

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

Phone (570)386-4507

Fax (570)386-5851

**Tuesday, June 16, 2026
9:15AM CDBG Hearing**

Present at the Meeting

**Tony Prudenti - Chairman(absent)
Kyle Kester – Vice Chairman
Tom Ackerman – Supervisor
Karen Wittig – Treasurer
Jeremy Frable – Road Master**

**Katie Orlick - Secretary
Paul Datte – Solicitor
Bill McMullen - HMS
Ray Swartz - HMS**

I. General

A. Kyle Kester opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions at 8:30AM.

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

Kyle Kester called for a motion to approve and pay the monthly bills. Tom Ackerman made the motion to approve and pay the monthly bills. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-0.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – 5 Minute Time Limit

III. Land Use

Update on the Draft Data Center Ordinance – Attorney Datte gave a summary of what he will be doing to revise the Draft Data Center Ordinance. He gave a recap of the public hearing on June 1st. He said he would revise the Ordinance based on the public hearing comments. He said since the hearing he has been doing some more research. He was looking at what resources were available and one resource he found was from the Department of Economic Community Development, which had an actual Data Center Ordinance Guide. Attorney Datte said a lot of what Herb Woodring had in our Draft Data Center Ordinance is in the guide from the Department of Economic Community Development. Attorney Datte said there some good provision that relate to noise, setbacks and things like that. The requests were to change the requirement and the standard from Special Exception to Conditional Use, which would have any hearing before the Board of Supervisors instead of the Zoning Hearing Board. There was a request to increase the minimum lot size. Attorney Datte would like to propose that we base minimum lot size on the size and the number of buildings themselves that would be on the lot plus he would like to cross reference 31.A Groundwater withdrawal of more than 10k gal/day. Attorney date aid that establishes a minimum lot size of 5 acres for every 10k gal/day of water withdrawal. That would be important if there was no public water system that would service the site. Noise levels on what would be acceptable with different levels day verses night. Setback & Buffer areas we will revise to make those greater in those areas with sensitive receptors are located. (schools, preschools, daycares, etc.). What the Township defines as sensitive receptors there would be greater setbacks. Requirement for water usage reports, If we specifically incorporate section 31.A from our Zoning Ordinance that would deal with that issue. Disposal of processed water, Attorney Datte said there is not a lot of resources that specifically address that issue. Attorney Datte said there are a couple of additional items in the DCED material that he may add to our draft ordinance because he feels it makes sense to have. The goal is to have a draft to the

Board in the next week or two. Attorney Datte plans to provide the Board a redlined version of the original draft data center ordinance, where the Board could decide whether they approve the changes or not. Then we would be able to schedule another hearing, hopefully by August.

IV. Old Business - NONE

V. New Business

A. Seth Heintzelman currently Part-time. Kyle Kester called for a motion to hire Seth Heintzelman Full-time as a Road Crew Driver / Laborer / Mechanic. Tom Ackerman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-0

B. Discussion- Addition of Stop Sign by the Intersection of Mush Dahl & Lumber Lane. Road master expressed his concern about an intersection that does not have a stop sign. The intersection is Lumber Lane & Mush Dahl. He feels that it is dangerous because you cannot see oncoming traffic coming around the bend. He feels the Township should consider adding a stop sign coming north on Lumber Lane at the "Y". Attorney Datte said we would have to do an Ordinance unless it stated in the last Ordinance that it would be acceptable doing a Resolution to add Stop Signs. Attorney Datte said he will look into this and have it ready for the next meeting. Tom Ackerman made a motion to have Attorney Datte to look into it and allow him to advertise if needed. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-0

VI. Business from anyone on the Board

A. Kyle Kester announced there is a correction on the distribution of Farm Vouchers. They will be distributed at the Township on July 1st instead of June 18th. The Farm Vouchers are for people that are 65 yrs. old or older. Income guidelines are Single Family \$29,526, Two People \$40,034. We do have Eligibility Proxy available in the Township Office.

VII. Correspondence

A. Chairman read a letter from Tamaqua Borough requesting assistance from the Fire Police to help with the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2026 @ 10AM.

VIII. Public Comment on General Items

A. Shawn Phillips – asked if the Township has a lift for Vehicles if they are going to hire a Mechanic. Jeremy Fable said he could look into it. He would have to see what regulations there would be as far as the Township being able to put a "lift" in the garage. Jeremy is not sure if he would have the ceiling height in his garage for a lift because of the big trucks. The "lift" would need to be heavy duty. Kyle Kester announced that Recycling will be closed Thursday, June 18th and Friday, June 19th. It will reopen on Monday, June 22nd.

IX. Executive Session - NONE

X. Adjournment

A. Kyle Kester called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47AM. Tom Ackerman made the motion. Kyle Kester seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-0

Kyle Kester also announced the there is a CDBG Hearing at 9:15AM.

Transcribed by:

Katie Orlick, West Penn Township Secretary

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I. General

A. Kyle Kester opened the hearing with an opening statement at 9:15AM.

Mr. Kester said the purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on Community & Development of Housing needs in West Penn Township that could be addressed through the use community development block grant funds. The Township will receive an allocation of approximately \$97,492 in fiscal year 2026. The CDBG funds use should be no less than 70% of the funds to benefit low to moderate incomes and up to 30% could be used for activities to eliminate slums and blight, such as demolition. The application deadline is October 30th, 2026. The funds previously have been used for handicapped barrier removal. The Supervisors will select projects that meet Federal guidelines, with a preliminary budget that will be published late summer, a hearing will be held in October for all Schuylkill Co. grants.

Stated for the record is the Township does not intend to cause any displacement of people from their homes when carrying out these projects. The County has a policy that details the benefits and process. If any activity would cause displacement.

CDBG Staff members were on hand to answer any questions. Kyle Kester opened the floor for public comments & questions. Bill McMullen asked what years the Township has funding for. Cheryl Fuss said 22 and forward. If you do not use the funds they will go back to the State. These projects are for low to mod income for the area. However, if there is a citizen that has low to mod income, and they need home repairs or handicap accessibility they may qualify for the Housing Rehab Program. The Township could allocate the funds for Home Rehab and ADA and if a different project comes along and would qualify you could do a modification of those funds to apply to the project.

The Home Rehab Program is for the individual person; the whole area does not need to be low to moderate income. It would have to benefit low to mod income or handicap accessibility.

Shawn Phillips asked if funds would be able to be used at the Fire Company or the Ambulance Station. Cheryl Fuss said that the area would have to be 51% low to mod income to qualify.

II. Public Comment - NONE

Katie Orlick, West Penn Township Secretary