

**Tulpehocken Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting of April 8, 2026**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors met on April 8, 2026, in the Township meeting room at 7:00 P.M. In attendance and voting were Supervisors: Chairman Gary Deck, Vice Chairman Lester Feick and Harold Zimmerman. Also present were Bryan Dronick, Police Chief; Kathy Judy, Township Secretary / Treasurer and Christopher Hartman, Township Solicitor.

Members of the audience included Harry Reinhold, Jean & Bryant Semenza, John P. Boylan, Kevin Frantz, Jeff Hahn, Leverne Frey, Susan Wolfe, Merlyn Zimmerman, Kurt Oberly, Brian Haag, Tim Connor, Norman Brubaker, Jeff Hahn and Curvin Martin.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Deck called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting continued with the pledge to the American Flag.

Chairman Deck called for a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of Fire Chief Jeffery L. Buck and Assistant Fire Chief Robert R. Shick, Jr., of the Walnuttown Fire Company, who were killed in the line of duty on Saturday, April 4, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Susan Wolfe spoke about an article requesting residents to voluntarily reduce water usage due to a drought warning in effect in Berks County.

Jean and Bryant Semenza asked about the status of prospecting being done for a possible egg breaking facility on Route 419 and when would be the appropriate time to express concerns about water usage, waste, traffic, quality of life and property devaluation impact the project might have on neighboring properties.

John Boylan spoke about the possible egg breaking facility and concerns about high water usage, increased traffic, air quality, management of the egg breaking, wastewater processing, possible ammonia and sulfur odors, and stormwater and erosion control.

James Raycloff spoke about the possible egg breaking facility and the foul smell and odor facilities like this produce.

Jeff Hahn spoke about the possible egg breaking facility, stated he shares many of the same concerns as the others in attendance; and that if there is no way to prevent establishment of the facility, he would want to see that rules and regulations to help protect the surrounding homeowners and their properties are imposed on the company to the utmost extent.

The Board suggested that the prospecting work was likely preliminary testing to see if the site would be suitable for the project and at this time no permit applications or plans have been received. Residents were advised to watch meeting agendas and to come to any meeting where the topic is on the agenda to hear more specific information about the project and what the applicant is asking for.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board met for an executive session at 6:50 P.M., prior to the start of this April 8, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting; personnel matters were discussed and no action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2026 Board of Supervisors Meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

Personnel: Health insurance renewal - PCI Insurance sent plan and pricing information for the 2026-2027 Employee Health Insurance benefits. Renewal of the current plan, with an expected withdraw of coverage from one employee later this year, is estimated to cost \$50,221.68 for the 2026-2027 period (a 12% decrease compared to the 2025-2026 period). *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to authorize the renewal of the current plan - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Planning Commission Recommendations:

- 11 Parkside Inn Road, Norman Brubaker – The Board discussed this Waiver of Land Development and Drainage Plan for a proposed 4,960 square foot, 62 ft. X 80 ft., shop building. This building will be used for personal use to work on farm equipment. A cost estimate needs to be provided and stormwater and improvement agreements need to be drafted. In accordance with the Planning Commission recommendation, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to sign the agreements when they are received and to approve the Waiver of Land Development once all requirements are satisfied - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Solicitor Legal Discussion:

- Update on Comcast Franchise Agreement – The Solicitor advised that we are still asking Comcast to continue to find a way to serve Gravel Pit and Midway Roads; that is the only open issue in order to complete renewing the franchise agreement.
- Park Rental Agreement – Originally, a multi-day rental agreement was being drafted, however plans have changed and this is now going to be a one-day event with approximately 400 in attendance. *In accordance with the Solicitor’s recommendation, Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept use of the standard Lions Club Rental Agreement for the event with the additional requirement that a Certificate of Insurance for liability coverage naming the Township as an additional insured be provided - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Escrow Release: None

Zoning: The Board reviewed permits activity. No other correspondence or reports for March were received.

Land Development: None

Recreation:

- Lions Park: Maintenance & operation repairs and purchases, including:
 - o The Board reviewed a quote from SmrtGuys for Surveillance System & Antenna Maintenance – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to schedule the maintenance work of the surveillance system at the park for the quoted \$225.00 - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - o Update on water lines – the lines are in and will be turned after they are tested.
 - o Update on air conditioning – the installation of the mini-splits is complete.

STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report – Chief Dronick read the March, 2026 Police report as follows:

	Tulpehocken	Marion
MILES PATROLLED	2343	888
GALLONS OF FUEL	206.5	
HOURS WORKED	470	60
PATROL HOURS	209.75	48
TULPEHOCKEN AREA SCHOOL DIST.	41.95	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	4	1
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	5	6
MISCELLANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE	71	5
FOLLOW-UP INVEST	7	2
TELEPHONE ASSIGNMENTS	22	7
COMM/RESIDENTIAL ALARMS	0	0
EMS/FIRE ADVISORIES	26	15
TRAFFIC STOPS	15	13
CITATIONS ISSUED	18	16
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	1
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	1	1
WARRANTS	1	0
PARKING TICKETS	0	0
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	3	1
DUI ARRESTS	3	0
MISDEMEANOR/FELONY	2	1
SECURITY CHECKS	13	5
POLICE ASSISTS	8	0
MOTORISTS ASSISTS	3	0
COURT APPEARANCES	1	0
SCHOOL (TRAINING) HOURS	16	

Chief Dronick reported that during the month March there were 163 calls received through Berks County 911; noting that fourteen (14) were for Teen Challenge.

- Equipment Repairs and purchases

- o Update on the 2026 Tahoe – the Chief reported that lettering and lights are complete; he hopes all of the outfitting is completed by the end of April.

Police coverage at Alden on 6 Development

- o Dates and times for a meeting to with Marion and Heidelberg Township Representatives to discuss coverage and a new agreement that will allow for police services to include the approximately fifteen houses in the development that are situated over the Marion Township line and lie in Heidelberg Township were discussed.
- o An Escrow Agreement providing for reimbursement of legal expenses Tulpehocken Township will incur related to extending Police coverage for this development was reviewed. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to accept, and authorize the Chairman to sign, the agreement with the Developer, AU Associates LLC - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Road Master’s Report: Vice Chairman Feick read the March, 2026 report. The work consisted of sewer maintenance, reading of meters, a lot of repair work on trucks and equipment, three sewer pipes that were broken and are now fixed, cutting up fallen trees, scheduling tree trimming, a sewer inspection, working at the park, snow events, hauling snow and cleaning pump stations.

Vice Chairman Feick announced that Road Sweeping is scheduled to start on April 22, 2026.

2026 Road Project – After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to table this for another month. The condition of some other roadways in the Township was also discussed.

Fire Chiefs' Report – Vice Chairman Feick reviewed activity for the Keystone Fire Company and read the report for the Rescue Fire Company for March, 2026.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

- Judgements and Delinquent Sewer Account
- Sewer Service equipment repairs and purchases:
 - o Vice Chairman Feick updated the Board that the new pumps for the Market Street pump station are in and the old ones have been repaired and are on the shelf as back-ups.
 - o There is a broken pipe at the Mt. Aetna Sewer Plant that needs repair.

Vice Chairman Feick also reported that a broken pipe at Teen Challenge, one on Brown Street and one on Chloe Drive were reported and have all been repaired.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Commercial and Workers Compensation Insurance Policies. After reviewing and discussing two proposals received for the 2026-2027 policy period, *Chairman Feick made a motion to accept the proposal for renewal of the current policies with Alera group for \$103,572 and to authorize the Broker to go to their Markets for comparable quotes for the 2027-2028 period - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- County Radios – Police and Fire Department representatives were present to discuss a communication received from the County Department of Emergency Services regarding a public safety radio system refresh. The County, in order to obtain pricing, is requesting information from each Agency on how many of their radios they would be looking to replace with the refresh. After some conversation, it was agreed that the Secretary would submit to the County the Exhibit 4 forms for the Police and Fire Companies, confirm that Bethel Community Ambulance has received the County email and is aware of the proposed refresh, and reach out to Jefferson Township alerting them of the possible refresh and potential expense that might be realized in 2027 if they were to contribute toward the costs for Rehrersburg Fire Company radios.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Citizen Complaint Form received – the Board reviewed a complaint that was received - - *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to forward the complaint to the Zoning Officer for investigation and handling - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- PSATS 2025 Proposed Resolutions and Nominations Report - - *Chairman Deck made a motion authorizing the Voting Delegate to vote in accordance with the PSAT recommendations - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

- Request for Fire Police assistance - *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve Fire Police assistance at the Tulpehocken High School's Graduation Commencement on May 29, 2026 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0)*
- Request for Zoning Hearing Application Fee Refund – The Board reviewed a refund request; the 02/25/26 application from Melvin Lapp was withdrawn with no chargeable fees incurred. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the \$1,000 refund - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Fireworks display permit application received from Camp Calvary – this application and a cover letter were reviewed; it was agreed that additional information is needed - no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The Board discussed that there has been some unauthorized painting of parking space lines in the square in Rehrersburg. It was agreed that this is a Township duty and must not reoccur. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion that a letter be sent to the property owner - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

TRAINING AND OTHER INVITATIONS:

FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Account Balances for the end of March, 2026 were as follows:

General Fund Checking	\$ 7,758.30	Recreation Fund	\$ 138,605.01
General Fund Holding	\$ 103,808.18	State LF Account	\$ 330,287.00
General Prime Account	\$ 374,987.06	Street Light Account	\$ 11,134.32
Payroll Account	\$ 35,999.99	EMS Tax Account	\$ 4,285.13
		Fire Tax Account	\$ 6,856.24

Payments of Bills for this April 8, 2026 meeting are:

- General Account – Checks #23019-23049 in the amount of \$48,682.43
- Street Light Account – Check #540 in the amount of \$2,031.38
- Recreation Fund – Checks #238-242 in the amount of \$902.57
- Total Expenses for this April 8, 2026 meeting are \$51,616.38

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payments of the bills for this April 8, 2026 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).

Sewer Accounts balances for the end of March, 2026 were as follows:

Sewer Operation Class Acct.	\$ 5,322.70	Sewer Holding Acct.	\$ 61,889.45
Sewer Operation Prime Acct.	\$ 102,494.88	Debt Service Acct.	\$ 509,162.74

Payments of Bills in the Sewer Operation Account for this April 8, 2026 meeting are:

- Checks #3550 to 3563 in the amount of \$ 31,037.81

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the payments of the sewer bills for this April 8, 2026 meeting - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

- Authorize transfers from the General Fund per the 2026 approved budget:
 - Building Maintenance Fund - The amount previously approved was based on 5% of estimated carryover – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to amend the amount to 5% of actual carryover and authorize the transfer of \$8,589 from General Fund to Building Maintenance Fund - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - Police PTO Fund – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$2,000 from General Fund to Police PTO Fund - - seconded by Chairman Deck and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - Emergency Services Fund – *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$11,264.00 from General Fund to Emergency Services Fund - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - Recreation Fund – *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$15,000 from General Fund to Recreation Fund - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to amend the agenda to include – Ratify authorizing the transfer of \$85,000.00 from the General Fund Prime to the General Fund Class Account, per the 2026 approved budget - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to ratify authorizing the transfer of \$85,000.00 from the General Fund Prime to the General Fund Class Account – - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 P.M. - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Judy, Secretary
Tulpehocken Township