



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

Board of Supervisors

BERKS COUNTY, PA

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 9TH, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Royer called a regular business meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order on Monday, March 9th, 2026, at 7:05 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll call, Supervisors Robertson, Stuck, Wertz, Zeoli, and Royer were present. Also present were Township Manager John Groller, Assistant Township Manager Dean Murray, Township Secretary Mary Rossi, GIS Engineering & Planning Coordinator Jen Bensing, Information Systems Manager Jeremy Baez-Reyes, Fire Chief Colin Hackman, Director of Parks & Recreation Judy Houck, Director of Public Works Craig Conrad, Director of Zoning & Codes Enforcement Aaron Wozniak, Police Chief Stephen Brock, Director of Engineering & Planning Jason Reichert, Esquire Dan Becker, Resident Lisa Gallagher, Wernersville Resident Andrew Price, Andy Mears of JMT, and Ann Toole of Toole Recreation Planning. Scott Anderson of Kraft Municipal Group joined via TEAMS at 7:24 p.m.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

The agenda was amended to include Action Item #14, due to the timing of the grant for the Fire Department's Structural Turnout Gear.

Motion to approve the agenda amendment was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Royer stated that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:

Klines Creek Master Site Plan Presentation

Ms. Houck introduced Andy Mears of JMT and Ann Toole of Toole Recreation Planning, the project's lead consultants. Mr. Mears stated he is with JMT, an Engineering firm with a group specializing in parks and recreation planning, and that he partners with Ann Toole for operations, maintenance, and long-term management of parks. Mr. Mears stated that this is a very good project with strong public engagement, which was key to developing the final concept for the park. Mr. Mears expressed gratitude for the assistance of Ms. Houck, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works in putting together the "Coffee & Cider at the Creek," which was a really beneficial event, noting that they spoke with kids and residents in the neighborhood who attended and shared their ideas for the park.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR: *(Continued)*

Klines Creek Master Site Plan Presentation *(Continued)*

Mr. Mears and Ms. Toole presented the proposed Master Site Plan and answered questions from the Board. Ms. Toole stated that when the proposed ecological areas are in place, maintenance costs for the park should decrease, noting that maintenance for this type of park differs significantly from that of a traditional active recreation park, and recommends training for staff to maintain the park. Ms. Toole said that this park is nature-based and that maintenance for this park will earn the Township MS4 credits, noting that planning is moving toward stormwater management, nature preservation, education, and outreach.

Mr. Stuck questioned whether any lighting or security cameras were included in the plan, noting concerns about areas after it's dark. Mr. Mears stated that there is only minimum-security lighting proposed for the pavilion area for safety and security, adding that the end of the parking area is set up so that the police can come in to see what is going on, as well as keeping the meadow at a height for visibility in the park area.

Ms. Houck clarified that the dam is owned by the Township, but it is located in Cumru Township. In regard to Mr. Zeoli's question about dogs, Ms. Houck confirmed that dogs are not permitted in any Township parks except for Shiloh Hills on the trails.

Mr. Zeoli questioned whether the plan includes adaptable and special needs equipment. Mr. Means stated that it would be in the design phase, noting that there is a section on inclusive design. Ms. Robertson stated that she is really excited for the project and that the neighboring families will absolutely love it, noting that she and her family used the park when they lived near it.

Andrew Price- Wernersville

Mr. Price distributed a flyer to the Board pertaining to birds and grasslands. Mr. Price stated that he volunteers with various organizations, with his focus on birds. Mr. Price indicated that between the Yerger Boulevard Yard Waste Site and E.J. Breneman, there are about 15 acres that is mowed all summer long, and the area is full of geese. Mr. Price indicated that the site, unmowed, would support hundreds of these types of birds nesting, noting that these birds have been on the decline in the last ten (10) years, about 30% decrease in this area. Mr. Price suggested this is a great opportunity, staff won't need to mow, and when the grass grows, the geese will stop coming through, and it will restore nature.

Lisa Gallagher- Bainbridge Circle

Ms. Gallagher stated that she has lived on Bainbridge Circle for over twenty-five years, and in the last ten years, there has been a large uptick in roaming cats. Ms. Gallagher explained the process for catching a cat to take to No Nonsense Neutering for their "Trap, Neutering & Release Program" (TNR) and her frustrations in obtaining information. Ms. Gallagher requested that the Township consider permitting more than one (1) voucher (for No Nonsense Neutering) per household per year and to add easily accessible information about the Township's participation in the program to the Township's website.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: All items requiring action by the Board are listed below. Comments and discussion points are listed under the corresponding item.

1. Minutes from the February 23rd Regular Business Meeting

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: (Continued)

2. List of Bills for Approval

01- General Fund - \$329,048.93

02- Street Lighting Tax Fund-\$24,832.54

04- Refuse Tax Fund-\$126,146.27

08- Sewer District #3 Fund- \$86,463.30

14- Fire Protection- \$56,334.82

18- Capital Fund- \$271,564.87

3. Approval of Email Signature Policy & Updating of Employee Handbook

4. Approval of Master Plan for Kline's Creek

Ms. Houck stated that the Parks and Recreation Board recommends approval of the plan as presented this evening.

5. Resolution 2026-11- Destruction of Records

6. 2026 Roadwork

Mr. Conrad provided the list of streets proposed for roadwork for 2026. Mr. Conrad stated that approximately 70% of the paving proposed for Reading Avenue, Garfield Avenue, Highland Street, and Noble Street is due to damage caused by sewer projects and requested approval to pay for these streets from the sewer fund and put the project out to bid. Mr. Conrad and Mr. Groller reviewed the project's cost breakdown and estimates.

7. Green Light Go Grant

Mr. Groller requested authorization for staff to draft the resolution and commitment letter that are to be included in the grant application. Mr. Anderson stated that the grant application is due by the end of March and that he is working with Telco. The project is proposed to include LED upgrades, back plates on signals (for improved visibility & safety), new pedestrian signals, and emergency preemption. Mr. Groller said that the grant is 80/20, and the Township is responsible for 20% of the cost. Mr. Groller stated that Mr. Murray and staff did a good job of identifying where preemption devices were missing, or improvements were needed, and were able to get those included and utilized through the match by upgrading the other parts of the grant at the intersections.

8. Sale of Vehicles

Mr. Murray requested authorization to finalize the sale of two (2) leaf collectors from the Public Surplus Site. One leaf collector was won by a gentleman from New York with a bid of \$1,469.00, and the other was won by a gentleman in Chicago, Illinois, for \$1,333.00.

9. Alarm System for Township Garage

Mr. Murray requested authorization to bid out for an alarm system for the Township garage (budgeted item).

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: (Continued)

10. Overnight Training-Police Department

Chief Brock requested approval for the annual JNET conference for Lieutenant Long at State College at a cost of approximately \$460.00, and for CI Huntsinger for Keystone Connection training at a cost of approximately \$380.00.

11. Purchase of Wide-Area Mower

Ms. Houck requested authorization to purchase a Wide-Area Mower at a cost of \$73,023.84 from Deer Country Farm and Lawn in Adamstown, PA. The purchase will be through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's CoStars and State Contract Programs. Ms. Houck stated that this is a budgeted item and the purchase is to replace a 2008 Jacobsen Mower with over 5,700 hours on it.

12. Sale of Jacobsen Wide-Area Mower

Ms. Houck requested authorization to advertise the sale of the 2008 Jacobsen Wide-Area Mower.

13. Emergency Repair- Body Zone Wastewater Pumping Station

Mr. Conrad reported that the generator at the pump station has failed, and it is outdated; parts are no longer available for it. A letter of support from Matt Boggs of Entech Engineering, Inc. was provided, stating that this is an emergency situation because, if power were lost, there would be no backup. Mr. Conrad provided a quote from Winter Engine-Generator Service for a generator for \$34,600.00, noting that the purchase is through a CoStar contract and can be delivered next Friday, March 20th.

14. Grant Purchase- Structural Turnout Gear

Chief Hackman requested approval from the Board to approve Purchase Order FR-2026-0018 to Reading Fire Equipment, Inc., for Fire Rescue to purchase four (4) complete sets of Structural Turnout Gear at a cost of \$17,531.80 (through a CoStars vendor). The Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner Grant Program will fund \$16,136.55, and the remaining \$1,395.25 will be funded out of the Fire Rescue budget. Chief Hackman confirmed that Regional Fire Equipment Inc. has a regional contract for our area for the gear.

Mr. Royer asked Ms. Houck whether she had any concerns about Klines Creek Park being too secluded, noting Mr. Stuck's concerns and suggesting police patrols after the park opens and possibly installing cameras from the start. Ms. Houck explained that when the design phase begins, that can be evaluated.

Motion to approve Action Items #1-14 was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively. Mr. Stuck abstained from voting on payment of check #116069, voted no on payment of check 116049, and Mr. Wertz abstained from voting on Fire Fund #14 and Action Item #14. MOTION CARRIED

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS:

A. Zoning/Building Codes Department—Mr. Wozniak submitted a monthly report.

Mr. Wozniak briefed the Board on the Township's participation in the TNR Program with No-Nonsense Neutering. For each voucher used by a resident, No-Nonsense Neutering bills the Township \$40.00. Mr. Wozniak explained the program and said that additional information will be added to the Township's website.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS: (Continued)

B. Parks and Recreation Department– Spring Township Car Show

Ms. Houck asked the Board if they would like to host another Township-sponsored car show. Last September was the first event, held on Windmill Road with support from the Spring Township Lions Club. Mr. Stuck stated that he would like to see the event held at a larger venue and agreed to assist with preparing and scheduling it. Ms. Houck noted the timing and events from last year's event.

C. Engineering/Planning Department–No Report

D. Finance Department– No Report

E. Human Resources – No Report

F. Public Works

1) Fritztown Road & Chapel Hill Road

Mr. Anderson reported on the Township's request to conduct an evaluation of truck restrictions on Chapel Hill Road, given ongoing issues at Chapel Hill Road and Fritztown Road. Exhibits were displayed to show that full-sized trucks cannot make those turns safely in either direction, highlighting the bridge, guiderail sections, and the edge of the road itself. Mr. Anderson stated that the report provided by Kraft Municipal Group justifies the posting of signs for truck restrictions.

There are currently truck restrictions in the area along Grings Hill Road, the section of Chapel Hill Road where it meets Grizzly Road and connects to Mohns Hill Road, and Mohns Hill to SR. 222. The existing truck restrictions prohibit all trucks with 26,000 G.V.W. except for local deliveries. Mr. Anderson said that new restrictions would restrict trucks from Fritztown Road to Mohns Hill Road. Additional signs would only need to be posted at the Mohns Hill and Fritztown Road intersections because of the existing restricted truck movements on Grings Hill Road, which prevent trucks from coming off of Gelsinger Road or Wheatfield Road, and at the other end, on SR 222, which is already restricted as well.

Mr. Anderson said that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the report and recommended the truck restrictions, subject to the condition that there is advanced signs to alert truck drivers on the state road (Fritztown Road), with PennDOT approval. Mr. Anderson stated that he received feedback from PennDOT, and PennDOT's decision is that, instead of the Township posting signs on its road (Fritztown Road), and obtaining approval to do so, they recommend posting the truck restrictions, except for local deliveries, on each side of Chapel Hill Road closest to Fritztown Road. PennDOT stated that after 8-12 months, if the Township determines the restriction is being followed, they recommended not installing additional signs on the stated Road (Fritztown Road). If there are problems, PennDOT states that the Township should post the advance warning signs on Fritztown Road.

Mr. Royer questioned what constitutes a problem from PennDOT's perspective. Mr. Anderson said that trucks are continually turning on the restricted roads and reporting that they did not see advanced warnings.

Motion to approve the recommended truck restrictions as noted in the report from Kraft Municipal Group and the TAC Committee, with the condition to follow PennDOT's recommendation of not posting advanced truck restriction signs on Fritztown Road, was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS: (Continued)

F. Public Works – (Continued)

2) Albert Drive Issue

Mr. Conrad stated that staff were notified about a large depression in the roadway, and upon inspection, it was found to be an approximate 40x40 area that settled and is depressed 12” or more. Mr. Conrad reviewed the history of sinkholes in that area and reported that Great Valley Consultants (GVC) was contacted and discussed obtaining Geotech work at the site to determine whether and what remediation may be needed. Mr. Conrad stated he is waiting on quotes at this time and wanted to keep the Board informed. The area is coned off, and one lane is open at this time. Mr. Reichert added that the area is residential, there is a sewer pipe on the other side of the street, and that the level of depression is concerning. Mr. Reichert stated that if GVC determines it is not an emergency, staff will obtain quotes for the Board to review at the next meeting.

After discussion, the Board took the following action:

A motion to authorize staff to contact GVC to inspect Albert Drive, and, if they determine that this is an emergency, to authorize a Geotech study as soon as possible and to close the road in the areas as discussed, was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

G. IT Department– Mobile Data Carrier Plans

Mr. Baez-Reyes reported that the County will discontinue providing cellular service for the Police Department’s Mobile Computer Terminal and will allow a “Bring your own” Connection Plan. Quotes were obtained from AT&T(FirstNet) and T-Mobile for Government. T-Mobile submitted the lowest quote, and it will be a cost savings for the Township.

Chief Brock said that Officer Mark Williams and Mr. Baez-Reyes worked on obtaining the information, adding that T-Mobile’s service will be an improvement and less expensive. Mr. Baez-Reyes noted that other neighboring municipalities have switched to T-Mobile and are happy with the service.

Mr. Baez-Reyes confirmed that the contract is month-to-month and that, if there are issues, the Township can cancel it. He also confirmed that there is no additional cost for the new phones and that he will verify there are no penalties if the Township decides to end the contract.

Motion to execute a contract with T-Mobile with the condition that if the Township chooses to end the contract before twenty-four months, there will be no cost to the Township was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC SAFETY:

A. Police Department –No Report

Mr. Stuck asked for the status of the group home on Belmont Avenue, noting the recent issues that occurred, including a shooting last week. Chief Brock updated the Board, noting that the kids who are at the group home are constantly changing, and noted that the shooter in the incident that occurred was a Township resident.

B. Township of Spring Fire Rescue Services – Chief Hackman submitted a monthly report. Chief Hackman reported that there were two (2) building fires in February.

C. West Side Regional EMA – No Report

D. Western Berks Ambulance Association–No Report

SOLICITOR: No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Harvard Boulevard

Mr. Murray stated that the Township applied for a grant for handicapped ramps and curbing through Harvard Boulevard, with the Township receiving \$250,000.00. The current status as discussed by the previous Board was to hold a Town Hall meeting to let the residents know the different options for payment of curbing and access ramps for their driveway aprons, or whether they wanted to have the work done themselves. Mr. Murray stated that the \$250,000.00 would cover the cost of the handicapped ramps on the corners and perhaps a small portion of curbing. The exhibits shown to the Board illustrated how deplorable the curbing and gutter way areas are. With the new standards, Mr. Murray explained that the Township would like to go to a straight standard curb. Mr. Wozniak stated that the exhibits additionally show the poor condition of sidewalks, noting that the sidewalks should be repaired or replaced.

Key Discussion Points:

- Cost of the Project/Finance Options
- Curbs and sidewalks traditionally are paid for by the resident
- Costs to replace the curbing
- Payment options for residents
- Sidewalk repairs & replacement/Properties without sidewalks
- Need for a Town Hall Meeting
- Trees in planting strips/ Tree plating/Costs
- 56 Properties are affected

2) Informational Townhall Meeting-PAWC-Tabled

3) Yard Waste-Small Commercial Businesses

Mr. Murray presented proposed fees for small businesses that take care of properties in the Township. After discussion the fees the Board recommended are for twelve (12) properties in the Township \$500.00, and to charge a business with 13-25 properties, \$750.00. Mr. Murray stated the businesses will be required to provide a list of the properties that they service in the Township. The Board suggested doing an audit in 6-12 months.

Motion to accept Mr. Murray's recommendation of fees and to authorize small commercial business to utilize the Township's Yard Waste Sites for one (1) year, was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Ms. Robertson. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next Board of Supervisors Meeting is Monday, March 23rd, 2026

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairperson Royer adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Rossi
Mary L Rossi
Township Secretary