

Mercer Township, Butler County
4629 William Flynn Hwy, PO Box 380, Harrisville, PA 16038
MEETING MINUTES – April 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Mtg. called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman J. Bennett, Jr. Members present: John Bennett, Jr.; Emil Treese; Nikki Ciochetto; Holly Tissue-Thompson. Visitors: None. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** None. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Motion to accept the March 16, 2026 Mtg Minutes as printed: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. Motion to accept the April 17, 2026 Bid Mtg Minutes as printed: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **OLD BUSINESS: Public Sewer: Incomplete connections/inspections (5). Delinquencies-Three or more months (2). Property Liens (3). Notice of Claim:** Filed on H. Russell estate. **Auto Pay:** 39%. **Delinquency Rate:** Total-9%; Severe-2%. **PumpMan Maintenance Program:** waiting for new contract. **Pine-Harrisville Authority:** Letter sent in February to PHA requesting that Mercer Twp. be released from the PHA. They sent a past due notice for dues on 4-10-26 but still have not responded to our letter. **200 Shields Rd:** Engineer has submitted plans to DEP for approval. Grinder pump has been delivered & invoiced. **138 Boyers Rd:** Owners received paperwork on how to properly connect & inspect. Pd tap-in fee. **Private Sewer: 632 Grove City Rd:** SRSTP. Engineer submitted plans to DEP for approval. **140 W. Oak Grove Ln:** SRSTP. Agreement signed. Need to collect & hold escrow. **On-Lot Sewage Permits (2026):** Office received a 3rd party call on a property for sale: 506 GC Rd. **Office: Building Permits (2026):** J. Pierce (Solar); W. Tomko (garage); L. Bauer (greenhouse); T. McDougall (house/garage). **Road Bonds (2026):** Anegada Energy-Halterlein gas well, Shields Rd. (2-18-26 to 8-18-26). **Subdivision Plans:** Giesler Family Trust – resubmitted to Planning Commission. Approved by Twp. **New Address Requests:** Have submitted several new address or address change requests for Butler County approval. **Firefighter:** Have been trying to contact them for several years regarding extinguisher inspections. John will reach out. **Copier:** Our copier is not working properly & is not repairable. Proposal for a replacement from FORD Office Technologies: \$1695.00 with optional \$35/mo. maintenance agreement. Motion tabled. **Municipal Garage: Doors on old shed:** Metal plates from 84 Lumber were delivered. Installed new fuel pump. **2024 Plow Truck:** Purchased a laser guide. **Boom Mower:** Received one sealed bid at the Bid Opening mtg. on April 17, 2026. Motion to accept the bid from Stephenson Equipment Inc. for a 2022 John Deere tractor with boom mower at a total cost of \$90,000 to be paid from Capital Reserve: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **2026 Paving Project:** Received 3 sealed bids at the Bid Opening mtg. on April 17, 2026. Motion to accept bid from Youngblood Paving for Item #2 at \$67,916.58 using slag: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **Tree Trimming:** Advertised for bids to trim trees along Browntown Rd. Received 2 sealed bids at the Bid Opening mtg. on April 17, 2026. Motion: tabled to clarify bids for a smaller area. **Emergency Management Coordinator:** Need to name a Secondary EMC. John will follow up. **Butler County Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision:** received letter from the County asking for help completing everything quickly. First mtg. was held 4-7-26. **Harrisville VFC:** Was granted permission to use Twp. roads for an ATV fundraiser ride. Ride has been cancelled for 2026. Asked us to drive our new truck in the July 4th parade. Asked for a Twp. letter for a grant application for a new truck. **EMS QRS Agencies:** Harrisville VFC will be our designated QRS agency once they complete their licensure. **“For Love of the Lost”/Fish property:** In Litigation. **Mercer Twp., Butler County/Ag Security Area:** Want to create an Ag. Security Council. Need a committee of 1 supervisor, 3 farmers & 1 resident (non-farmer). Request for volunteers is on the website & in the spring newsletter. **Centertown Road Curve:** Supervisors were asked to install a guardrail on the sharp curve to help keep vehicles from driving off the road into the pasture. Supervisors will meet on site to finalize plans. Motion to purchase items: tabled. **No Littering Signs:** Resident on Valley View Rd complained about roadway litter. Supervisors will monitor & take action if necessary. **NEW BUSINESS: Mercer County Comprehensive Plan:** As a surrounding community, we received a letter from Mackin Engineers regarding this plan, offering us the chance to review & comment. Comment deadline was March 30. **Bond cancellation for American Transmission Systems, Incorporated:** Received notice that this bond will be cancelled effective in 90 days. Bond covered sections of Shields Rd & Harmony Rd, originally dated 7/26/2017. **OTHER BUSINESS: 2026 Newsletter:** Mailed to 476 residents & property owners on: 4-15-26. **MTGS/CONFERENCES/TRAINING: Mercer Co. COG Mtg:** (3-18-26) John attended. Municipalities gave updates on their communities. **Butler Co. Municipal Outreach Mtg:** (3-19-26) Nikki, Holly & John attended. Commissioners provided updates: Data Centers are a concern we need to address at a municipal level, & especially in no zoning areas. Planning to have a County discussion soon. EMS is a high concern. Emergency Services provided an update on the “Fast and Furious” Hazard Mitigation Plan. Municipalities need their EMC’s & leaders to get info. together quickly. First mtg: 4-7-26. Suggestion to have Floodplain Manager involved. Presentation on Brownfields by CEC, Inc. These are grants to help clean up previously used industrial or commercial properties. **Butler Co. Tax Collection Committee:** (3-24-26) Nikki attended. Renewed Berkheimer as County EIT collector for 5 more years, 2027 through 2031. They need volunteers to replace retiring committee members. **Butler Co. Municipal Outreach Mtg:** (4-14-26) Nikki, Holly & John attended. K. Boozel discussed EMS and a few different grants. S. Bicehouse talked about the Hazard Mitigation Plan & how important it is for all to be involved. M. Vettori, Butler County Family Liaison, spoke about her involvement in Project READY to help first responders be better prepared to deal with people that have both intellectual & physical disabilities in emergency situations. Decals for use in homes & vehicles can give responders notice of these individuals. PennDOT’s M. Mattis spoke about winter costs, sectional cycle maintenance & paving projects. Mtg. to be held at Jennings on 4-23-26 at 10 am. **Butler Co. Association of Twp. Officials (BCATO):** 2026 Spring Convention at Butler Country Club on 5-21-26. Motion to pay \$40/person for Nikki, John & Holly to attend: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **ROAD REPORT:** 3/2-Delivered load of anti-skid to Harrisville Boro. 3/3-Checked roads, cleared drifts & mixed anti-skid. 3/9-Spread limestone on the turn around on Boyers Rd. 3/11-Removed tree limbs from Browntown Rd. 3/13-Checked the roads for storm damage. 3/14-Removed a tree stump from Browntown Rd. Replaced grinder pump lid. 3/16-Plowed & salted. 3/17-Checked roads, cleared drifts & mixed anti-skid. 3/30-Straightened & put up road signs. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** General Fund: \$118,358. Sewer Fund: \$64,753. Liquid Fuels Fund: \$164,235. Capital Reserve: \$136,400. Escrow Fund: \$6,520. Total: \$490,266. Financial Report dated 3-13-26 to 4-16-26 & first quarter budget report received & reviewed by all Supervisors. Motion to approve the report & pay all invoices: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **ADJOURNMENT: Motion** to adjourn mtg at 8:20 pm: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. Mtg adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Holly Thompson, Assistant Secretary.

Holly Thompson