LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 13, 2026

7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 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
Janet Sheats
Jerry Pritchard
Mike Jones
Alice Rehrig
David Backenstoe
Mike Muffley
Roxann Colfer
John Henry
Frank Zamadics

II. 2027 BUDGET. Alice Rehrig provided the Board with an updated budget which includes the insurance renewal rates. For the next meeting, she will provide a complete outline of the budget.

III APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. September 22, 2026. Janet Sheats made a motion to approve the minutes. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

A. General Fund Checks 29960 to 30009. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these checks. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Cindy Miller questioned when the bills are paid for National Night Out, does it go through it's own account. Alice Rehrig commented all the receipt and expenditures are recorded in one line item, Community Relations so everything can be tracked. Jerry Pritchard commented there are a lot of invoices for Hanover Engineering. What do they all entail? Mike Muffley commented the bulk of the billing was for the Timberline Road project. The remaining invoices were for the individual tasks they were assigned to. Katherine Mack noted the list of bills that is provided to the public no longer has detail. Cindy Miller commented the details of each check are not required to be provided. It is the

Board's meeting and they need to know the details. Katherine Mack requested the Board review all the invoices with the public as a courtesy to the taxpayers. All voted aye. Motion carried.

B. State Fund Checks 1664 to 1666. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these checks. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

V. PLANNING RELATED ITEMS

A. Update on Plan Status

1. David Wasko, Riverview Drive Self Storage Plan. Jason Butcha and David Wasko were present to represent this project. They received an extension of time for the recording of their plan on July 14th, and a condition of that extension was to provide the Board with an update for this meeting. In addition to looking for better cost estimates to complete the improvements, they have also listed the property for sale. There has been some interest in the property, but it has not yet been sold. They understand that if it were sold for something other than the self storage, a new plan will need to come back to the Township for approval. They will continue to work on this until their January 14, 2027, deadline for the recording of the plan.

B. Plan for Approval

1. Joseph & Susan Ahearn Minor Subdivision. Mark Leuthe was present to represent this plan. The plan received conditional approval from the Planning Commission in June. Since that approval, they have received their Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Act 167 approval and have submitted for their NPDES permit. The engineering comments in the Planning Commission's letter are minor in nature and will be addressed when they submit for the recording of the plan. Mike Muffley commented the NPDES permit is the only significant outstanding item. They had the pre-application meeting in August so they are in the review process.

   Cindy Miller made a motion to grant this plan conditional preliminary final approval subject to compliance with the Township Engineer's letter dated June 5, 2026, including planning module approval by the Sewage Enforcement Officer, obtaining NPDES approval, payment of recreation fees, the addition of a notation on the plan of any waivers granted, and submission of an abstract of title. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

C. Engineer's Report. Mike Muffley reported the contractor is expecting to begin the pipe replacement work next week. There will be detours and short term closures.

They will have plates available so residents are able to get to their homes. This portion of the project is expected to be completed before winter. The road resurfacing will take place in the spring.

The Planning Commission reviewed a minor subdivision of Daniel and Abigayle Ziegenfuss which would provide the Fire Company with land for expansion. The Planning Commission provided them with some comments and discussion points and will be coming back to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission also discussed 500 Cypress Street which is a property in the Industrial Zoning District and they moved forward with the development of the site and construction of buildings without permits. The Zoning Officer provided them with a grace period to voluntarily bring the property into compliance, but it keeps getting delayed. Cindy Miller noted the Planning Commission placed conditions on them that they need to submit to Zoning Hearing Board for the next meeting and then submit to the Planning Commission in January. If they don't meet those conditions, the zoning officer will begin enforcement action.

Mike Muffley commented he is also in the final phases of completing the Zoning Ordinance Review.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL/ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

A. Recreation Report. David Hess reported the Rec Board is working on finalizing the Christmas Tree Lighting and the playground equipment for Indiantrail Park.

Jerry Pritchard commented the Rec Board is still accepting sponsorships for the small trees that will be in Berlinsville Park for the tree lighting. The sponsorship forms need to be turned in by October 15.

Katherine Mack commented the Recreation Budget has $167,500 in the budget. Will this be going towards the playground equipment? Alice Rehrig commented the playground equipment was not part of the budget. Katherine Mack questioned what the money was going to be used for and will it roll into the next year if it is not used. Alice Rehrig commented the Rec Board had set money aside for the repair of the tennis court but is not ready to start that project. The money for the tennis court is coming from the capital account which is specifically designated for Recreation.

1. Lions Logo on Berlinsville Fence. David Hess reported the Lions provided the Rec Board with a design for the logo to be placed on the fence in Berlinsville. The Rec Board approved it at their last meeting, but there was not enough time to get it on the Supervisors agenda in September. Since they wanted to have the sign up before National Night Out, he gave them permission to have it installed. He is

looking for Board approval to pay for the purchase of the sign since the Lions contributed a significant amount of money towards the fencing. The cost of the sign is $261.82.

Jerry Pritchard made a motion to approve the payment of the sign for $261.82. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Paul Nikisher and Katherine Mack commented the sign looks nice. All voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Public Works Report. In addition to Frank Zamadics' monthly report, the Department is starting to prepare for leaf collection. The summer help will be working for two more weeks.

C. Zoning Report. Roxann Colfer reported the office has been busy with permits, code enforcement, zoning hearings and hearings at the magistrate. There were four hearings scheduled for the Zoning Hearing Board last week. Three of those hearings were continued to November.

Jerry Pritchard commented he would like to see some of the properties that are a mess cleaned up. Roxann Colfer commented as she receives complaints, she addresses them based on the Board's directive of complaint based enforcement. Most people try to cooperate to get their property into compliance, but unfortunately, she does need to take some to the magistrate.

D. Police Report. John Henry reported in September, they responded to 411 calls, 8 reportable crashes, 6 non-reportable crashes, 23 summary violations, 15 equipment repair orders, and two individuals were processed through the booking center. In addition, there was one arrest for bad checks, three arrests for driving under the influence and one for driving under the influence involving an accident. The Department also conducted a DUI checkpoint which resulted in three DUI alcohol arrests, four DUI drug arrests, one of which involved the driver having their child in the car, and three drug arrests. In early October, they conducted a truck weighing detail. They weighed six trucks; none were overweight. They placed one vehicle out of service for an invalid DOT number and one driver was arrested for DUI and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Chief Henry provided a brief explanation of how the department uses Flock Cameras. There are two cameras in the Township that are owned by Northampton County. One camera is on Route 145 in Treichlers and the other on Route 248 in the Gap. The cameras are fixed position cameras and cannot be remotely manipulated. They take still images of license plates. They are used for investigative purposes and cannot be used for traffic enforcement. The cameras only collect what is visible from public

roadways. They do not collect names, addresses, phone numbers, driver identities, distinctive traits or other confidential information. There are safeguards in place to prevent unauthorized access. Every search of the cameras is recorded and requires a justification so an agency can see who is asking for the information, why they are asking, and when they asked. In addition, the Department is required to do quarterly audits to verify the legitimacy of any search that is done. The Department has used Flock information several times. Two specific instances where they use the Flock information was to develop a suspect vehicle when there was a robbery at the vape shop and to locate a missing juvenile.

Jerry Pritchard commented he thinks the concern of most people is who is getting and keeping the information; where is it going? The government has been known to use things against the people. He knows Flock's headquarters are in Georgia. He knows this is something beyond the Township Department. If our Department has access to tools to help them, we need to let them use them and have faith in them to do the right thing. That is the reality even though he is not a fan. If it is a tool to keep the community safe, we need to live with it.

Dan Ziegenfuss commented he realizes that the County installed the cameras. He thinks the Township should take the position that they will not install any of their own cameras. He doesn't think that is a good idea in America.

Linda Roman questioned if the cameras violate the 4th Amendment rights. Attorney Backenstoe commented he does not believe so because of how they are used. The recording is done in public. He doesn't see it as a search and seizure problem because no one is entering a home or vehicle.

Paul Nikisher questioned if the cameras run continuously? Sergeant Roth commented they are but there is a 30 day retention of the photos. If there is something they are investigating, they need to download the specific photo. Flock only has access to the pictures of the vehicle and the plate. In order to obtain the owner information, the Department has to use a different program.

Cindy Miller questioned if the Department knew why the County picked the two specific locations for the cameras. Chief Henry commented the County had talked to them prior to get their thoughts on the location. The cameras were installed after the Department used Flock cameras for the robbery at the vape shop. The County had received a grant for the cameras and there were two available for the Township and everyone agreed those two locations would be the best location. Dan Ziegenfuss questioned if the Township could have refused them. Chief Henry commented he didn't ask that question. The County approached him about his thoughts installing them at those locations.

Marc Kracji commented he lives at 1086 South Cottonwood Road which is at the intersection of Route 946 and South Cottonwood Road. There are three issues at the intersection. One is speed on Route 946, specifically with the traffic going westbound; the second is there seems to be a lot of people drifting the stop sign especially during ski season. By people drifting the stop sign, they are not able to accurately judge the speed of vehicles on Route 946 which can result in accidents. He saw signs on Howertown Road and Jacksonville Road which said "Complete Stop, $0, rolling stop $154. A sign like this may be impactful to people drifting the stop sign. The third issue is there is a tree that obstructs the view of eastbound traffic on Route 946. Chief Henry commented they can address the speeding. They have been getting a lot of complaints throughout the Township. Since 2017, there have been 6 reportable accidents at this intersection. He can also work with the Road Department regarding adding the sign prior to the intersection.

Sergeant Roth provided information regarding e-bikes and the concerns with them. He recently attended a task force meeting regarding these because they are becoming a concern especially in the boroughs and towns and they are looking at how to address the issue because it is relatively new. There have been seven fatalities involving e-bikes and scooters. The task force is working on developing an educational video for parents. The parents can actually be cited for permitting their child to ride these bikes on the roads. The peddle assist bikes are not as much of a problem as the electric dirt bikes. There are some people with DUIs who think that are able to drive these on the roadway, which is not the case. In addition, someone can be arrested for DUI if they are operating an e-bike on the roadway. The laws in Pennsylvania have not caught up to the different types of e-bikes that are out there. There is also a lot of education that is needed for parents and law enforcement. Right now, the laws in effect require you to be 16 years old and wearing a helmet.

Linda Roman commented over the last few days, she has seen e-bikes doing jumps from the roadway into the parks.

Sherri Szoke questioned if it is illegal for any age under 16 to be riding a bike on the road. Sergeant Roth commented the 16 year old requirement only pertains to e-bikes.

Chief Henry questioned if the Board would consider starting a drone program for the Police Department if they can obtain the funding for it through grants. Janet Sheats commented she has no objection to the Department looking for funding. Cindy Miller commented she likes the idea of a drone program, but her only concern is manpower and will we be constantly getting pulled out of our area to use it in other areas. Janet Sheats comments she can see the benefit with issues on the mountain and hikers going out when it is almost dark and their phone is going dead. Cindy Miller questioned if there are a lot of calls for that? Rick Hildebrand commented it varies

from nothing in a year to several times in a year. Janet Sheats commented she would agree to having them look into grant funding so that the program is not a burden on the taxpayers. David Hess commented if we get the grant we would need to come up with guidelines on the use of it out of the area.

Chief Henry commented National Night Out was held on Tuesday, October 6th at Bryfogle Park in Berlinsville. They had a very nice turn out and received a lot of compliments on the location and time of year. It is something they will consider for next year. He wanted to thank everyone who participated in National Night Out, the sponsors, vendors, everyone who helped, and everyone who attended.

Tom Budihas again raised the issue of speeding on Walnut Drive and the safety concern of parents parking along Blue Mountain Drive when they pick up their children from school. Chief Henry comment once the speed signs have finished collecting data on some other roads, he will move one to Walnut Drive to begin collecting data to determine if a speed limit reduction is warranted. The School has be trying to deal with the parking issue. The problem is that parents are getting there an hour ahead of time which is causing the backup on Blue Mountain Drive. The Department has been going up there to try to help with the issue. The school is also sending out information to parents to not come so early.

E. Fire Company Report. Rick Hildebrand reported the Fire Company has responded to 383 calls so far this year. October is Fire Prevention Month and they have been scheduled to do educational demonstrations at several events. The Department also did an auto extrication demonstration at National Night Out.

Rick Hildebrand also noted they have been having major radio issues in the County. He would appreciate it if the Board could reach out to the County Executive and ask them to have this repaired. He is of the opinion that they are letting the maintenance of their current system go because they are preparing to transition to a new radio system. Cindy Miller commented she recently saw that someone else had written to them and they are not responding. She will reach out to the County Executive. Janet Sheats commented there was a response from the Couuty at one point in which they are saying it is weather related. The Fire and Police can't even communicate with each other when they are on a scene one hundred feet apart. This can become a serious safety issue. Jon Roth commented that radios are so bad right now that the officers working over the weekend had to answer status checks with their cell phones because none of their radios can get out to the County.

Rick Hildebrand commented Northampton Community College also just recently decided that they will no longer be providing Fire and EMS training which means
.

that it will become very limited as to where they can send people for training causing an increase in training expenses. They will most likely have to send them to Bucks County or possibly Lehigh County. Jerry Pritchard commented there is a lot of School District funding that goes to the Community College. The representative from the School Board can be asked what is taking place.

Katherine Mack commented she thinks it would be best that the individuals who are actually understanding the services go to the School Board and the County to explain in detail what is taking place.

VII. OLD BUSINESS. There was no old business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Steven Hawk, additional Sewage Enforcement Officer at Hanover Engineering. Cindy Miller made a motion to add Steven Hawk as an additional sewage enforcement officer for Lehigh Township. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Manager's Report. Alice Rehrig did not have anything additional to report.

C. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Backenstoe reported he has been working with the Zoning Officer on various matters. Some of the specific matters are:

Lehigh Township v. Donald Gogel. There are five separate parcels with junk violations. The defendant plead guilty and was fined $5,000. If the property does not get cleaned up, he will be coming back to the Board to file with Northampton County Court for injunctive relief.

400 Best Avenue Zoning Relief. The property had previously received a permit for wholesale uses. It turns out there are much more uses taking place there including retail sales and daily flea markets. When they went to the Zoning Hearing Board and they showed their attorney what exhibits we had, they decided to continue their appeal. He believes they will be coming back with a more appropriate use for the property.

Possible alcohol rehab facility at 529 Blue Mountain Drive. This hearing was supposed to take place at the October zoning hearing meeting and they requested a continuance until the November meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT. Marion Mae requested the Board consider installing a dusk to dawn light at Route 145 and Washington Drive. It is very dark in that area and you don't know where the turn is until you are on top of the Road. The Township will reach out to PPL to see if this can be done.

Katherine Mack questioned if the Board gave any additional thought to exonerating the individuals who earn less than $12,000 from the Earned Income Tax. She would like to see that relief provided for the population who may need the help the most.

Paul Nikisher questioned if the sludge that is being dumped up in Palmerton will effect things in the Township. Cindy Miller commented they are permitted to dump it by DEP. It is considered to be clean fill and not something that the Township can regulate. Mr. Nikisher also noted the County is looking at a 43.25% tax increase, combined with the School District increase of 4.3%, people should be angry and going to the County. The madness must stop.

Zachary Szoke, 4467 Timberline Road, questioned the sequencing of the pipe replacement on Timberline Road. Mike Muffley commented they will be replacing one pipe and closing it up and then moving on to the next pipe. Zach Szoke also commented he was at Beckys, National Night Out, and will be at the Walnutport Canal Days and the Polling stations to continue to spread the word about farmland preservation. They also have a new website "keeplehightownshipbeautiful.com". Mr. Szoke is also still in search of the author of the article in the newsletter that pertained to preservation and if the Board has given thought about the direction the township is going and what is the overall plan for the Township. Jerry Pritchard commented you can have a plan for everything you want, but you need to have money to do it without taking it from the same people. Mike Jones commented the Comp Plan is the vision for the Township. Cindy Miller commented it is recommended that the Comp Plan be updated every 10 years.

Tom Szoke commented he knows that no one wants to raise taxes but he wants to make sure that the residents don't get punished with a sky high increase at some point.

Dan Ziegenfuss questioned if the Board would consider making changes to the grading ordinance. He has worked with people who are disturbing 1,000 square feet of ground to install a pool and their grading plans are running $9,000 before he even starts the work. He understands that the Board doesn't want to create water issues, but this is becoming quite costly to residents and would like the to Board to look into what can be done to make it less costly to residents. Jerry Pritchard commented our ordinances should be streamlined and not create more issues.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Upon returning from Executive Session, Janet Sheats made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to the two successful candidates for the position of police officer subject to the successful completion of drug & alcohol testing, physical exam, and psychological exam. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

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