

Mercer Township, Butler County
4629 William Flynn Hwy, PO Box 380, Harrisville, PA 16038
MEETING MINUTES – December 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by: J. Bennett, Jr. Members present: John Bennett, Jr.; William Long; Emil Treese; Nikki Ciochetto; Holly Thompson. Visitors: Lisa Bauer, Tax Collector. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Motion to accept the November 17, 2025

Meeting Minutes as printed: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** L. Bauer provided her annual report. Totals are close to last year. The new software comes with some IT challenges & will possibly increase expenses for supplies next year. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Kozy Rest Sewage Expansion: Will invoice Kozy Rest for any legal & engineering expenses in 2025. Working with EADS to get GIS mapping updated.

Public Sewer: Incomplete connections/inspections (5): 150 Station Rd - #2; 1358 Eau Claire Rd; 4133 WFH; 138 Boyers Rd; 204 Boyers Rd.

Delinquencies-Three or more months (3): One is 3 months, two are delinquent by 5 months or more. **Property Liens (3):** D. Brown (connect); F. Carroll-Gillen (debt); H. Russell (debt). **Notice of Claim:** Filed on H. Russell estate. Waiting for estate to be settled. House is occupied. **Sheriff Sale:** 138 Boyers Rd was sold at Judicial Sale on 10/1/25. Funds have been received. Will release lien & write off balance. New owner will need to pay the \$1,500 tap-in fee & connect the sewage before home can be occupied. **Auto Pay:** 46 of 119 accounts (39%). **Delinquency Rate:** Total-6%; Severe-1%. **Sewer Lateral Inspections:** 257 Boyers Road, Forestville - waiting for application fee & report from the certified plumber. **Grinder Pumps:** New grinder pump received for back-up. **STP Pump:** PumpMan Pgh. to provide new replacement pump as old one was too expensive to repair. Will verify this has been installed. **Ground Leveling:** John will check on this. **Sludge Hauling:** Marvin is keeping an eye on it. **Pine-Harrisville Authority:** Harrisville would like to dissolve. Mtg. scheduled to discuss this on 12/9/25. Executive session to discuss the contract was held Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, at 5:30 with the solicitor & supervisors.

12/9/25: All Authority members must vote unanimously to make any changes. Some do not wish to dissolve the Authority. Another option presented was that the Authority can vote to allow Mercer Twp (& others) to be released from the Authority. This will be decided at a later mtg. Mercer Twp. owns its sewage lines & intermunicipal agreements are already in place that will continue. **Private Sewer: On-Lot Sewage Permits (2025):** B. Snyder (small flow system); J. Zahn (holding tank); S. Sammarco (Ken McMurdy-agent); D. Crum (public sewage). **SEO:** Received letter from David Ice stating his desire to continue as our SEO with an unchanged fee schedule. Also received letter from The EADS Group offering SEO services if needed. **Office: Building Permits (2025):** B. Rider (roof solar); D. Reich (house/garage); C. Haring (pole barn); S. Pierce/J. Krenke (above ground pool); 4330 WFH cell tower (back-up generator/concrete pad); G. Shreve (2) (demo old trailer, new doublewide); J. Bennett Jr. (pool); D. Kellogg (house); Tooley (trailer demo); S. Fisher (home); R. Young (garage); R. Stuchal (ag bldg.); E. Treese (solar); K. Hartle (deck); Columbia Gas (utility bldg); R. Stuchal (solar); AMC (demo 102 McCullum Lane). **Road Bonds:** 132 Glacial Till Rd. (Green Ridge) work has been completed. Road has been inspected & videoed. Check has been returned.

Subdivision Plans: Giesler family trust. Planning Commission reviewed 11-19-25 with comments. **Outside spigot:** Need to install an outside water spigot. **Drop slot:** Need to engineer a way to stop the wind from blowing it open & keep rain & snow out. **Outside basement doors:** Light & cold air is coming in through cracks around door frame. Needs sealed. **Municipal Garage:** Doors on old shed - Framing is complete, need to get the metal plates.

Butler County Use Fee Grant Application: Close out report sent to the BCI Bank in August. \$50,000 grant will reimburse the General Fund. Email sent in Oct. asking for status update. No response to date.

EMC/Weather – Emergency Management Coordinator: No updates. **EMS QRS Agencies:** Harrisville VFC will be the designated QRS agency once they report that they have completed their licensure. Still waiting for PA DOH inspection. Delayed d/t Sharon Regional being named as their original command before they closed. **Anegada Energy:** Will provide Mercer Twp. with copies of all permits & will obtain a road bond prior to any work being done in the Twp.

"For Love of the Lost"/Fish property: Solicitor is proceeding with enforcing agreement d/t increase in junk vehicles. Supervisors discussed litigation with solicitor in executive session on Nov. 18, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Property visited by solicitor & supervisors on 12/9/25. Solicitor is handling the follow up. **200 Shields Road:** Their contractor is to provide design planning for engineering approval. Awaiting plans for review. Will contact our engineer to determine status. **Mercer Township, Butler County/Ag Security Area:** W. Long did research. We should create an Ag. Security Council. Before we can update records, we need to create a committee of 1 supervisor, 3 farmers & 1 resident (non-farmer). Anyone interested in volunteering should call Bill for more information. **ATV Ride Agreement:** Harrisville VFC was granted permission to use Twp. roads for an ATV fundraiser ride next Spring. Liability Waiver has been received. **LSA Grant:** Grant submitted to purchase a tractor with boom mower attachment to replace our very old boom mower. Grant has a 0% matching funds requirement. **Municipal Election:** Supervisors to appoint the following persons to the unfilled positions: **Motion** to appoint Lisa Bauer as Mercer Township Tax Collector for 2026 & 2027: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to appoint John Bliss as Mercer Township Auditor for 2026 & 2027: J. Bennett, Jr. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **NEW BUSINESS: Centertown Road Curve:** Received a call asking if we would consider installing a guardrail on the sharp curve to help keep vehicles from exiting the road & driving into the pasture. Supervisors will discuss at next mtg. **OTHER BUSINESS: 2026 Meeting Schedule:** **Motion** to advertise 2026 Mercer Township meeting dates: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried.

MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAINING: PennDOT Annual Winter Info. Mtg: (11-18-25) Unattended. **Mercer Co. COG Mtg:** (11-19-25) J. Bennett Jr. attended, nothing to report. **Butler Co. Municipal Outreach Mtg:** (12-16-25). **ROAD REPORT:** 11-8-25: Greg worked on shed door. 11-10-25: John checked roads & installed plow. 11-11-25: John salted rds. 11-13-25: Greg worked on shed door. 11-16-25: Greg worked on shed door. 11-18-25: Bill took plow off, added DEF & got new truck inspected. 11-21-25: John took video & inspected Glacial Till Rd. prior to HHP release. 11-25-25: I trained Bob on plow installation & route. 11-28-25: Bob & I salted rds. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** General Fund: \$104,850; Sewer Fund: \$68,423; Liquid Fuels Fund: \$104,197; Capital Reserve: \$75,846; Escrow Fund: \$5,461; Total: \$358,777. Financial Report dated 11-14-25 to 12-11-25 received & reviewed by all Supervisors. **Motion** to accept the Financial Report & pay all expenses: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to transfer \$50,000 to Capital Reserve Fund from General Fund: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **ADJOURNMENT:** **Motion** to adjourn meeting at 8:05 pm: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:
Holly Thompson, Assistant Secretary

