

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

June 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

Robert Slaw called the meeting to order at 6:00PM at the Mahoning Township Building 2175 Blakeslee Blvd Dr. West, Lehigh, PA 18235.

PRESENT:

Robert Slaw, Chairman; Myron Blahy, Vice-Chairman; Deborah McGowan, Supervisor; Ronald Reiser, Supervisor; Ronald Wenrich, Supervisor; Thomas Nanovic, Solicitor; Natalie D. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer, Audie Mertz, Chief of Police and Steven Wanner, Zoning Officer

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Todd and Sandra Wingert 270 Mahoning Drive East: Present with regards to the goat situation and wondering if they are going to be able to continue use as a slaughterhouse. They have goats locked up with no food or water. This past weekend they call it their holiday, and it was like a picnic with the slaughtering of many goats. Questioned what are they doing with what is left from the goat? They are storing it in fifty-gallon drum barrels. There is rubber gloves spread through the property. The floors are covered in blood. There is no refrigeration, and sheep are thrown on the floor of a Ryder truck. Goats are just placed in garbage bags as well. No food inspector or government plate employees were present. It was not done humane.

Holly Heintzelman 170 Mahoning Drive East: Went back to the idea of whether they can butcher at all, they lost their non-conforming use status. The last person to butcher there was David Heintzelman. He sold it to Jason Green. Reflected on a Times News article when it turned 100 years old and believes no one has butchered since 1997. Jason sold to Neil Ebbert, Neil never butchered. He sold in 2019 to Bergholds. There's more than 27yrs of no butchering. Under our ordinance, this makes them a retail business they can't slaughter anything. The ordinance definition of slaughterhouse requires the killing of the animal. The last time an animal was killed was 27 years ago. It's defined as use involving the killing of animals to produce food or some other product. A slaughterhouse does not include a custom butcher shop that does not include the killing of animals which shall be considered retail business. She believes they lost their non-conforming use. They purchased the business July 31, 2019, so if they make an application for permit why not in 2019. Closed for fire and then reopened. Question to ask if they have ever had a USDA inspector out for Bergholds?

Jim Golden 110 Mahoning Drive East: on the day of this event what we expected was another retail store but that was not the case. Cars showed up at 8:00AM and stayed all day to about 5:00-6:00PM. It was a block party atmosphere. Do they need permits for that?

Mrs. Heintzelman: I don't want goats in my yard.

Steven Wanner reached out to the Department of Agriculture and she agreed to send out an inspector. Presented as continuing use, Bergholds filed as a continuation of use as slaughterhouse and retail store.

Robert Slaw shared they were served with a notice of violation. The Board agrees we don't want this in our township. This entire Board does not want to see this happen, but the wheels of government turn slow so don't expect this to go away soon. It will take time and I'm not sure if

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we can stop them. This Board does not have the authority to shut them down, they have the right to an appeal.

Deborah McGowan find out what USDA inspector was there

Sandy Palinchak There was a 911 call on Saturday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION

Myron Blahy made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 14, 2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Robert Slaw, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS:

MOTION

Deborah McGowan made a motion to approve the following transfers:

\$21,331.76 Payroll Checking to General Checking 5/15/25

\$16,819.87 Payroll Checking to General Checking 5/22/25

\$16,522.23 Payroll Checking to General Checking 5/29/25

\$16,283.98 Payroll Checking to General Checking 6/5/25

\$537.97 Residential Street Light to General Checking

\$595.20 Residential Fire Hydrant to General Checking

Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Robert Slaw, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser; and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT:

MOTION

Ronald Reeser made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2025. Second, by Myron Blahy. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:

MOTION

Myron Blahy made a motion to approve the following bills and payrolls:

Bill List #533 in the amount of \$336,606.62

General Check's #25284-#25310

State Check's #1880-#1883

Building and Land Check #1113-#1114

Subdivision Land Development Check's #1616-#1621

Fire Co. Check #1046

Seconded by Ronald Reeser Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes; and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF REPORTS

MOTION

Ronald Reeser made a motion to approve the following reports:

Mahoning Township Road Department Reports May 4, 2025-June 6, 2025

Mahoning Township Road Department Equipment and Fuel Log for May 2025

Mahoning Township Police Department Fuel Log for May 2025

LTL Consultants Building Report May 2025

Mahoning Township Sewage Enforcement Report May 1, 2025-May 31, 2025

Mahoning Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes April 16, 2025

Seconded by Myron Blahy. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pumpkin Field Lease (Chris Botek renew lease for field at 2685 Mahoning Drive East)

Ronald Wenrich made a motion to renew the lease to Chris Botek for the field located at 2685 Mahoning Drive East Lehigh, PA. Seconded by Myron Blahy. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

FCFCU requesting release of escrow (township engineer recommends release of escrow in the amount of \$374,535.29, letter dated June 4, 2025)

Ronald Reeser made a motion to approve the release of escrow in the amount of \$374,535.29. Seconded by Deborah McGowan. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Bid for dehumidification system from MYCO Mechanical in the amount of \$124,000 add alt dehumidification units upper level \$32,000 and south lower level \$34,000

Deborah McGowan made a motion to reject the bid from MYCO Mechanical for dehumidification system and to readvertise. Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Bid for roof from ARK Contracting in the amount of \$74,700 add alt replace existing soffit and fascia \$30,700

Myron Blahy made a motion to reject the bid from ARK Contracting for roof and to readvertise. Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2019 Pierce Rescue Pumper: Mark Ebbert provided update proposed payment plan

\$200,000 donation used as down payment

\$25,000 fire company fund

\$5,000 fire relief fund

\$185,000 2% loan from state fire commissioners' office taken out for 15yrs. Yearly loan payments are to be paid by the township from the fire company fund.

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Route 209 and Country Club Road Mirror

The Mahoning Police Department are available for traffic control assisting the road department.

DUI Trailer

Deborah McGowan made a motion to gift to Lehighton Borough Police Department. Seconded by Ronald Wenrich. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Radar Sign

Ronald Wenrich made a motion to purchase trailer at Tractor Supply at a cost of \$584. Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

MOTION

Deborah McGowan made a motion to accept and place the correspondence on file dated June 11, 2025, Seconded by Ronald Wenrich. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes; and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

***CARBON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION, IVAN MEIXELL, PLANNER

RE: LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW: MELO, SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY

***LTL CONSULTANTS, LTD., STEPHEN WANNER, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

RE: NOTICE OF VIOLATION, SENSINGER PLANTATION, MAHONING DRIVE WEST. UNPERMITTED BUSINESS AND STORAGE YARD, UNPERMITTED SIGNS

***LTL CONSULTANTS, LTD. STEPHEN WANNER, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

RE: COURTESY NOTICE, LOWER NIS HOLLOW DRIVE, UNPERMITTED STRUCTURE (DECK)

***LTL CONSULTANTS, LTD. STEPHEN WANNER, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

RE: COURTESY NOTICE, JAMESTOWN DRIVE, BURNING

***LTL CONSULTANTS, LTD., STEPHEN WANNER, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

RE: COURTESY NOTICE, CHAPEL DRIVE, JUNK/RUBBISH ACCUMULATION, MOTOR VEHICLE STORAGE

***LTL CONSULTANTS, LTD., STEPHEN WANNER, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

RE: COURTESY NOTICE, BLAKESLEE BLVD DR EAST, JUNK/RUBBISH ACCUMULATION, MOTOR VEHICLE STORAGE.

***LTL CONSULTANTS, LTD., PETER EISENBROWN, PE, TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

RE: FCFCU ESCROW RELEASE #1 AND REDUCTION OF CURRENT FINANCIAL SECURITY

***PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, CARL A MARRARA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & KEYSTATE NATURAL GAS SYNTHESIS, LLC, PERRY BABB, CEO

RE: KEYSTATE: RIVER HILL – FERTILIZERS, FUELS AND CHEMICALS IMPLAN ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

***PSATS NEWS BULLETIN, MAY 2025

***NANOVIC LAW OFFICES, THOMAS NANOVIC

RE: PARKING/STORAGE OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND BOATS

***LTL CONSULTANTS, PETER EISENBROWN

RE: SABOL MINOR SUBDIVISION 2ND LTL REVIEW

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police Committee: Deborah McGowan questioned Chief Mertz on evaluations? Audie advised they will be performed on their anniversary date.

Road Committee: Nothing currently

OFFICIALS:

Mark Ebbert: When can we get into 2685 Mahoning Drive East? Contact the Road Department next week.

West Penn Township is having a firework display at JE Morgans field. They approached us for assistance with the fire police. The event is on July 5th

Ronald Wenrich made a motion to approve to provide assistance from Mahoning Township Fire Police contingent upon receiving a written request from West Penn Township. Seconded by Deborah McGowan. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Deborah McGowan: Requested executive session for personnel

Tom Nanovic: Requested executive session for legal

Todd Weaver: Submitted the Mahoning Valley Union Sunday School to Lehighon Area Heritage Alliance as a local historical nominee

Natalie Haggerty: Shared information regarding volunteer tax credit incentive program to include real estate breaks in addition to earned income. Carol Ethridge provided additional information. Add to next agenda.

Reached out to Doyle Heffley's office to check the status of a grant application made on behalf of the fire company

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION

Myron Blahy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM. Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Robert Slaw, yes; Myron Blahy, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Deborah McGowan, yes and Ronald Wenrich, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie D. Haggerty
Secretary-Treasurer