

**Tulpehocken Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting of May 13, 2026**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors met on May 13, 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 Atty. Christopher Hartman, Township Solicitor.

Members of the audience included Burt Nye, Barbara Davis, Nevin Dieffenbach, John Mateyak, Sheila Hess, Jeff Hahn, Bradlyn Martin, Bryant & Jean Semenza, John Schueller, Mike Najarian, Susan Wolfe, Bill Dewart, Rose Flickinger, Kelly Wolfskill, Jonathan Martin and Bob Sattazahn.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mike Najarian shared the most recent statistics information from the Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library.

Susan Wolfe spoke about the library also, sharing that they are an asset to the community and that they deserve the Township's support.

Bill Dewart asked why a corrected list of 2026 Meeting Dates is not on the Township website.

The remainder of the Public Comments were about an egg breaking facility being proposed on Route 419. Some of those who spoke included Barbara Davis, Jean Semenza, Sheila Hess, Bryant Semenza and Kelly Wolfskill. Comments were heard and there was discussion over concerns about air quality and odor, noise, ground water usage and impact on private wells, waste products, wastewater, increased traffic, the recent denial of the project in Bethel Township, Zoning Districts and uses, the negative impact the facility may introduce and an overall opposition from many of those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2026 Board of Supervisors Meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

Personnel: Vacant Emergency Management Coordinator position – the Board agreed to ask the current Assistant EMC, Brian Blouch if he would be willing to fill the role. No official action taken at this time.

Planning Commission Recommendations: None.

Solicitor Legal Discussion:

- Update on Comcast Franchise Agreement – The Solicitor advised that they are working with Comcast and are in the process of putting together a revised agreement. No action taken.

Escrow Release: None

Zoning: Correspondence from Zoning Officer, April update:

- 7656 Lancaster Avenue – The Zoning Officer reported that the property owner has been sent a letter about overgrown weeds, trash, other debris and the overflowing dumpster at the property.

- Zoning Appeal Application for 2 Stouchsburg Road, Melvin Lapp: • The Zoning Hearing date is May 21, 2026 • The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) District • The application is for variances from sections 333 and 642 in order to • construct an accessory 60’x50’ garage with a 40’x20’ lean to, • have more than 1,000sf of an accessory structure used for a Home Occupation and • allow weekly site meetings with off-site employees. After reviewing the project, the application and the Planning Commission’s no-recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to make no comment or recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Zoning Appeal Application for Route 419, Rushtown Foods, LLC: • The Zoning Hearing date is May 21, 2026 • The property is in the Industrial Commercial (IC) District • The application is for a special exception to section 743.04 in order to • use the property for an industrial use for the processing (grading and breaking) of eggs and storage of liquid egg. After reviewing the project, the application, the Planning Commission’s recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board and having heard comments from the public in attendance about their concerns and also the applicant and representatives for the applicant about the proposed site development, facility and operations, *Chairman Deck made a motion to • offer no comment to the Zoning Hearing Board regarding approval or denial, • ask that they take into consideration any possibility of lowering property values if substantial evidence is presented and • if the Zoning Hearing Board were to approve the request, it should consider doing so with conditions that*
 - *there be a cover or aerator for the waste water tank to help remedy odor and flies,*
 - *all waste leaves the Township,*
 - *all production storage remains inside the building,*
 - *all outside lighting is on a timer and is off at night, except for security lights and*
 - *that they work with the Fire Department, to provide a 200,000 gallon (or larger), accessible, outdoor water holding tank for site and public fire suppression use - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0)*

Land Development: None

Recreation:

- Lions Park: Maintenance & operation repairs and purchases, including:
 - o The Board reviewed a \$542.00 quote from SmrtGuys to add one camera to the Surveillance System in order to expand view of the parking area and one road entrance – *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion accept the quote and have the additional camera installed - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - o The water softener might need to be replaced (see Roadmaster report below)

STAFF REPORTS:

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

	Tulpehocken	Marion
MILES PATROLLED	1951	642
GALLONS OF FUEL	146	
HOURS WORKED	517	60
PATROL HOURS	213.25	42
TULPEHOCKEN AREA SCHOOL DIST.	37.75	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	7	0
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	2	1
MISCELLANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE	69	9
FOLLOW-UP INVEST	3	1
TELEPHONE ASSIGNMENTS	17	6
COMM/RESIDENTIAL ALARMS	0	0
EMS/FIRE ADVISORIES	36	14
TRAFFIC STOPS	20	10
CITATIONS ISSUED	18	11
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	1	0
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	2	0
WARRANTS	0	0
PARKING TICKETS	0	0

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	3	3
DUI ARRESTS	1	0
MISDEMEANOR/FELONY	1	0
SECURITY CHECKS	11	0
POLICE ASSISTS	8	0
MOTORISTS ASSISTS	1	1
COURT APPEARANCES	8	0
SCHOOL (TRAINING) HOURS	8	

Chief Dronick reported that during the month April there were 157 calls received through Berks County 911; noting that twenty-nine (29) were for Teen Challenge.

- Police coverage at Alden on 6 Development:

- The subject properties are a number of homes in the Alden on 6 Development that are over the Marion Township line and situated in Heidelberg Township. The Solicitor met with Marion and Heidelberg Township Representatives to discuss a new agreement that will grant authority to the Tulpehocken Police in that portion of Heidelberg Township. Heidelberg will also need to revise their agreement with South Heidelberg to exclude the subject properties. Tulpehocken’s billing for Police services will not change; the coverage will be part of the sixty hours that Marion Township is being billed for each month. The Police Chief reported that the County 911 dispatch confirmed that they can assign 65-1 to the subject properties without changing any other Heidelberg run card assignments.
- The developer has signed an Agreement and posted a \$2,000 escrow to provide for reimbursement of legal expenses Tulpehocken Township will incur related to this matter. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to open a checking account for the Escrow Funds - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Road Master’s Report: Vice Chairman Feick read the April, 2026 report. The work consisted of a meeting with the Insurance Broker, picking up parts in Myerstown, the annual sewer maintenance, reading of meters, pothole patching, work at the Park including water testing, installing a UV Light and getting the water softener operating to determine if a new one is needed.

The Roadmaster would like to fix the rutting at Deck Road and Cherry Hill Road

- 2026 Road Project – The Board discussed fuel and black top prices and agreed to postpone planning any major road paving project for 2026.

- Mountain Meadows and Village Estate Roads:

- Speed Limit signs in Mountain Meadows Development – The roads qualify as local service roads in a residential neighborhood which are assigned a 25 MPH speed limit by default, without the need for a traffic study. 25 MPH is also the speed on the plans for the development. It was agreed that 25 MPH speed limit signs would be installed along the dedicated streets in Phase I.
- Omnibus Traffic and Roads Ordinance – amending the Ordinance to include the stop signs in Village Estates and Mountain Meadows was discussed. Since all of the stop signs are on already dedicated streets, *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the Omnibus Traffic and Roads Ordinance - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Amend Declaration of Snow Emergencies Ordinance – the need to add the Chloe Drive and the dedicated Mountain Meadows Streets to the Snow Emergency Routes was discussed.

-Equipment Repairs and purchases, including:

- The Roadmaster reported that servicing (oil, lube, filters, etc.) on all of the trucks in the fleet is almost complete.
- Lettering Truck 15, International Dump Truck purchased in 2025, should be done.

The Street Lights in Mountain Meadow were discussed, considering the amount being spent on problems with the Phase 1 lights, for which the wiring is direct-bury, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to authorize a letter be sent to the Developer notifying them that, in order for the Township to consider taking dedication of the Phase 2 street lights, the wiring must be in conduit.*

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

SEWER OPERATIONS:

- **Judgements and Delinquent Sewer Account** – The Board discussed Teen Challenge's payment history and balance due. No action can be taken at this time; action for delinquency will be taken when appropriate per the policies and procedures in place.
- **Sewer Service equipment repairs and purchases** - Vice Chairman Feick reported problems with the dialers for the pump stations. WG Malden advised that analog phone lines are slowly becoming incompatible with digital equipment and is recommending new cellular dialers. Tabled until price quotes are obtained.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Camp Calvary Fireworks Display Permit** – after reviewing the additional details provided, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the information and inform the applicant that no permit is required and there is no restriction on the number of displays being planned - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- **New quotes for 44 Rehrersburg Road clean up** – Three trash haulers visited the site; two provided quotes for cleanup of the property; one for \$4950 and the other for \$8,200. The Board reviewed the quotes and discussed the cleanup. Chairman Deck expressed his continued concerns about the Township taking this course of action. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the quote for \$4,950 and schedule Junk on Call for cleanup at the property - - seconded by Lester Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Contract with Cintas for Uniform Service – No action
- The Municipal building steam cleaning quote for 2026 is \$441.20 (a \$10.80 decrease from 2025). *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the quote and schedule Martins' Floor Coverings to clean the carpets - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

CORRESPONDENCE:

- CELG Request for 2026 Municipal Contribution. In 2025 the Township contribution was \$750. *Chairman Deck made a motion to approve a \$750 contribution for 2026 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- CELG email about Informational Meeting on Berks DES Radio Refresh. It was agreed that available Supervisors would attend virtually via Teams.
- Request for Fire Police assistance – *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve Fire Police assistance at Bernville Borough's Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2026 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0)*

OTHER BUSINESS: None

TRAINING AND OTHER INVITATIONS: None

FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

General Fund Checking	\$ 146,816.65	Recreation Fund	\$ 138,126.81
General Fund Holding	\$ 8,973.60	State LF Account	\$ 331,303.24
General Prime Account	\$ 376,141.01	Street Light Account	\$ 10,962.12
Payroll Account	\$ 18,248.17	EMS Tax Account	\$ 35,772.38
		Fire Tax Account	\$ 57,235.84

Payments of Bills for this May 13, 2026 meeting are:

- General Account – Checks #23050-23090 in the amount of \$153,523.41
- Street Light Account – Check #541 in the amount of \$2,033.41
- Recreation Fund – Checks #243-250 in the amount of \$1,946.16
- Total Expenses for this May 13, 2026 meeting are \$157,502.98

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the payments of the bills for this May 13, 2026 meeting - - seconded by Chairman Deck and passed unanimously (3-0).

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion authorizing reconciliation of wages paid to the Tax Collector for Fire and EMS Tax revenues collected, and the transfer of funds from those revenues to the General Fund to reimburse Payroll, this is to be done at least twice a year and prior to the June and December distribution of tax revenues to the emergency service agencies - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

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

Sewer Operation Class Acct.	\$ 4,317.83	Sewer Holding Acct.	\$ 51,979.56
Sewer Operation Prime Acct.	\$ 102,810.29	Debt Service Acct.	\$ 510,729.85

Payments of Bills in the Sewer Operation Account for this May 13, 2026 meeting are:

- Checks #3564 to 3585 in the amount of \$ 45,603.18

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the payments of the sewer bills for this May 13, 2026 meeting - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 P.M. - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Judy, Secretary
Tulpehocken Township