

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 18TH, 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 Workshop Session of the Board of Commissioners, May 7th, 2025, was cancelled.**
- 3) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on May 12th, 2025, for personnel related matters.**
- 4) The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on May 16th, 2025, for personnel/litigation matter.**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials

Ms. Barlamas, President - Present

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. Michael Thomas, Working Foreman – Present

Chief Juan Villagomez, Police Chief – Present

Residents & Guests in Attendance

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road

Christine Whipple – Upper Virginia Avenue

Angela Meyers- Woodland Road

John Schaefer – Ridge Road

Chad Baird – Hillcrest Road

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- Had a few questions regarding the agenda:

- 1. Regarding the Executive Session on May 16, 2025, for personnel/litigation; can the Board explain what this was about? She was worried that the Township community might be blindsided by this matter. The Solicitor, Garren Fedeles, explained that this matter was in regard to the Township Manager's contract. Mrs. Gergerich then asked if Mr. Fedeles was**

now the Solicitor for the Township? Shannon Steele has not attended regular monthly board meetings for quite some time. Mr. Fedeles explained that Ms. Steele attends the workshop meetings and he attends the regular monthly board meetings.

2. Her next question was regarding item one under Personnel. Why is the Township retaining an Attorney, Charles H. Saul. The Solicitor, Garren Fedeles, explained that the Attorney is being retained regarding the Manager's contract. Mrs. Gergerich asked if this was due to a conflict of interest. The Solicitor explained that there was not a conflict of interest; the Insurance Company requested this Attorney to be retained.
3. Her final question was regarding the Public Works Department, specifically the road construction schedule. When will this work begin. The Board President, Constance Barlamas, explained that the road work is to begin on July 12th. Also, the Township Engineer will be discussing the project during her report.

Christine Whipple-Had a correction to the agenda under the Planning Commission.

John Shafer's name was misspelled. The correct spelling of his last name is Schaefer. The Board President, Constance Barlamas, thanked Mr. Whipple and assured her that the name would be corrected. Also, Mrs. Whipple had a question regarding the item under the Public Works Department regarding the road work on Virginia Avenue to Ridge (5th). Is this work encompass both lower and upper Virginia? The Board President, Constance Barlamas, explained that the Engineer will discuss this project during her report and Mrs. Whipple's question will be answered at that time.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 21st, 2025, as submitted.

Voice Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

II. Approval of the following reports: The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of June 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 Angus Second Molchen

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

- A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve June 2025 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$129,855.84 as listed.**

General Fund	\$ 39,052.14
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	N/A
Health Insurance	* \$ 36,000.92
Developers Escrow Fund	N/A

Liquid Fuels	\$ 5,505.80
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$ 49,296.98
Police Pension Fund	N/A
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 129,855.84

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus
Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The matters included under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and are not expected to require further review or discussion. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of the Board of Commissioners, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

- 1) Authorizing the Society for Creative Anachronism to use Byersdale Park every Thursday evening from 6:30 Pm to dark. The group will practice pre-seventeenth century combat skills. The participants will wear era appropriate armor and use weaponry made of rattan wood. The area of the park used by the group must be cleaned of debris, if any after each use. Subject to the approval of Insurance by the Township Solicitor.
- 2) Authorizing the Township Manager to satisfy bill payment from all applicable Township Funds during the month of July and to coordinate as necessary with authorized Township officials for payment authorization.

Voice Vote – Yes

All In Favor – Motion Carried

V. NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL

- 1) A Motion to approve retaining Charles H. Saul, Esquire of Margolis Edelstein for an employment law matter pursuant to an engagement letter dated May 28, 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Molchen
Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

PUBLIC WORKS

- 1) A Motion to accept the recommendation of the Township Engineer, HRG Inc., and award a contract for storm sewer rehabilitation and paving to Youngblood Paving, Inc. for a unit price bid of \$1,132,509.00 subject to the receipt of Performance, Payment Bonds and Contracts consistent with the LSA and other grants awarded to the Township. Project entails the following:
BASE BID:
Solar & Forest Road - Stormwater Project
Woodside Drive – Stormwater Paving
Virginia Avenue (Ridge – 5th) – Paving

Logans Lane – Paving

ALTERNATE 3

5th Street Concrete

ALTERNATE 4 (Columbia Gas Contract)

Martins Way, Howard Street, Ridge Road, Stephens Street & Laurel Alley

ROLL CALL VOTE – Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

FINANCE

- 1) A Motion authorizing the Constance Barlamas, President, Board of Commissioners and Robert Villella, Township Manager, to sign the Engagement Letter with Turnley, Robertson & Associates, LLC for the 2024 DCED Audit of the Township funds.

ROLL CALL VOTE – Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

PENSION

- 1) A Motion authorizing Constance Barlamas, President, Board of Commissioners to execute the Agreement with ACRISURE (previously Mockenhaupt) for Actuarial Services for the Police and Union and for a term of two (2 years commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026, with automatic two-year renewals.

ROLL CALL VOTE – Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

SEWER SERVICE

- 1) A Motion to adopt Resolution No. 01 of 2025-06-18 The Harmony Township Commissioners and the Harmony Township Municipal Authority establishing a Policy not to discriminate on the basis of disability. The Township of Harmony/ Harmony Township Municipal Authority has adopted an internal grievance Procedure providing for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by Section 04 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.794) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regulations implementing the Act. Section 504 prohibits disability in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Law and regulations may be examined in the office of Robert Villella, Township Manager, 724-266-1910 who has been designated to coordinate the efforts of Harmony Township Municipal Authority to comply with Section 504.

Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability may file a grievance under this procedure. It is against the law for Harmony Township/Harmony Township Municipal Authority to retaliate against anyone who files a grievance or cooperates in the investigation of a grievance.

ROLL CALL VOTE – Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

PLANNING COMMISSION

- 1) A Motion to accept the resignation of Greg Szuchy and Kaylie Szuchy from the from the Harmony Township Planning Commission. We would like to thank them for their contribution to the community and this important Township Board. The Harmony Township Planning Commission is recommending the appointment

of Fernando Bevilacqua, 1171 Highland Avenue to serve the remaining term of and John Schaefer 944 Ridge Road to assume the remaining term appointment.

ROLL CALL VOTE – Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Absent

IV. REPORTS

A. Township Manager's Report:

The Manager has submitted updates to the Board of Commissioners on a regular basis from the last meeting.

1. The Manager plans to talk to Department heads regarding the removal of dead trees that have fallen on roadways. This discussion will discuss what type of action will be taken regarding Code Enforcement advising individuals who trees appear to be dead and close to a roadway. These trees should be removed by these individuals especially if these trees knock down wires or other public utilities.
2. The Planning Commission has put together some procedures and different types of applications to be submitted. The Commission has been in contact with the Beaver County Planning Commission, specifically Dan Distler, regarding the possibility of Mr. Distler attending future Board Meetings so that the Commission can get in sync with the Beaver County Planning Commission. Also, the Commission has been discussing the possibility of exploring some grants and pro-bono engineering work for grant work, especially in the Commercial Industrial area. The Planning Commission should be recognized for being the only local Commission that has reached out to the Beaver County Planning Commission to work with them and to make sure that the procedures they are following are consistent with the Beaver County Planning Commission.

B. Consulting Engineer's Report:

1. The Grant was submitted for the Byersdale Tennis Court last month in the amount of \$350,000.
2. HRG is working on a multi road grant application for Valley Road. This application is currently in process.
3. Since the Board has approved the motion for the paving. The paving contract will be awarded to Youngblood Paving. After all the required paperwork has been submitted HRG will reach out to Youngblood paving to schedule the work. Christine Whipple had a question for the /Engineer regarding the paving of Virginia Avenue. The Engineer clarified that Lower Virginia is included in this project. Upper Virginia is included in the future work which is coordinated with Columbia Gas.

- C. Solicitor's Report. The Solicitor has entered their invoice for services and set forth Forth the work is performed for the month of May/June 2025. The Solicitor had no further comments.

VIII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORT

1. Commissioner Molchen congratulated Commissioner Grace DeBona on the birth of her first grandchild. Also, mark your calendars September 12th is Octoberfest.
2. Commissioner Angus had no comments.

3. Board President Barlamas mentioned that tomorrow is a Holiday so be careful. The weather is approaching the nineties so try to stay cool.

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.*

Angela Meyers

Question was regarding the removal of dead trees. Does the Township have any help for individuals who cannot afford the hiring of a professional tree service to remove these trees? Can the residents offer their assistance to these homeowners who cannot afford the removal? The Township Manager explained that the fallen trees are being removed by the Public Works Department. Also, any trees which touch or invade any power lines can be removed by Duquesne Light. However, the Township unfortunately does not have the resources to financially help these homeowners. The Manager will contact a few agencies which have helped in the past; but tree removal is dangerous, and the liability is very high if an individual get injured helping out with the tree removal.

Fabiola Gergerich

Mrs. Gergerich is concerned with the roll of AI affecting Harmony Township. For example, she is opposed to surveillance camera use on the roads. Does the Township have any safeguards in place for the invasive use of AI? Also, what type of protection does the Harmony Township residents have if an aggressive mob was to invade the Township? What do the residents have to protect and defend themselves? However, on a lighter note, are there plans to have an open house for the residents to the new Police Department and the Public Works Building? President Barlamas answered the AI question. Since she comes from a banking background, she knows there are tremendous concerns regarding AI. The Township will navigate this problem slowly. One way to combat this problem is to talk to people in person. Also, there will be an open house for residents to tour the new Police Department and the Public Works Building but probably not until fall. The Solicitor answered Mrs. Gergerich question regarding protection from invasive mobs. Beaver County notifies municipalities when they know that there is going to be a potential aggressive meeting or gathering in their area. Local, State and ESU Units are sent in if necessary to deflate the situation.

Christine Whipple

Regarding the tree issue. Is there a regulation regarding tree branches that grow out into the roadways which can be potentially hazardous? The Solicitor explained that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain their trees. If you are aware of branches invading roadways, please call the Township and the Public Works Department will be notified of the situation.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM:

The Township Manager and the Police Chief, Juan Villagomez, have been talking to representatives of AT&T and First Net for the purchase of Cameras & internet service (military grade) for the approximate cost of \$11,000.00. These cameras would be placed in every park in Harmony Township including School Street. The

camera feeds will go directly to Chief Villagomez's office. The Manager apologized for the oversight of not having this item on the agenda. But hope that the Board will take into consideration adding this motion especially since the cost could increase due to the end of the quarter.

The Board President called for a motion to add to the agenda the placement of cameras in the Harmony Township parks at the approximate cost of \$11,000.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE – Motion Carried
Motion Angus Second Molchen

The Board President called for a motion to purchase the cameras for the Harmony Township parks for the approximate cost of \$11,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE – Motion Carried
Motion Angus Second Molchen

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next HT Commissioners Workshop Meeting and Regular Meetings for July 2025 will be cancelled.
2. The next HT Commissioners Regular Meeting will be held on August 20th, 2025 @ 6 Pm.
3. Depending upon the renovation start date the August meetings may be moved to Harmony Twp VFD.
4. Township Offices will be closed for the 4th of July Holiday, Friday, July 4th, 2025, and will reopen on Monday, July 7th, 2025, at 8:30 am.
5. To All persons with or without healthcare, vision or dental services, including behavioral health and Veterinary services, the Department of Defense will be providing **NO COST HEALTHCARE TO ALL PERSONS**. There are no income, residency, or insurance restrictions. Available services include Medical Evaluations, Eye Exams (one pair of glasses provided if needed, Dental exams, Behavioral Health evaluations and Veterinary Care. This service is at no cost to anyone visiting the clinic located at the Lincoln High School (501 Crescent Avenue, Ellwood City, PA 16117) from July 23rd to August 01, 2025. Please pick up a flyer and share it with your friends.
6. Ambridge Fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 05, 2025.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.
Motion Molchen Second Angus
Time of Adjournment: 6:33 Pm