

MERCER TOWNSHIP, BUTLER COUNTY
4629 WILLIAM FLYNN HWY, PO BOX 380, HARRISVILLE, PA 16038
ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES – January 6, 2025

Appointment of Temporary Chairman – **Motion** to appoint William Long as Temporary Chairman: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by William Long at 7:01 pm. **Members Present:** John Bennett, Jr; William Long; Emil Treese; Nikki Ciochetto. **Visitors:** None. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Nomination to elect the Chairman – **Motion** to appoint John E. Bennett, Jr. as Chairman: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. Nomination to elect the Vice-Chairman – **Motion** to appoint William Long as Vice-Chairman: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to appoint Nikki Ciochetto as Secretary/Treasurer at a rate of \$20 per hour, 35 hours per week for the 2025 year: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to continue the appointment of John Bliss as Township Auditor through 2025: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENT:** none. **Motion** to appoint Lori Giesler as Resident Vacancy Board Chair: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Treasurer's Bond:** **\$450,000** limit of liability. **Depositor:** Mercer County State Bank. **Motion** to reappoint all Supervisors as CDL employees of Mercer Township at a rate of \$20 per hour as set by Township Auditors: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to pay hired CDL employees at \$20 per hour: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to pay hired laborers at \$15 per hour: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to pay Amy Bennett, custodian as an independent contractor at \$45 per month: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Meeting pay for 2025:** Secretary/Treasurer to continue to receive hourly rate for mtgs. attended. Other employees receive \$50 per mtg. **Motion** to adopt **Ordinance #82**-Supervisor Meeting Compensation: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. (Supervisors elected to a new term beginning January 2026 or later will be paid the new annual salary of \$3,145.) **Auditors:** McGill, Power, Bell & Associates, LLP at \$7,000 for the 2024 audit of all Township accounts. **Motion** to adopt **Resolution #25-0106-1** – Appointment of CPA firm for 2024 Audit: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** for elected/appointed auditors to audit Tax Collector books, which are separate from the Township account books: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to sign contract with The EADS Group, Inc. as our Township Engineer for 2025, with a meeting attendance rate of \$100: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Road Master:** Emil Treese. **Township Solicitor:** Gallagher Law Group at \$200 per hour & \$60 per hour for paralegal services. **Vehicle mileage:** compensation to match current IRS rate. Rate for 2025 is currently 70 cents per mile. **Deputy Tax Collector:** Nikki Ciochetto. **Open Records Officer:** Nikki Ciochetto. **EMS Coordinator:** Brian Grossman. **Third-Party Building Inspector:** Construction Code Inspectors, Inc. **Code Enforcement Officer:** Warren Whetzel, Jr. **Sewage Enforcement Officer:** David G. Ice. **SEO Alternate:** Doug Duncan. **2025 PSATS Convention Voting Delegate:** William Long. **2025 BCATO Representative:** Nikki Ciochetto. **BCTCC Primary Delegate:** Nikki Ciochetto; William Long-first alternate; & John Bennett, Jr.-second alternate. **Floodplain Administrator / Stormwater Management Delegate:** William Long. **2025 Mercer County COG Representative:** John Bennett, Jr. **2025 Pine-Harrisville Authority Delegates:** John Bennett, Jr. & Emil Treese. **Donations:** SR Public Library-\$1000 annually. **Property Tax Millage:** 9.1 mills. (Township-6.6; Fire-2.0; EMS-0.5). **Schedule of holidays/office closings:** Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday by appointment only. New Year's Day-January 1; Primary Election Day-May 20; Memorial Day-May 26; Juneteenth-June 19; Independence Day-July 4; Labor Day-September 1; Columbus Day-October 13; General Election Day-November 4; Veteran's Day-November 11; Thanksgiving Day-November 27; Day after Thanksgiving-November 28; Christmas Eve-December 24; Christmas Day-December 25; New Year's Eve-December 31. **Motion** to appoint/accept the above remaining delegates/determinations, beginning with **Road Master** & ending with the **schedule of holidays / office closings:** W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Fee Schedule:** **Motion** to adopt **Resolution #25-0106-2** – 2025 Fee Schedule: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** for Treasurer to pay bills due prior to monthly meetings in 2025: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to adjourn meeting at 7:31 pm: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nikki Ciochetto – Secretary/Treasurer

