

Pennsbury Township Board of Supervisors Minutes

August 19, 2026

The Board of Supervisors of Pennsbury Township held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the township building. Present were Supervisors Aaron McIntyre, Wendell Fenton, and Gerard Pinamonti, Solicitor Tom Oeste, Township Engineer Matt Houtman, Planning Commission Chair Kay Ellsworth, Historical Commission Chair Judi Wilson, Roadmaster Patrick Yerkes, and Township Manager Dan Boyle.

The Board and members of the public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, a motion to approve the July 15, 2026 regular meeting minutes was made by Supervisor Pinamonti and seconded by Supervisor Fenton. The motion carried unanimously.

Fireworks Ordinance – 2026-08-19-1

Solicitor Tom Oeste explained that the ordinance enacts a new Chapter 89 (Fireworks) of the Township Code, regulating both consumer fireworks and display fireworks:

- Consumer fireworks – purchased by individuals (e.g., from tents/temporary stands) and set off on private property.
- Display fireworks – larger, more powerful, professional-grade fireworks.

Mr. Oeste highlighted the following two provisions:

1. Notification Requirement

- Nearby property owners must be notified in advance of both consumer and display fireworks.
- Notification must also be provided to any animal housing facility within:
 - 150 feet of a consumer fireworks display; and
 - 1,250 feet of a display fireworks event.

2. Permitting

- Display fireworks:
 - Require an application and permit from the Township.

- Must comply with applicable fire codes and safety regulations.
- Must identify the professional responsible for setting off the display.
- Consumer fireworks:
 - Do not require a Township permit, but are subject to the notification requirement and other applicable law.

It should be noted that the ordinance incorporates the Commonwealth Fireworks Law definitions of “consumer fireworks” and “display fireworks.” Display fireworks are recognized as more powerful, louder, and inherently more dangerous than consumer fireworks.

The Board discussion emphasized the concern for the welfare of horses and other animals, especially in the Township’s more rural areas. A trial notification mailing was sent around a recent display; the Township received very positive feedback and no complaints. Neighbors expressed appreciation for receiving advance notice. A motion was made by Supervisor Fenton and seconded by Supervisor Pinamonti to approve the fireworks ordinance enacting Chapter 89 of the Township Code, as advertised and submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Professional Reports

Road Department Report

Roadmaster Patrick Yerkes reported on road and maintenance activities, including:

- Responded to three trees that had fallen into the roadway.
- Cleared three trees that fell in the road.
- Cut back brush on Brintons Bridge Road.
- Finished second round of road bank mowing.
- Weekly mowing of the park and township grounds.
- Installed new inlet and pipe in North Ridge.
- Cleared brush for better sight distance at Chandler Road & Pocopson Road’s, Chaddbury Lane & Route 52, and Hickory Hill Road & Route 52.

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It was also stated that recent work on Hickory Hill Road included:

- The roadway had been resurfaced from the Kennett Township line to the hill.
- Double yellow center lines and edge lines were placed.
- A separate crew will later install thermoplastic pavement markings, including railroad crossing and curve/speed markings.

Planning Commission

Planning Commission Chair Kay Ellsworth reported that Members of the Planning Commission and Historical Commission have been meeting with the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force. The most recent joint discussion focused on historic and scenic resources, including their preservation and maintenance.

Mrs. Ellsworth summarized ongoing ordinance work related to historic resources. She stated that in 2023, the Township worked with the Chester County Planning Commission to update Article 17 (Historic Resources) of the Zoning Ordinance to strengthen adaptive reuse provisions and to enhance demolition by neglect standards, which were subsequently adopted. In 2026, the Township continued working to make conforming changes to Article 20 (Supplemental Use Regulations), aligning it with the 2023 updates to Article 17.

The Historical Commission met recently and voted to recommend these additional revisions. The Planning Commission will formally consider and act on the recommended changes at its next meeting, and, if approved, will forward them to the Board of Supervisors for review and possible action.

The Board thanked Mrs. Ellsworth and the volunteers for their work in moving these historic resource and supplemental use updates forward.

Land Trust

The Board briefly discussed activities of the local land trusts. It was noted that the land trust is planning events in October and into January, including programming related to native plants/flowers and planning for the coming year.

Fire and EMS Commission / Regional Fire Services

The Board discussed an overview of the matters addressed at the most recent Fire Commission meeting. Numerous topics were discussed, most notably:

1. Staffing and Volunteers

- Regional fire companies, including Longwood, are facing declining volunteer participation, especially among younger residents.
- To maintain adequate coverage and protect public safety, departments are increasingly needing to hire paid personnel.
- This shift will increase operating costs and, consequently, the funding requests to member municipalities.

2. Budget Impacts and Revenue Options

- The Commission is examining ways to offset rising personnel costs, including:
 - Billing insurance companies for fire rescue services associated with structure fires.
 - Historically, these services were not routinely billed, even though most homeowners' insurance policies provide such coverage.
 - Considering fees for repeated false alarms:
 - Initial false alarms (e.g., first or second occurrence) would not be billed.
 - Chronic repeat offenders, often due to poorly maintained alarm systems and unoccupied buildings, may face charges to encourage corrective action.
- The Township was advised that schools and institutions are often the primary sources of repeated false alarms, rather than single-family homes.

3. Cost-Sharing Formula

- The Board reviewed, for the public's benefit, the formula used to apportion the regional fire/EMS budget among participating municipalities. The allocation is based on:
 - Municipal population;
 - Assessed value of real estate; and
 - Number of calls originating in each municipality.
- Using this formula, Pennsbury Township currently pays approximately 12.8% of the total regional fire/EMS budget, with East Marlborough and Kennett Township bearing the larger shares.

The Board emphasized the importance of adequately funding fire and EMS services while also encouraging responsible maintenance of alarm systems and exploring fair revenue mechanisms.

Supervisor McIntyre noted that bills and payroll checks for the current period were available at the meeting table for Board review and signing.

The Board reviewed the bills and checks prepared for payment for the current period.

A bill list dated August 13, 2026, numbering 2789 - 2819, Road Reserve PLIGIT numbering 232 - 243, and Cash Disbursements number 192, were approved for payment by the Board. The Board also reviewed the July bank reconciliation for the General Fund. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dan Boyle, Township Manager