

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
June 25, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Romnie Long called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:05 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, Chairperson Romnie Long, Thomas Powanda and Matt McCluskey. Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber, LTL Consultants, Matt Peleschak, SDE, Inc., Susan Brown, Township Manager/Secretary, Missy Swanson, Township Treasurer, Roadmaster Brian Mohr and approximately twenty-four (24) members of the public were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Romnie Long announced that executive session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel matters.

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted that Missy Swanson, Township Treasurer, was taping the meeting this evening as well as Bill Piersol, Weinsteiger Road, and Barbara Dunn, Spring Valley Village.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Barbara Dunn - Spring Valley Village:

- Resolution to the Towhee Court flooding-Ms. Dunn stated it has been a year and there has been no resolution to the flooding problem. Ms. Dunn is requesting the pipe behind 1 Towhee be capped and the water behind 9 Towhee gets redirected out to Limekiln Road. John Weber indicated his discussion with the new property owner went well and the new owner was willing to make the necessary adjustments, however he needed some time since he had just recently purchased the property. John will reach out to him again.
- Pedestrian Walkways – Spring Valley Village is requesting upgrades to the two (2) crosswalks on Stauffer Road, such as raised crosswalks, flashing pedestrian signals and additional line painting. Ms. Dunn suggested applying for grant money for the improvements, however it was explained that it will take a few years to obtain grant money for the improvements and a traffic study would need to be obtained to see if the crosswalks are warranted. Mr. Weber stated a traffic study should be done prior to any improvements Mr. Weber also pointed out that the raised crosswalks will generate noise for the residents living along Stauffer Road every time construction vehicles or tailor's hauling equipment drive over them. Supervisor Powanda said after Stauffer Road is resurfaced, the crosswalk would be painted wider and brighter and check into the cost of a traffic study.

- Walkway from Finch Drive to Clubhouse – Ms. Dunn requested a walkway installation. There are wetlands which would be crossed so a PADEP permit would be required. There was some discussion regarding creating a walkway across the bridge, however it was stated there is not enough clearance. The walkway would be the responsibility of Mr. Williams.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 28th, 2026.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Matt McCluskey to approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 28th, 2026 as prepared.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Matt McCluskey to approve the payment of all bills for the General Fund, Highway Aid Fund, Recreation Fund, Street Light Fund, Traffic Impact Fund, Sewer Fund and Building Escrow Funds up to and inclusive of June 25th 2026, and to file the treasurer's report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of April was presented Brenda Breidigan, Tax Collector.

Real Estate Tax	\$	4,584.22
Light Tax	\$	44.00
Fire Tax	\$	1,580.75
EMS Tax	\$	1,580.75
Per Capita Tax	\$	324.50
Amusement Tax	\$	<u>13,850.79</u>
Total	\$	\$ 21,965.01

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

The EBFD and Bally EMS Reports were included in the binders. Supervisor Powanda discussed the communication received from Berks County regarding the county/municipal radio system and the challenges replacing end of life equipment. Every fire department in Berks County will need to upgrade their radios at a cost of approximately \$125,000 with no assistance from the county. Matt Bakes explained the radios may be used until they break and then they will need to be replaced as the parts will not be available to repair them. Matt Bakes also addressed the need for the Township to recognize Ricky Smith, Fire Marshall, as having the investigative authority, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Police, for Washington Township.

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders.

SEWER ENGINEER'S REPORT

A copy of the Sewer Engineer's Monthly Report prepared June 12, 2026, is enclosed.

WWTP Sewer Facility Operations –

Fog Program Update -SDE is working on updating the user permit for Longacre's Dairy to change from a grab sample to a composite sample

Old Route 100 Manhole Repair- Manhole lining work to be completed by subcontractor, SWERP, in late June or early July.

Force Main Relocation – Notice of award was issued and preconstruction meeting is scheduled for July 16th. The notice to proceed will be issued after the preconstruction meeting.

Weinsteiger Pump Station generator – Notice of intent to award to apparent low bidder, PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. Agreement needs to be signed by the Supervisors tonight to move forward.

Longacre Dairy Industrial User Permit was re-issued on June 5th. The new permit requires 8-hour composite sampling for BOD, TSS, Phosphorus and FOG on a monthly basis. SDE met with Longacre's on June 10th to discuss the changes to the permit. Longacre did have a BOD violation in May which will result in a surcharge.

Camp Camino update – The WQMP partial certificate of flow inspection was held on May 26th and SDE issued the Partial Certificate of Flow.

Escrow Release #2 – Escrow release #2 request in the amount of \$760,058.21 leaving a remaining balance of \$223,580.19

A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Matthew McCluskey authorizing escrow release #2 in the amount of \$760,058.21.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

A Copy of the Township Engineer's Report dated May 21, 2026 is enclosed.

Niantic Road Crosswalk project update – waiting on approval

2026 Road Project

Barto Road, Stauffer Road and Kulps Road from Hillcrest to Hereford Twp. Line LTL has received all the contract documents and a notice to proceed has been issued. A tentative start date is July 16th and currently waiting on a date for a preconstruction meeting.

Camp Camino on-site improvements Escrow Release #9 - \$362,515.72.

A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by Thomas Powanda to authorize the on-site improvements escrow release # 9 in the amount of \$362,515.72 for Camp Camino.

All ayes

1606 Main Street revised final plan submitted which will be reviewed at the July 2nd Planning Commission meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Valley Run Hydrant testing – The Solicitor has been in touch with council for the HOA and hopes to have the matter resolved soon.

Passmore Road water runoff temporary construction easement – nothing new to report

Edison Walk – nothing new to report

Reserve at Barto – Currently working on improvements agreement with Mr. D'Angelo's council and comments have been finalized for the HOA Declaration.

Prestige Properties WWTP Expansion – Joan has been in ongoing discussions with Mr. D'Angelo and is Attorney.

Route 100 Euro's Clean Up – There has been considerable improvement made at the property and requesting an inspection by the Zoning Officer.

Township review of ordinance & codification project - ongoing

Ms. London requested an Executive Session regarding litigation involving 2213 Old Route 100 at the end of tonight's meeting.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A Copy of the report dated June 25, 2026, is enclosed.

Projects & Grant Status

WTP- Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project – discussed under Township Engineer Report

WTP- Master Plan Project – Start in January 2027 and will be applying for a small community grant from PRCF

WTP – Playground Upgrade Project – waiting on potential award of DCNR grant.

BCP- Master Plan Project – The second study committee meeting was held June 16th and the first public participation meeting will be held on August 18th at 7:00 p.m and is requesting authorization to advertise.

Motion made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the advertisement of the BCP Master Plan Project public participation meeting scheduled for August 18, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

All ayes

BCP Barto Trail Replacement – Applied for a Berks County DCED grant for \$151,000. The Township applied for a Pottstown Regional Community Foundation grant for \$17,526, in May the Township was awarded \$11,000 which leaves a shortfall of \$6,526. The Park & Rec Board is recommending to apply for the Yeck grant in the amount of \$10,000 to fill the funding gap.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long authorizing the application of the Yeck Family Foundation grant in the amount of \$10,000.

All ayes

BCP- Meadowbrook Trail Connector Project – A grant application was submitted to Pottstown Regional Community Foundation in the amount of \$9,632 however the award was for \$4,234 so the scope of work was reduced by eliminating the fencing. In order to complete the project there will be a cost to the Township of \$5,398 which was budgeted in 2026.

A motion was made by Matthew McCluskey, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing to move forward with the project at a cost not to exceed \$5,398.

All ayes

BCP -Kiosk Replacement Project – The Scout is finishing up the project and needs some additional materials which Mark is requesting the Roadcrew pick up and deliver to the Scout's home.

A motion was made by Matthew McCluskey, seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the material to be purchased and delivered by the Roadcrew.

All ayes

BCP & WTP Security Camera project – A meeting is being scheduled to review the camera locations.

War Memorial Restoration Project – On June 23rd the Township was awarded \$35,000 for this project. Mark got an updated price quote for the project which has increased by 15% to 20%, which now reflects an approximate shortfall of \$2,800. The Park & Rec Board will seek additional donations toward the cost of this project to help with the shortfall. The potential start for this project is late August or early September.

Event Updates

2026 Planned Events

Township 250 Anniversary/Ice Cream Day -July 25th 2026 from 12 pm to 4 pm

Fall Festival -September 26th at the Barto Community Park

New Items and Recommendations

None

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Brian thanked Mark Bedle for all the work he has done for the Township obtaining grant funding for many of the township projects.

Heydt's Schoolhouse Road bridge at intersection of Anthony's Mill Road- received clearance to begin the clean up which will take place within the next three (3) weeks.

Sign management program – Brian has provided literature to the Board however he would like to table until next month to allow time for him to receive all relevant information.

Gehman Road – guiderail – Discussion tabled until July meeting in order to obtain additional information

Condition of Schwenkfelder Road – Brian will be meeting with Pierce Keating to discuss the current condition of Schwenkfelder Road and the repairs that are needed and will report back to the Board.

Temporary closure of Crow Hill Road – Request received from Merkel Tree Service for the temporary closure of Crow Hill Road from Sycamore Road to Hillcrest Road, tentatively scheduled for July 14, 2026, to conduct extensive tree work.

A motion was made by Matthew McCluskey and seconded by Thomas Powanda authorizing the temporary closure of Crow Hill Road for tree work.

All ayes

County Line & Hoffmansville Road intersection safety concerns – Brian was contacted by EBFD regarding safety concerns at this location. Brian contacted LTAP to meet him at the site for recommendations on how to improve safety at this location after a fatal accident on May 30th. Brian indicated he has since replaced the 30" stop sign with a 36" stop sign and installed thermoplastic stop bars. LTAP thought the 36" stop signs were a good idea and also the red blinking lights would be helpful. The lights are solar assist and cost about \$200 a piece, two (2) would be needed. John Weber suggested stop ahead signs. Supervisor Powanda suggested double stop signs on both sides of County Line Road and one red, blinking light on each side of County Line Road and get a price for stop ahead signs.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Matthew McCluskey authorizing the installation of double 36" stop signs on both sides of County Line Road, one red flashing light for atop the right-hand side stop sign on each side of County Line Road and obtain pricing for stop ahead signs for each side of County Line Road.

All ayes

Road Occupancy Permit – One year extension request for the following Windstream permits:

Permit #38284

Permit #38141

Permit #38116

Permit #38156

A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Matthew McCluskey authorizing up to a one-year extension for the above-listed Windstream permits.

All ayes

Brian reported that the Camp Camino sewer vents are located close to the road and will most likely get sheared off during snow plowing. Matt Paleschak will discuss this concern with his inspector.

SUPERVISORS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Township Police Department investigation/study – Chief Leatherman, Eastern Berks Regional Police Department (EBRPD), was present this evening to discuss a proposal to provide police coverage for Washington Township. The regional police serve Boyertown and Bechtelsville Boroughs, and Colebrookdale Township and have been serving as a regional department for six (6) years. Currently, there are fourteen (14) full-time officers. The EBRPD has offered to serve the Township on a percentage-of-budget basis, at a rate of 20% of the Department's annual operating expense budget. Their 2026 budgeted operating costs are \$3,328,918, which would mean a cost of \$665,784 (\$12.53 per resident per month or \$145.90 per resident per year) for Washington Township based on 2026 information. This does not include police dispatching costs, which Berks County would bill directly to the Township. The proposed cost percentage is based on the estimate of the percentage of Department resources required to serve the Township, taking into account the Township's geographic size, population, road miles, and Pennsylvania State Police call data. At this time, this would be an initial one-year contract to provide for a one-year trial period, after which the Township and the Commission could extend, renegotiate terms, or terminate the arrangement if not mutually satisfactory.

Security Camera policy – A final draft of the Security Camera policy was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors which includes a number of privacy and security protections. There will be two (2) video storage devices, one located at the Township Administration building and one located at the WWTP facility which is on a separate network.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Matthew McCluskey adopting the Security Camera policy as presented.

All ayes

Planning Commission appointment

Chairperson Romnie Long stated she feels it is a good idea to get some fresh perspective, a new set of eyes. It is valuable to have experienced members however it is also beneficial to get new people involved. Romnie Long nominated resident Liam Cunningham to the Planning Commission, there being no second, the motion fails.

Supervisor McCluskey nominated resident Michelle Sweisfort, there being no second the motion fails. Supervisor Powanda stated of all the applicants the only person that attends every meeting is David Moyer. Mr. Powanda nominated resident David Moyer, there being no second the motion fails.

Discussion on outdated operating system at WWTP – The plant control system is old and outdated. SDE will obtain a proposal from a company to do an evaluation of the system, which will allow planning and budgeting of a system upgrade.

Liability Coverage for transportation of recycling bales – The Township insurance company was contacted regarding coverage for the transportation of recycled material by a Township Supervisor using his personal vehicle. The following information was received from the insurance company:

- Workers Comp: The Supervisor would not have access to worker comp benefits through the Township's policy. Only employees are eligible for coverage. The Supervisor would have to utilize his personal health insurance plan.
- Auto Physical Damage (Comp/Collision): If the Supervisor's personal vehicle was damaged, he would file a claim with his personal auto insurance carrier.
- Auto Liability: If the Supervisor was involved in an at-fault accident which resulted in bodily injury or property damage to a third party, the Township's policy through EMC would trigger if the Township was named in a lawsuit.

The Solicitor stated it is ideal to have a vendor, or a Township employee do the transportation of the recyclables. Supervisor McCluskey will check with his insurance carrier to see what his policy covers.

AI Data Center Ordinance – Supervisor Long spoke about continuing to revise the AI Data Center Ordinance to make it stronger. The Ordinance, in its current form, was submitted to a review group who gave the Ordinance a grade of "B". The one recommendation was the decommissioning bond should be pushed to 110 to 125% and revisit every five (5) years. Another recommendation was the tier four emissions. Supervisor Long thought the Planning Commission should take a look at the recommendations. Romnie raised the question of enforcement which Joan stated enforcement is through a court order, an injunction through the Court of Commons Pleas. Supervisor Powanda said he would like to suggest three (3) items for consideration:

- 200-foot setback to parking lot areas in residential areas instead of 50 feet
- Change of setback to receptors from 500 feet to 750 feet
- Manufacturing of all materials in America-Joan will research to see if this is permissible

Tom stated he did not understand some of the comments made at the last meeting, the berating of the Supervisors when what the Supervisors are trying to do is protect the Township. It was stated that Washington Township is ahead of a lot of other municipalities with this ordinance. Upper Hanover had an application come in seven (7) hours prior to passing their ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept resignation of Treasurer Melissa Swanson – **A motion was made by Romnie Long and seconded by Matthew McCluskey accepting the resignation of Melissa Swanson effective July 3, 2026, and to advertise the Treasurer position, retroactive to June 22, 2026.**

All ayes

Accept resignation of Fangyuan Ge from the Park & Rec Board – **A motion was made by Romnie Long, seconded by Thomas Powanda.**

All ayes

Park & Rec appointment – **A motion was made by Romnie Long to appoint Susan Hu to the Park & Rec Board, motion seconded by Matthew McCluskey.**

All ayes

Traffic Signal maintenance contract renewal – The traffic signal maintenance contract is up for renewal; this is a two (2) year contract at the same price as the last contract with Signal Service Inc.

Motion made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Romnie Long approving the two (2) year contract with Signal Service Inc.

All ayes

Stauffer Road speed hump request – A request was made by a resident from Stauffer Road for speed humps to slow traffic. It was stated there are rules for the installation of speed humps and it becomes a liability for the Township. No action was taken.

BCCPC appointment - The Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council (BCCPC) is requesting the Township appoint a representative from the Township to the BCCPC. The last representative they have on file was a past manager from 2012.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda, seconded by Matthew McCluskey adopting Resolution No. 2026-23 appointing Susan Brown as the Township representative to the BCCPC.

All ayes

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Berks County – Radio Communications System

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. *(If needed)*

The next Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

The next Barto Community Park Study Committee meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called for a litigation matter.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by Matthew McCluskey to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:37 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Manager/Secretary