

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

April 1, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Deborah McGowan called the meeting to order at 6:00PM at the Mahoning Township Building 2175 Blakeslee Blvd Dr. West, Lehighton, PA 18235.

**PRESENT:**

Deborah McGowan, Chair; Ronald Reeser, Vice-Chairman; Carol Etheridge, Supervisor; Mark Schwalm, Supervisor; Matthew Wentz, Supervisor; Thomas Nanovic, Solicitor; Megan Nanovic, Attorney; Natalie D. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer and Ryan Wessner, Zoning Officer

**ABSENT:**

Audie Mertz, Chief of Police; Nevin Frey, Roadmaster

Deborah McGowan announced if anyone wishes to speak at the public comment section of our meeting, please be sure to have signed the registration book. You will be recognized by the Chair and have approximately three minutes to speak. Any further comments during the meeting, you will be recognized by the Chair to speak. All comments will be made from the podium.

Announced executive session for personnel will be conducted on April 13, 2026, at 4:30PM

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Todd Wingert 270 Mahoning Drive East: Again, present for the Slaughterhouse. Few things, a goat escaped. The owner is not here, a year and ten months since a goat escaped and I have a video of when this goat escaped which was December 26, 2025, at 7:45am. A neighbor Crystal Hawk took video. The video is on iPad; I would like to show it to Board if you care to see it. It is graphic. Deborah McGowan, any objection to showing the video? Carol Etheridge how long is the video just in the interest of time. Todd about two minutes

Deb asked again any interest in seeing the video. Todd what happens at the end of the video, the last five seconds of the video, the goat escapes and goes up through the properties and gets caught in the bushes by Bernie Mieczkowski. Two of the workers retrieve the goat and drag the goat back. You can hear the goat screaming as its dragged though Joanie Heintzelman's property. They get around her barn, and when they get around the barn there's a third person there and what they do is cut the goats throat, right out in the public. If it would have been any other day than December 26<sup>th</sup>, school buses would have gone by. The neighbors and nobody should see a goat being slaughtered out in public. I believe it should be inside the building on a kill floor. How this happened I don't know. I know he was accused of the goats getting away but we have dates on the video and it was confirmed by the neighbor. And a matter of fact the goat ended up in her garage and startled her. Deborah asked if Ryan could investigate this. Ryan, I have made a report with the USDA, I have not heard anything back I was sent to another person which is now the field officer of the area about 2 weeks ago to get a full report. Full report regarding cleanliness and the goat escaping, just waiting for that report. The other item is they were cleaning up and there were open tops they were cleaning; and they were putting left over skins and what not in there. Cassella's driver asked me if I was the owner of the property were Holly Heintzelman's lives. And I said this is private property, her property. He told me he was instructed to park the open top on her property, and he told me he was told by the owner of the slaughterhouse. So, then he had to turn around, he was told to park at the lot pass the telephone pole but otherwise would have parked that open top on Holly's property. She thanked me and when he had it up in the air you could see blood and liquified inners coming out of the open top. That shouldn't be on somebody else's property. Not good neighbors. Ryan asked if he had any video or pictures of that? Can you send it to me? Todd, I got off the one were its tipped up and running out. Ryan, that is a problem with USDA. Todd I'm assuming it's not leaking out. The other thing is, I don't know if right or wrong, I'm totally objective. I heard a positive thing with a Board

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

April 1, 2026

member. He did a good job on putting down material there, so they don't get stuck and opened an area for the drainage for Holly. My question is if you are working over there is that conflict of interest. Carol, I would defer to Tom. Tom asked why there would be a conflict of interest. Todd if you are getting paid, don't know if a board member can do that or not. Tom, I believe that Board member is in that business. I want you to understand my logic that as board members and not sitting up here they are contractors or what not and they go out and work for people. Todd didn't know with this particular thing, I wanted to mention.

Linda Pollock 2609 Mahoning Drive West: I like to thank the previous board for not raising my township taxes, you work within a budget and didn't raise taxes to pay the bills. Second, previous board good idea to put Carol in that vacant seat. The three people that were nominated to run for township supervisors being republican or democrat but now all three won by you appointing Carol to that vacant seat. Third, I cut out a bunch of different articles from the police departments West Penn, Mahanoy Township and Summit Hill. Summit Hill police department had 313 calls and 39 traffic citations. West Penn 5100 miles one month and issued 58 traffic citations and Mahanoy Township 21 miles issued 52 traffic citations. Honestly, with a full-time force I think this can be in the paper. I don't see why we can't, I think it would be beneficial for people that say we never see them, this would be an answer, if they showed the citations and showed the mileage then we know they are doing their job. So, I don't know who is in charge of the Police Department. It is something to look into. I think it would be beneficial for the people of Mahoning township to see what our police departments are doing.

Deborah McGowan, we all are and we have a Police Committee. Previously we asked Chief Mertz to supply stats to be placed in the newspaper and that hasn't happened.

Linda asked if you are his boss? Deborah shared we all are and will direct him again. I think it's a good idea Linda, I never see anything from our Police Department. They can make a fortune on 443.

Matthew Wentz, I would like for it to be addressed too and to actually you know feel like the police department is up against something and to have that logged in, you know I feel the same way you do and now for the last three months that you have actually brought something like that up is a good interest in what I think they should do to. Like, we should definitely have something in the paper saying what they do and put out to public. Linda, like I said, sometimes I rip them out, I think I read in the paper last month that the chief said we don't have a full-time police department. Matt, we could. Deborah, we don't have 24-hour coverage basically from 7am to 3am. Linda, but how many officers are there? Matt, there is plenty to have enough information that they should be able to put in paper, and we should have enough authority that we should be able to do that to. Ronald Reeser, I don't see a problem with seeing in the police log of the paper, it used to be. Deborah McGowan, the article that Linda Pollock is referencing is from Mahanoy Township, they were police stats from February 2026, several reportable accidents, non-reportable, assists with other police departments, welfare checks, domestics, fraud scams, suspicious activity, thefts, 18 traffic, 1 training session, 1 trespassing, 4 abandoned vehicles, 1 disabled vehicle, 52 traffic citations. We didn't issue 52 traffic citations in all of last year. Jeffrey Frace asked how many criminal arrests did they have? Jeff I took in 3 today. Deb in that month 2. Deb that is a discussion for another time; but because of her bringing it up we will direct the chief to begin to police stats in the police logs of newspaper or on their Facebook page, to publish the stats, so you folks know. We have two vehicles that are not marked, we have an explorer and the black pick up truck. The white pickup truck you can see a mile away. My thing was to have all three vehicles marked, don't know cost will have to look into. Linda when these departments write up citations. How much is it to the state vs municipality? The chief does two reports which conglomerate all stats, which is something I'm looking into. Jeff said a traffic citation of \$150 charged to the offender \$12.50 comes back to the municipality. We can have a report prepared of money coming in. Ronald Reeser, we are all in agreement that we would like to see them out there.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

April 1, 2026

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION

Carol Etheridge made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting. Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, no and Matthew Wentz, no 3-2 vote. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS:**

MOTION

Ronald Reeser made a motion to approve the following transfers:

\$16,213.41 Payroll Checking to General Checking 3/12/26

\$17,623.12 Payroll Checking to General Checking 3/19/26

\$16,568.23 Payroll Checking to General Checking 3/26/26

\$537.97 Residential Street Light to General Checking

\$595.20 Residential Fire Hydrant to General Checking

Seconded by Carol Etheridge. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT:**

MOTION

Ronald Reeser made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2026. Seconded by Carol Etheridge. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:**

Bill List #545 in the amount of \$83,595.59

MOTION

Ronald Reeser made a motion to approve the following bills and payrolls:

General Check's #25674-#25701

State Check's #1914-#1916

Building and Land Check #1130-#1131

Seconded by Carol Etheridge. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Carol Etheridge like to call out and thank our united veterans, so we did make a donation that was approved in our budget last year under the prior board to make a \$500 donation. So, I'm glad to see we support our veterans. Thank you.

**APPROVAL OF REPORTS**

MOTION

Carol Etheridge made a motion to accept and place on file the following reports:

Mahoning Township Road Department Reports March 1, 2026-March 27, 2026

Mahoning Township Road Department Equipment and Fuel Log March 2026

Mahoning Township Municipal Authority Minutes for February 18, 2026

Mahoning Township Zoning and Building Permits March 2026

Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

April 1, 2026

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Bids road materials and fuels

**MOTION**

Ronald Reeser made a motion to award the below bid of road materials to Lehigh Asphalt

#1	800 ton	9.5 MM wearing course	FOB	\$73.75	\$ 59,000.00
#1-A	2100 ton	9.5MM wearing course	Delivered	\$80.80	\$169,680.00
#2	800 ton	25 MM base course	FOB	\$59.90	\$ 47,920.00
#2-A	800 ton	25 MM base course	Delivered	\$67.90	\$ 54,320.00
#3	500 ton	AASHTO No. 8	Delivered	\$32.50	\$ 16,250.00
#4	1500 ton	AS2, AS3, AS4	Delivered	\$23.65	\$ 35,475.00
#5	500 ton	2A	FOB	\$14.85	\$ 7,425.00
#5A	500 ton	2A	Delivered	\$21.35	\$ 10,675.00
#6	500 ton	#3	FOB	\$17.70	\$ 8,850.00
#6-A	500 ton	#3	Delivered	\$24.20	\$ 12,100.00
#7	500 ton	#1 stone	FOB	\$17.70	\$ 8,850.00
#7-A	500 ton	#1 stone	Delivered	\$24.20	\$ 12,100.00
#8	500 ton	#57	Delivered	\$24.45	\$ 12,225.00
#9	100	R-4 Rip Rap	Delivered	\$31.50	\$ 3,150.00
#11	100	R-6 Rip Rap	Delivered	\$34.50	\$ 3,450.00
#12	200	Wash bituminous sand	Delivered	\$26.50	\$ 5,300.00

Seconded by Carol Etheridge. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

**Bid for fuels from Suburban Propane.**

		FOB		Delivered	
3000 gals	lead free gasoline delivered to the township tank (87 Octane)	\$2.8635	\$8,590.50	\$3.1435	\$ 9,430.50
1000 gals	#2 heating fuel delivered	\$4.0176	\$4,017.60	\$4.2076	\$ 4,207.60
4500 gals	Low sulfur diesel delivered	\$4.2468	\$19,110.60	\$4.4368	\$ 19,965.60
2000 gals	Propane more or less delivered to township tank	\$1.2400	\$2,400.00	\$1.6200	\$ 3,240.00

Carol Etheridge asked if we received any other bids. Only one bid received from Suburban. Mark Schwalm asked can we get other ones. It was advertised and we solicit bidders from previous year. Are we locked in? We have an escalator clause in bid and quantities are more or less. Deborah McGowan asked if he wanted to get bids elsewhere. Mark Schwalm mentioned Countryside, Myerstown. Deborah McGowan thinks it's a good idea to solicit more bids.

**MOTION**

Carol Etheridge made a motion to reject the fuels bid and readvertise and information for Countryside to be included by Mark Schwalm. Seconded by Mark Schwalm. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Part Time Winter Road Department Workers: Interviews held, good with all three

(Paul Davis, Terry Everett, and Darrell Luyeders)

**MOTION**

Mark Schwalm made a motion to hire all three applicants pending CDL Drug and Alcohol Testing, driver background checks at current part time winter department worker's rate. Seconded by Carol Etheridge. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

April 1, 2026

Police Pension Proposals: TABLE

Discussion took place regarding the proposals received from Girard Group and PSATS Trust. Advised we had a phone conference with both. Both Deb and Carol are in favor of PSATS because they house the non-uniform plan and provide the white glove service. Natalie will put together a spreadsheet comparison.

Pumpkin Field Lease- Botek and Diaz Land Lease: TABLE

Deborah McGowan said we received a letter from Mr. Botek about leasing land. We are going to combine the pumpkin field lease and Diaz lease. Deb suggests we table both leases. Our current lease would not cover us being held harmless due to entering the Diaz property and damaging crops. We would like to lease this year but if the subdivisions get to the point if someone needs to go in there and dig holes or such that whoever has the highest bid is aware of that and is willing to take it on with that as a condition. Tom will restructure the leases.

Wait until we have a lease and then advertise to receive sealed bids to farm the land.

Proposed Resolutions-PSATS

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mahoning Valley Fire Co. License Agreement TABLE

Handicap Parking Sign Request from Kevin Maehrer, 114 Jamestown Street: TABLE

Grant of Right Away Agreement -PPL: TABLE

Mark and Carol met with PPL folks. Met with them all looked straight forward replacing new poles on Chapel Drive from Winter Mtn. to Fritz Valley. No trees, only a bush, don't see any impact, why would we not approve it. Storm reinforcement, there is more than one pole than what is on the letter. Carol will email to have letter corrected.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**MOTION**

Carol Etheridge made a motion to accept and place the correspondence on file dated April 1, 2026. Seconded by Mark Schwalm. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

\*\*\*ALIF MEAT PACKING, MOEED MALIK, PLANT OWNER

RE: LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW APPEAL REGARDING REVOCATION OF FENCE PERMIT AND TO PROCEED WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE FENCE STRUCTURE.

\*\*\*CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, RYAN MACKENZIE, US CONGRESSMAN 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF PA

RE: WELL, WISHES AND OFFER OF SUPPORT

\*\*\*PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CHETT PESTA, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

RE: NOTIFICATION OF TRAFFIC COUNTING ON MUNICIPALLY OWNED ROADS, MARCH 2 – NOV 19, 2026

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

April 1, 2026

\*\*\*PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MICHAEL CARROLL, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
RE: NOTICE OF PAYMENT LIQUID FUELS, \$212,673.79  
\*\*\*RMW INSPECTION LLC, RYAN WESSNER, CODE OFFICIAL  
RE: NOTICE OF VIOLATION, ABANDONED PROPERTY (2) 1461 & 1511 BLAKESLEE BLVD DR E  
\*\*\*RMW INSPECTION LLC, RYAN WESSNER, CODE OFFICIAL  
RE: FINAL NOTICE OF VIOLATION, GARBAGE, RUBBISH, JUNK VEHICLES, 54 CHAPEL DR  
\*\*\*RMW INSPECTION LLC, RYAN WESSNER, CODE OFFICIAL  
RE: WARNING LETTER, HOME IN DISREPAIR, WARNING TO REPAIR HOME IMMEDIATELY. 388 LAUREL RD  
\*\*\*RMW INSPECTION, LLC, RYAN WESSNER, CODE OFFICIAL  
RE: ZONING VIOLATION CLOSURE LETTER. ALL MATTERS RESOLVED, 1020 BEAVER RUN DR  
\*\*\*RMW INSPECTION, LLC, RYAN WESSNER, CODE OFFICIAL  
RE: NOTICE OF VIOLATION, DILAPIDATED CAMPER, JUNK, 1480 BLAKESLEE BLVD DR  
\*\*\*RMW INSPECTION, LLC, RYAN WESSNER, CODE OFFICIAL  
RE: NOTICE OF VIOLATION, COLLAPSED BARN, REMOVAL OF BUILDING REQUIRED, 153 MAUCH CHUNK  
ST.  
\*\*\*EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION - ROAD DEPARTMENT – PAUL DAVIS  
\*\*\*HANDICAPPED PARKING SIGN REQUEST, 144 JAMESTOWN ST, MAEHRER – SEE NEW BUSINESS

Deborah McGowan shared we received a letter from a resident with concerns on a state highway, this resident has been told she must be in touch with PennDOT. It involves jake braking. Mark Schwalm asked if he could stop and talk to her. Deb feels a simple letter advising it is not our responsibility. Jake breaking is regulated by the state because it's a state highway. I get it, but there's not much we can do. She submitted two emails and a packet for the record. Matt thinks verbal is better. Mark said to tell her to come to meeting. Carol shared she was not able to attend tonight; she had an appointment. Send a letter it's a PennDOT issue and to attend the next meeting. She took it to Doyle Heffley's office for help, and she asked that I take in this packet and present it as part of the record. The Board accepted the information, please try to attend a future meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Road Department: EM Kutz

Ron on behalf of Nevin. Bid for body replacement for the Peterbilt. Natalie shared there was about \$75,000 in the road machinery fund. The body replacement was discussed in budget talks and to replace is \$52,550. I advised there was enough funds to recommend to the Board. The following day there was discussion about purchasing a tractor and he had asked how much funding the machinery fund anticipated bringing in. I advised that I would not be in favor of making a purchase with anticipated milage or not budgeted for; but ultimately, it's not my decision to discuss with the Board. Nevin is always upfront and shares information and advised that I think it's irresponsible to make a purchase with money you don't have. Deb asked if the tractor would last another year. Mark feels we can work on the tractor. Ron shared he went down to see the tractor; our current tractor issues are with the coding. The tractor he went to see has a problem with coding.

### MOTION

Mark Schwalm made a motion to amend agenda to include the purchase of truck body. Seconded

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

April 1, 2026

by Ronald Reeser. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

**MOTION**

Mark Schwalm made a motion to purchase truck body from EM Kutz at a cost of \$52,550. Seconded by Carol Etheridge. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, abstain; Mark Schwalm, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Street sweeping starts on Monday; we will be sweeping in Jamestown and Packerton

Police Committee: Deb shared that she talked to Tyler today and he sent contract off with changes proposed to Attorney Todd Eagen. I suggest you all take a copy of the existing contract and compare verbatim, hopefully by end of next week we will have back. Like to have done before May meeting.

**OFFICIALS:**

Deborah McGowan executive session at conclusion of meeting for police contract discussion.

Deborah McGowan sent Ryan, Springdale pictures of 3 vehicles sitting there not registered, talked about presenting Springdale as a Blighted property. Mark asked if anyone had got in touch with us, Ryan no. Reviewed the zoning report in entire with Ryan.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION**

Carol Etheridge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM. Seconded by Ronald Reeser. Deborah McGowan, yes; Ronald Reeser, yes; Carol Etheridge, yes; Mark Schwalm, yes and Matthew Wentz, yes 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Natalie D. Haggerty  
Secretary-Treasurer