

**HARMONY TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17TH, 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) A Commissioners Workshop was held on September 3rd, 2025, followed by an Executive Session, for personnel-related matters.
- 3) An Executive Session was held on September 17, 2025, for personnel related matters.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners

Ms. Barlamas, President - Present
Mrs. Mylan, Vice President - Present
Mr. Angus, Commissioner - Present
Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present
Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner - Absent

This meeting was electronically recorded by the Township Assistant Administrator.

Residents & Guests in Attendance

Angela Meyers – Woodland Road
Kelly Harshman – Woodside Drive
Rhona Ferguson – Dearborn Street
Lauren Kunde – Highland Avenue
Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road
Nancy Driesch – Heber Street
Emily Driesch – Heber Street
Denina Bautti – Heber Street
Doug Beck – Dearborn Street
Joyce Beck – Dearborn Street
Jordanna Bucciere – Essex Avenue
Sharon Speicher – Beaver Road
Paul Driesch – Heber Street
Sean & Amanda Rogan – Dearborn Street
John Krepps – Woodland Road
Brandy Stepanovich – Dearborn Street
Patrick Morgan – Dearborn Street
Logan Anderson – Heber Street

The Visitor Comment period is limited to Agenda Items only. Individual comments and dialogue are limited to 5 minutes. No comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2025, as submitted.

Motion: Mylan Second Molchen

Roll Call: Mylan Y Angus Y Molchen Y DeBona Absent Barlamas Y

REPORTS: Submitted to the board for September 2025 - Motion Carried

- Interim Manager Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Road Department Report
- Police Department Report
- Sewage Department Report
- Tax Collector / Treasurer Reports

Motion Molchen Second Mylan

Roll Call: Mylan Y Angus Y Molchen Y DeBona Absent Barlamas Y

BILLS TO BE PAID: Motion Carried

It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the August 2025 Accounts Payable in the total amount of as listed.

FUND	SEPTEMBER
General Fund	\$ 176,769.16
2018 GO Bond Interest /Principal U.S. Bank	\$ N/A
*Health Insurance ACH	* \$ 36,000.92
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A
Liquid Fuels	\$5,310.95
Sewer Fund	\$ 14,581.11
Police Pension Fund	\$ N/A
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 218,081.03

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Roll Call: Mylan Y Angus Y Molchen Y DeBona Absent Barlamas Y

CONSENT AGENDA-None

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.

NEW BUSINESS – Motion Carried

- A Motion to remove a handicap sign on 966 Hazel Avenue due to the sale of the property.

Motion Mylan Second Molchen

Roll Call: Mylan Y Angus Y Molchen Y DeBona Absent Barlamas Y

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Motion Carried

- Motion to approve compensation for stormwater easement of \$3000.00 on Forest Road.

Motion Molchen Second Mylan

Roll Call: Mylan Y Angus Y Molchen Y DeBona Absent Barlamas Y

REPORTS

- **ENGINEER’S REPORT** (Mr. Barna, Ms. Vasilakis, HRG Engineering)
 1. LSA Grant announcements from 2024 may take place in September or October.
 2. HRG submitted two LSA Grant Applications on 11/27/2024:
 - Preliminary Landslide Investigation Project - \$107,000.00
 - Byersdale Park Tennis Courts - \$910,815.00
 3. The preconstruction meeting was held on 9/11 at the Township building.
 4. It is our understanding that the addition of the Township building parking lot and driveway will be voted on at tonight’s meeting.
 5. Youngblood plans to mobilize to complete the stormwater repair on Forest Road this week.
 6. Harmony Township’s outstanding proposals:
 - Preliminary Park Master Plan
 - Geotechnical Testing and Survey on Valley Road, Forest Road and Ridge Road
- **SOLICITORS’ REPORT** (Ms. Shannon Steele, Garen Fedeles) The Solicitor has entered their invoice for services and set forth the work for the month of September 2025. The Solicitor had no further comments.
- **THE INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER’S REPORT** (Kim Villella) submitted updates to the Board of Commissioners for the month of September. The Interim had no further comments.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

1. **Commissioner Mylan**- Mentioned that the Township is still looking to put out bids for the Building Renovation to the second floor.
2. **Commissioner Angus** – Had no comments.
3. **Commissioner Molchen**- Had no comments.
4. **President Barlamas** – Mentioned that the Fire Department has a Cash Bash fundraiser and tickets are still available.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

The following residents attended the meeting to discuss their concerns regarding the Grant which was applied for the building of a tennis court at Byersdale Park.

- Denina Bautti
- Nancy Driesch
- Logan Anderson
- Emily Driesch
- Joyce Beck
- Doug Beck

Concerns mentioned:

- Loss of Greenspace
- Noise Pollution (specifically regarding Pickleball)
- Parking
- Adequate Restroom Facilities
- Hours of Operation
- Security
- If the Grant is awarded, does it have to include the Pickleball
- What is the date that the Grant will be awarded
- What led the Board to apply for the Grant

President Barlamas and the Solicitor acknowledged everyone's concerns but explained that the Grant has not been awarded yet. The Township may receive nothing, may receive a percentage of what was asked, or the entire grant may be awarded. The concerns of the residents are valid but premature currently. If the Township were to receive the grant money there will be a meeting to discuss the tennis court and the park upgrade. The idea of applying for a grant for a tennis court came from a discussion with the Ambridge School District asking if anyone had an area that the tennis team could practice. The Tennis team practiced at the courts by the High school, but that property was owned by the Borough not the school district and the Borough just decided to eliminate the tennis courts. Then the Tennis team practiced at Economy Park, but the tennis courts were warped, and the team can no longer

practice there. The Board wanted to help the Tennis team, so the grant was applied for. The Board understands the Residents' frustration. The award date for the LSA Grant has been postponed many times. The most recent information that the Township has received is that the Grant is to be awarded in November 2025. If Harmony Township does receive the grant, the start date tentatively might be in February or March 2026. This meeting will be publicized, and all residents are encouraged to attend. If the Grant is awarded the amount received may not be enough to even build the Tennis Courts. Pickleball does not have to be included but the only difference between Tennis and Pickleball is a painted line. Presently most concerns are premature. The complete grant application is available at the Township Office and can be viewed or copied with a Right to Know form completed and copies are 0.25 a page.

Christine Whipple- Had a question regarding the roadwork being performed by Youngblood paving. The Engineer explained that unfortunately they do not have a complete paving schedule. When HRG receives a complete schedule, they will forward it to the Township. The project is starting now but Youngblood is limited to how many crew members will be available at the given time. Mrs. Whipple thought that the Company was committed to the paving exclusively until completion. However, they are committed to getting the project completed as soon as possible. Also, part of the paving project is being completed by Columbia Gas the President does have a list of the roads Columbia Gas is paving. Mrs. Whipple would like that list to be published on the website along with Grant applications for full transparency. The President agreed with her that it is the intention to publish all pertinent issues on the website. Presently the website along with the Township's Facebook page is in a social media re-build. The Commissioners are discussing bringing in help with the website and Kim Villella is quite computer savvy and she is working on a new newsletter and Facebook page. Mrs. Whipple explained that she is unable to navigate the website. She is unable to find meeting dates. The President brought up the website and showed her that the meeting dates are right on the front page. Mrs. Whipple concedes that she must have the wrong website address.

Fabiola Gergerich – Wished everyone Happy Constitution Day! She spoke to the residents who came with concerns regarding the Grant for the tennis court at Byersdale Park. She explained that she attends multiple meetings, and the Board does discuss all grant issues. She was at the meeting where it was discussed having a formal park plan and the cost is \$50,000.00. She encouraged the residents to come to the meetings. She had a question regarding the Building Renovation, has Kelly Harshman been notified regarding the renovation since she is running for tax collector and, is there still going to be a space for her to work in the Township Building as the Tax Collector? The President explained that CDBG issued a grant to the Township for the renovations however they rejected the plans because they wanted the handicap accessibility to be bid out separately. Unfortunately, the Architect cannot be here tonight, but the Board hopes to meet with him in October to receive all the

specifications required from CDBG. Then the renovation project can be put out for bids. The plan does include a shared office which the Board has no problem with the Tax Collector using. However, the Board was thinking more along the lines of getting a separate mailbox outside just for tax payments. Right now, the priority is not to lose the grant money. Since Octoberfest has been cancelled. She thought that neighborhood children could complete Christmas Cards for Nursing Homes and the elderly residents. The Board thinks that is a great idea. The President brought up that maybe Harmony could put on a program called Stop the Bleed. Commissioners Mylan's niece runs this program. It educates people on how to apply pressure and a tourniquet to stop bleeding. This program could be paired with a Blood Drive where adult residents could donate blood, and their Children could fill out the Christmas Cards. Finally, Mrs. Gergerich re-addressed her issue with the Permit Ordinance set in place for Harmony Township residents. She asked the Board if they made any decisions on her suggestion to repeal the Ordinance. The Solicitor explained that Harmony Township's Ordinance is following all the other Townships. This is still an ongoing issue.

Doug Beck – Complimented the Road Crew for keeping the roads cleared last winter.

Jordana Bucciare- Had a question regarding the current maintenance of Byersdale Park. Is there a set maintenance schedule? The Foreman for the Public Works Department fielded this question. There is not a specific maintenance schedule for the park, but the park is checked regularly. Her second question was regarding curbside recycling. Has Harmony Township ever applied for a grant for curbside recycling? The President said that the issue of curbside recycling has not been discussed. The Board is certainly willing to research grants for curbside recycling.

Amanda Rogan -Mrs. Rogan lives on Dearborn Street and she is having an issue with falling trees near her home. The Foreman for the Public Works Department said he would drive to the location and assess the problem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner's Workshop will be held on October 1, 2025, at 6:00pm
- Commissioner's Monthly Meeting will be held on October 15, 2025, at 6:00pm
- Winterfest has been postponed. The Board has been unable to coordinate a date with the VFD Ladies Auxiliary. The event may need to take place in January.

Angela Meyers - wanted to let all the new residents attending this meeting that in December Shop with a Cop program will be held. Harmony Township Police in conjunction with Shop N Save provide food and presents for Ambridge School District children in need. Each child will go shopping with a police officer for food for their family over Christmas break. Harmony Township solicits donations from local businesses and residents, so every child does receive a Christmas gift.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Molchen Second Angus Time of Adjournment: 7:30PM