

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

Phone (570)386-4507

Fax (570)386-5851

**Reorganization Meeting
Monday, February 2, 2026**

Present at the Meeting

Anthony Prudenti – Chair
Tom Ackerman - Supervisor
Kyle Kester – Vice Chair
Jeremy Frable - Road Master

Karen Wittig – Treasurer
Katie Orlick – Secretary
Paul Datte – Solicitor

I. General

A. Open Regular Meeting

Chairman opened the regular meeting @ 6:03PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions.

B. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – NONE

C. Review of the Minutes – January 5th & 20th, 2026

Chairman called for a motion to accept the January 5th & 20th, 2026 minutes. Kyle made the motion to accept the minutes for January 5th & 20th, 2026. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Treasurer’s Report – January 2026 – Chairman called for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for January 2026. Kyle Kester made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for January 2026. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Approval of Bills – January 2026

Chairman called for a motion to approve & pay the bills for January 2026. Kyle Kester made the motion. To approve and pay the bills for January 2026. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

F. Solicitor’s Report – January 2026

Attorney Datte said he has nothing to act on at this time. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Solicitor’s Report. Kyle Kester made the motion to accept the Solicitor’s Monthly Report. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

II. Land Use

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

III. Operations

A. Engineer’s Monthly Report – January 2026

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. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Code Enforcement Officer’s Monthly Report – January 2026

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 – January 2026

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 for January 2026. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Road Department Monthly Report – January 2026

The Road Department's Report consisted of general maintenance to the Twp. Building & Equipment, Fixed Street Signs along Township Roads, Removed Brush at Atlas Park, Plowing, Cinderling & Salting Township Roads, Chipped up Branches at West Penn Park, Cleaned Limbs & Branches up along Township Roads, Removed dead Tree at Morgan Park and Hauled in Anti-Skid. The monthly maintenance report was also reviewed. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Master's monthly report. Tom Ackerman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Police Monthly Report – January 2026

Kyle Kester read the Police Report. He reported the Total Miles Patrolled 5,822 Traffic Citations were 28, Traffic Warnings 5, with a total of 33. There were 11 Motor Vehicle Accidents and a Total of 88 Calls, with 1 Criminal Arrest for the month of January. Kyle Kester said the Frequency Report is included, which was broken down in categories. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Police Monthly Report. Tom Ackerman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

F. Fire Company's Monthly Report – January 2026

Kyle Kester read the Fire Company's Report for January. The report consisted of 13 total calls answered in the month of January. The Fire Department 's Report Consisted of 5 Motor Vehicles, 0 Wires/Trees Down, 0 Automatic Fire Alarms, 1 Medical Assist, 3 Fire Police Call, 1 Vehicle Fire, 2 Structure Fires, and 1 Stand-By Assignment. Kyle Kester read the activities the Fire Department held, which consisted of their Monthly Business Meeting, Breakfast, and Cash Bingo, which was canceled due to the Snowstorm. The Scheduled Training was State Firehouse Maintenance, Driver Training, Storm Prep & Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance and Strokes Basket/ Packaging Training. Chairman asked about the monthly Breakfast. Chief Jeff Bradford said that this Sunday is the Breakfast and there is a Wing Sale for the Superbowl. Kyle Kester spoke about the False Alarm Ordinance. Kyle Kester also asked if the Fire Department has Foam on their trucks. Jeff Bradford said yes, we do. Attorney Datte asked the Fire Chief if he agrees with the False Alarm Ordinance. Chief does agree, however the fees are outdated. Kyle Kester spoke about Fundraising and said to Jeff Bradford he may want to reach out to Topton's Fire Department. They do well with their fundraisers. Kyle Kester said maybe they could give us some ideas or best practices for us to raise money. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Fire Company's monthly report. Tom Ackerman made the motion to accept the Fire Company's monthly report for January 2026. Kyle Kester seconded the motion seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

G. Ambulance Monthly Report – January 2026

Kyle Kester read the Ambulance monthly report. The Ambulance report consisted of 41 Calls for the month of January. There were 14 Treated, and Transported BLS, 4 Cancelled, 1 No patient found, 2 Lift Assists, 5 Patients Refused, 2 Stand-By, 2 Treated and refused transport, 1 Treated, Transported BLS after Medic Eval and 8 Treated, Transported with ALS on board. Receiving Hospitals were 9 Lehigh Valley-Carbon, 1 St. Luke's – Carbon, 2 St. Luke's – Geisinger, 10 St. Luke's – Miners. The calls were 2 New Ringgold, 6 Tamaqua, 33 in West Penn Twp. They had 4 missed calls in January. 2 were because they were out on other calls and 2 were because of call-offs that they could not fill. Kyle Kester asked

the Ambulance Association if they are aware of Act 18 of 2025. Valerie Coombe said the state was going to do it then they did not. Kyle Kester said that Act 18 of 2025 requires Emergency Medical Service Providers to report overdoses and Narcan usage directly to the state's Overdose Information Network. January 1, 2026, mandates this reporting within 72 hours of the incident. Kyle Kester asked the Ambulance to look into this law. Valerie Coombe said that they have Narcan. It was donated to them by Safer Streets in Tamaqua. Kyle Kester brought up for discussion a hospital sponsored ambulance. Valerie Coombe said they have been trying to get Lehigh Valley and St. Luke's to sponsor them for years. Valerie Coombe said they do not have enough call volume. Karen Crostley said she did check into that. Kyle Kester said that the person he spoke to said they have a transport vehicle which they use to just transport patients and they make a lot of money that way. Karen Crostley said they were trying to get into that, however, that works like a bid system. You must have someone watching the computer just to be able to bid on it. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Ambulance monthly report. Tom Ackerman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

IV. Old Business - NONE

V. New Business - NONE

VI. Correspondence

A. PennDOT Letter – RE: Schuylkill Co. – SR 895 – School Bus Stop Ahead Signs Request

Chairman read the letter dated January 13, 2026. The letter stated that their department conducted its review of our request to determine if we could install School Bus Stop Ahead signs on SR 895/ Summer Valley Rd. There are ten stops along that stretch of SR895 from where the School Bus would pick up and drop off. Those Locations are: 3485 Summer Valley Rd., 3563 Summer Valley Rd., 3430 Summer Valley Rd., 3395 Summer Valley Rd., 3384 Summer Valley Rd., 3364 Summer Valley Rd., 3220 Summer Valley Rd., 3020 Summer Valley Rd., 3006 Summer Valley Rd., and 2935 Summer Valley Rd.

At the current time, the Department does not authorize the installation of the requested signs. A field review of the locations revealed that the school bus stop is not in accordance with the requirements for a "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign set forth in Publication 236 Handbook of approved signs. "School Bus Stop Ahead" signs are only authorized for use in advance of locations where a school bus, when stopped to pick up or discharge passengers, is not visible by a motorist for a distance of 500 feet in advance.

Paul Datte and the Board discussed if there are any other options. The Board agreed to have Paul Datte look into PennDOT's response. Chairman called for a motion to authorize Attorney Paul Datte to look into the "School Bus Stop Ahead" signs. Kyle Kester made the motion to have our Solicitor look into the PennDOT letter we received. Tom Ackerman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

VII. Business from anyone on the Board.

A. Tom Ackerman – recognized and thanked the Road Dept., Police, Fire, Ambulance and the EMA Coordinators for their availability, efforts, and time they spent making sure everything went smoothly during the Snowstorm. Tom Ackerman said he went out with the Road Dept. for about six hours while they were plowing and just appreciated the jobs they did. Chairman said yes, it is nice to see especially in an emergency how we work together and make it happen to get things done. Chairman said it is amazing what they do. Thank you! Kyle Kester agreed and appreciated everything they did!

VIII. Public Comment

A. Terry Fritz – wanted to check the status of the Hamersly Storage Project. Mr. Fritz asked if there has been any advancement of any kind. Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. said, “No action by the developer at this time.”

B. Jeff Bradford, Fire Chief – said yes getting ready for that storm it was nice to be able to communicate with everyone. The road crew, police dept., everyone involved were ready to put a shelter together if needed. It was nice to see such cooperation. Jeff Bradford said from the Fire Dept. point of view we appreciated it!

Chairman asked Attorney Datte if the Governor called a State of Emergency. Attorney Datte said he did. Chairman asked if there was any funding available for services during that storm. Attorney Datte said he did not think it included any money for funding the Emergency.

C. Valerie Coombe – asked how does that work? If they call a State of an Emergency and we have more people on to cover the Emergency, who is to pick up the costs for having more people on? Attorney Datte said he would look into that.

D. Jason Lorah – asked what determines when funds are released during a State of Emergency. Attorney Datte said he would look into it.

E. Don Hoppes – asked about the status of the Data Center Ordinance. There is a draft that we are going to send to our solicitor to make sure what we are proposing would stand if someone wanted to challenge it. Chairman said once we give it to the solicitor a pending ordinance doctrine would take effect and anyone trying to bring in a Data Center would have to go under the new ordinance.

F. Shawn Phillips – questioned if the company that is doing the Mahoning Creek Restoration is going to be responsible for the bridge they damaged. Jeremy Frable said yes, we have been in contact with them, and we are getting a quote for the repairs that need to be done.

IX. Executive Session - NONE

X. Adjournment – Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42PM. 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