

January 27, 2026

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Chairman John Beaufort presiding.

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

Others Present: Township Manager Michael Strelac, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor Dan Hudock, Public Works Foreman Lance Griffith, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Rick Krouse, Finance Officer Beverly Warfel, and Emergency Management Coordinator Pat McDowell.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda Items

Mark Sorice, Esquire – Provided information to the Board regarding the Country Market’s disagreement with the determination of the Loyalhanna Watershed about the validity of the lease with the Country Market.

Del Nolfi III, Esquire – Provided information to the Board regarding the Loyalhanna Watershed position of its lease with the Country Market. He indicated he and Susan Huba were present to answer any questions regarding the Watershed’s position.

Tom Freeman, Ligonier Borough Mayor – Spoke to the importance of the Country Market to the businesses in the Borough’s business district.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Stoner indicated he was pleased that so many residents were present and attending the meeting. He pointed out that the individuals involved with the Loyalhanna Watershed and Ligonier Country Market need to work together to work out the issues.

Supervisor Resenic stated that he also hopes the Watershed and the Country Market will resolve their conflict. The Country Market is a benefit to the entire community and we would like to see it continue.

Supervisor Knupp echoed what both Supervisor Stoner and Supervisor Resenic said. He indicated that the parties must sit down together and work this issue out.

Supervisor Beaufort had no comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Stoner to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026 organizational meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE –

- a) PennDOT re: 2025 Multimodal Transportation Fund grant for the Ramsey Road Bridge has been approved. The contract for the grant should be forthcoming.

REPORTS:

MANAGER REPORT – Mr. Strelac deferred his report to Patrick McDowell, Emergency Management Coordinator who addressed the fires and extreme cold of this past week. Mr. McDowell stated that things went pretty well for the week. He thanked the Public Works Department for being on-hand at the Ruthie’s Diner and Weaver Mill fires with the requested equipment and for their patience in the long wait. He also reminded residents to take care in this extreme weather. It was pointed out that the Volunteer Fire Department buildings can serve as warming centers should any resident be without heat.

ENGINEER REPORT – Mr. Faas shared that the contract for the Harvey Road Bridge project was awarded to Bioni Drilling, Inc. The project will only take 2-3 weeks, during which time the road will be closed. The Ramsey Road Bridge project is now funded. One item remains outstanding regarding the DEP permit for the Ramsey bridge. The Carey School Road Bridge and sidewalk project is proceeding through design and permitting.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Mr. Hudock indicated he will speak to the items he has been working on as presented under new business.

STAFF REPORTS –

- a) Zoning / Code Enforcement – Mr. Krouse indicated that his current report was different, being a summary of his work for the year.
- b) Public Works – Mr. Griffith spoke to the work performed during the current weather system the Township is experiencing. He also indicated that the demand for salt due to the widespread weather issue has resulted in salt being slow in arriving. However, the Township has sufficient salt, mix and anti-skid at this time. He also pointed out that the public works staff are doing an awesome job, even being down 1 staff member.
- c) Finance Officer – Mrs. Warfel stated the December report is an unaudited picture of the end of 2025. There may be changes subsequent to the audit that will be performed by Wessel & Company. She also updated the Board regarding the request to have the budget entered into Quick Books by month. This has been accomplished.

TREASURER REPORT – In the absence of Treasurer Verna, Township Manager, Michael Strelac presented the bills for payment.

- a) Approval of the bill pay lists

General Fund: \$ 78,170.49
Liquid Fuels: \$ 19,161.79
Ligonier Beach: \$ 7,050.00

Capital Fund: \$ 7,995.00

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- a) Resolution 2026-R-01 – Comcast Cable Agreement – No action taken. Held over to next meeting.
- b) Ordinance 2026-OR-01 – Amending Zoning code at Solar – No action taken. Held over to next meeting

NEW BUSINESS -

- a) Country Market Special Events Permit – Chairman Beaufort addressed the fact that the Township acted on the material presented in granting the Special Event permits. The Board is now appraised of new information regarding the conflict as to whether or not there is a valid lease. This issue is up to the two parties to resolve their differences. The Board will take no action. If it is determined there is a valid lease the Permit stands. If it is determined the lease isn't valid and there is no venue for the market, there will be none.

A motion was made by Supervisor Beaufort and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to table any action until the lease issue is resolved and the parties come back. Motion passed unanimously.

- b) Holiday Market Special Events Permit – No action taken on this agenda item, the action taken on the above item applies to the Holiday Market as well. Tabled by the Board.
- c) Kenco Company Rezoning Map Amendment –

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Stoner to approve the Kenco Company Zoning Map Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

- d) Resolution 2026-R-02 Berkheimer authorized representatives

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to approve the resolution appointing the Township Manager and Finance Officer as its authorized representatives to make requests upon and receive any and all tax information and records from Berkheimer relative to the collection of taxes for Ligonier Township. The motion carried unanimously.

- e) Resolution 2026-R-03 Ligonier Valley Police Commission Code of Conduct – No action taken. Tabled with the request to the Borough to sit down and work this out together.
- f) Recreation Board Vacancies –

A motion to appoint Diana Kuzemchak to the Recreation Board for the term ending 12/31/2028 was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Stoner. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to appoint Rebecca Wisner to the Recreation Board for the term ended 12/31/27 was made by Supervisor Stoner and seconded by Supervisor Knupp. The motion carried unanimously.

g) PELRAS 2026 conference – March 24 - 26

A motion was made by Supervisor Knupp and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to approve Township Manager, Michael Strelic to attend the PELRAS 2026 Conference in Hershey. The motion passed unanimously.

h) Public Works Laborer – Being unable to contact the candidate recommended by the Personnel Committee, no action was taken by the Board. The item was tabled for further review of applications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

There was no need for Executive Session

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – All other items

Jason Frye spoke that he has no interest in running a market.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Resenic stated he found it concerning the Township supervisors were threatened to be sued over the conflict between the 2 parties regarding the Country Market lease.

Supervisor Knupp stated the Township is trying to reconcile being short staffed as quickly as possible. He thanked Tim Leonard for the waiting as long as he did at the Weaver Mill fire to do what he needed to do. Also thanked the police staff and those attending tonight's meeting.

Supervisor Beaufort thanked the road crew for doing a great job during this extreme weather. He also pointed out the good work of the fire companies and the police. He cautioned everyone to be safe.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Supervisor Knupp and seconded by Supervisor Stoner to adjourn the meeting. All of the board was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Warfel
Assistant Secretary/Finance Officer