

# LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 11, 2025

- I. CALL TO ORDER. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Lehigh Township Municipal Building, 1069 Municipal Road, Walnutport, Pa. 18088. Chairman Mike Jones called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present: Cindy Miller  
Janet Sheats  
Mike Jones  
David Hess  
Jerry Pritchard  
Attorney David Backenstoe  
Alice Rehrig  
Liz Amato  
Scott Fogel  
Frank Zamadics

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. February 25, 2025. Janet Sheats made a motion to approve the minutes. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- A. General Fund Checks 28533 to 28562. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these bills. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

IV. PLANNING RELATED ITEMS

A. Plans for Approval

1. David C. Wasko, Riverview Self-Storage Land Development Plan. Jason Buchta and David Wasko were present to represent this plan. This plan was previously submitted with a different configuration about a year ago, but they ran into wetland and infiltration issues on the site. They had a wetlands delineation done and moved the developed area of the site and were able to avoid the wetlands. With this new layout, they have been able to obtain their wetland permitting, are going through their third round of comments with PennDOT, and completed stormwater testing with favorable results and will be submitting their design to the Township Engineer and LVPC. They have submitted to the Conservation District as well. They met with the Fire Marshall last week and have addressed his comments and he has issued a new letter dated March 9, 2025.

Cindy Miller made a motion to grant this plan conditional approval subject to the items in the Lehigh Township Planning Commission letter dated February 26, 2025, the Township Engineer's letter dated February 10, 2025, and the Fire Marshall's letters dated February 18, 2025, and March 9, 2025. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

2. Keith and Karen Hantz Minor Subdivision Plan. Keith Hantz and Brian Weidaw were present to represent this plan. They have addressed the engineering related comments and have also received approval from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. They are also requesting a deferral of SALDO Section 147-14 until such time as dedication and extension of the right of way until the time of development on the adjoining property.

David Hess made a motion to grant the deferral of SALDO Section 147-14 until such time as dedication and extension of the right of way until the time of development on the adjoining property. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Cindy Miller made a motion to grant this plan conditional final approval subject to the comments in the Planning Commission's letter of recommendation dated February 25, 2025, and the Township Engineer's letters dated February 10, 2025 and March 11, 2025. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Linda Roman questioned why this subdivision was being proposed. Mike Jones commented he is planning on giving two lots to his children. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. Engineer's Report. Jim Milot had nothing specific to report.

Cindy Miller noted the Planning Commission meeting was very short. There was only one plan to review and that review was quick.

V. DEPARTMENTAL/ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

- A. Recreation Report. Sandy Hopkins did not have anything specific to report since they didn't have a meeting. She would however, as Chairperson, like to have all the information pertaining to the Recreation Accounts for the meeting on Monday. She has not been made aware of the balances in the accounts.

Paul Nikisher questioned who is in charge of the Recreation Funds and how much money was in the Recreation Funds. He thought it was stated it was around \$130,000. Alice Rehrig commented the one fund is money that was contributed by developers, which is around \$65,000 and the other fund is money that was contributed by the Township for capital projects which is currently at \$95,000. Cindy

Miller commented money that goes into recreation can come from two funds, the General Fund and the Recreation Fee Fund. The Recreation fees come from when developments go in around the Township and they have to be kept in a separate fund. The General Fund is more budgeted money that is allocated every year and that goes for general expenses and can also be set aside into the Capital Fund based on the capital plan. The Rec Board is advisory to the Board of Supervisors, and the Supervisors make the decision on how to allocate it based upon the Rec Board's recommendation.

Paul Nikisher also questioned if the new homes that are going up pay the Rec Fee. Cindy Miller commented there is a fee schedule that is passed at the beginning of the year which outlines how much is paid. Currently, the schedule is \$750 for each new residential dwelling unit up to 3 lots, then \$2,000 per residential unit after that. There is a different amount for commercial and industrial. Mr. Nikisher questioned when the fee is paid. Cindy Miller commented it must be paid at the time their building permit is paid. Alice Rehrig noted that there are some developers who pay the fees up front.

- B. Public Works. Frank Zamadics reported the large truck which was approved for purchase in February of 2024 was received in December. It is now by the upfitter for the installation of the body, hydraulics, and plow. There is no date yet for final delivery. The pickup truck has been ordered, but no delivery date set. The heavy duty lift will be installed in the garage by the March 20. He is hoping to have a road improvement list for the first meeting in April.

Cindy Miller questioned where things are with the fuel station. Frank Zamadics commented they are currently filling vehicles with the diesel. There are about 300 gallons of unleaded left in the old tank. Once that is drawn down, everything will be going through the new station.

Cindy Miller questioned if the Public Works Building is still be worked on. Alice Rehrig commented we are still waiting for the parts for the tanks.

Cindy Miller commented she has been asked about the lines on Cottonwood Road. Frank Zamadics commented we are supposed to be at the front of the list for this year and hopes to hear from them relatively soon. The road surface temperatures need to be a bit warmer.

Linda Roman questioned when the leaves will be picked up on Cinchona Road. Frank Zamadics commented leaf collection will begin on April 1. The leaves need to be free of sticks and away from any obstacles such as trees, pole, cars, and mailboxes.

Frank Zamadics also noted that they have started street sweeping.

- C. Zoning Report. Liz Amato reported in February, there were 28 new building permit applications received and 32 permits were issued. There were no new complaints in February; but she has been receiving several already this month. The next Zoning Hearing Board meeting will be in April. There were three applications received: a variance for a pole building in the front yard setback area; a variance for a roof top solar application which exceeds the kilowatt limits in the ordinance; and a use variance for a winery.

Cindy Miller commented she noticed there are some properties that have been on the violation list for some time are going back and forth with court and are given extensions. Liz Amato commented the ones that have been on there for years are properties that have been going in and out of court. She does not give extensions unless she can see there is progress being made on the property. The property on Riverview Drive has been on the list for years. She doesn't want to clear it from the list because the violations still exists, but the last time she was in court at the Magistrate, the judge kind of said to stop coming back there because nothing is happening with cleaning up the property. His suggestion was to talk to the Supervisors to have them clean it up and put a lien on the property. She can start citing him again, but the fines don't seem to faze him. He just pays them and does nothing, goes back to court, and pleads guilty. This has been going on since she has been here and before. She doesn't know what the solution is. Mike Jones questioned what the fines were. Liz Amato commented she would need to look them up and each time he was back in court, the fine increased. At one point he was fined \$5,000 or \$6,000 and he just paid it. If the Board wants her to start citing him again, she can. The Board suggested she start citing again. They are not going to use tax payer dollars to clean this up. Chief Fogel commented once he is under citation again, he will not be permitted to be a backup towing company for some of the towers in the Township.

Paul Nikisher questioned how often can he be cited. Liz Amato commented she can cite him every day. Once there is one citation issued and they go to court, he can be fined every day the violation exists until they go to court which is how he got to the \$5,000 and \$6,000, but he would just pay it. Judge Hawke commented at the hearing that there has to be a better way because the property owner is not doing anything.

Linda Roman questioned what happened with the property in Pennsville that a complaint was received about at a meeting. Liz Amato commented there were two properties and both of them complied and she received a nice email from the neighbor who complained thanking her for getting the matter taken care of.

- D. Police Report. Chief Fogel reported the Department has received three traffic related complaints. One was in the area of Walnut Drive by Steeple Road pertaining to truck traffic and noise complaints. He placed the speed board to monitor speeds and that seemed to help to keep the speeds down. There were complaints about school bus violations on Long Lane. The Officers have been sitting in the area to monitor this. The third area was the Cherry Road and Beil Circle area and the speeding, including the speeds of delivery trucks. He has been in the area watching, but it is an area of low volume traffic so it's hard to be in the area at the right time. Janet Sheats commented she had received a letter regarding this. It seems to be someone who is walking and was suggesting crosswalks on Cherry Road and other items. Janet Sheats commented she doesn't believe there are a lot of people walking in the area. Chief Fogel commented the letter was helpful and well thought out and they will give it the attention that they can.

Linda Roman commented she has a neighbor who has two little kids. They used to draw slow down on Cinchona Road. Now they have two signs they placed on the road and are still using chalk. They are letting the kids out on the road to play. Chief Fogel commented he believes he knows the property and will check and speak with the parents.

- E. Fire Company Report. Janet Sheats commented the Fire Company has BINGO on March 21<sup>st</sup> and their Sportsmen's Night will be on March 29<sup>th</sup>. This is the Fire Company's largest fundraiser.

Janet Sheats also commented there have been several red flag warnings and special weather statements issued by the National Weather Service over the past few days. When these are issued it is considered to be an extreme weather condition and burning is not permitted.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Berlinsville Park Wall & Fencing. Jerry Pritchard commented this project was started some time ago. The quote for the wall was \$17,812 and the actual costs to construct the wall were \$15,235. With the completion of the wall, the Rec Board discussed padding for the wall, but the cost of the padding was higher than expected with costs ranging from \$21,000 to \$31,000 and could potentially need to be replaced every five years. In the last two weeks, he and Wayne Kleintop were looking into an alternative to the padding and found that fencing offset from the wall would be a more economical way to provide safety to the players. The project needs to get completed because the games start on March 21.

Cindy Miller questioned if the cavity between the fence and the wall will be dirt, grass, or stone. Jerry Pritchard commented it would be the stone that is existing.

Wayne Kleintop commented he got the bids for the fencing. It would be a six foot fence in front of the wall with green slats which would hide the wall and then there would be a 4 foot high fence on top of the wall so no one would fall off the wall. The cavity between the two fences would be covered with fencing material. Jerry Pritchard commented there are also quotes for 10 foot high fencing with a filler which would also cover the cavity between the wall and the fence.

Cindy Miller questioned which option would make the most sense and is the safest. Jerry Pritchard commented the ten foot high fence with the two foot filler is the least expensive and the two foot filler will provide the safety so no one can fall between the wall and the fence. Keith Hantz questioned what would prevent someone from stepping onto the filler area. Jerry Pritchard commented it would be able to support someone stepping on it.

Katherine Mack commented debris can go through fencing. How will this area get cleaned out? Jerry Pritchard commented should debris get back there, the Maintenance Crew would need to clean out the area. It could be blown out.

David Hess questioned if the ten foot high fencing includes the vinyl slats. Wayne Kleintop commented the two bids he provided, do include them. He is not sure about the third bid.

The pricing options on the fencing for the 10 foot fencing were:

Tri-Boro	\$14,188.00
Ace Fencing	\$14,455.00
DNS Fencing	\$ 9,570.04

The pricing options for the 6 foot fence and 4 foot fence were:

Tri-Boro	\$21,177.00
Ace Fencing	\$15,960.00
DNS Fencing	\$12,542.04

Zach Szoke questioned how the new fencing would tie into the existing fencing. Jerry Pritchard commented it will meet up against it.

Wayne Kleintop commented he believes the Lions Club will still be paying for the fencing. Mike Jones commented the Lions Club will reimburse the cost of the fencing up to \$14,000. Their reimbursement would be received by May 12.

Jerry Pritchard commented his preference would be the 10 foot fence. When he met with DNS, they indicated that the fencing with the tie back into the wall would be plenty secure.

Dave Hess questioned if the vinyl slats were included in the quote from DNS. Jerry Pritchard commented he doesn't believe they were included.

Monica Brown questioned if the low bid is of the same gauge wire as the other bids so that there is an apples to apples comparison.

Zach Szoke questioned if painting the wall would be an option rather than including the slats in the fence. Cindy Miller commented painting creates an ongoing maintenance issue.

Mike Jones reached out to DNS fence and they confirmed the fencing is 8 gauge fence. The gauge stated in the other quotes is 9 gauge so the lower bid would be a heavier fence.

Jerry Pritchard made a motion to accept the proposal from DNS fencing for the 10 foot fence with the ties back into the wall and include the six foot slats. The job is not to be started until we have a certificate of insurance. David Hess seconded the motion. Sandy Hopkins questioned if this includes the slats. Mike Jones commented it does not include the slats. Jerry Pritchard amended his motion to investigate a cost for adding the slats after a price is obtained. David Hess seconded the amendment to the motion. Sandy Hopkins questioned what the cost will be to the Township. Mike Jones commented the Lions Club will reimburse the Township for the cost of the fence up to \$14,000. He would believe that the cost of the slats will not exceed this amount. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. Phone System. Alice Rehrig received four different proposals for a new phone system. The proposals are as close to being apples to apples as possible with each company having different products. The proposals received provide for the options of outright purchase or rental of the system. The rental can be three to five years.

Cindy Miller questioned how often the companies change their technology that it would affect the phone system. Alice Rehrig commented she know with Ironton, there tends to be an end of life and then the system is no longer supported. With Galco, they update their programming and will continue to support the product as long as they are able to obtain the hardware that is needed. They currently have 25 year old systems they still support. With ET & T if you do the lease, they will provide a new system every three years with the lease.

Janet Sheats commented her concern with owning the system is that with technology constantly changing, the system could be outdated within three years.

Cindy Miller questioned how difficult it would be to add people into the system if the staffing grows in the future. Alice Rehrig commented it would take a phone call. With the current system, it more difficult because it is a premise based system. With the proposed systems, it is just a matter of programming.

Cindy Miller questioned how Galco handles the interface with the internet. If there is a problem with the phone system, how do they handle the finger pointing between the internet and their company as to whose problem it is. Alice Rehrig commented she is not certain how that would work, but as long as there is an internet connection, they would take over from there. They provided a demonstration with their phones and there was no issues with them working.

Jerry Pritchard questioned if they have other municipal clients. Alice Rehrig commented they provide service to several. She also noted that Galco also has a service where they will automatically forward police calls to the non-emergency phone number if they detect calls can't be completed because the internet or power is down. Cindy Miller commented she thought based on the notes that were written, the Police Department was going to stay with Ironton Phone Company. Alice Rehrig commented Galco is willing to take over everything. The PenTeleData proposal was to leave the emergency call box with Ironton; they would take over the remaining lines.

Janet Sheats commented she likes the way Galco's proposal is written, right down to how many faxes you can send/receive in a month. Alice Rehrig commented for the office, she is looking at a digital fax where the faxes can come directly into the computers. She is not certain that this option will work for the Police Department.

Cindy Miller commented she knows we are looking into having two internet service providers so there is a backup. How would that work with the phone system if something goes down. Alice Rehrig commented that is something that Andy Gildner from Keystone Technology would have to coordinate between the two providers and the phone company and how everything interacts.

Cindy Miller questioned if we started with a rental program and we decided we want to buy, would they work with us. Alice Rehrig commented she believes they would. If we get to the end of the rental program, and find there is no need to change anything, we just continue paying the monthly maintenance fee and would own the phones. If there is something that is better, we can upgrade at that time or discontinue service.



Mike Jones questioned how old the current phone system is. Alice Rehrig commented it is about 7 or 8 years old. There were two problems with the current system. One was that it was put in very quickly because it replaced a phone system that was struck by lightning and we had no phones. The second is that it is an older type system and we have the old copper lines feeding into the new technology and the lines tend to lock up. Mike Jones commented if the current system is still working, then it would be reasonable to assume we should get another three or four years after the rental is paid. Alice Rehrig commented even if the decision is to own the system, Galco will continue to maintain the system as long as they are able to get the necessary parts for the system. They take the position of they sell it, they will maintain it. With our current system, it became obsolete so Ironton would no longer service it and we need to go to a third party when there are issues.

Jerry Pritchard commented he doesn't see why the Township wouldn't want to own their system. Janet Sheats commented there is \$300 difference between renting and owning. For that amount, we can see how the service is, how the equipment works, and if it works, we own it. If the service is that bad, we can go elsewhere.

Cindy Miller made a motion to move forward with Galco as recommended by the Manager with a three year rent to own. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Linda Roman questioned where the products are produced. Mike Jones commented none of the proposals indicate where the products are made. Alice Rehrig commented she knows that the Yealink Phones are listed on the State Contract. All voted aye. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance for Adoption

1. Ordinance 2025-1, Amending Chapters 43 and 151 as they pertain to Tax Certifications, Issuing Duplicate Tax Bills and Dishonored Checks. Cindy Miller commented the ordinance states in Section 43-1, Deposit of Funds, the Tax Collector shall deposit all taxes collected into the municipal account and supply a deposit report to the Treasurer. What happens if the Treasurer deposits money into the tax account? Alice Rehrig commented the only time she handles tax money is if there is a bounced check involved. At that point, she would let them know that the party made good for the check. Cindy Miller questioned if that needed to be added to the ordinance. Attorney Backenstoe didn't believe that would be necessary.

Janet Sheats made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-1. Daid Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Collector. Cindy Miller commented she wanted to discuss the position since we are coming into an election year and after reading the schedule for the current year. In the past, most of the taxes were always collected at their home. During COVID, the previous collector moved the collection to the Township Building. Now that we are coming to a new election, she believes now would be an appropriate time for a change. Does the Board feel that there should be some type of insurance from the tax collector for people coming here to pay taxes in case someone slips and falls? What happens if the lock box is broken into? We never have this in the past. She is looking at protection for the Township that we are not on the hook if something happens. We do this with all of our parks. The teams that use our fields must provide proof of insurance. Why would we not have someone now who is using our conference room to collect taxes provide some type of insurance so that we are covered?

Janet Sheats commented she believes we would be starting some type of precedence. What about others, such as the Township Engineer, who may use our meeting room to meet with someone? If we do it for one, we have to do it for all.

Jerry Pritchard commented we have an umbrella insurance which covers our property. We had the YMCA in here doing stuff. Cindy Miller commented the YMCA should have provided insurance. Jerry Pritchard commented we are trying to put up a road block for people to pay their taxes which pay the bills. David Hess commented he can understand if they wouldn't be residents.

Cindy Miller questioned if there is anything that was learned after going through what we went through with the previous tax collector between an employee and a 1099. The tax collector is 1099. They are not an employee of the Township. Jerry Pritchard commented there are many townships across the state that do this. Cindy Miller disagreed.

Attorney Backenstoe commented the tax collector is an elected official in an elected position. Ultimately, the Township is responsible for the taxes. A lot of townships do have the tax collector come to their municipal building or have a drop off box. He understands the concern. There are one of two ways that this could be handled. One would be to have Alice Rehrig contact the insurance carrier to make sure they know that we want to have the tax collector here one day a month to pay taxes. If the insurance company is okay with that, then so noted, you are okay. If you wanted to go one step further, you could probably do some type of indemnification with the tax collector, although he doesn't believe it is necessary. He believes it would be best to talk to the insurance company. If you are covered, then he doesn't see a need to worry about it.

Mike Jones commented we have never done this in the past and this was not provided to any of the applicants that they need to have insurance to be here. Cindy Miller commented when the interviews were conducted, most of the applicants said they did not have a problem with collecting taxes out of their house. None of them sat in the audience and said they plan on using the Township meeting room to collect taxes.

Janet Sheats commented she doesn't believe it will be an issue with the insurance. We have public coming in and out of the building and using our parks without signing a form. We don't close the parks down when they are down there playing. Cindy Miller commented that is different. When we lease out parks, the Midget Track, the Historical Society, the baseball teams that use our fields, they all have to provide proof of insurance. Janet Sheats commented they are actually leasing our property.

Jerry Pritchard commented the majority of the time the room sits here empty. We are providing something that pays the bills. Why put in a roadblock? We are finally getting things resolved.

Monica Brown commented according to the law you need to have a tax collector. That person is an independent contractor. She is being paid independently. She should have some type of primary insurance for people who are coming onto the premises to pay their taxes. They normally wouldn't be here; they would be at her house. You are providing a service to the people, but why do you want to have the Township's insurance take the brunt if someone slips and falls and sues the Township. She could have primary insurance and the Township's should be excess over it.

Mike Jones questioned why it was never an issue for how many years. Cindy Miller commented this has only been since COVID. She has questioned this before; it just wasn't at a meeting. Monica Brown commented she has always gone to Mary Trexler's home. She had hours three days a week plus evening hours. Cindy Miller commented when you look at the schedule, there are no evening hours unless you make an appointment. It is 9 AM to 4 PM. Mike Jones commented when you look at the interview process, nothing was stated that they had to have evening hours. Cindy Miller commented she is not arguing that. She is purely protecting the Township at this point.

Monica Brown questioned who would be responsible if someone were to break into the lock box. That is another exposure the Township didn't have before. Jerry Pritchard commented it is bolted down; it is centralized. Janet Sheats questioned why

our township can't include what other Townships are doing; we need to get up with the times. Mike Jones commented this should have been brought up before someone was nominated.

Cindy Miller commented when you are a 1099 you need to have insurance. When she was tax collector, she had to have insurance because she had people coming to her property. If someone slipped and fell, she was liable and her insurance can take care of it. Mike Jones questioned if this was told to any of the applicants when they interviewed. Cindy Miller commented she was told it was a private business. You need to look into what is required when you are a private business. Jerry Pritchard commented the Township has insurance on the facility. There are people walking their dogs through the property, riding their bikes through here. David Backenstoe questioned if she is collecting taxes at her home. Janet Sheats commented it is by appointment. Jerry Pritchard noted she also goes to meet people.

Mike Jones commented this should have been brought up when people were interviewed. Cindy Miller commented it doesn't matter. They are an independent business. Janet Sheats commented it was up to the Board to let them know what it entails. Cindy Miller commented she had previously voiced that she didn't want the tax collector here. Jerry Pritchard commented in Bethlehem Township there is an arrow inside the municipal building telling people where to go to pay their taxes. Why do we need to be difficult? If our carrier says it is covered, then it covers it. Cindy Miller commented she wanted it noted so that if something happens, we have done what we need to do. Jerry Pritchard commented it should also be noted that we are putting more money in the bank faster and that is what pays our bills. The reports are on time. Cindy Miller commented it is not about the person, but the position.

Paul Nikisher commented it is a good idea to check on this and he believes she is doing an outstanding job. Cindy Miller commented she is not saying she is not doing a good job. It's time to run like a business.

- B. Manager's Report. Alice Rehrig reported there will be an Act 537 Planning Module coming before the Board for the old section of the Walnutport Mobile Home Park. Their sewage treatment plan permit expired last year and they obtained an extension because they want to connect to the public sewer lines that run along Washington Drive up to the Hills of Greenock. In order to connect to the line, they need to run an 80 foot pipe. Because the Park is in Lehigh Township and the sewer would be connecting to a conveyance system that is owned by Walnutport Authority and then conveyed to the Slatington treatment plant, DEP is requiring an Act 537 amendment since it involves three municipalities. Once the connection is made, it will be treated in the same manner as the Hills of Greenock and our Municipal Authority will receive royalties from that connection.

Alice Rehrig also spoke with the consultant who she has been working with on the RACP grant. The reimbursement requests are finally working their way through the Office of the Budget and she is hoping to get the reimbursement in the next few weeks.

C. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Backenstoe did not have anything additional to report.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT. Mike Jones commented he heard back from DNS Fencing. They are estimating that 6 foot slats will cost between \$2,250 and \$2,500. A written quote will follow.

Katherine Mack commented she saw work was taking place at the old Turkey Hill. Will the new Turkey Hill ever happen or will they just keep repairing the old Turkey Hill? Jim Milot commented he cannot speak as to what Turkey Hill is doing at their building, but he did see that PennDOT issued an extension on their permit, so things are active from that standpoint. Cindy Miller commented they told her they would be coming in this year with a new plan.

Monica Brown commented last meeting there was a discussion about not having enough money for a Recreation Consultant and completing projects. Looking at the cost of the fencing and a potential cost for the tennis courts of \$25,000, it would seem as though there is enough money in the Recreation Accounts to still be able to hire a consultant if they come up with some ideas, there may be other things we can afford and get them completed. At least we would have a goal. Jerry Pritchard commented he believes it was said at the last meeting that we have projects in front of us that we know need to be done, then reconsider the consultant. We need to get bids for the tennis courts so we know the cost of them. Mike Jones commented he tends to think that the tennis courts will be more expensive than \$25,000. That amount was just a guess. That is why he agreed with getting everything done before moving on to a consultant. David Hess commented just because there is money in the Recreation Accounts doesn't mean that we need to spend it. David Hess commented there are other areas where money is needed to be spent. We have potholes that needs repair, officers that working alone, and a new officer who is wearing a used coat. There are other expenses in the Township that should be taken care of instead of spending \$50,000 on a consultant. Janet Sheats commented she has been asking for a list of projects for the parks and still hasn't received anything. Sandy Hopkins commented they are listed in the minutes.

Sandy Hopkins commented there are two people who don't want to spend the money for a consultant. One says there are other projects we need to finish. When she looks at the Township and the parks, we have no park that has a decent playground. When she spoke with people who live in the Township, they told her they go to Northern Lehigh, to Friedens, where they have beautiful playgrounds for their kids. Mike Jones commented

the Lions wanted to put a lot of money into Berlinsville, but they weren't allowed. Cindy Miller commented that wasn't true. A consultant from a playground company came and looked at the area. They had a whole plan put together as far as what type of equipment they wanted to install there and the Lions decided they didn't want to invest the money into it. It was going to be located in the area where the existing equipment is; that equipment needs to come down. When they looked at this project and the value of what could be bought, the money they were going to contribute wouldn't have purchased much of a playground. They couldn't afford it and the Township can't afford it. Mike Jones questioned why the Jaindl money couldn't be put towards the project. Cindy Miller commented the money is for when the hotel is developed. Mike Jones commented there is money for the land at the plant. Alice Rehrig commented there is roughly \$21,000 due when the resort is finalized. When we settle on the land for the treatment plan, he owes \$40,000 which is to go into a playground at Indiantrail Park. In addition to these amounts, there is another \$50,000 that is owed which he wants to go into Indiantrail Park as well. Cindy Miller commented a decent playground will cost \$250,000, minimally. Mike Jones questioned why would we add another \$150,000 to a playground and sink that kind of money into a park that is being said it will be useless when the plan is expanded. Cindy Miller commented that is exactly why we need a consultant. They will tell us what can be done. David Hess commented why spend \$50,000 to possibly get a grant. Cindy Miller commented you can get a grant to hire a consultant. You can also combine grants so you have more money to work with. Mike Jones questioned how you can hire a consultant and then get a grant for a consultant. He thought you couldn't use grant money for something that was already purchased. Cindy Miller commented you could put the consultant out for bid so you have an amount, then apply for the grant. Just because you put it to bid, doesn't mean you have to hire them. You use the bid to apply for the grant. It would work the same way as the Public Works Building. Jerry Pritchard commented we can use our engineer. Sandy Hopkins commented when someone asks her about a playground because she is on recreation, she will just refer them to the Board. Mike Jones commented if the park is being talked down, why dump money into it. Janet Sheats commented people can come to a meeting. She sees people playing at the park. Cindy Miller commented people shouldn't be coming to the Board. **Janet Sheats had stated that people can bring it up under public comment. She doesn't want to deter people from coming to meetings. Cindy Miller commented** she wants people to use the Rec Board. The Rec Board should be advising the Board. Cindy Miller commented when the Jaindl agreement was developed, that is what was wanted. He asked what they wanted and he was told a playground at Indiantrail Park.

Katherine Mack commented an example of what \$120,000 buys in playground equipment is at Moore Township Elementary School. That is what the cost was over 20 years ago and the PTA purchased and installed it. It is a very expensive undertaking. It is also obsolete now and needs to be torn down. \$250,000 is a drop in the bucket when you are

talking about playground equipment. She agrees that having a plan is a good idea, but you are going to need money to supplement the plan. Just like the plan for Delps Park. The plan was developed and engineered, but very little was followed through and what is there cost the Township a minimal amount of money. She also would still like to see the shades for the dog park. She was promised them in 2025.

A resident commented the idea of a park is a good idea, but you need minimally \$250,000. There is a little over \$100,000 in our fund and Jaindl is going to give \$100,000 which doesn't pay for the minimal of \$250,000 and you are going to pay \$50,000 for a consultant to write it up and you will need \$450,000. You wind up spending \$50,000 on something that is out of our reach. Cindy Miller commented you need to plan. Mike Jones commented his concern is doing the plan and then not following it. What at Delps Park was on the original plan? The trails and pavilion. That's it after all the money was spent on the plan. Cindy Miller commented if we keep going the way we are, people will be leaving our Township to use other parks because we do not provide amenities here for our tax payers. What do our tax payers get for their money? Jerry Pritchard commented once the tennis courts are redone and restriped for pickle ball, you will see people coming. Janet Sheats also noted that taxes haven't been raised in years to be able to afford the things that everyone is supposed to be complaining about. Going back to the Police Department, do you like having an officer working by themselves. What is more important? It is a safety issue.

Monica Brown commented there is one Board member who is offering to try to find a solution for the Township by having someone else pay for it through grants. If you agree to having a consultant paid for through grants, you could at least get some quotes and have them paid for through a grant. You would at least have that accomplished. After that happens, maybe then you can get a plan going from the consultant and apply for more grants. We got a beautiful new maintenance building which didn't raise our taxes because it was paid for through grants, but you need to apply for the grants.

Linda Roman commented right now with the traffic and noise on Route 248, you can't even hear the birds. When Jaindl puts the generator plant in, what do you think is going to be heard at the park other than those two noises. You also need something for the teenagers to do so that they are not vandalizing the parks. There are also three pair of bald eagles at the park.

Paul Nikisher questioned if the playground at the elementary school is open to the kids. Mike Jones commented it can be used when school is not in session.

Katherine Mack commented she remembers another Township that was working with a consultant and the first thing they did was survey the community to find out what they want. That is the only way to know what the people want. You need more community

involvement. She does feel bad for the kids around here. There is nowhere to safely ride a bike. It is even dangerous to walk your dog along the road. She sees people coming to the Township. We have developments going in and will be needing recreation areas. She doesn't know where other communities get their resources and we are stuck. Cindy Miller noted the other communities get grants. Katherine Mack commented she sees beautiful things in other areas, but they may also have a greater tax base or businesses.

Jerry Pritchard commented the Township does have some of the nicest facilities. Sammy Balliet used to be state of the art and everyone went there to play baseball. Today, we blow them away. We are selling things as to how things are no good and that is not true. It's just a story line. Katherine Mack commented the organized sports have always received all the attention. Maybe rightly so because they are heavily used. Jerry Pritchard commented we have people coming from all over using the volley ball courts at well. Katherine Mack commented people do use the walking trail at Delps Park. They say they like the park because it is rural and beautiful and don't want it to change. They like the rural character. One of the things that is always said in Lehigh Township is that we want to maintain our rural character. That is in our Comprehensive Plan. One of the shames of the Township is that we were not able to develop the rails to trails. That is a big thing in people's eyes. That is a black mark on the Township.

Mike Jones noted a new volley net is needed at Danielsville.

Monica Brown wanted to thank Katherine Mack for donating the fence for the dog park. There are people out there all the time and they do come from other townships because ours is better than some.

Zach Szoke commented he thinks the problem that we are running into is that there is not a specific detailed plan where everyone knows what is wanted by all parties. He believes that is what we should be shooting for in one way or another.

Zach Szoke questioned when the Board would be looking to have additional discussions regarding the farmland preservation. Mike Jones commented he believes that if this is going to move forward, the next ballot would be the primary of 2026. Janet Sheats commented she thought the plan was to put something in the fall newsletter so that public discussions could be started. This will be placed on the agenda for additional discussion at the second meeting in April.

- X. ADJOURN. David Hess made a motion to adjourn. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.