

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

Phone (570)386-4507

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**Regular 8:30AM Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

Present at the Meeting

Tony Prudenti

Katie Orlick - Secretary

Kyle Kester – Vice Chairman

Paul Datte – Solicitor

Tom Ackerman – Supervisor

Mike Begis – ARRO Consulting

Karen Wittig – Treasurer (phone)

Herb Woodring – Asst. of the BOS

Jeremy Frable – Road Master

I. General

A. Tony Prudenti, Chairman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions at 8:33AM.

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

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

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – 5 Minute Time Limit - NONE

III. Land Use

A. Hamersly Storage Land Development – Withdraw Land Development Notice

Mike Begis, ARRO Consulting, Inc., said Hamersly Storage sent us a letter stating that they would like to withdraw their plan. Mike Begis asked Attorney Datte to look at it and make sure we did not have to take any action on it. Attorney Datte said to have something in the minutes reflecting that a withdrawal was submitted. Chairman read the letter from HNT dated February 11, 2026. It stated, At the request of the applicant, the intent of this letter is to formerly request the withdrawal of the plan application. It is recognized that once withdrawn if the applicant decides to proceed in the future, a new application and fees will be required. Attorney Datte said make it a note in the minutes the Hamersly Storage Plan has been withdrawn.

IV. Old Business

A. False Alarm Fees – The Board agrees that the fees need to increase. Attorney Datte said the Township would invoice for those fees. Attorney Datte said who would get the fees? Right now, the Township keeps the fees. Chairman said the Township should not keep the fees as far as General Funds go. Chairman feels it should go to whoever answered the call. Kyle Kester said if all of them respond, it is going to be a small reimbursement that maybe it should go to General Fund. Attorney Datte said it is one calendar year, and you would not get a fine until the third alarm, then it would reset the following year. Attorney Datte recommends that we change it from Calendar year to any twelve-month period if we are going to increase the fees anyway and add if Ordinance would change in future, it would be able to be changed by Resolution. Chairman called for a motion to authorize Attorney Datte to amend Ordinance 5 of 2000 and change the fees, change calendar year to twelve month rolling period and future changes to the Ordinance can be done by Resolution. Kyle Kester made a motion to authorize the

preparation of the Ordinance of False Alarm and change the wording accordingly. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Fireworks – America 250 PA

Chairman said we adopted a Resolution that we were going to take part in the America 250 PA, which is the Celebration of 250 Years of America! We would like maybe to have our Celebration of the America 250 PA incorporated with a Fireworks display. Howard Pryda attended the meeting, he put on the Fireworks Show last year. Mr. Pryda asked the Board if they plan to have the Fireworks Display to make a motion to pay for the insurance. Howard Pryda asked if the Township was planning on doing any fundraisers. Mr. Pryda said this would be the last time for the fireworks to be donated. The show that he puts on is in the range of \$5K-\$10K of Fireworks.

Tom Ackerman said that Morgan Park has a Park Commission now, we should get their input too.

Chairman asked for the Park Commission to have a meeting and get their input. Kyle Kester and Tom Ackerman feel the Firework Celebration should be at the Morgan Park. Chairman said the other place that was a possibility to have the display was at the Andreas Sporting Club. Howard Pryda recommends we have the Fireworks Display on the 4th of July with the rain date, July 5th. Through the Fireworks conversation it was agreed to have the Fireworks Display at the J.E. Morgan Memorial Park on Saturday, July 4, 2026. Chairman called for a motion to purchase the insurance for the Fireworks Display. Kyle Kester made the motion to purchase the insurance for the Fireworks Display. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

C. Data Center Ordinance

Chairman said they have a draft/proposed Data Center Ordinance that they reviewed. Attorney Datte said there are a few things they may want to consider for this Ordinance. One thing we have to figure out is which Zoning District we would allow this use.

The Ordinance proposes the use being by Special Exception. Attorney Datte said we have to make sure the standards are across the board of which district we decide to allow it in. Another thing we need to take into consideration is if there is enough land/ available land to accommodate a Data Center in the district we choose. Attorney Datte said the standards for Data Centers have to be Data Centers specific. Herb Woodring put this draft ordinance together. He was very thorough. Attorney Datte said he put together a great Ordinance. Attorney Datte said everything was addressed.

Attorney Datte said if we regulate the Zoning District and we do not have enough land they can challenge it and if they win could put it anywhere they want. Attorney Datte said we have to be careful. He said there is a concept of a Zoning Overlay District, which you may want to consider. You could put it anywhere in the Township by Special Exception if there is enough land and if it meets the requirements of the Special Exception. Attorney Datte said with that scenario you could probably establish all these standards because you are not regulating a specific use in a specific zoning district.

Attorney Datte said three big issues of these things are Power, Water and Noise. Data Centers need Power if they do not have power they would just locate where they do.

Attorney Datte's suggestion is we need to consider A. Do we want everything in this Ordinance? B. Legally can we do everything in this Ordinance? C. Do we do it by Special Exception in a specific district or do we consider an Overlay District which would permit this use. Attorney Datte said the next step would be to provide this draft to the Township Planning Commission. Herb Woodring did a great job identifying all the potential issues. Chairman called for a motion to send the draft Data Center Ordinance to the Township Planning Commission for their review and comments. Kyle Kester made the motion. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

IV. New Business

A. Generators

Chairman expressed his concerns and spoke about Emergency Shelters. Chairman said we have three locations for Emergency Shelters which are, the Fire Dept., the Ambulance, and the Township Building. Chairman said in order to have an Emergency Shelter the shelter needs power. The Township and the Police Dept. do not have permanent generators. We are not exactly sure if the Fire Dept. or the Ambulance have permanent generators. Chairman feels it is necessary for all our departments to be prepared and be able to provide power during emergencies. However, generators are very expensive. Chairman said we need to see if there are any grants available for funding these generators of our emergency facilities. Chairman asked Mike Begis if he is aware of any grants that may help us. Mike Begis said the LSA Grant may be an option. Mike Begis said he will ask their grant specialist if she is aware of anything that the Township could apply for to help fund the generators. Mike Begis said maybe we could even tie it in with our CDBG Grant. Chairman believes we need to do something, and we need to figure out how to do it and get some financing.

V. Business from anyone on the Board -NONE

VI. Correspondence – NONE

VII. Public Comment on General Items

A. Gloria Oravec – explained her situation about her private road, Windy Lane. She expressed her frustrations that people are using Windy Lane as a public road. It is not a public road, and she wants people to stop using it as a public road. She is frustrated because Google has her private road as a road to travel. She is in the process of changing her address and the other resident that has a Windy Lane address is also willing to change. Once they change their address the Township could remove the Windy Lane Street signs and hopefully that would eliminate traffic going through their private road. Howard Pydra suggested that you could request Google to remove her road off of their Maps. The secretary is working with the County to resolve the issue.

VIII. Executive Session - NONE

IX. Adjournment

1. Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35AM. 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