

West Penn Township Board of Supervisors

27 Municipal Road

New Ringgold, PA 17960

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Reorganization Meeting

Monday, January 5, 2026

Present at the Meeting

Anthony Prudenti – Chair

Karen Wittig – Treasurer

Tom Ackerman - Supervisor

Katie Orlick – Secretary

Kyle Kester – Vice Chair

Paul Datte – Solicitor

Jeremy Frable - Road Master

I. ReOrganization

A. Tony Prudenti called the meeting to order at 5:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Public Comment on Agenda Items for ReOrganization Only - NONE

C. ReOrganization & Appointments

1. Chairman of 2025 made a motion to nominate Kyle Kester as the Temporary Chairman to start the ReOrganization of 2026. Tom Ackerman seconded the nomination for temporary chair. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

2. Kyle Kester opened the nominations for Chairman of the Board for 2026. Tom Ackerman made the motion to have Tony Prudenti as Chairman for 2026. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Kyle Kester turned the meeting back over to the 2026 Chairman, Tony Prudenti.

3. Tony Prudenti called for a nomination for Vice Chairman for 2026. Tony Prudenti made a motion to nominate Kyle Kester as Vice Chairman for 2026. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

4. Tony Prudenti made a motion to nominate Tom Ackerman as Supervisor. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

5. - 7. Tony Prudenti called for nominations for Supervisors to be in Charge of each Department which their job would to be the liaison for the Dept. they were appointed too. Kyle Kester made a motion to nominate Tony Prudenti for the Administration Dept. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Kyle Kester made a motion to nominate Tom Ackerman for the Road Dept. Tony Prudenti seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0. Tony Prudenti made a motion to nominate Kyle Kester for the Police Dept. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0.

8. Chairman called for a motion for nomination for Township Treasurer, Chief Pension Administrator & Alternate Right -to-Know Officer. Chairman nominated Karen Wittig as Treasurer. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion for nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0.

9. Chairman called for a motion for nomination for Township Secretary, Planning Commission Secretary, Property Maintenance Appeals Board Secretary & the Right-to-Know Officer. Tony Prudenti nominated Katie Orlick. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion for nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0.

10. Chairman called for a motion nomination for Assistant to the Board of Supervisors. Tony Prudenti nominated Herb Woodring. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0.

11. Chairman call for a motion for the nomination for the cleaning person for the Township, Annex and Morgan Park. Chairman nominated Margaret Baba as the cleaning person for the Township, Annex and Morgan Park. Kyle Kester seconded the motion for nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0.
12. Chairman called for a motion for nomination of Road Master. Chairman made the motion to nominated Jeremy Frable as Road Master/Leader. Tom Ackerman seconded the nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
13. Chairman call for a motion to nominate Sal Digilio, Isaac Lorah, Jason Frable, Justin Frable and Karl Paisley and Michael Kunkel as Road Crew FT Drivers/ Laborers. Chairman made the motion for those nominations. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0.
14. Chairman called for a motion to nominate Jason Lorah as the Chief of Police. Chairman made the motion to nominate Jason Lorah as Chief of Police. Tom Ackerman seconded the nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
15. Chairman called for a motion to nominate a Full-Time Officers for WPT. Chairman made the motion to nominate John Kaczmarczyk and Glenn Laninger as the Full Time Officer. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion for those nominations. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
Chairman made a motion to nominate John Kaczmarczyk as Lieutenant. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
16. Chairman called for a motion to nominate PT Patrol Officers. Chairman made a motion to nominate Shawn Kistler, Dane O'Brien, Tom Rodgers, and William Cope as PT Officers. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0.
17. Chairman called for a motion for a nomination for the Vacancy Board. Chairman made the motion to nominate Larry Wittig as the Vacancy Board Chairman. Kyle Kester seconded the motion for nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
18. Chairman called for a motion for nomination for a 2026 PSATs Delegate. Chairman made a motion to nominate Jeremy Frable. Kyle Kester seconded the nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
19. Chairman called a motion to nominate the Solicitor of the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission. Chairman made the motion to nominate Paul Datte. Kyle Kester seconded the motion for nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
20. Chairman called for a motion to nominate the Engineer for WPT. Chairman made a motion to have ARRO Consulting, Inc. as our Engineer. Kyle Kester seconded the motion to have ARRO Consulting, Inc. as the Engineer. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
21. Chairman called for a motion to nominate ARRO Consulting, Inc. & Lehigh Engineering, LLC as the UCC Code Administrators. Chairman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
22. Chairman made a motion to adopt Resolution #1 of 2026, appointing the Building Code Officials for UCC Services & their fee schedules to ARRO Consulting, Inc. & Lehigh Engineering, LLC. Chairman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
23. Chairman made a motion to have ARRO Consulting, Inc. as our Zoning Officer. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
24. Chairman made a motion to have ARRO Consulting, Inc. as our Code Enforcement officer. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

25. Chairman called for a motion to appoint the Sewage Enforcement Officer. Chairman made a motion to have Bill Brior our Sewage Enforcement Officer for 2026 and Robert Fugate as Alternate SEO. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
26. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 2 of 2026, Establishing Sewage Enforcement Policies /Procedures & adopt fee schedule for those services. Chairman made the motion to adopt Resolution #2 of 2026. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
27. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 3 of 2026, Establishing a Fire Chief & an Acting Fire Chiefs. Chairman made the motion to adopt Resolution # 3 of 2026. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
28. Chairman made a motion to nominate Jeff Bradford as the Fire Chief. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
29. Chairman made a motion for nominations to appoint Acting Fire Chiefs for 2026 Brandon Bradford and Rick Mertz. Kyle Kester seconded the motion for nominations. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
30. Chairman made a motion to approve the West Penn Twp. Fire Company's Activities for 2026. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
31. Chairman made a motion for nominations of an Emergency Management Coordinator. Chairman made a motion to nominate Timothy Phillips as Emergency Management Coordinator and Shawn Phillips as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator. Tom Ackerman seconded the nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
32. Chairman called for a motion to nominate the Flood Plain Coordinator. Chairman nominated Jeremy Frable. Tom Ackerman seconded the nomination. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
33. Chairman made a motion to nominate Earl Pratt for another 3 Year Term on the Zoning Hearing Board, term ending Dec. 31, 2028; Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
34. Chairman made a motion to nominate John Conahan and William Varano for the Property Maintenance Appeals Board Members and Deane Woodring as an Alternate serving another three-year term expiring 12-31-2028. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
35. Chairman made a motion to nominate Robert Miller & RoseAnne Geogiades for another four-year term on the Planning Commission, term expiring 12-31-2029. Chairman also nominated Brian Wirth to fill Tom Ackerman's remaining two years, expiring 12-31-28. Kyle Kester seconded the Motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
36. Chairman made a motion to nominate Dennis Kabana, Darryl Fritz, and Robert Neumoyer to the Zion Stone Park Commission to serve four-year terms, expiring Dec. 31, 2029. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
37. Chairman made a motion to nominate a Park Commission for the J.E. Morgan Park & the Atlas Park. He would like to nominate Katie Orlick, Karen Wittig, Theresa Ackerman, Shawn Phillips, JoAnn Kunkle, Howard Pryda, Dennis D'Angelo, and Glenn Hummel. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
38. Chairman made a motion to nominate Tom Ackerman as Supervisor to represent us for ESRC and Shawn Phillips to represent us as a resident for the ESRC. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
39. Chairman call for motion to accept the 2026 Holidays for the Full Time Union Holidays.
40. Chairman called for a motion to accept the 2026 Non-Union Holidays.

41. Chairman called for a motion to approve the 2026 Dates for the night meetings (every first Monday of each month) @ 6:00PM start time for those meetings. Unless noted.
 42. Chairman called for a motion to approve the Morning Meeting dates. (Every third Tuesday of each month) at 8:30AM. Unless noted.
 43. Chairman called for a motion to approve the Planning Commission's meetings for 2026 (every fourth Tuesday of the month) at 7PM. Unless Noted
 44. Chairman called for a motion to approve the Zoning Hearing Boards' meeting (every second Monday of each month, as needed) at 7PM.
 45. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 4 of 2026 – Mauch Chunk Trust and New Tripoli as Investment Banks.
 46. Chairman called for a motion to give authorization to sign for receipts of purchases to Supervisors, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of Police, and Road Master of \$1000.00.
 47. Chairman called for a motion to give authorization to the Chairman of the Board to have signatory power for Board decision for 2026.
 48. Chairman called for a motion to give authority to the Road Master to Contract for Services for Snow Removal when State of Emergency and give authority to pay the bills for those services.
 49. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 5 of 2026 Price Adjustment of Bituminous Materials for Small Quantities.
 50. Chairman called for a motion adopt Resolution # 6 Waiving the Member Contributions to the Police Pension for 2026 Calendar Year.
 - 51 Chairman called for a motion to hire Berkheimer to collect local taxes for those taxing bodies located within the tax collection district.
 52. Chairman called for a motion to establish the Treasurer's Bond in the sum of \$2,000,000 for the term of office beginning January 5, 2026, and ending on January 4, 2027.
- Chairman made the motion to approve #s 39-52. Kyle Kester seconded the motion for #'s 39-52. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0.

D. Adjournment

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the ReOrganization Meeting at 5:25PM. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

II. General

A. Open Regular Meeting

Chairman opened the regular meeting @ 5:45PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions.

B. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – NONE

C. Oath of Office for Police Dept.

Chairman asked Chief Jason Lorah to come forward to take his Oath of Office for 2026.

Chief Jason Lorah recited his Oath of Office. The Board of Supervisors congratulated and thanked Chief Jason Lorah and the Police Dept. for their service to our Township.

D. Review of the Minutes – December 1st and 16th, 2025.

Chairman called for a motion to accept the December minutes. Kyle made the motion to accept the minutes. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Treasurer's Report – December 2025 – Chairman said the Treasurer's report would be available at the next meeting.

F. Approval of Bills – December 2025

Chairman called for a motion to approve & pay the bills for December 2025. Kyle Kester made the motion. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

G. D. Solicitor's Report

Attorney Datte said he has nothing to act on at this time.

III. Land Use

A. Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. said we did not review any plans in the month of December.

IV. Operations

A. Engineer's Monthly Report – December 2025

Mike Begis said he gave the Board an updated report and asked if they had any questions. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Engineer's monthly report. Kyle Kester made the motion. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Code Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report – December 2025

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report. Kyle Kester made the motion. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

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

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer's monthly report. Kyle Kester made the motion to accept the Sewage Officer's monthly report. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Road Department Monthly Report – December 2025

The Road Department's Report consisted of general maintenance to the Twp. Building & Equipment, Fixed Street Signs along Township Roads, Plowing, Cindering & Salting Township Roads, Patched Holes with Cold Patch and Cleaned Limbs & Branches up along Township Roads. And Fixed Gate by Recycling Bin. The monthly maintenance report was also reviewed. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Master's monthly report. Chairman made the motion. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Police Monthly Report – December 2025

Kyle Kester read the Police Report. He reported the Total Miles Patrolled 6,550, Traffic Citations were 38, Traffic Warnings 13, with a total of 51. There were 9 Motor Vehicle Accidents and a Total of 77 Calls, with 1 Criminal Arrest for the month of December. Kyle Kester said the Frequency Report is included, which was broken down in categories. The Chief spoke about the successful year they had with D.A.R.E. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Police Report. Chairman made the motion. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

F. Fire Company's Monthly Report – November & December 2025

Kyle Kester read the Fire Company's Report for November. The report consisted of 33 total calls answered in the month of November. The Fire Department's Report Consisted of 8 Motor Vehicles, 14 Wires/Trees Down, 1 Automatic Fire Alarms, 1 Medical Assist, 2 Smoke Investigations, 1 Fire Police Call, 1 Transformer Fire, 2 Structure Fires, 1 Landing Zone, and 4 Brush Fires. Kyle Kester read the activities the Fire Department held, which consisted of their Monthly Business Meeting, Breakfast, and a Cash Bingo for the month of November. The Scheduled Training was State Certified Solar Panel Emergencies, Maintenance on Vehicles, Driver Training and Rescue Tool Training. Kyle Kester read the December Report. The Report consisted of 39 total calls. 6 Motor/Vehicle Accidents, 19 Wires/Tree Down, 2 Medical Assist, 3 Automatic Alarms, 3 Fire Police Call, 1 Transformer Fire, 1 Carbon Monoxide, 1 off Road

Rescue, and 2 Chief Call. Their Hall Rentals / Events consisted of Monthly Breakfast, Business Meeting, Cash Bingo (canceled due to snow), and Wing Sale. Their Training consisted of Building Maintenance, Driving Training, Vehicle Maintenance, in House Search Techniques and Pump Operations. The Fire Department also includes their report for the entire year 2025. Altogether, there were 311 calls. Fire Chief Jeff Bradford said the Fire Dept will be having their meeting, and they will be discussing the address number signs. Chief Bradford hopes to have the information at the next meeting. Chairman asked for him to also have information about the radios they are interested in purchasing through the LSA grant. Fire Chief also wanted to point out how busy the Fire Department is. Their totals went up to 51 calls from last year. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Fire Department's monthly reports for November, December and their Year-End Report. Chairman made the motion to accept all the reports. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

G. Ambulance Monthly Report – December 2025

Kyle Kester read the Ambulance monthly report. The Ambulance report consisted of 44 Calls for the month of December and 446 Calls Year to Date. There were 24 Treated, and Transported BLS, 3 Cancelled, 3 Lift Assist, 1 No patient found, 3 Patients Refused, 1 Treated and refused transport and 8 Treated, Transported with ALS on board. Receiving Hospitals were 9 Lehigh Valley-Carbon, 1 Lehigh Valley Schuylkill East, 2 St. Luke's – Carbon, 2 St. Luke's – Geisinger, 18 St. Luke's – Miners. The calls were 4 East Brunswick Twp., 1 New Ringgold, 1 Schuylkill Twp., 5 Tamaqua, 1 Walker Twp., and 32 in West Penn Twp. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Ambulance monthly report. Chairman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

V. Old Business - NONE

VI. New Business

A. Fireworks – Chairman spoke about the Fireworks Celebration Event the Township had at the JE. Morgan Park last year. Howard Pryda spoke at the meeting. He is the individual who offered to set off the firework display and put everything in motion to have the Fireworks Display. Mr. Pryda got sponsors, set up food vendors, and set off the Fireworks Display. He asked the Board if they would be interested in having this event again in 2026. He recommended having the Fireworks display at the Andreas Sporting Club instead of the park. He said that the Township would be responsible for getting the sponsors, vendors, insurance, and supplies. Mr. Pryda would only be responsible for setting off the Fireworks Display. Mr. Pryda said if we moved the event to the Sporting Club, we would probably provide to have food for sale. If you want other food vendors, you will have to ask the Club if they would allow that. Chairman's concern is people being able to drink alcohol at the event. Mr. Pryda said maybe we could ask them not to sell alcohol until the event was over. Howard Pryda would donate the fireworks display again this year if we were interested in having the event. Howard Pryda said last year's event was equivalent to an \$8-\$10-thousand-dollar show. Mr. Pryda said he is trying to plan a small daytime show as well. Chairman asked the Board of Supervisor if they are interested in having another Fireworks Event. Mr. Pryda said the Township would also be responsible for providing Police, Fire and Ambulance help. He also asked if you would like to have the event, where would you like to have the event? Chairman said that we had one concern. A lady that had a horse that did not like loud noises. The Township had the horse moved and boarded to another location for the event. Tom Ackerman said he enjoyed the event at Morgan Park. Chairman said we will discuss it and talk about it at our next meeting in February.

VII. Correspondence – NONE

VIII. Public Comment

A. Todd Deem – Reminded the Board to have the ADA ramps cleaned off properly.

B. Valerie Coombe – Annual Subscriptions are out, Please donate!

C. Tim Houser – Commented about the Fireworks Event. He did attend it and said it was a very nice show! Mr. Houser said he heard a lot of comments from people about how they did not realize Morgan Park existed. He felt it really highlighted the park, and he would like to see it there again.

On another note:

Tim Houser spoke about a Tax abatement for 1st responders. He said that maybe a way to increase the number of volunteers. Paul Datte said it is not just real estate tax; it is earned income tax as well.

D. Don Hoppes – asked if we could have the Fireworks Event at the new Atlas Park.

E. Tim Houser – he is happy that there are rumble strips installed at the intersection of SR309 and SR895. He appreciated the Township's efforts to get something done there.

IX. Business from Anyone on the Board - NONE.

X. Executive Session - NONE

XI. Adjournment – Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21PM. Tom Ackerman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed by:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary