

Penn Township Supervisor Meeting

July 2, 2025

Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. called the 7.2.2025 Supervisor Meeting to order at 5:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Isaac Ramer Jr. then turned the meeting over to Jim Bathgate for a Conditional Use Hearing.

Present included: Supervisors: Isaac Ramer Jr., Mark Strawser, Ross Smoker, Solicitor Jim Bathgate and Township Manager Julie Hartley

Public Present: Bill Kline, Jon Payne, Paul Long, Shellie McCurdy, Chad Brandt, Henry Chiarkas, Gene Kreamer, Carey Shellenberger, Adam Kerstetter, Tim Thomson and Jeffrey Yount

Conditional Use Hearing – Henry Chiarkas – After testimony an executive session was held from 5:42 pm to 5:49 pm with the Board of Supervisors granting the Conditional Use with three provisions. The hearing was closed at 6:01 pm.

Public Hearing – Franchise Fee Ordinances – Jim Bathgate opened the public hearing for the franchise fee agreements and ordinances for Service Electric Cablevision and Comcast Communications at 6:01 pm. He noted that Townships can enter into agreements with cable communication providers to collect franchise fees up to five percent. Both cable companies' agreements are for three percent which will be paid to the Township on a quarterly basis. Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. asked if any one had any comments or questions. Carey Shellenberger asked if those fees would be passed to the consumer and Jim answered that he did not know if it would directly affect resident's cost. With no other public comment, the public hearing was closed at 6:04 pm.

Minutes – **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to approve the June 18, 2025 supervisor's meeting minutes.**

Persons Present to be Heard:

Shellie McCurdy, REC – Shellie reported that there were two hundred and eighty-three children for the month of June. This past month there were many activities which included therapy dogs and ice cream. On July 19th an amateur wrestling exhibition will be held and in September an adult prom will take place.

New Business:

Ordinance 2025-01 & Service Electric Franchise Fee Agreement – Jim explained that this ordinance and agreement will establish a three percent franchise fee for Service Electric. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to approve Ordinance 2025-01 and the Service Electric Franchise Fee Agreement to establish a three percent franchise fee for cable services.**

Ordinance 2025-02 & Comcast Franchise Fee Agreement – Jim said that this ordinance and agreement will establish a three percent franchise fee for Comcast Cable Services who hope to establish themselves in the Township in the future. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to approve Ordinance 2025-02 and the Comcast Cable Services Franchise Fee Agreement to establish a three percent franchise fee for cable services.**

Selinsgrove Moratorium Letter – A letter dated June 20, 2025 was received from Selinsgrove Borough stating that they have placed a temporary hold of any additional EDU allocations pending a capacity study by the Penn Township Municipal Authority. The Penn Township Municipal Authority is scheduled to discuss the letter at their meeting tonight. Jim noted that any projects that would use the Selinsgrove Borough sewer systems will not be passed during the moratorium.

Poultry In R2 Zone Violation – Carey Shellenberger noted that he lives in Harris Estates along Woodlynn Drive and said that his neighbors have at least one chicken or maybe more that they let out to wander in their yard. He just saw the chicken outside tonight just before attending the meeting. Poultry is not allowed in the R2 residential zone. Isaac stated that an enforcement notice for this homeowner doing the same thing was served by a constable in 2022. Isaac

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asked if Jim should proceed with the next step and Jim said that a letter could be sent and after that the case could be filed with the District Magistrate if the violation continues. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to have Jim write a letter to the party in violation of the R2 zone by having poultry.**

Resignation of Tim Thompson from Planning Commission – **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser and Board acclamation to accept the resignation of Tim Thompson as an alternate member of the Planning Commission.**

July 16, 2025 Supervisor's Meeting – **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to cancel the July 16, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting.**

Response Letter to Penn DOT regarding Roundabout – Isaac Ramer Jr. read the draft response letter to Penn DOT concerning the roundabout project. **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to send the letter to Penn DOT in response to their letter regarding a roundabout project at Salem Road, University Avenue and Route 522.**

Estimate for Miller Farm Road raising of base – The estimate for the raising of the base of Miller Farm Road was discussed. Isaac asked if the road crew were capable of doing a lot of the work themselves and they answered that they could. A guiderail may be needed so an additional estimate will need to be secured for this item. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to use the estimate to place the project in the budget for 2026 construction.**

Radio Replacement/Refurbish Quotes – Two estimates were provided by Keystone Communications. One is for replacement of four radios and the other is to refurbish the current radios. After some discussion the following motion was made: **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to approve the purchase of four new digital radios in the amount of \$2,641.12.**

Penn DOT Culvert Replacement on Salem Road – Jim explained that Penn DOT would like the Township to comment if their project of replacing an existing reinforced concrete slab with a reinforced concrete culvert box. Because this project is in flood plain A, the township engineer does not have enough information to come to a conclusion as to whether or not the project complies with the Township's Flood Plain Ordinance or Stormwater Ordinance. Further details will be needed from Penn DOT. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to contact Penn DOT to request more project details.**

Recycling Automatic Gate Quotes – Two quotes were received so far regarding the installation of an automatic gate at the recycling center. A third is expected next week. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to table the decision until the third quote is received for the automatic recycling gate.**

Old Business:

Township Building Roof Repair – Julie reported that the Township Engineer can draw up the bid packages for the township building roof. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to have Chad Shaffer, Township Engineer, create the bid package for the township building roof.**

Reports:

- Julie Hartley, Township Manager, Report Provided
- Adam Kerstetter, Roadmaster, Report Provided, Isaac noted that the Roadmaster report stated that batteries that needed replaced were under warranty.
- Julie Hartley, Zoning Officer, Report Provided
- Colin Rice, Emergency Management Coordinator

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- James Bathgate, Township Solicitor, Jim noted that the County is asking the Township to adopt their Hazard Mitigation Agreement and a Solid Waste Agreement. He is requesting that a representative come to a Township meeting to present the items and answer any questions the Supervisors might have.

FYI:

- ACH Payroll Report 6.26.25
- Open House Article & Penn Valley Airport 2024 Audit Report
- PMRS Interest Distribution Letter
- Check Register 6.18.25 to 7.2.25

Land/Subdivision:

- Selinsgrove Ford Land Development, filed 3.21.25, due 8.6.25
- Burlew/Klingler Add-On Subdivision, filed 5.12.25, due 8.8.25
- Henry Chiarkas Cond. Use, filed 5.16.25, due 7.15.25, hearing 7.2.25 at 5:30 pm
- Sissy Boy Trucking Land Dev., filed 6.23.25, due 9.19.25

Public Comment:

Jon Payne – Jon asked the Board if Penn DOT was going to fix any damage to the East Snyder Park parking lot they have been using for their equipment during the University Avenue project. He said that the heavy equipment crushes stones and could create potholes. Adam answered that he examined lot number three and did not see any damage.

Tim Thomson – Tim said that in a few weeks lot number three at East Snyder Park will be having big trucks using it to dump millings that the Township plans to use to expand the parking in that area.

Chad Brandt – Chad asked if it was decided where the football shed would be moved to yet to allow the parking lot expansion at East Snyder Park. It was discussed if it should be moved next to the cornfield towards 522 or in the back corner of the parking lot. Isaac said that after Chad Shaffer is done with the plans it should show how the football shed should be positioned.

Approval of Accounts Payable (State and General Funds)- **On Motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation, to pay bills.**

Adjournment - **On motion by Ross Smoker, second by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation the July 2, 2025 Supervisor's Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Hartley
Manager