

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

MAY 21st, 2025

6:00 PM

- 1) The meeting this evening is a regularly scheduled Public Meeting and is accessible in person subject to the occupancy limits of the Township facility.**
- 2) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on April 23rd, 2025, for personnel matters.**
- 3) The Workshop Session of the Board of Commissioners, May 7th, 2025 was cancelled.**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials

Ms. Barlamas, President - Absent

Mrs. Mylan, Vice President – Absent

Mr. Angus, Commissioner -Present

Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present

Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – Absent

Mr. Garen Fedeles, Solicitor - Present

Mr. Villella, Manager - Present

Mr. Dan Barna, HRG Engineering - Absent

Ms. Kristen Vasilakis, HRG Engineering – Present

Mr. Vincent Lombardi, Intern HRG - Present

Mr. Michael Thomas, Working Foreman – Present

Chief Juan Villagomez, Police Chief – Present

Residents & Guests in Attendance

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road

Christine Whipple – Upper Virginia Avenue

Sharon Speicher – Beaver Road

Keith & Angela Meyers – Woodland Road

K. Rice – Dearborn Street

A. Rice -Dearborn Street

Public Comment

Manager Note: This Comment period is limited to Agenda Items only. All individual comments and dialogue are limited to 5 minutes.

Fabiola Gergerich- Made a few comments regarding a timeline for the Building Renovation. The last election voting was down at the Harmony Township VFD and that venue is not conducive to elderly voters. Hoping to streamline the voting process better next election. Also, regarding the tennis courts are there any other sources of funding being discussed except the grants.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16th, 2025 as submitted.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Debona Second Molchen

II. Approval of the following reports: The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of May 2025.

1. Code Enforcement Department Report
2. Road Department Report
2. Police Department Report
3. Sewage Department Report.
4. Tax Collector's Report as submitted April 2025.

Voice Vote – Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Debona

III. Approval of the Accounts Payable for the month of May 2025.

- A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve May 2025 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$179,376.32 as listed.

General Fund	\$ 34,024.65
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	N/A
Health Insurance	* \$ 36,000.92
Developers Escrow Fund	N/A
Liquid Fuels	\$ 5,785.20
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$ 130,543.66
Police Pension Fund	N/A
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$
TOTAL	\$ 206,354.43

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Absent DeBona Yes

V. NEW BUSINESS

GENERAL

- 1) A Motion authorizing the purchase of 3AED units for a cost of \$5,481.00 and 8 Trauma Pak units for a cost of \$2,500.00 or a total cost of \$7,981.00. The costs will be reimbursed by MEIT Rate Mitigation Account sponsored by the Township health care provider.

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Absent DeBona Yes

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 1) A Motion AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF Resolution No. 2025-01-05-21 requesting a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Beyersdale Park Tennis Courts.

The Applicantt designates Robert Villella, Manager and Constance Barlamas, President of the Harmony Township Board of Commissioners as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between HARMONY TOWNSHIP and The Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

Motion Molchen Second Debona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Absent DeBona Yes

- 2) A Motion authorizing Stephen Paxton, Architect to prepare Bid Specifications as required for the renovation of the Township Building and to comply with the funding awarded to the Township.

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Absent DeBona Yes

FINANCE

- 1) A Motion authorizing the Township Manager to satisfy the outstanding balance due First National Bank for the 2022 Ford F 350 truck assigned to the Public Works Department in the amount of \$21,049.34.

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Absent DeBona Yes

VI. REPORTS

A. Township Manager's Report:

1. LSA Bids are to be opened on May 22, 2025, for the Grant Paving and Storm Sewer Project.
2. CSA bids approving the change of scope including Harmony Avenue. This is an ARPA COVID PA Small Water & Sewer Project. This has been included in the bid specs as an alternate.
3. Please take a support letter and send the letter to Secretary Seger the Department of Community & Economic Development in support of the Tennis Court Project.
4. Grass clippings should not be placed on or in storm sewers, catch basins or blown onto the street. This is against the DEP/MS4 Policy.
5. Happy Memorial Day to everyone and thank you to all who have served and their families.

B. Consulting Engineer's Report:

1. HRG Engineers submitted last month an application for the Storm Water Improvement Plan for Spruce Street.
2. HRG is working on the application for the Tennis Court. Now that the Resolution has been approved, the application will be submitted prior to the June meeting.

3. LSA Bids will be opened tomorrow, May 22, 2025. HRG will give their recommendations at the June meeting.
4. The Township has applied for funding through RCAP. The application was submitted for a total of 6 million dollars. Three million from the State Project would include park improvements for Beaver, Valley and Byersdale Road Parks. The Township has 10 years to use this money. Also, the Township Manager mentioned that the Township has received a \$5,000.00 dollar donation from the Ambridge Regional Industrial Park for the Harmony Township Master Park Plan. Christine Whipple asked for clarification of the grant. Both the Engineer and the Township Manager explained that this is basically a pool of money that Townships can apply for park improvement projects. The Grant is a matching a grant and the Township applied for 3 million dollars because each park on the Township's Park Master Plan will cost at least 1 million each.

C. Solicitor's Report. The Solicitor has entered their invoice for services and set forth the work performed for the month of April/May 2025. The Solicitor added to the minutes that an Executive Session was held on May 12th, 2025 with the Board and an employment attorney regarding a potential engagement matter.

VIII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT

1. Commissioner Debona mentioned that summer will be here soon and that lawn care is a necessity. She has noticed that some properties have been neglecting their lawns, and she suggested that the Code Enforcement Officer needs to be aware of this situation.
2. Commissioner Molchen mentioned that there will be an Oktoberfest event on September 13th, 2025, to benefit the Fire Department. The event is being held at the Fire Hall. There will be beer and wine for sale. A polka band, food trucks and craft vendors will also be there to entertain the public.
3. Commissioner Angus congratulated Commissioner Molchen on his win to retain his seat of the Board of Commissioners. Also, congratulations to the new Tax Collector Kelly Harshman. He also wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day.
4. Police Chief Villagomez mentioned that the Police Department has a box for residents to dispose of their expired prescription medications.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Public is invited to comment on any item of interest. *Manager Note: All individual comments and dialogue are limited to 5 minutes.*

Kevin Rice

Had a question regarding walking animals in the field portion of Byersdale Park. In the past he has always been permitted to walk his dogs in the field area of the park. There is a posting of no animals permitted in the playground area. However, a few days ago he was stopped by a Police Officer who informed him that he no longer can walk his dogs in the field area of the park. Chief Villagomez said that he would look into this situation.

Christine Whipple

She inquired if there was an update on the paving projects. Is there a timeline for these projects. Commissioner Angus explained that the paving project bids will be opened on June 22nd, 2025. She asked about the grant that the Township received last year for paving project. The Manager explained that the bids are being offered in response to the grant. Once the bids are opened the Engineers will make their recommendations to the Board. The Board can ratify their recommendations at any Board Meeting.

Fabiola Gergerich

She asked for an update on the paving projects. Which streets are involved. The streets involved are Solar, Forest, Woodside, 5th Street, Harmony, Logan Lane and all the roads attached to the Columbia Gas Project. Mrs. Gergerich asked if there would still be a written timeline available for the residents to see. The Township Manager explained that he is working with Mike Thomas, Township Public Works Forman on a street's spreadsheet for residents.

Angela Meyers

She was confused regarding the Building Renovation Project. She thought that the project was already approved. Also, she suggested that the Township's website address be placed on the marquee outside so residents can utilize the website for information. She also wanted to thank the Road Dept. for all their hard work addressing road incidents that have occurred due to bad weather.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next HT Commissioners Workshop Meeting will be held on June 4th, 2025 @ 6 Pm.
2. The next HT Commissioners Regular Meeting will be held on June 18th, 2025 @ 6 Pm.
3. Depending upon the renovation start date the May meetings may be moved to the Harmony Twp VFD.
4. Township Offices will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, 2025 and will reopen on Tuesday, May 27th, 2025.
5. Harmony Township honors all the brave men and women who serve and those who serve our country today. We also honor those who provide aid to our veterans and their families.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion Molchen Second SeBona

Time of Adjournment: 6:26 Pm