

September 22, 2026

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building with Chairman John Beaufort presiding.

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

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda Items

There were no comments from the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Stoner stated that over the last few months he has gotten to know the staff. They work hard, do a good job, and keep a good attitude. He added it's almost fun to be here.

Supervisor Knupp echoed what Supervisor Stoner said. He also included the police. He added he wanted to recognize officer Sean Knepper, who was leaving to become a detective with Westmoreland County.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Knupp and seconded by Supervisor Stoner to approve the minutes of the September 8th meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) DEP NPDES permit Laurel Mountain Water System Project
- b) WCATS re-organizational meeting.
- c) Bethlen Home Tax Exemption Hearing

MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Strelac shared the news that the Township was awarded another grant. \$200,000 was awarded through the LSA Category 4 Statewide grant program for a 10-ton dump / snowplow. He thanked everyone who had contributed to receiving grants in the past year, including: Beverly Warfel; Bethany Caldwell; Lance Griffith; the Public Works crew; Ben Faas; Diana Kuzemchak; Jessica Golden; Judy Ridgway; Melissa Eller; Janell Emery; Representative Rossi; Senator Pittman; Supervisors as a whole and Supervisors individually. He also thanked the funders: RK Mellon Foundation; McKenna Foundation; Scott Foundation; Ligonier Valley Endowment; Westmoreland County Commissioners; County Community Development; County Land Bank; County Redevelopment Authority; County Conservation District; DCED; DCNR; PennDOT; Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission; Commonwealth Financing Authority; Somerset Trust.

ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Faas first addressed the lead testing requested by the Board at the suggestion of the DEP at the Ligonier Beach site. Township Manager Michael Strelie had sought clarification of the DEP as to the type of testing they were requesting. Mr. Faas indicated to accomplish what is requested by the DEP would cost about \$4,000. Supervisor Beaufort asked what kind of testing is being requested. Mr. Faas stated that the requested testing would include not only the pool area itself, but also the soil in the surrounding areas. Mr. Faas also indicated that lead does not tend to leach. The question was raised by Supervisor Resenic if there is contamination, would this circumstance qualify for superfund monies. Mr. Faas stated that it would not. More discussion followed. Mr. Faas did indicate that in the case that a permit be filed to do work at the site, testing for lead may be required at that time. Supervisor Beaufort suggested any testing be put on hold until such a time as this may occur.

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Stoner to table any action regarding lead testing at the Ligonier Beach property for now. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Faas continued with his report stating that advertising for professional services for the Ramsey Road bridge project is occurring; permits are in the process for the Carey School Road Pedestrian Bridge project, and we are waiting for the onsite meeting with PennDOT to be scheduled. There was discussion regarding the subdivisions required for the Carey School pedestrian bridge project.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Hudock stated he is working on two active code matters. The code matter on Coyote Lane is making progress. He heard nothing from the second matter on Byers Road. He will be going to court next Friday for a date for a judgement and for payment of fees/reimbursement of costs.

Mr. Hudock also provided an update on the Bethlen Home Concordia tax exempt matter. As he reported in prior meetings, the school district is taking the lead regarding this and they are working on a PILOT agreement with Bethlen Home.

ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Krouse summarized his report for the Board. Supervisor Knupp asked about Peddlers Permits. Mr. Krouse responded the Peddlers Permit issued was for one day at a cost of \$5.00. A Peddlers Permit is \$5.00 a day or \$250 a year. Supervisor Beaufort inquired about a subdivision request filed. Mr. Krouse indicated it was for a wooded lot behind a house on Charlotte Drive.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Griffith stated there are a few areas left to pave. The crew is working on upper Swank Road completing the work covered by the DGLV grant. Finally, the crew has also been working on cleanup from the recent storms.

FINANCE

Mrs. Warfel presented the board with the Financial Summary for August and summarized the status of the grants the Township has filed this year and the awarded grants.

LIGONIER BEACH

Mr. Strelac stated we have no report yet regarding any hazards at the Beach from PennPrime. The lead issue was already discussed and requires clarification of responsibilities before taking any action. Supervisor Beaufort reported that the Township will receive a donation of approximately 20 trees, that are 10-12 feet in height, which will likely be completed in October.

TREASURER REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Verna, Township Manager Michael Strelac presented the Bill Pay list for payment.

Bill Pay List:

General Fund: \$ 143,573.52

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance 2026-OR-02 Community Development Board – No action taken. Held over to next meeting.
- b) Resolution 2026-R-03 Ligonier Valley Police Commission Code of Conduct – Discussion regarding proposed changes. No action was taken. Held over to the next meeting, when the resolution will be updated to reflect the discussed change.
- c) Grant Consultant Agreement – It was decided by consensus of the Board to remove this item from the agenda.
- d) Public Works laborer – No action taken. Interviews are ongoing. Held over until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution 2026-R-18 Westmoreland County demolition fund application.

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to approve Resolution 2026-R-18. Motion carried unanimously.

- b) Resolution 2026-R-19 PennDOT Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement

A motion was made by Supervisor Stoner and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to approve Resolution 2026-R-19. Motion carried unanimously.

- c) Ligonier Trail Grant application: RK Mellon Foundation

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Stoner to apply for an RK Mellon Foundation grant for the Ligonier Valley Trail. Motion carried unanimously.

d) Ligonier Trail Grant application: McKenna Foundation

A motion was made by Supervisor Stoner and seconded by Supervisor Resenic to apply for a McKenna Foundation Grant for the Ligonier Valley Trail. Motion carried unanimously.

e) Pension Actuarial Administration Services – No action taken. Held over to next meeting.

f) Public Works Foreman

A motion was made by Supervisor Resenic and seconded by Supervisor Knupp to increase the Public Works Foreman's salary by \$2.00 per hour, to a new annual salary of \$82,400 retroactive to August 28th. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session to discuss personnel matters related to the Public Works Foreman agenda item. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. and returned from Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – All other

There were no additional comments from the public.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Resenic reminded those in attendance that Foreman Griffith receives no overtime, and he is called out anytime day or night when we have storms. We want to keep him here.

Supervisor Knupp added that he appreciates Lance and also wants to keep him here. He gave his thanks to Mr. Griffith.

Supervisor Stoner also thanked Lance. He added we have good people with a good attitude and they keep productive. Thank you.

Supervisor Beaufort also added thanks, not only to Lance, but to the crew as well for putting in a lot of time and effort these last storms.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Warfel
Finance Officer/Assistant Secretary