

**Tulpehocken Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting of August 12, 2026**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors met on August 12, 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 Roger Yiengst, Melvin Miller, Thomas Gruber, Susan Wolfe, Jeff Hahn, Bruce & Connie Bashore, Bill Dewart, Scott Klopp, Wilmer Hurst, Craig Hershey, Jordan Hurst, Mike Najarian and Bryant Semenza.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Deck called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. The meeting continued with the pledge to the American Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Many members of the audience were present to share concerns about safety on Wintersville Road and talk about what could be done to help reduce speed and improve safety (e.g. speed lines, increased police presence, fines, repainting stop bars, additional chevrons, etc.) *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve a traffic study for a stop sign at Deck Road and speed limits for the entire length of Wintersville Road within the Township - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

A member of the audience reported that because there are no signs giving motorists advanced notice of the road closure on Route 419, vehicles, including tractor trailers, are driving right up to the work zone and are having to back up on the road and make tight turn-arounds. The Roadmaster said he will call the State to request more detour ahead and/or road closed ahead signs be placed.

Mike Najarian shared the latest statistics information and totals showing that the Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library was nearly double the County average in both physical circulation and event attendance in 2025. He also reported they had approximately 450 people attend their Summer Carnival this year.

In response to an inquiry, it was explained that when a motion is made, if there is no conflict of interest, a Supervisor cannot abstain and must cast a vote for or against the motion.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

Personnel: None

Planning Commission Recommendations:

- 4425 Route 419, Gantea Subdivision – a time extension letter was received from the applicant's Engineer. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the time extension to November 12, 2026 - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Route 419, Rushtown Foods – a time extension letter was received from the applicant's Engineer. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to accept the time extension to November 4, 2026 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

- 20 Deck Road, Earl Ray Martin – The property went through Land Development in 2018 for a Poultry Operation. A Waiver of Land Development and Drainage Plan has now been received for a proposed 12,600sf steer barn accessory structure. In accordance with the Planning Commission recommendation, *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve only the waiver of land development portion of the submission at this time - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).* Stormwater and Zoning are still pending.

Solicitor Legal Discussion:

- Update Comcast Franchise Agreement – The Solicitor reported that according to the most recent email received, the agreement is still in legal review at Comcast. No action at this time.
- Omnibus Traffic and Road Ordinance – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to enact Ordinance 2026-1; Traffic and Parking Ordinance - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

There was a discussion about mobile phone service and dead zones becoming worse in some areas in the Township. The Solicitor advised that complaints to the carriers can be made, but there aren't any official or legal actions that can be made.

Escrow Release: None

Zoning: No update was received for the month of July.

- Review Zoning Appeal Application for 106 Wintersville Road - The Zoning Hearing is August 20, 2026; the application is for a dimensional variance from section 844.022 to allow a reduced side yard setback for a proposed 28'x35'x1-½ story garage to be situated 5 feet from the side lot boundary line. After reviewing the application, project and the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board, *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to recommend to the Zoning Hearing Board that, if they were to approve the request, they should consider including the following conditions: - to have the property surveyed to assure they meet whatever the approved setback is; - to require that stormwater is directed away from the neighboring property, and - that no living quarters are permitted in the accessory structure - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Land Development: None

Recreation:

- Lions Park: Maintenance & operation repairs and purchases: None

STAFF REPORTS:

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

	Tulpehocken	Marion
MILES PATROLLED	2000	739
GALLONS OF FUEL	180	
HOURS WORKED	400	60
PATROL HOURS	370	53
TULPEHOCKEN AREA SCHOOL DIST.	0	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	17	4
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	11	2
MISCELLANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE	2	2
FOLLOW-UP INVEST	0	0
TELEPHONE ASSIGNMENTS	17	11
COMM/RESIDENTIAL ALARMS	0	0
EMS/FIRE ADVISORIES	46	35
TRAFFIC STOPS	14	13

CITATIONS ISSUED	18	15
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	0
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	3	2
WARRANTS	0	0
PARKING TICKETS	1	0
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	2	1
DUI ARRESTS	0	0
MISDEMEANOR/FELONY	0	1
SECURITY CHECKS	18	13
POLICE ASSISTS	3	0
MOTORISTS ASSISTS	0	0
COURT APPEARANCES	2	0
SCHOOL (TRAINING) HOURS	0	739

Chief Dronick reported that during the month July there were 201 calls received through Berks County 911; noting that twenty-seven (27) were for Teen Challenge.

- Resolution 2026-9 – Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-9 and sign Addendum No. 4 of the Marion Township Police Agreement - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).
- Resolution 2026-10 – Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-10 and sign the Police Agreement for Alden on Sixth with Heidelberg Township - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).
- Equipment Repairs and purchases, including:
 - o Enradd System and Calibration – Chief Dronick presented information about a used system that is available for purchase, how it operates and what calibration costs would be. Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the purchase of the system for \$850 and authorize the Police Department to begin using the system on roads within the Township - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Road Master's Report: Vice Chairman Feick read the July, 2026 report. The work consisted of sewer maintenance, highway mowing, lawn mowing, working in the shop, meter reading, went for stone, pipe and road work on Host Road, went to Public Works Meeting, cut trees, took down digital speed sign and will seek replacement under warranty, and met with Dan Hershey on a pump station problem.

The Roadmaster reported:

- That Reber is lined up to do some patching on Cherry Hill Road, Deck Road, Host Road and some in Mt. Aetna as well.
- There were street light repairs in Mt. Meadows development and all are working at this time.
- Equipment Repairs and purchases: that there is only one truck in the fleet that still needs transmission lines flushed.

Fire Chiefs' Report – Vice Chairman Feick reviewed activity for the Keystone Fire Company and read the report for the Rescue Fire Company for July, 2026. Also, the Fire Chief of the Rescue Fire Company in Mt. Aetna called to share with the Board that they are beginning to price and will soon be ordering a new engine.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

- Judgements and Delinquent Sewer Accounts. The Board reviewed the report and also a letter from Teen Challenge advising that they intend on making weekly payments of \$5,000 until their account's outstanding balance is paid in full – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept Teen Challenge's proposed payment schedule - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- 469 Godfrey Street – The Board reviewed an application to extend the waiver of Sewer Service fees since a 50% waiver granted last year expired on July 1, 2026. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the request and continue the 50% waiver of sewer service fees, effective July 1, 2026 and good for up to one year or until the property is restored and no longer qualifies for relief - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Equipment Repairs and purchases, Vice Chairman Feick reported:
 - A pipe near the Lancaster Avenue Pump Station broke/blew out. Dan Hershey is recommending that we install an air release valve to help prevent it from happening again.
 - On the panel at Market Street Pump Station - they were able to repurpose the original panel from the Lancaster Avenue pump station and install it here; it still needs a voltage regulator, but appears to be working.
 - At the Village Estates Pump Station the break away coupler that holds the two pumps has broken. One of the pumps had to be pulled for repair, the spare was installed in its place and Slaymaker quoted \$5,376.00 for installation of a new coupler.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Berks County Association of Township Officials Resolution Committee – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to submit a resolution to the County Association urging PSATS to seek legislative action that would allow Municipal Police to use radar for speed enforcement - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Trick or Treat Night 2026 and possible participation at Trunk or Treat event - Halloween is on a Saturday this year. Bethel Township would be agreeable to scheduling a mutual Trick or Treat for Friday, October 30th from 6PM-8PM, hosting a Trunk or Treat event and sharing the advertisement. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to set trick or treating in Tulpehocken Township for Friday, October 30, 2026 from 6PM to 8PM, advertise together with Bethel and split the cost of the ad - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).* No action was taken regarding participation in a Trunk or Treat event.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Citizen Complaint Form regarding lights at Route 419 & Rehrersburg Road Sunoco. It's being reported that recently the property has changed the lighting to an extremely bright and blinding light that now spills past property lines, into the intersection, the roadway and other properties including in windows and doors of neighboring homes, creating a nuisance and potentially a hazard. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to refer this to the Zoning Officer to review for potential zoning violation - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Citizen Complaint Form alleging a Sewer Service violation at 7646 Lancaster Avenue. The property sewer fees are currently suspended due to an extended vacancy, however it is being reported that someone is residing at the property. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to have the Police Chief investigate this and report back to the Board of Supervisors - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

- Request for Fire Police assistance:
 - o *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve Fire Police assistance for the Borough of Womelsdorf's POW/MIA Ride For Freedom event on Sunday, August 30, 2026 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - o *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve Fire Police assistance for the Tulpehocken High School Homecoming event on Friday, October 2, 2026 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
 - o *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve Fire Police assistance for the Tulpehocken High School Track or Treat event on Thursday, October 22, 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 July, 2026 were as follows:

General Fund Checking	\$ 9,250.68	Recreation Fund	\$ 152,947.46
General Fund Holding	\$ 131,487.11	State LF Account	\$ 334,426.31
General Prime Account	\$ 379,687.32	Street Light Account	\$ 23,261.55
Payroll Account	\$ 34,489.06	EMS Tax Account	\$ 11,216.31
		Fire Tax Account	\$ 10,956.86

Payments of Bills for this August 12, 2026 meeting are:

General Account – Checks #23169-23209 in the amount of \$33,675.77

Street Light Account – Checks #544-548 in the amount of \$3,932.41

Recreation Fund – Checks #260-262 in the amount of \$316.86

Total Expenses for this August 12, 2026 meeting are \$37,925.04

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the payments of the bills for this August 12, 2026 meeting - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

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

Sewer Operation Class Acct.	\$ 952.09	Sewer Holding Acct.	\$ 20,362.11
Sewer Operation Prime Acct.	\$ 83,672.93	Debt Service Acct.	\$ 515,544.83

Payments of Bills in the Sewer Operation Account for this August 12, 2026 meeting are:

Checks #3617 to 3635 in the amount of \$ 26,214.59

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payments of the sewer bills for this August 12, 2026 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M. - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Judy, Secretary
Tulpehocken Township