

April 6, 2026
ATKINSON MILLS, PA

On March 2, 2026, the Wayne Township Board of Supervisors met for their regular monthly meeting at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was held at the Country Crossroads Community Center, 3055 Ferguson Valley Road, McVeytown, PA. Members of the Board present were Chuck Miles, Chairman, Don Gearhart, Vice Chairman, and Ted Reed, Supervisor. Twenty-Two residents and visitors were also present.

Chairman Chuck Miles called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Don made the motion to approve the minutes; Ted seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Ted gave the treasures report.

Chuck opened the floor for public comment on the agenda and reminded those present that each speaker will have five minutes to comment and must be a resident or tax payer in Wayne Township.

Patty Feck, Auditor, gave the Supervisors the completed and notarized 2025 Township Audit. Chuck made the motion to approve the 2025 Audit; Don seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Don made the motion to pay the Auditors; Ted seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Ted made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-6 amending Ordinance 2024-1 by adding two members to the Wayne Township Advisory Recreation Board; Don seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Chuck made the motion to appoint Ben Sunderland to a one-year term on the Recreation Advisory Board; Don seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Don made the motion appoint Mike Boehm to a three-year term on the Recreation Advisory Board; Ted seconded the motion, motion carried.

Don made the motion to change the January 2026 Reorganizational Meeting minutes to read, "Don made the motion to set the mileage rate to correspond to the IRS rate of \$.725/mile for 2026; ted seconded the motion"; ted seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Chuck made the announcement the Supervisors met in Executive Session 2/10/2026 from 4:30 P.M. until 7 P.M. with the Township Solicitor to discuss possible litigation and personnel matters.

Chuck clarified the Tax Collectors commission rate. The tax collector's commission rate is set before an official is elected and cannot be changed by the Board of Supervisors mid-term. Any change must be voluntary or wait until the next election cycle. This policy also applies to auditors; a recent pay increase passed by the Board only applies to the next auditors elected.

Mary Ellen Reed, the tax collector for 38 years, provided an overview of her duties, collecting approximately \$2.3 million annually in real estate, per capita, and EMS taxes. Mary Ellen gave a tax breakdown by recipient: School District: \$1,357,650; County: \$831,543; Wayne Township: \$58,708; Fire Tax: \$52,254. She recommended having the Capital Tax Collection Bureau handle the \$10 EMS tax for businesses. Mary Ellen gave her commission rates: She receives 9% from the township (set in January 2022), \$1.50 per bill from the MU School District, and \$1.00 per bill from Mifflin County. Mary Ellen went on to state she pays for her own office expenses and is personally responsible for non-sufficient fund (NSF) checks. She is an Act 48 qualified tax collector and intends to train a deputy in her final term.

Chuck made the motion to add Resolution 2026-7 to the agenda; Ted seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion about Resolution 2026-7 ensued among the Supervisors with Don stating he did not receive the Resolution soon enough (3:30 P.M.) to study it and that he wanted to get a feel for what the room wanted. Ted said he emailed the Resolution to the Supervisors at 12:19 P.M. Don questioned Curtis Jury as to whether the Fire Company could share in some of the cost of collecting the tax. Curtis

said the Fire Company could discuss it. After some further discussion among the Supervisors and residents, Don made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-7 which amends Ordinance 2024-2, also known as the Fire Tax, to allow what is collected to be given to the NWFD and requires the Township to pay the Collection fees out of the payroll general fund. The commission (approx. \$4,000) will now be paid from the township's payroll fund instead of being deducted from fire tax revenue, ensuring the fire company receives its full one-mill tax revenue. This still results in a net savings of over \$8,000 for the township compared to its previous annual donation. (The Resolution also refunds 2025's collection fees back to the Fire Department. This provision was not verbally discussed in the meeting; Ted seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Curtis Jury, NWFD, who asked to be on the agenda to discuss the township's dry hydrants, which are critical for firefighting. Curtis revealed Several hydrants are missing, broken, or non-functional. The one at Lucy Furnace is severely clogged, another at Greenbrier Crossover has an inefficient valve, and the one on 103 has a broken elbow. Also, the one at the Beaver Dam Bridge was not replaced after bridge work. Curtis explained the Rhone Road hydrant is unreliable and a draw site on Cookson Lane is a good candidate for a new installation. Curtis proposed that the Supervisors replace several dry hydrants; install a new dry hydrant at the bridge between Dorothy Rittenhouse and Melvin Sunderland, and to repair several others that have fallen into disrepair due to neglect which may require a DEP permitting to access creeks. The Board thanked Curtis for his concern and that the Board will be looking into and rectifying this situation.

Dwight Aurand, resident who asked to be put on the agenda, brought up a plowing issue that the township is no longer plowing the intersection leading onto Route 522 South from Old 22 Road. Dwight next talked about the short section of Old 22 Road that belongs to the Township possibly being vacated. Dwight mentioned there are other roads in Wayne Township that should be vacated before this section. Dwight also claimed that that section of road generates Liquid Fuels revenue for the Township and should be kept. Chuck claimed the township spent \$13,000 to pave the turnaround and that some of which is private property belonging to Dwight's brother. Discussion led to the short "turn around part" being maintained by the Township for over twenty one years when it belonged to either Dwight or his brother. Chuck stated that the paving of the "turn around" was a violation of ethics when considering Dwight made the motion to pave that section in December 2022 when he was still a supervisor benefiting a family member. Dwight argued the "turn around" has been used by motorists as long as he could remember to turn around there and therefore is considered a public road. Ted noted it generates about \$352 annually in liquid fuels revenue for the Township which is minimal compared to what is spent to maintain it. It was mentioned by Chuck that the property's deed changed to a trust fund in 2022 which restarts the 21-year period for public use claims because someone is claiming it as their property. The potential need for a survey was also discussed. Chuck let it be known that vacating is only something the Board is looking into at this point and that the Board has not decided to take action at a public meeting yet.

Ted gave the Water Department update and mentioned water bills will be going out at the end of the month or the beginning of April.

Ted gave the Grant Update: An application was completed for the PennDOT Multimodal Grant for Ferguson Valley Road; applications for the DCED multimodal (Irvin Ridge Road), LSA (Little Greenbrier), and a GTPR playground grant are awaiting decisions. The grant for fire hydrant replacement was not awarded.

Jeff Hoover, Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Board, gave the Recreation Board update and thanked the Board for its support by increasing the Recreation Board membership. Jeff reminded everyone that the Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 29 and there will be over 2000 eggs and four age categories. Jeff announced there will be a yard sale in May, America 250 celebration in June, and asked

for volunteers for road cleanup. Pam Sechrist reminded everyone that Keep PA Beautiful Spring Cleanup runs from March 1 to thru May 31. PennDOT will provide free supplies.

Don mentioned that he donated money received for snow plowing to the recreation committee. Ted said that he has received it but it hasn't been deposited yet.

Chuck at this time answered questions and concerns that have been given to the Board recently:

- **Livestream Equipment Purchase:** The township purchased new and refurbished livestream equipment for under \$500 from Chuck, who acquired it at a liquidation auction, saving the township an estimated \$3000-\$4000 over previous estimates.
- **What is Being Done with Budget Surplus:** The budget method used is a balanced budget; therefore, the budget was balanced on paper by allocating extra funds to potential projects (HVAC, bathroom remodel, road work, etc.). A surplus is expected at year-end.
- **Agenda Adjustments:** A recent Supreme Court ruling (Coleman v. Parkland School District) allows for additions to a meeting agenda, including spending, that arises within 24 hours of the meeting.
- **Health Insurance:** Officials Ted and Don voluntarily switched to Medicare Part B and Geisinger Gold Advantage Plans to save the township money. A new ordinance requires future elected officials to move to Medicare when eligible.
- Chuck explained that a septic issue letter that he claimed was sent to Ken Smith was never sent and apologized for claiming during a meeting that it was sent.

Chuck introduced the final comment period and reminded the residents that general comments will be taken at this time and every speaker has 3 minutes in which to speak.

Dan Walker, resident, commented first from the podium and commented about the Supervisor's and Chuck in particular interrupting the Secretary from doing his job. Ted explained the interruptions have been reduced considerably and that the Supervisors do not interrupt him as much as people think.

Walter Smith, resident, commented next from the podium and expressed the need for repair at the intersection of Cookson Lane and Route 522 South. Walter explained that the drop off there is pretty steep and suggested the township address this with the state or consider paving it themselves. The Supervisors agreed to look at it and see what can be done.

Mary Ellen Reed, Tax Collector, commented next from the podium and gave Dwight Aurand the new approximate assessed value of the Township's real estate. Ted gave the official number at \$52,269,558 and of that \$2,223,600 is exempt. Mary Ellen explained what types of properties are exempt.

Noah Hartzler, resident, commented next from the podium and said there was a tree on Ferguson Valley Road near Queen Bee Road that has been removed but there still are vines hanging there since February 12th and needs removed.

Dustin Gearhart, resident, commented next from the podium that he is probably the youngest in the room and that he is really appreciative to be a member of this community. Dustin also questioned why if it doesn't cost any money to maintain it why vacate the "turn around" at the end of Old 22 Road?

Don made the motion to pay the bills; Ted seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Don made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Ted seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Theodore M. Reed Secretary