

**ALBANY TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING  
JULY 7, 2025 – 7:30 PM  
KEMPTON FIRE COMPANY**

A regular meeting of the Albany Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 PM by Board Chairman Christopher Schucker with Board Member Charles Volk in attendance. Also in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Michele Morstatt, Solicitor James Davis, and Engineer Joe Body. Board Member Josh Rabert and Road Master Ryan Rex were absent.

**Public Comment**

Todd Bauman provided an update on the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Visitor Center renovation project.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

A motion to approve the minutes of the 6/02/25 meeting was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

A motion to pay all bills presented at the 7/07/25 meeting was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as of 7/07/25 was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

General Fund – \$ 557,586.78

State Fund – \$ 138,838.05

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

**Old Business**

**Comcast Franchise Agreement** – Marlene Petter was in attendance to provide a status update on the pending franchise agreement with Comcast and discussed with the board pros and cons of hiring Cohen Law Group to conduct the negotiations with Comcast.

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to approve the contract provided by Cohen Law Group dated June 2, 2025 in the amount of \$6,900 to negotiate a franchise agreement with Comcast.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

**Northeastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan** – Berks County Planning Commission provided a revised agreement for the Joint Comprehensive Plan and requested signing by July 30<sup>th</sup>. Several continued concerns were discussed, including lack of inclusion of exhibits, dispute resolution with the county, and lack of indemnification of municipalities. Engineer Joe Body offered to contact BCPC to address these concerns, and the decision to proceed with the agreement was postponed to the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Peter Jones House** – Solicitor Jay Davis sent several letters informing Amity Heritage Society of termination of the lease agreement, pursuant to Paragraph 10b of the Agreement dated April 4, 2011. No response was received. Mr. Davis expressed the opinion that notification due diligence has been fulfilled.

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to consider due diligence of notification complete and to proceed with immediate termination of the agreement.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

## **New Business**

### **EAC Sign Reimbursement**

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to approve reimbursement payment to Dale Derr in the amount of \$629.64 for the large double-sided changeable letter sign purchased from Fegley Signs for Environmental Advisory Committee public sessions.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

**Proposed Sousley Subdivision** – Engineer Joe Body presented an updated plan for a proposed subdivision of the Roy and Linda Sousley property on Sousley Lane. A few open items remain, plan not final, no decision.

### **Health Insurance Renewal**

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to approve the annual renewal of the Employee Health Insurance Plan provided by Highmark Blue Shield as brokered by Element Risk Management LLC with a monthly premium of \$1,661.89.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

**Salt Shed Replacement** – Options for replacing the deteriorating salt shed were discussed.

**Township Pickup Truck** – Options for repairing or replacing the township pickup truck were discussed. It was decided that it would be more prudent to invest the money in a new truck rather than continue to repair the old one.

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to purchase a new 2026 Ford F350 with 9-foot service body and 9-foot Fisher snowplow for \$90,939.91. Delivery estimated for January 2026.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

### **Albany Township Park – Creek Road Parking Lot Expansion**

A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Chris to asphalt pave the stone portion of the parking lot on Creek Road for an amount not to exceed \$4,000.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

## **Roadmaster Report**

- Paved hill and shoulders on Kempton Road
- Drainage improvements at park
- Tar and chipped several township roads on 7/7/25.
- Kolton Rex has submitted an application for part-time work on the road crew.

A motion to hire Kolton Rex for part-time work on the road crew was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

### **Solicitor Report**

Jay Davis reported that he is working with Zoning Officer Robin Royer on several weed ordinance violations.

### **Engineer Report**

Joe Body reported he is working with Mr. Stelmach to address some drainage issues affecting Kunkle Road.

### **Recreation Board**

Stephen Hamm reported the following:

- The Recreation Board is looking into identifying other potential members.
- The purple martin house at the park has several chicks. A recommendation was made to add a second house and the Recreation Board is looking into possible funding.

### **Environmental Advisory Council**

Noah Rauch reported the following:

- The EAC will be coordinating a purple martin banding public session on July 18 at the park.
- Looking into hosting a public session on the recent designation of the Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape.
- Looking into PA Grasslands Project.

At 10:13 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.

*Vote Call: Chris – Yes, Charles – Yes*

Respectfully Submitted by Michele Morstatt, Secretary/Treasurer