

**Mercer Township, Butler County**  
**4629 William Flynn Hwy, PO Box 380, Harrisville, PA 16038**  
**ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES – January 5, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by 2025 Chairman, J. Bennett, Jr. at 7:05 pm. Members Present: John Bennett, Jr.; William Long; Emil Treese; Nikki Ciochetto; Holly Thompson. Visitors: None. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**. Nominations for Chairman: John Bennett, Jr. **Motion** to appoint John Bennett, Jr. as Chairman: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. Nominations for Vice-Chairman: William Long. **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 \$25 per hour at 32 hours per week for 2026: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to appoint Holly Tissue-Thompson as Assistant Secretary at a probationary rate of \$15 per hour at 10 hours per week: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**: None. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**: **Motion** to accept December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as printed: Deferred until January 19, 2026 meeting. **Motion** to accept December 15, 2025 Budget Meeting Minutes as printed: Deferred until January 19, 2026 meeting. **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 part-time employees of Mercer Township at a rate of \$25 per hour, pending rate approval by the Township Auditors: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. Roadmaster: **Motion** to appoint William Long as Roadmaster for 2026: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. Begin line-item review for later motion: CDL employees: Part-time at \$25 per hour. Laborers: Part-time at \$20 per hour. Custodian: Amy Bennett, independent contractor at \$45 per month. Meeting pay for 2026: Secretary/Treasurer & Assistant Secretary to continue to receive hourly rate for meetings attended. Other employees receive \$50 per meeting. Vehicle mileage: compensation is to match current IRS rate. Rate for 2026 is currently 72.5 cents per mile. Auditors: McGill, Power, Bell & Associates, LLP at rate not to exceed \$7,500 for the 2025 audit of all Township accounts. **Motion** to adopt **Resolution R26-0105-01** – Appointment of CPA firm for 2025 Audit: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. Elected/appointed Auditors: to audit Tax Collector books, which are separate from the Township account books. Township Auditor: John Bliss was appointed as Auditor to fill a vacancy through 2027 on December 15, 2025. Tax Collector: Lisa Bauer was appointed as Tax Collector to fill a vacancy through 2027 on December 15, 2025. Township Solicitor: Gallagher Law Group at \$205 per hour & \$75 per hour for paralegal services. Township Engineer: The EADS Group, Inc. at \$100 per meeting & fee schedule as attached. **Motion** to sign a contract with The EADS Group for 2026: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. Third-Party Building Inspector: Construction Code Inspectors, Inc. Code Enforcement Officer: Warren Whetzel, Jr. Sewage Enforcement Officer: David G. Ice. SEO Alternate: Doug Dunkin. Deputy Tax Collector: Nikki Ciochetto. Open Records Officer: Nikki Ciochetto. Open Records Alternate: Holly Thompson. EMS Coordinator: Brian Grossman. 2026 PSATS Convention Voting Delegate: Nikki Ciochetto. 2026 Wolf Creek COG Delegate: John Bennett, Jr. 2026 Pine-Harrisville Authority Delegates: John Bennett, Jr. & Emil Treese. 2026 BCATO Representative: Nikki Ciochetto. Donations: SR Public Library - \$1000 annually. Property Tax Millage: 9.1 mills. (Township – 6.6; Fire – 2.0; EMS – 0.5). BCTCC Primary Delegate: Nikki Ciochetto; Holly Thompson as first alternate; & William Long as second alternate. Floodplain Administrator/Stormwater Management Delegate: William Long. Meetings: Mercer Township monthly meetings will be held the third Monday of the month at 7 PM at 4629 William Flynn Hwy, Harrisville, PA. Schedule of holidays/office closings: Office is closed on Fridays. Appointments are available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. New Year's Day – January 1. Primary Election Day – May 19. Memorial Day – May 25. Juneteenth – June 19. Independence Day – July 3. Labor Day – September 7. Columbus Day – October 12. General Election Day – November 3. Veteran's Day – November 11. Thanksgiving Day – November 26. 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 CDL Employees & ending with the schedule of holidays/office closings: W. Long Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **Fee Schedule**: **Motion** to adopt **Resolution #26-0105-02** – 2026 Fee Schedule: J. Bennett, Jr. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** for Treasurer to pay bills due prior to monthly meetings: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** for Treasurer to transfer funds between accounts to pay bills: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to adjourn meeting at 7:28 pm: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Holly Thompson, Assistant Secretary

*Holly Thompson*