

July 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Chairman John Beaufort presiding.

Members Present: John Beaufort, Dan Resenic, Stephanie Verna, and Paul Knupp. Supervisor Stoner was absent.

Others Present: Township Manager Michael Strelac, Solicitor Dan Hudock, Police Chief Michael Matrunics, and Finance Officer Beverly Warfel.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda Items

Jack Milburn commended the Planning Commission, Mr. Strelac and Mr. Krouse for their work on the Data Center ordinance.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Verna thanked Mr. Milburn and others who contributed to the work on the data center ordinance.

Supervisor Knupp also thanked Mr. Milburn, the Planning Commission, and others who contributed to the proposed ordinance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to approve the minutes of June 23rd meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to approve the minutes of the June 24th joint meeting with Ligonier Borough. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) PennDOT 2026-2027 Winter Municipal Snow Agreement
- b) McKenna Foundation letter re: Ligonier Beach & Ligonier Valley Trail

MANAGER REPORT – Mr. Strelac reported that Foreman Griffith spoke with the vendor for the seal coat program and they are on track to begin as scheduled on July 27th. The Public Works crew is preparing for that starting. This requires some temporary road closures. Mr. Strelac stressed his and the public works department's appreciation of the public's patience and understanding during these road closures. In response to a question from Supervisor Knupp, Mr. Strelac also indicated everything is ready for upgrading the sound system and the work has begun.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Mr. Hudock indicated the Coyote Lane matter has seen some work on the property showing the owners have begun to comply with the ordered clean up. He has also received court approval to place notice in the newspaper regarding the property on Byers Lane owned by Blue Door Rental. He asked for a brief executive session to discuss the tax exemption

appeal made by Bethlen/Concordia. However, he was asked to present in the public forum the tax exemption request, so the public understands the ramifications regarding granting the tax exemption.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Matrunics gave a summary of his monthly report, emphasizing the two-day active shooter response training. This weekend marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of our country which will be celebrated at the Diamond. Come out and celebrate but be aware of the traffic change if driving through the borough. He acknowledged the passing of Kilo, LVPD's retired K-9 officer. The new pup in training will be introduced to the community during the National Night Out, August 4th.

AUDITORS – Wessel & Company represented by Brennan Illig presented to the results of the 2025 Audit of the Financial Statements. The Township was given the highest rating possible for the audit.

A motion was made by Supervisor Knupp and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to accept the 2025 Audit of the Financial Statements presented by Wessel & Company. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT – Treasurer Verma presented the June Fund balances and the bills for payment.

Fund Balances (month end)	June 2026
General Fund	\$ 327,191
General Fund Reserves	\$ 1,528,136
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$ 469,272
Capital Fund Reserves	\$ 828,251
Ligonier Beach Park Fund	\$ 22,242
Developer's Fund*	\$ 18,430
*Fire Insurance Escrow	\$ -
*Escrow	\$ 4,000
*Hydrogreen, LLC	\$ 5,000
*LVSD Capital Project	\$ 5,000
*Mill Creek Memorial Park	\$ 1,209
*Community Garden	\$ 721
*Ligonier Trail	\$ 2,500
Total Funds	\$ 3,193,521

Bill Pay List:

General Fund: \$ 97,911.57

Capital Fund: \$ 4,528.20

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to approve the payment of bills. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- a) Ordinance 2026-OR-01 Amending Zoning Code: solar & data centers, fire station, farmers markets, non-conforming lots –

A motion was made by Supervisor Knupp and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed Ordinance 2026-OR-01 amending the Zoning Code: solar; data centers; public safety facilities; seasonal markets; non-conforming lots on August 25 at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

- b) Ordinance 2026-OR-02 Community Development Board – No action taken. Held over to the next meeting.
- c) Resolution 2026-R-03 Ligonier Valley Police Commission Code of Conduct – No action taken. Held over to the next meeting.
- d) Fort Ligonier Days Detour – No action taken. Removed from further consideration since action on this item was deemed unnecessary.
- e) Co-Stars Electricity Contract – No action taken. Held over to the fall for consideration.
- f) Grant Consultant Agreement – No action taken. Further consideration based on the decision of the LTMA and clarification of the cost.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution 2026-R-11 - supporting new police facility

A motion was made by Supervisor Knupp and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to approve Resolution 2026-R-11 supporting a new police facility. Motion passed unanimously.

- b) Comprehensive Plan Update – Board discussion regarding meeting with Ligonier Borough and Laurel Mountain Borough to hear their thoughts, goals and the desired extent of the update. It was also felt discussion would be appropriate with the LTMA. No action taken at this time.
- c) Comprehensive Plan Committee - No action taken. Held over until decision regarding the Comprehensive Plan update.
- d) RFP for Retirement Plan Services -

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to issue an RFP for retirement plan services. Motion passed unanimously.

- e) Resolution 2026-R-12: Pension Administrator Selection Procedures

A motion was made by Supervisor Knupp and seconded by Supervisor Verna to approve Resolution 2026-R-12. Motion passed unanimously.

f) Ligonier Beach funds reallocation to Ligonier Trail

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to transfer the entirety of the remaining funds, \$72,241.80, once reimbursement is received from the DCNR, from the Ligonier Beach fund to the Ligonier Trail Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

g) New Bank Account – Ligonier Trail Fund –

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to open a new bank account with First Commonwealth Bank, and to set First Commonwealth Bank as the depository for the Ligonier Trail Funds. Motion passed unanimously.

h) Ligonier Beach updates/general discussion – Melissa Eller contributed that it is a matter of collaboration of schedules to move forward with the next things to be accomplished at the Beach.

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Knupp that Ligonier Beach be closed to the public due to safety concerns until such time as the Township's insurance provider Penn PRIME sends their loss control & safety expert Chuck Baker to analyze existing hazards, and only after those hazards have been remediated can the property be reopened. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 1, Supervisor Beaufort being the negative vote.

i) Deputy tax Collector appointment

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to appoint Randal Rinier as the Deputy Tax Collector for Ligonier Township. Motion passed unanimously.

j) National Night Out

A motion was made by Supervisor Knupp and seconded by Supervisor Verna to participate in National Night Out on August 4, and to provide water for the event. Motion passed unanimously.

k) Bethlen/Concordia Tax Exemption Matter – No action taken. Solicitor Hudock to continue discussion with Bethlen/Concordia and the school district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – All other

Melissa Eller asked the Board to have Mr. Hudock provide a Summary of Pennsylvania use of land and water statutes. Mr. Hudock's responded regarding the Township's sovereign immunity.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Verna commented regarding the new police facility public meeting. She was grateful for the public presence and expressed how fortunate we are that we have the support of the RK Mellon Foundation.

Supervisor Knupp thanked everyone for their support and the help being received with the new police facility project.

Supervisor Beaufort echoed the previous statements and indicated he feels this will be a good facility for the police. He additionally commented regarding his lack of understanding of the reasoning of those who are against having Ligonier Beach becoming a park.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Supervisor Verna and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to adjourn the meeting. All the Board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Warfel
Finance Officer/Assistant Secretary