating account and a sewer operating account. These two accounts need to be kept separate. If they end up in the red on one account, they borrow from the other and then pay themselves back with interest. Right now, their water account is basically at zero, but their sewer account is doing well so they will transfer some money to the water operating account to pay their bills. They would really like to get more water users on board. They will also have to purchase new filters to remove PFA which is a new requirement that will be taking place in 2028. Paul Nikisher questioned the individuals who are in the red and what is done. Steve Arnold commented anyone that is behind is communicated with and a demand for payment is made. When it reaches a certain point, their Solicitor will begin to write notices that must be delivered by the Sheriff. If there is still no response, they need to look at the value of the property itself. If the amount owed is \$30,000 and the value is only \$15,000, they are kind of stuck because buying that property would not benefit them. The remedy would typically be to buy a property at sheriff sale, pay off the lien, and then sell the property.

VI. OLD BUSINESS. There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Historical Society and 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Cindy Miller questioned if anyone from the Historical Society has reached out regarding anything they may be doing for the 250th Anniversary. Alice Rehrig commented the only contact she has had was an email asking if the Township had anything planned.
- B. International Property Maintenance Code. Janet Sheats commented she wanted to discuss this after what she recently experienced on an EMS call. The home was in such bad condition, they needed to place plywood on the floor in order to get to the patient. There was no heat. There also was about one foot of snow inside the house on either end because of holes in the roof. This type of situation is a safety hazard for both the residents and the Emergency Responders. She feels that the conditions of properties need to be looked at better, understanding that we don't want to go after people for broken shutters, glass, etc. The Township should be able to do something in a circumstance such as this, but there is nothing in place to deal with this type of situation. There are also hoarding cases in which she understands that people can choose to live how they want; however, it becomes a life and safety issue for the fire, police, and ambulance when there is an emergency.

Roxann Colfer commented the Property Maintenance Code focuses on the health, safety and welfare of the occupants and the public. It helps protect the structural integrity of properties, including, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems. There are requirements for heating, ventilation, means of egress, and smoke alarms. There are approximately four properties that are currently of a concern. With a property maintenance code, there is a process to have people removed from a home that is inhabitable. There is a process for inspections, re-inspections, appeals, and corrective actions. It also works hand in hand with the other Codes that are required by the State. As far as where people go, there are limited resources provided by Northampton County and additional information would be needed. Janet Sheats noted that the one property required the Fire Company to shore up the porch in order to gain access to the patient because the door wouldn't open. As a Township, would we want it on our conscious if someone were to die because of no heat. This is where we need to force County services to become involved and also find charitable organizations who are willing to step in and help. When people choose to do nothing, the Township should step in.

Mike Jones questioned how you would be able to tell that there is an issue on the inside. Would we be having people going into homes to inspect them? Roxann Colfer commented no, this is not an inspection program. It would be on a complaint basis, case by case basis. Mike Jones commented if someone comes in and files a complaint about an outbuilding that is falling down, then we would be required to

investigate and some people just can afford to repair those buildings. Roxann Colfer commented that is where the Township would have to work with them. There may be resources available. She needs to look more into Northampton County. She knows Lehigh County has resources for people who don't have the funds to do it. David Hess commented he understands these severe conditions but is concerned about people using it because they don't like their neighbor.

Cindy Miller commented she voted for this in 2019 when this was originally discussed, but her questions are what happens to the people if they are taken away from their homes. Hopefully it would be to somewhere safe and that they are taken care of. What happens to the property? Is it rehabbed? We can't fine them; they already don't have the money to take care of their property. Her concern with enforcement is what can we do or what can be done to help. She knows when she worked for Senator Scavello's office, they had a list of agencies they would contact when people had issues. The agencies would intercede to try to help. Is this what we are proposing as a follow up to assist these people? Are we looking at removing them from the property and that is it, and have the Township wash their hands? It doesn't end there as a Township. Once we get involved, in her opinion, we need to see it through to make sure these people are taken care of somehow some how. She doesn't want to put people out on the street, but at the same time, she is trying to think about what would happen if this were to occur.

Mike Jones commented, probably in most cases, if they are not fixing it, they can't fix it. How does it get fixed? Roxann Colfer commented that is when the Board needs to determine what they want to do, demo and raise it, put a lien on it. Mike Jones commented someone could turn them in because they want the property. He hasn't been in favor of this.

Janet Sheats commented this is probably the most complex thing the Board will have to worry about. Their first responsibility is the life and safety of these residents. In this case, she believes the individual will be placed in a facility because she is unable to ambulate. This is probably the most severe case. She is talking about mandatory reporting. When the Police come across a situation like this, they report it to Zoning, especially if there is a concern about safety to residents. She knows these people can't afford it; however, she also doesn't think they wanted to ask for help, but we can't just leave people in this condition. She does think we could develop a list of resources for these people. Roxann Colfer commented she has reached out to the County. Cindy Miller commented the Senators and Representatives offices have a list and they basically have a hotline they can use to get in touch with agencies. Janet Sheats commented she doesn't believe turning a blind eye is the right answer. David Hess commented he agrees we shouldn't turn a blind eye. Maybe we could work on something that would apply to emergency situations. His concern is that if there is a

family argument, they could start turning in people because the plumbing or electric may not be right and try to take something that is relatively minor in nature and escalate it to a much greater problem. Where does it start and how can it be forced to be escalated versus something that is truly a life safety concern. Roxann Colfer commented she cannot force people to let her in a home. This is about life safety issues. Mike Jones commented what is the purpose of adopting the whole thing if that is the case? Roxann Colfer commented the different situations are addressed in different sections of the Code. Mike Jones commented if the whole Code is adopted, then people can be cited for chipped paint and a collapsing shed. If the concern is emergencies, then why not just pull out those sections. If the whole code is adopted, there are hundreds of properties that would be in violation. Roxann Colfer commented she understands, but still believes the Code should be adopted as a whole rather than piecemeal it. The intent is not to police everything. Mike Jones commented if a complaint is filed, then we will need to respond to it. Janet Sheats commented the property could be viewed and not necessarily need enforcement. Mike Jones commented if someone turns in something that is a violation and nothing is done, we can end up in a legal battle. You either need to take out certain parts or do the entire thing. Janet Sheats commented another way of looking at this is, how is it fair to the person who takes really good care of their property and their neighbor's house is left to get into uninhabitable condition. Cindy Miller noted it will devalue someone's property.

Roxann Colfer commented she has information from the County and State regarding blighted properties. Cindy Miller commented the problem with the State laws is that it forces the municipality who wants to work on blighted properties to create a committee, have some type of fund, and then follow certain laws. It is not a friendly law.

Roxann Colfer noted if there is property that is piling things on the porch, the property is probably worse on the inside which becomes a safety issue in the event of a fire for both the resident and first responders. Mike Jones commented he understands, but also does not agree with telling someone how to live.

Attorney Backenstoe commented there are a lot of Townships that do have a Property Maintenance Code and he is aware of some serious circumstances within the Township and it is something that could be looked into further. He understands everyone's positions and points. Once it is adopted, it must be enforced uniformly. It is not uncommon for someone to use zoning to get back at their neighbors and turn them in. He believes there is a place and purpose for this. Cindy Miller is correct about the blighted property laws. The Township has to be willing to buy the property, redo it, and hope to get their money out. It is also horrible that the emergency

personnel have to go into a property like Janet Sheats described. There is no easy answer to this. He is willing to work with Roxann Colfer to see what resources are available to appease the concerns of the Board.

Jerry Pritchard commented that he agrees with Janet Sheats with properties being in a condition that is a safety hazard for emergency personnel, but he also agrees with David Hess regarding people using this as a weapon against their neighbors. Once someone walks into an unsafe condition, there is no turning back.

Jerry Pritchard questioned what happens if someone doesn't want to leave their home. Janet Sheats commented everyone will be different. In this particular case, there was a medical emergency for the one resident and EMS tried to convince the other resident to come along because they haven't left the sofa in probably six months. When they refused, they called the Area on Aging and they got an order to say they were going whether they liked it or not. These are type of situations she is concerned with. David Hess commented he is behind this for emergency situations, but feels it should be worded so it can't become a weapon to go after someone. Mike Jones commented the problem is we won't be aware of a situation until someone from emergency services has to enter the home.

Linda Roman commented she agrees that this can be used as a weapon. The resources from the County have a two year wait for any type of renovation to a home. If you are going to implement something, you will need to have funds or grants so you can renovate and help these people bring their homes up to where you want them to be.

John Knoblach commented he has been an EMT/Firefighter for 45 years. The place that Janet Sheats described is the worst he has seen in his entire life. He understands that people can use this as a weapon. His thought would be to create an Outreach Board of a bunch of people, contractors who are willing to go out and help obtain resources to try to help people, rather than attack them and regulate them. A resident commented he agrees. This is being looked at as how can we restrict and regulate and end up creating more avenues of control. He is hearing a lot of emotional attachment to the circumstance because of the compassion we have for people, but that should not be the catalyst for creating laws because at some point, the Township will be controlled by different people and it will be used in a different way and depend upon who the enemies are at that time. This also needs to be looked at while looking to the future. Rather than trying to force people to be the way we want them to be, we should look for an avenue of help that is reliable and not a prolonged timeframe, whether it be a Board on the Township or just a group of people getting together helping our neighbors however we can. It will probably cost more to create this and legislate it than it will be to just go to your neighbor's house and help them. Mike

Jones commented he likes that idea. There are a lot of non-profits within the Township that do things to help the community. Marc Kerksmar commented having a group willing to help people is a much better way to deal with this than to basically create an overexaggerated HOA with more regulations where a neighbor or siblings who don't get along can use it against each other. He does agree with the safety aspects. He would hope that if your neighbor doesn't have a roof, you would be going to talk to them and see what you could do to help, rather than turning them in. He believes the emergency situations need to be separated out from the potential use of this as a weapon. Cindy Miller suggested there may be a way to preface the ordinance with the first step being getting in touch with those who are willing to help. If that doesn't work, then we may need to go to the next step. Roxann Colfer commented the nuisance ordinance currently has provisions for dilapidated buildings that are in disrepair. We would give them 20 days to correct it or it goes to the magistrate; it is not as in depth as the property maintenance code. Janet Sheats questioned if there is anything in place once a property is posted as inhabitable. Roxann Colfer commented there is nothing in place. Attorney Backenstoe commented if someone doesn't make the repair and they go to the magistrate and still don't do it, and you need to do something, you will need to go to court to get an injunction.

Steve Arnold commented as an Authority they have gone through similar issues. There are legal aspects that the Solicitor will need to look at and figure out before any kinds of process can be made. When discussing diminishing property values, there really is not a equation that is easily acceptable in determining this. If, as a Board, you will create this, you run the possibility of creating your own liability. If this is created on feelings, it may clash with what the best legal option is. He would suggest waiting on this until the Solicitor has an opportunity to thoroughly review it. Attorney Backenstoe commented there are lot of things that need to be taken into consideration; it is not something that will be decided upon in one evening.

Jerry Pritchard commented he agrees with the need for something to protect the emergency personnel, but at the same time, it can turn into a heavy handed government.

Monica Brown commented she likes the idea of the outreach program. It may not be the answer for everyone, but it might help some. It would be a start.

Linda Roman commented it is sometimes a matter of lifting people up and being neighborly.

- C. Manager's Report. Alice Rehrig did not receive any applications for an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. She will run another ad.

Alice Rehrig has been looking into switching emails from GoDaddy to Microsoft. The switch would provide more storage and also a savings of approximately \$3,000 per year. Cindy Miller commented her only concern with the switch is losing all the prior emails. Will the emails carry over to the new provider? Alice Rehrig commented she believes there is a way to download everything to the computers if the emails do not carry over, but she would need to check with technology. Cindy Miller commented she doesn't want to lose old emails.

The RFP for sewage enforcement services has been advertised and the proposals will be before the Board at the next meeting.

A rewritten draft of the fireworks ordinance was provided to the Board for their review and will be on the next agenda. Cindy Miller suggested the changes be in a draft format to show the edits.

Cindy Miller commented she has some questions on the year end financials. This can be discussed at the next meeting.

Cindy Miller commented she had a resident question her why the tax bills were sent out late. Alice Rehrig commented they were mailed directly from BerkOne.

Jerry Pritchard commented there should be consideration given to getting backup power for the Township Building and Police Station. If we lose power, it will be difficult for them to function.

D. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Backenstoe had nothing specific to report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT. Paul Nikisher commented the Sportsman Night at the Fire Company is coming up and encourages everyone to support them. The Lions Club will be hosting Cinema Night at the Fire Company on February 28.

Monica Brown questioned if the dog park is closed until spring. Frank Zamadics commented it is closed until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

John Knobloch commented he is concerned that the individuals may go back to the home because the Township is not able to lock or board it. He would hope that the outreach program would be on the agenda in the near future for those individuals who agree with him and hopefully they will come out.

Tom Szoke questioned if the Township assists with snow removal in front of the doors by the fire trucks and if not, should it be considered? Janet Sheats commented the Township

used to until the Fire Company got their utility truck with a plow. Wayne Kleintop commented he noticed there were eight inches of snow in front of the doors during the last storm so he went in and opened it. Frank Zamadics commented he typically would go through there randomly through a storm. This past storm, there was an individual out on medical leave so he needed to run their route and wasn't able to get there. Typically, he would try to clear the apron and get salt and cinder down.

Zach Szoke commented he thought there was going to be a follow up with the Girl Scout who wants to do the Rainbow Bridge at this meeting. David Hess commented he and Frank Zamadics will be meeting with her regarding a location and then taking it back to the Rec Board.

Zach Szoke commented he knows Mr. & Mrs. Budihas were frustrated with what it needed for their permit, but wanted to let them know Mr. Muffley is a good person and engineer and does what he is contracted to do. He believes there has been a lack of guidance from the applicants engineer and their legal counsel.

Zach Szoke requested the Board make a plan for authorizing the advertisement of the ordinance to get land preservation on the agenda. Mike Jones commented there is no plan at this point; there are mixed emotions regarding this. Zach Szoke noted that it was decided upon last July to have Attorney Backenstoe prepare the documents to get this on the ballot. It seems as though the Board is backtracking on that decision and do not understand why. Janet Sheats commented she already explained her position. Zach Szoke commented he believes she is wrong in her position regarding the Facebook page. They will continue to do public outreach and everyone will have access to the information. Jerry Pritchard commented he believes everyone will like the open space until they get their bill. Zach Szoke commented he believes that this has been drug out long enough. It shouldn't be taking this long. David Hess questioned if there was going to be something placed in the Newsletter. Zach Szoke commented they will not be putting anything in the Township newsletter. They will be doing their own newsletter. They only reason they haven't done one yet is that they do not know when the vote will go through to get this on the ballot. They have no problem with continuing to do the public outreach, but they do not know when the vote will take place. Jerry Pritchard commented he was at the Fire Company meeting and sitting with people who were supporting it at that time. Now he is hearing from the same people that they don't think they agree with it. He really doesn't believe that most of the people understand the whole picture from the money part to the land part. Janet Sheats commented until someone brought it up a meeting or two ago, she didn't think about the fact that a 15 year old kid working at Rita's would have to pay the tax. She also goes back to the residents who can't afford to put a roof on their house or trash service, and now we are going to add an additional tax. She wants to do something to help our residents first. Linda Roman

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commented Zach Szoke has been asked to provide a list of the properties that may qualify for the program, but they have yet to provide it. Until they provide what has been asked of them, she believes this should be put to rest. Jerry Pritchard questioned how they can provide a list if the criteria hasn't been established. A resident commented as a senior, she must still pay taxes to send kids to school so she agrees with the not paying a tax that you will not receive a benefit for, but as a Township she believes the land preservation will be a benefit to everyone.

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