

**West Penn Township Board of Supervisors
27 Municipal Road
New Ringgold, PA 17960**

Phone (570)386-4507

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**Regular Meeting
Monday, August 4, 2025**

Present at the Meeting

Anthony Prudenti – Chair
Glenn Hummel – Vice Chair
James Akins – Supervisor (phone)

Karen Wittig – Treasurer (absent)
Katie Orlick – Secretary
Jeremy Frable – Road Master
Mike Begis – ARRO Consulting, Inc.
Paul Datte – Solicitor

I. General

A. Tony Prudenti called the meeting to order at 6:03PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introduction.

B. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

Greg Dushack – wanted to comment on his Solar Project. He gave a brief history of his property. Initially, he intended to subdivide the property into at least 40 road frontage lots for new homes. He said he really did not want to look at forty new homes and decided to invest in the Solar Project. Mr. Dushack feels it is an allowable use, and he does not understand why it is not getting approved. Chairman said that we cannot tell anyone what to do with their property, however you do have to follow our ordinances and regulations not only from the Township but State & Federal as well. Mr. Dushack said he understands. Chairman said we will be discussing the Solar Project shortly.

C. Review of Minutes – July 7th, 2025 (July 15th Meeting Minutes will be approved at the next meeting)

Chairman called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes for July 7, 2025. Glenn Hummel made the motion to accept. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Treasurer's Report

Chairman called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report for July 2025. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Approval of Bills – July 2025

Chairman called for a motion to pay the bills. Jimmy Akins made a motion to approve the bills for June. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

F. Solicitor's Report

Attorney Datte said he had nothing to report.

II. Land Use

A. Rottet Lot Consolidation/Annexation Plan

The property is located off of Golf Rd. in the Suburban Residential Zoning District. Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the Rottet Lot Consolidation/Annexation Plan contingent on comments being satisfied from ARRO's letter July 17, 2025, Bill Brior & Schuylkill Co. Planning. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 21 of 2025 Conditionally approving the Rottet Lot Line Consolidation/Annexation contingent on the above comments. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Ridge Road Solar – Land Development – Final Plan – was tabled last meeting.

The Property is located along Ash Circle and Ridge Rd. in the AG Zoning District. Attorney Datte said he believes they have what they need to get Conditional Plan approval. They understand they need a Development Agreement, Storm Water Mgt. Agreement & Decommissioning Agreement. Those Agreements are referenced in ARRO's June 19th letter. They also would be required to provide payment for lieu of land Recreation Fee. Chairman discussed inspection & zoning fees. Attorney Datte will be reviewing the Township's Fee Schedule. Attorney Datte said our fees need to be reasonable. Chairman asked the public if they had any questions about the Solar Project. Marie Evans asked if the Township could stop this Solar Project coming into our Township. She expressed her concerns. She wanted to know what happens when it is done its usefulness. Chairman said that is why we want to have a decommissioning plan. Attorney Datte said we have rules that they would have to follow, and decommissioning of the solar project is one of them. Attorney Datte explained what the Solar Project 's responsibilities would be and what they would have to post whether it would be a bond or a letter of credit to make sure the Solar is decommissioned properly. Attorney Datte said they would have to review costs every five years to make sure costs would be covered. Marie Evans asked what if this company sells to another company. Attorney Datte said this would all apply to them. These rules are applicable to their successors and assigns. Larry Stivel – asked are we allowed to do this contract on the time of material basis? Attorney Datte said they will have to pay something at the time they apply. We need to have something in place that would cover our fees. The fees would have to include all the inspections and permitting. Chairman said the Planning Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors conditional approval of the Final Plan for the Ridge Road Solar Land Development contingent on ARRO's letter dated June 19, 2025, Schuylkill County Planning comments and Bill Brior/DEP comments. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 22 of 2025 conditionally approving the Solar Land Development continent of all comments listed above. Glenn Hummel made the motion to approve and adopt Resolution # 22 of 2025. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

III. Operations

A. Engineer/Zoning Monthly Report – July 2025

Chairman asked the Board if they had any questions for Mike Begis. Glenn Hummel asked about the ADA Accessibility Improvements at the West Penn Park on Zion Stone Church Rd. Mike Begis said we will be scheduling a preconstruction meeting in the next week or two. Glenn Hummel asked Mike Begis if he could look into ADA Parking Spots for the Fire Company and ADA Access to the Recycling Center. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Engineer's Report. Jimmy Akins made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Code Enforcement Monthly Report – July 2025

Chairman asked the BOS if they had any questions about the Code Enforcement Report. Glenn Hummel asked what else the Township could do other than file citations to get these properties cleaned up. Glenn Hummel said there are a couple properties that have violations dating back from 2023.

The Board discusses what else could be done. Chairman thought by adopting the International Property Maintenance Code it would have corrected these issues and should speed up the process. Attorney Datte said if filing citations is not working then you would have to file an action to compel them to do it. The Board agreed to have Attorney Datte look into these citations and speak to the magistrate. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

C. Sewage Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report – July 2025

Chairman read the sewage enforcement officer's report. The report consisted of 4 New Permit Applications, 5 Site Evaluations, 3 Test Prob, 2 Design Reviews, 1 Malfunction Inspections, 1 Subdivision Reviews and 2 Interim Inspections. Well Activities consisted of 0 New Permits. The Malfunction was on Retreat Rd. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer's Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion to accept the Sewage Report for July 2025. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Road Department's Monthly Report – July 2025

Chairman read the Road Department's Monthly report. The report consisted of General Maintenance to the Township Building & Equipment, Fixed Street signs along Township Roads, Paving bad spots on St. Peter's Rd., Millhead Rd., Strauss Valley Rd., Archery Club Rd., Patched holes with Cold Patch, Cleaned Pipes and Grates on Township Roads. Cleaned up trees & limbs along Township Roads, Tar & Chipping Arrow Rd., Archery Club Rd., Walnut Lane, Mill Dr., and St. Peters Rd., Attended DEP Meeting in Wilkes Barre and Removed Dirt from Morgan Park. Chairman said someone has been stealing Street signs in our Township. Anyone with information please contact us. It is becoming a big expense to try to replace the signs that went missing. Glenn Hummel asked Jeremy Frable when he thought Spring Rd. would be getting done. Jeremy Frable said he should be able to start it after he is finished at J.E. Morgan Park.

Chairman read the Maintenance Report of the Road Department's Equipment. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Departments Monthly Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Police Department Report – July 2025

Chairman read the Police Report. The Police Dept. had 5,361 miles patrolled, 40 total citations & warnings, 13 motor vehicle accidents, 0 Criminal Arrest and 104 Total calls. Glenn Hummel asked the Chief if the Dept. was planning on participating in the "National Night Out Event". Chief Lorah said not this year. Chairman said the PD Frequency Report is also attached to the Police Report. Glenn Hummel made a motion to accept the Police Monthly Report. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

F. Fire Company Monthly Report – July 2025

Chairman read the Fire Department's Monthly Report. The report consisted of 24 total calls for the month of July. The calls were 9 Motor Vehicle Accident, 5 Wires/Tree Down, 1 Unknown Type of Fire, 1 Medical Assist, 2 Fire Police Calls, 2 Vehicle Fire, 2 Structure Fire, 0 Brush Fire, and 2 Automatic Fire Alarms. They had their meeting. Their training for the month was Equipment Checks & Location, Joint Search & Tactic Training and Joint Pumping Training with New Ringgold & Walker Township. Building Maintenance and

Joint Ladders & Roofs with New Ringgold & Walker. Chairman asked the Fire Chief Jeff Bradford if he had anything to discuss with the Board. Fire Chief Jeff Bradford asked the Board for some financial help for an unexpected Bill. They had a major failure with their Well System which needed to be repaired because they are considered a shelter for the public during emergencies. The bill is a lot more than expected. Fire Chief Jeff Bradford is asking the Board to consider covering this unexpected expense for the Fire Company. Chairman feels we give them the money this year, but we could take it off of what the Township gives them next year. Jeff Bradford said he cannot make that commitment; he is only one person, but he appreciates whatever the Township could do. Jimmy Akins discussed Finances with the Fire Dept. Jimmy Akins asked what their long-term plan would be like in the next two to three years as we continue to grow. Jeff Bradford said outside of something major happening we look ok. Jimmy Akins said he was leaning towards loaning the Fire Company the money. Glenn Hummel said he could go either way, a loan or giving the Fire Company the money out of the reserve. He is impressed of the efforts of the Fire Company to do what they are doing to get all their equipment upgraded. Fire Chief's concern is when next year comes and our truck loans come due, the money they normally use from the Township to pay those loans, would not be available because we use it this year for the well. Jeff Bradford said the total bill was \$8,630.50. Jeff Bradford is asking for the Township to pay the entire bill. Glenn Hummel suggested we may be able to take like \$1000/ year for the next couple of years to pay back instead of the whole amount at once. Chairman said he believes we already give the Fire Company \$55K/year. Fire Chief said yes but we use that amount for our Truck payments Jimmy Akins asked some budgetary questions in regard to the Fire Dept. He feels a loan would work. Chairman asked what the total bill is for the well. Jeff Bradford said \$8,630.50. Jimmy Akins called for a motion to loan the Fire Department the money for the well and have the Fire Company pay back the \$8,630.50 in 48 months. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Jimmy Akins feels we should create a committee to discuss budgeting & planning for the next two years. Glenn Hummel made the motion to accept the Fire Company Report. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

G. Ambulance Monthly Report – July 2025

Chairman read the Ambulance Monthly Report. The Ambulance Report consisted of 251 calls year-to-date. Unit 935- 35 and 937 -0. June had 32 total calls. 21 West Penn, 4 Tamaqua, 3 East Brunswick and New Ringgold 7. The outcomes of the calls were 14 Treated, Transported BLS, 3 Cancelled, 1 Canceled at Scene, 3 Lift Assists, 1 Refused Care, 1 Standby – No Service or Support and 8 Treated, Transported, with ALS. Receiving Hospitals were 9 St. Luke's Miners, 4 St. Luke's Carbon, 1 St. Luke's Allentown, 8 Lehigh Valley Carbon, 1 LVH Cedar Crest and 2 St. Luke's Geisinger. The Ambulance Assoc. missed 13 Calls, 3 because they were on another call and the others were because they did not have a full crew. Also reported 2 Staff Members left for better paying jobs. They are rectifying the situation by hiring 3 more drivers and possibly an EMT. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Ambulance Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion to accept the Ambulance Report for July 2025. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

IV. Old Business

A. Municibid Results – The Fire Company's 2012 F150 4x4 sold. The Truck sold for \$7000. Glenn Hummel made a motion to accept the Municibid of \$7000 for the 2012 F150 4x4 truck for the West Penn Fire Company #1. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

V. New Business

A. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 23 of 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This Resolution is the Schuylkill County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Chairman called for a to adopt Resolution # 23 of 2025. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. New Salary for Township Supervisors

Chairman said this Ordinance would be for the new Supervisors coming into office. Currently the Supervisors receive \$1,875/year. The new rate for the Supervisors based on population would be \$3,145. Chairman said the new rate would be for the new Supervisors coming into office not the existing Supervisors. Glenn Hummel questioned if the new Supervisor that we would have to appoint to replace Jimmy Akins would get the new amount. Attorney Datte said the new appointed Supervisor would get the raise because he is starting his term when he gets appointed. Chairman called for a motion to have Attorney Datte prepare the Ordinance & advertise for the Ordinance. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

C. Cleaning Up the Township

Chairman explained that he was approached about how properties in our Township are not being maintained especially on our main thoroughfare. Chairman said maybe the Board would like to consider hiring a Code Enforcement Officer to go out and look to see who is not in compliance once or twice a week. Glenn Hummel said we tried that before, and we found that the Code Enforcement Officer would create work instead of addressing the issues. Then we started with the Concern Forms to have someone bring the issue to the Township to be addressed. Brian McQuillen feels there needs to be something done with Code Enforcement in our Township. Mr. McQuillen feels these issues should be resolved more quickly. He feels other Township do not have this problem. Glenn Hummel said the Chairman suggested we go to a business manager. Chairman said another thought was pay who does our Code Enforcement now three hours a week to drive around the Township for Code Violations. It would cost an extra \$225/month. Mr. McQuillen said he submitted a concern and did not get any response to the violation. His violation was in process, and a site visit was performed. The Code Enforcement Officer also had conversations with the tenant and the owner of the property. Mr. McQuillen asked to be notified when this concern was being addressed. An enforcement notice was issued on July 23rd. Glenn Hummel asked if we could have a process of notifying the person that submitted the concern, so they know that their issue is being addressed. Chairman said he would like the person issuing the notice of violation to contact the person that submitted the concern. Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting recommended we add an email address line to our concern form.

VI. Correspondence

A. Andreas Halloween Parade

Glenn Hummel made a motion authorizing the approval of the Andreas Halloween Parade and to provide them with a letter of the approval to be submitted with their PennDOT Special Events Permit application. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

VII. Business from Anyone on the Board

A. Chairman said we had a Zoom meeting with PPL to discuss PPL Right of Ways and their plans to run transmission line. PPL is currently clearing their Right of Ways just in case they would need to run lines. They said they would keep us informed of any happenings in West Penn Township.

VIII. Public Comments on General Items

Brian McQuillen – said he has two items to discuss with the Board. He discussed the concern he submitted. He feels the Township needs to fine the people and then take them to court if they do not pay. Attorney Datte said you cannot do that. Mr. McQuillen believes other Township's fine the people that are in violation. The other concern Mr. McQuillen has is the concern for liability. He noted Section 403 & 404 of the Township Code regarding Supervisor resignation when a Supervisor moves out of the Township. Jimmy Akins responded that there is a plan in place and understands the timeline. He also reached out to PSATs. There was a little conflicting information, so we spoke to our Solicitor for him to look into it. Jimmy Akins said he is under the advisement of Attorney Datte. Brian McQuillen feels that once a Supervisor is no longer a resident, they are no longer able to be Supervisor. Brian McQuillen asked if Jimmy Akins still lives in the Township. Jimmy Akins said he just sold his house, and he no longer has property in West Penn Township. There are procedures we can follow. Attorney Datte asked Jimmy Akins if it is his intent to resign. Jimmy Akins said yes. Attorney Datte said the Township has 45-days to accept his resignation and 30-days to appoint a new Supervisor.

Karl Greves – his concern is advertisement signs on the side of the road. He feels that when one could do it others will do it and sooner or later our Township would look a mess. He feels there are proper ways to advertise for a business. He feels something should be done. Attorney Datte said if they are in a Township Right of Way the Township could just get rid of the signs. Glenn Hummel asked if they would need a peddlers permit for advertising like that in the Township. Attorney Datte said that is typically for approaching the residence. Chairman asked Jeremy Frable if anything like that is in our Right-of-Way, take it out.

Larry Stivel- Chairman said we are having a meeting in the near future with PennDOT, our State Representative and our Senator about the intersection on SR 309 & SR 895. Chairman asked the Secretary to inform Mr. Stivel of the date.

Larry Stivel asked if we had directions to get to Morgan Park. He said he had a hard time explaining how to get to that park. The address is 49 Cold Spring Rd. Larry Stivel asked me to have that address on our website. Larry Stivel asked about a non-emergency phone number. 570-668-6100 or call the police dept. 570-386-1100 and if the officer is not available the call will be transferred to the non-emergency center.

Robert Stabler – explained about his experience with an incident with a Verizon Truck. He could not call the cops because his phone was dead. He ended up going to the Police Dept. and at the time former Chief Bonner was on duty came out to his property. Bonner asked Verizon to move their truck to the other side of the road. Mr. Stabler feels Verizon should have been cited for Trespassing. Glenn Hummel said you could call 1-800-Verizon to file a complaint.

Don Hoppes – said the concern that Brian McQuillen submitted about a property with chickens is being addressed. The owner of the chickens approached Mr. Hoppes to see if he could rent a barn he was going to be tearing down. The chicken owner is looking to correct his violation.

Jason Oswald – his concern is that he has cars at his business which he sells the parts off those cars. Would the Township make him clean up his property if he uses them for his business. Mr. Oswald said he does part out a lot of cars. Chairman said he may have to put up some type of screening. Attorney Datte recommended he call the Zoning Officer.

Mr. Oswald had some questions about people living out of campers in the Township. He has a piece of property with a well & septic on it and asked if he could put a camper on it. Attorney Datte said he should call the Zoning Officer.

Valerie Coombe – her concern is the intersection SR 309 & SR 895. Ms. Coombe asked how the Township did with raising money from the Firework's Celebration for the Police Dept., Fire Dept. and the Ambulance. Chairman said it would around \$1500-\$1800.

Glenn Hummel – there is a house in South Tamaqua that the neighbor's trees are growing and are getting close to the roof line of the adjoining neighbor. The adjoining neighbor calls the property owner with the trees. The neighbor with the trees said he was not touching the trees Glenn Hummel asked if the adjoining property owner was allowed to cut back the trees to the property line. Attorney Datte said absolutely. Anything over the property line she could cut.

IX. Executive Session: - NONE

X. Adjournment

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn at 8:25PM. Glenn Hummel made the motion to adjourn. Jimmy Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick - West Penn Township Secretary