

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 27, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 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
Alice Rehrig
Joshua Mazin

Absent: David Backenstoe

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. January 13, 2026. Janet Sheats made a motion to approve these minutes. David Hess seconded the motion. Cindy Miller noted a correction on Page 6, under Resolution 2026-2, the question she asked was if the property had active farming on it, not the way it is worded in the minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

- A. General Fund Checks 29342 to 29373. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these checks. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- B. State Fund Check 1641. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve this check. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

IV. PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

A. Unexpired Planning Commission Term Ending December 2027

1. Wayne Kleintop. Mr. Kleintop has been a lifelong resident of the Township. He is going into pre-retirement and thought he would give some time to the Township and apply to be on Planning Commission. He believes he could be an asset to the Planning Commission. He doesn't have all the answers and knows it is very complicated and there is a lot involved.

Cindy Miller questioned if Mr. Kleintop ever had to make a decision that was unpopular and how he handled it. Mr. Kleintop commented he has business wise. Sometimes you have to confront the customers who don't necessarily think you did the right job. Sometimes hard decisions are hard to make. Saying no can be the hardest thing. That's where he would talk with other Board members. If he didn't know the answer, he would try to get the information.

Cindy Miller questioned how Mr. Kleintop would place personal preferences aside while serving on the Planning Commission. Mr. Kleintop feels he is working for the Township residents, and he is working for them. He would want to please them more than anybody and personal preferences would be set aside.

Cindy Miller questioned if Mr. Kleintop were approached by a member of the Board of Supervisors, how would you move forward with supporting the ordinances versus a personal agenda. Mr. Kleintop commented this is tough. You are interpreting an ordinance and that's where you need to talk to different people and talk amongst the Board to base your decision. It may not be what is written, but what everyone believes is what the ordinance is saying and how it applies to a certain situation.

Jerry Pritchard questioned if Mr. Kleintop foresaw moving things forward with Planning based on the meetings he attended. We just finished up with the Ad hoc and zoning ordinances. Do you think you will be able to step in and take care of what needs to be done? Wayne Kleintop commented the last two meetings he attended they were working on things with Ad hoc, so he doesn't know how they go about their meetings. He also attended Zoning Hearing Board meetings, but they are different. To move things ahead, he is pro-business, but will not be a rubber stamper. He doesn't shoot from the hip. Cindy Miller noted there are ordinances that the Planning Commission must abide by.

Jerry Pritchard commented as a member of an advisory Board, you should be approachable. You don't need to rubber stamp things, but everyone on all the Boards should be approachable. If approached, he would hope it would be communicated back and whatever it is, it is.

Paul Nikisher commented he thinks whenever you do any service to the community, he thinks it is important for you to bring something to the table. Mr. Kleintop has because he is experienced in business, fair and balanced. By being in business, he knows where to and what not to approve.

Janet Sheats made a motion to appoint Wayne Kleintop to the Planning Commission for the term ending December 2027. Jerry Pritchard seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS. There was no old business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rainbow Bridge at Delps Park. Brianna Clough is working on her Gold Award for Girl Scouts and would like to construct a Rainbow Bridge at Delps Park. She

received approval from the Recreation Board and is now seeking Board of Supervisors approval. She is currently an 11th grade student and a Girl Scout Ambassador which is the highest rank in Girl Scouts and has completed her bronze and silver awards. The Gold award is the next award and has to have a universal connection so she wanted to do a project around coping with grief and that is how she developed the idea of having a pet memorial bridge for people who have lost pets and provide a place where people can go and imagine their pets crossing over to a better place. The project needs to be part of the community and the concept started by the community when they wanted to make a memorial bridge at Indiantrail Park, showing that there is a need. That is when they thought of the idea of bringing it to a place that was more appropriate, such as at the Dog Park. Once the project is approved, she will work with Frank Zamadics to find a location where it is appropriate and in a location that will blend with the park. She would like to do some landscaping to help accomplish this and give it a nice appearance. The project will not cost any taxpayer dollars. She will do fundraising and donations to provide all the materials. The bridge itself will be approximately six foot long and two feet wide. The landscaping is planned to be very low maintenance. She is looking at rocks with weed block underneath them. She is looking at using either pre-treated or composite wood which will last for at least 10 years and won't need to be touched up as often and easily replaced if broken or destroyed. She will also reach out to the Northampton High School Volunteer club to see if anyone would be willing to maintain it after she has graduated. Her goal is to complete the project and have an opening ceremony on August 28 which is Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day. Ms. Clough provided several conceptual drawings of the bridge that ranged from a more natural appearance to a very colorful appearance.

Mike Jones questioned if the bridge will be purely symbolic or will someone be able to walk across it. Ms. Clough commented it is more symbolic, but someone could walk across the bridge. Mike Jones noted that two feet might be narrow for someone to walk across it. Mike Jones questioned if something could be hung from it, such as collars. Mrs. Clough commented there will be a sign with the bridge to talk about the symbolism of the bridge. The hanging of the collars could be encouraged if the Board wanted.

Janet Sheats questioned if the bridge would be inside the dog park. Mike Jones commented when he was at the meeting, it was thought it would be more on the track side of the park.

David Hess commented he thinks something with less color would be better. If everything is painted, there is a concern of the paint fading and chipping. Cindy Miller questioned who will be maintaining this. Once it is installed, it will be up to

the Township to maintain. Janet Sheats commented she would prefer that the collars are not hung, but have a nice plaque hung with the rainbow bridge. People will walk across it or have their pets walk on it and the paint will not last. Cindy Miller commented it always falls back on the Township. She commends Brianna Clough for coming up with the project but feels there could have been a better idea of a project. She doesn't think this project should be done at a public park. Putting something like this in a back yard is fine, but to put it in a public park and then having the Township maintain it, is not a good idea. She wishes the Rec Board would have given more ideas on other things that could be done such as agility equipment is needed in the park or something else pet oriented. She is not for the bridge because she sees what is going to happen in the future. It will fall on the Township to maintain and if it lasts ten years, people will want the Township to replace it. Mrs. Clough commented the composite wood will last more than 10 years and doesn't need to be repainted so there won't be a need for upkeep. It's a small bridge. If it gets to the point where it needs repair or replacement, you can just get rid of it, you can just throw it away. Janet Sheats commented she likes the idea; she is an animal lover. She would prefer not to have all the painting. She likes the all wood idea with a sign on it with the explanation of what the rainbow bridge is. Mike Jones commented there will be limited maintenance needed with rocks and weed block. Cindy Miller commented people will not listen and will hang things on the bridge. Jerry Pritchard commented the composite wood usually comes with a lifetime guarantee. Why throw a roadblock in front of something that will not require maintenance. Cindy Miller commented it depends upon where it will be placed. The Board has no idea where it will go. Brianna Clough commented she reached out to Frank Zamadics, but he did not want to discuss the location until the project was approved by the Board.

Janet Sheats suggested tabling this until the February meeting when Frank Zamadics is at the meeting and then the location could be discussed with everyone present. David Hess commented the project could be approved with the location to be determined later. The Rec Board had no objection as long as it would blend with the park.

Jerry Pritchard made a motion to allow Ms. Clough to go forward with the rainbow bridge project being that the colored wood is a composite with a lifetime guarantee otherwise it be a natural wood and that Ms. Clough work with Frank Zamadics and the Recreation Board to find an acceptable location. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Monica Brown commented there already is agility equipment out at the dog park that is not being maintained and starting to fall apart. It would be a good project for someone to fix the equipment that is there. Mike Jones commented he has no objection but wants it to be little to no maintenance. Cindy Miller commented it should be no maintenance. The guys don't have the time to maintain this. They can't

even keep up with the weed whacking around the fencing. Jerry Pritchard, David Hess, Janet Sheats, and Mike Jones voted aye. Cindy Miller was opposed. Motion carried.

B. Resolutions for Adoption

1. Resolution 2026-6, Establishing Police Pension Contribution. Cindy Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-6. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Paul Nikisher questioned what the amount of the contribution was going to be. Alice Rehrig commented it is 3.5% of the officer's payroll. The contribution is based upon the collective bargaining agreement. The resolution is required by the Auditor General when they come in and review the funds. Linda Roman questioned where the contribution came from and if there is a cap on it. Alice Rehrig commented this contribution comes from the officer's paycheck. The negotiated amount can't exceed 5% according to Act 600. Cindy Miller commented the State mandates the standards for the police pension and the Township has to contribute what is necessary to make it whole. Alice Rehrig commented it is based upon an actuarial study. All voted aye. Motion carried.
2. Resolution 2026-7, Establishing Records to be Destroyed. Janet Sheats made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-7. David Hess seconded the motion. Cindy Miller questioned if the records are tax records or a combination of tax records and office records. Alice Rehrig commented it is a combination of both offices. Her goal is to get all of these records to a point where each year a resolution can be adopted to destroy a single year of records in accordance with the Records Retention Act. Jerry Pritchard questioned if we ever get requests for old records. Alice Rehrig commented we don't. Cindy Miller commented it is a matter of having the records if the Township were ever audited. Alice Rehrig noted all the budgets and audits are permanently retained. All voted aye. Motion carried.
3. Resolution 2026-8, Adopting Emergency Operation Plan. Cindy Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-8. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Paul Nikisher questioned what the Emergency Management Plan encompasses. Michael Rehrig commented the plan is the basic emergency operation plan which establishes the framework for how the Township responds to most emergencies. Linda Roman questioned what an example would be. Michael Rehrig commented it was used when a tropical storm went through the Township and most recently the Mountain Fire. Janet Sheats commented it provides a listing of all the resources available in one location. Cindy Miller commented it also designates what buildings are used for what purpose, such as a command center, emergency shelters, etc. Tim Bartlett questioned if there were any changes to the plan. Michael Rehrig commented there were no major changes to the basic plan. The

Resource Manual had contact information updated. Cindy Miller noted a correction in that she no longer has a land line for phone service. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- C. Data Centers. Cindy Miller requested authorization to have the Planning Commission start developing a separate ordinance for Data Centers. The Planning Commission and Ad Hoc have included this in the new zoning ordinance, but since the ordinance is taking so long to be completed, she would like to get Data Centers done quickly and expedited to get it to the Board for approval and then have it incorporated into the zoning ordinance when that is done.

Cindy Miller made a motion to authorize the Planning Commission to work on a Data Center Ordinance for presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Tim Bartlett commented he has been looking into data centers, and they use a significant amount of water and it cannot be dumped back into the river because there are contaminants involved. Cindy Miller commented they also use a lot of electricity. If there is not enough electricity, they build a generator system on site. Right now, they tend to try to place the Data Centers in an area where there is public water and sewer and gas service. The Government is also starting to look at this as a utility which adds an additional level of complexity to this. A resident questioned if there is an estimated time frame when the ordinance would be completed. Cindy Miller commented the Planning Commission has already started working on it as part of the new zoning ordinance so she wouldn't expect it to take more than two or three months. A resident questioned where a data center would be located. Cindy Miller commented they would most likely be restricted to an industrial area. Looking at what is taking place in other communities, the data centers are going on larger tracts of land, around 400 acres. We don't have anything like that, so it would have to be a smaller data center. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- D. Manager's Report. Alice Rehrig reported Chief Henry had posted a notice for the Detective opening and anyone who was interested in applying for the position needed to submit a letter by January 22. The only individual who submitted a letter was Sergeant Mirabile. He would like to make the transition to move him into the Detective position in May. In the meantime, Chief Henry is asking for authorization to start obtaining the Sergeant testing materials since that process takes some time. There was no objection to him moving forward with the promotional process.

Monica Brown commented it was mentioned at the last Recreation meeting that several baseball teams have not paid for field use. Why wasn't the money collected? Alice Rehrig commented another notice has been sent regarding the two teams that haven't paid and the Recreation Board will be addressing that through revisions to the

Recreation resolution. Jerry Pritchard commented the Rec Board knows who the teams are, but there needs to be language added to the resolution for consequences.

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

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT. Tom Budihas commented he built a home at 1131 Walnut Drive but has not yet been able to obtain his permanent Certificate of Occupancy and his temporary Certificate of Occupancy expires on February 1. He failed his final inspection because he has a mound of dirt on the property that they want to use for a garden, which he was told it can't be there. He was told to get rid of it and if he wants a garden in spring to have it hauled back. This doesn't make sense. He also had hydroseeding done and there was an area that was six feet in diameter that didn't grow, so that flunked also. There also is a stone sidewalk which they were told needed to be concrete. There is a down spout that also was an issue. There was a sonotube in the yard for a light pole and he was told he couldn't have that because it wasn't on the plan so he needed an additional permit which wound up costing him additional fees for a four minute inspection because he already had inspected the hole. This was all because his engineer missed putting this on the plan. All they want to do is live here. Alice Rehrig was asked to email the zoning officer and copy the Board so every understands what it going on.

Paul Nikisher commented he thinks some of the zoning and engineering requirements need to be reeled in more and just use common sense.

A resident raised a concern regarding the upper end of Mangrove Drive because of the steep hill and the trees that were removed. Now that the trees were removed, if someone were to slide down the hill, they would go down the embankment. He realizes guiderail may be difficult to install, but if additional salt and cinder can be added to the road, it may help to prevent someone from sliding down the hill.

Zach Szoke questioned when the authorization to advertise the ordinance for land preservation may be back on the agenda. Cindy Miller commented she would like a list of all the properties that will qualify or meet any type of criteria for this program. She hears about all the properties that would qualify but has not yet seen that. She would like names, addresses, and tax map parcels.

Jerry Pritchard questioned what the standard acreage would be. Cindy Miller commented the County preservation program is set at 25 acre and above. Zach Szoke commented Lehigh Township doesn't have to use the County acreage. Mike Hock commented most municipal programs use 10 acres unless the land is located next to preserved acreage. Zach Szoke commented they can provide the properties that would qualify for the standards most municipalities use.

Zach Szoke questioned when the matter would be back on the agenda. This seems like another moving target. Jerry Pritchard questioned how a list could be developed if the acreage wasn't set. Mike Jones noted there are other items that go into this in addition to the acreage. Mike Hock commented the list wouldn't include items such as parks or junkyard because they really wouldn't be for preservation. Cindy Miller commented steep slopes and wetlands shouldn't be included because with our zoning, you cannot build in those areas. That shouldn't be considered for preservation. Zach Szoke commented it still could be preserved. Cindy Miller questioned why the Township would want to pay for property that cannot be developed. Mike Hock commented he would agree. They are just curious when this would be brought back up for a Supervisor vote. Mike Jones commented there is no date as of now.

Jerry Pritchard questioned if the ordinance that is on the ballot would include the criteria. Cindy Miller commented the ordinance for the ballot is the standard language created by the State. If the preservation is approved at the ballot, then the ordinance for the criteria would be developed. Zach Szoke commented what was approved in July was to see this through to the ballot. Janet Sheats commented permission was given to Attorney Backenstoe to start working on what was needed to get this to the ballot. Zach Szoke commented in December a vote was taken to authorize the ordinance to put this on the ballot to be advertised for adoption and that vote failed. They are now stuck in a holding pattern. If they don't have an answer as to when this will be put on to the agenda to authorize the advertisement of the ordinance, what is the criteria that they need to meet in order for that to happen. They already know they need to provide all the properties that could be eligible. Cindy Miller commented she is not saying she will agree to put this on the ballot. She is saying that it is talked about all the properties that would qualify and she doesn't know where they are. That has never been presented. Janet Sheats commented she is a big proponent of everyone has a voice whether you agree or not. When she found out that someone wanted to join the Save Lehigh Township page and were denied because they had a difference of opinion, that goes against everything she believes in. Mike Hock commented that page is meant for a group of their supporters who want to help with their efforts. Janet Sheats commented she would think you would want to educate those who didn't support this to try to convince them otherwise. Mike Hock commented he agrees with transparency and will be sharing the information on other community pages. The Save Lehigh Township page is more of a group of people who are actually helping them and supporting them to get the word out. Janet Sheats commented she understands but is still keeping her position. She personally doesn't agree with the taxpayers having to pay for the program, but was a proponent of giving them the ability to have the voice and vote the way they felt. She doesn't agree with turning people away because they have a different viewpoint. Zach Szoke commented everyone will have access to the same information they have. They just created a group as a means of communication, no different than a group text.

Wendy Kleintop commented she attended the meeting that was held at the Fire Company and there was supposed to be another meeting after that and none ever happened. She also doesn't agree with the teenagers who have a part time job having to pay the tax. She agrees with preservation, but it should remain at the County level, not create an additional tax to be paid. Why should people have to pay their tax money to preserve someone else's land. David Hess commented there was supposed to be several meetings held at the fire company. The Board voted to move it forward to the ballot with only one meeting. Mike Hock commented they have reached out to the Fire Company and are waiting for confirmation on dates, but without knowing that this will actually make it to the ballot, they were not doing a ton of leg work. David Hess commented if there are meetings held and people come out and are either supporting it or opposing it, it may change minds. He was surprised when the vote was taken last July. He was expecting more meetings before the vote. Zach Szoke commented that is why they are asking what needs to be done to have this placed back on the agenda for a vote. They will do what the Board wants them to do. Jerry Pritchard suggested they have another meeting at the Fire Hall. Once it is on the agenda, there is no point to the meeting. Tom Szoke questioned if there are additional meetings held, will this be put back on the agenda for a vote to pass this through. If it is not going to move forward, why would they hold another meeting. Mike Jones commented at this time he doesn't believe there will be an answer. Cindy Miller commented this matter is dead. Janet Sheats commented she wanted this to go to the ballot box because if it got voted down there, this discussion would be done for five years. Tom Szoke commented this matter is not dead; they will be coming back each week. If you are not giving the residents an opportunity to vote on it, shame on you. Cindy Miller commented she is not going to put this on the agenda; there are other things the Board needs to attend to. Zach Szoke commented the Board of Supervisors are not sticking with their collective vote in July. He finds that to be disappointing. David Hess commented this is another tax on the residents. That is one reason why he didn't vote for it. He did not vote for the fire tax or the general tax. This is an additional tax and he will always vote against a tax. He believes the program should remain at the County level.

Linda Roman commented they want this on the ballot so that they can collect the tax to buy individual development rights. That is wrong. Her rights to develop her property is her privilege. Mike Jones commented this is a voluntary program. No one can take away the development rights if you don't want to sell them. David Hess commented this is why more meetings were necessary because people don't understand.

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