

ALBANY TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Monday June 1, 2026 – 7:30 PM
Kempton Fire Company, 2461 Route 143 Kempton, PA 19529

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Albany Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:35 PM by Board Chairman Christopher Schucker.

Present: Board Members Christopher Schucker and Charles Volk; Secretary/Treasurer Michele Morstatt; Solicitor James Davis; Engineer Joe Body

Absent: Board Member Joshua Rabert, Roadmaster Ryan Rex

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Mammen reported that she contacted PennDOT requesting the speed limit on Route 143 be reduced to 40 MPH between Lenhartsville and Hawk Mountain Road. PennDOT replied that Albany Township would need to submit a request for a traffic study, and she asked if the township would be willing to do that. The Board responded the request will be discussed with Engineer Joe Body.

Scott Clouden provided an update on the Kutztown Public Library, explained the significant revenue lost due to the elimination of passport processing, discussed fund raising concerns and efforts, discussed providing library usage statistics, and asked if a link to the library could be added on the township website.

SECRETARY / TREASURER

A motion to approve the Minutes of the 5/04/26 regular meeting was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

A motion to pay all bills presented at the 6/01/26 meeting was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as of 6/01/26 was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

General Fund – \$ 484,783.36

State Fund – \$ 201,171.11

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

OLD BUSINESS

Albany Township Communication Tower Lease Agreement: A final proposed lease agreement has been received.

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to approve Resolution 2026-2 authorizing the First Amendment to Communications Site Lease Agreement between Albany Township and SpectraSite Communications, LLC, with a final expiration date of April 23, 2056.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

Proposed Communication Tower at 871 Stony Run Valley Road: A continuance (hearing #2) of the Conditional Use Hearing held on May 6, 2026, is scheduled for June 9, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Kempton Fire Company Social Hall.

Bittner Lot Line Adjustment at 9473 Red Road: A final subdivision plan was not received. Deferred to July meeting.

Proposed New Albright's Mill Storage Building: A final plan was not received. Deferred to July meeting.

Northeastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan: The next meeting will be held on June 11, topics to be covered include demographics, local economy, housing, and public survey.

NEW BUSINESS

Albany Township Annual Insurance Renewals: Insurance rate proposals were received for the period June 2026-May 2027.

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to approve the annual renewal of Property & Casualty Insurance through Brown & Brown Insurance Services Inc.

- Property insurance is provided by Selective Insurance Company of the Southeast covering township property and Kempton Fire Company apparatus & equipment with an annual premium of \$36,218.
- Worker's Compensation is provided by AmTrust Insurance Company covering township employees and Kempton Fire Company personnel with an annual premium of \$23,301.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to approve the annual renewal of Accident Insurance through Brown & Brown Insurance Services Inc. Blanket accident coverage is provided by Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company with an annual premium of \$300.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

Public Parking on Township Property for Kempton Fair

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to allow public parking on township property during the Kempton Fair on June 18-20, 2026, contingent on:

- a) receipt of a Certificate of Insurance indicating acceptable coverage limits and granting Albany Township additional-insured status,
- b) township property will be restored to same condition as before the event by the Kempton Community Center, and
- c) Albany Township reserves the right to revoke this permission if conditions are deemed unsuitable.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

Berks County Community Foundation Grant Award: Albany Township was awarded a grant for the collection of scientific data and mapping to petition PA DEP to designate three Kittatinny Ridge streams as Exceptional Value/High Quality (Pine Creek, Manor Creek, and Ontelaunee Creek).

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to accept the grant from the Cathy and Doug Weaver Fund of Berks County Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,500.00 to be used for stream water quality testing.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

ROADMASTER REPORT

Ryan Rex reported before the meeting:

- Completed first seasonal roadside mowing.
- Serviced dump trucks
- Completed assisting Maxatawny Township with tar & chipping

SOLICITOR REPORT

Jay Davis reported he had further correspondence with Atty Bill Bispols, legal counsel for Charlie Miller, regarding the termination of the Peter Jones House lease agreement. However, the information previously and repeatedly requested by the township has not been received despite being promised prior to the March 2026 meeting.

ENGINEER REPORT

Engineer Joe Body reported:

- No progress on Stelmach field road erosion onto Kunkle Road
- No progress on finalizing remaining open items at Burkholder duck barn (planting buffer trees, driveway entrance paving, etc.)
- Continue to work with Planning Commission and EAC on proposed ordinances for solar farms & data centers.
- The rebuilding of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Visitor Center will require conditional use approval.

RECREATION BOARD REPORT

Stephen Hamm reported:

- On May 23rd a 5K Benefit Run was held at the park. The run was sponsored by the Kempton New Church and an estimated 60 runners attended.
- Continue work on designing park signage, a dedicated park web page, funding requests, and pursuing grant funding.
- Planted 25 quaking aspen trees on May 20th and native plants on May 30th
- Tree cages and stakes are needed to protect the aspen trees from deer damage and replace some damaged cages in other trees.

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to purchase tree protection materials not to exceed \$400.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Noah Rauch reported:

- Berk County Community Foundation awarded the township \$1500 to conduct stream water quality testing
- Continue work with Planning Commission on proposed ordinances for solar farms and data centers
- Prepared a draft for a micro-internship with KU
- Upcoming public education sessions: Tick Talk (late-June/early-July), Forest Ecology & Plant ID at park (July 25th at 9:00AM), Micro-Meadows for Pollinators

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:17 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Josh – Absent, Charles – Yes

Respectfully Submitted by Michele Morstatt, Township Secretary