

Mercer Township, Butler County
4629 William Flynn Hwy, PO Box 380, Harrisville, PA 16038
MEETING MINUTES – August 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by: Chairman, J. Bennett, Jr. Members present: John Bennett, Jr; William Long; Emil Treese; Nikki Ciochetto. Visitors: Jeff Bon, resident. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Motion to accept the July 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes as printed: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** J. Bon wants to get his subdivision plans signed. See "Office: Subdivision Plans".

OLD BUSINESS: Kozy Rest Sewage Expansion: Office received \$10,900 from Kozy Rest to be held in escrow to pay for all related inspection expenses until the project has been determined to be complete. First inspection was performed on 8-11-25. J. Bennett, Jr. attended the walk through & requested some modifications. Office received invoice from Gannett Fleming for first inspection services. There will be a second invoice in September with a closeout report. Any remaining escrow funds will be returned to Kozy Rest. **Public Sewer: Incomplete connections/inspections (5). Delinquencies-Three or more months (9). Property Liens (6).**

Notice of Claim: H. Russell estate. **Sheriff Sale (1). Auto Pay:** 47 of 119 accounts (40%). **Delinquency Rate:** Total-12%; Severe-7%. **Sewer Lateral Inspections:** 249 Boyers Rd-passed. 4136 William Flynn Hwy-passed. 535 W. Mercer St. Ext. **Grinder Pumps:** Marvin reported that the last pump sent for repairs was mixed up with another Twp. He has it & will get the paperwork sorted out. **Concrete Stanchions:** Marvin gave a count to our inspector. **Harrisville Borough Agreement:** Will not be modified to add Marion Twp. That is a separate agreement between them. Grove City Boro calculates each Twp or Boro's annual portion due based on EDU's & invoices each entity separately. **Ground Leveling:** Marvin asked permission to bring loader to STP to level out the fields. Estimated cost: \$300.00. Motion to grant permission: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **Private Sewer: On-Lot Sewage Permits (2025):** B. Snyder; J. Zahn; S. Sammarco (Ken McMurdy-agent); D. Crum. **Holding Tanks:** 2 agreements (Dollar General & Anglin) need to be revised according to Recorder of Deeds. Requested input from Solicitor. Violante had her tank removed. Waiting for that information to be sent to the office. Supervisors want to see photos & understand current system. Received request from N. Smith to install a holding tank on R. Shields' property for him to park an RV. Will need to have an agreement signed by property owner. Motion to approve a holding tank being placed on this property under supervision of SEO Dave Ice, after agreement has been signed & escrow payment has been made: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. Supervisors reviewed holding tank ordinance & feel that we are up to date with holding tank procedures & penalties. **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). **Subdivision Plans:** J. Bon Subdivision plans: Letter of approval received from the Butler Co. Planning Commission dated 6-19-25. V. Kennedy attended our July mtg. requesting the Supervisors hold off on signing as he is disputing the location of the markers bordering his property. Presented photos taken from his phone (did not leave them) & hand printed drawings of his parcels from R.P. Bittler, PLS of Mercer, PA dated 11-24-17 & revised 12-2-17. Supervisors requested this be resolved by the land owners. Supervisors verified that the subdivision has been approved by Butler County. Motion to sign subdivision plans: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. Plans were signed & given to Mr. Bon for him to take to Butler Co. Recorder of Deeds. Signed copy is to be returned to our office once recorded for our records. **Office Clerk:** Office would like to hire a part-time clerk to work approximately 10 hours per week to begin training in September. 16 weeks (Sept – Dec), 10 hrs/wk, \$15/hr would be \$2,400 & will keep us within our budget for 2025. Motion to have N. Ciochetto pursue hiring a part-time clerk at \$15/hr for approx. 10 hrs/wk: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Municipal Garage:** Issues with the new truck continue. Will go back to Hunter's for warranty work. **Butler County Use Fee Grant Application:** Close out report has been sent to the BCI Bank with all requested documentation related to the 2025 paving project. \$50,000 used from the General Fund will be reimbursed by the grant. **EMC/Weather – Emergency Management Coordinator:** no report. **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. **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. Requested Twp highway occupancy permit for Shields & Harmony Roads for boring under the roads. Office is working with M. Weaver to complete this paperwork. **"For Love of the Lost"/Fish property:** Solicitor requested update on property condition. Drive by video was emailed to him. **200 Shields Road:** Developer's Extension Agreement that requires homeowner to bond or escrow a portion of the total cost has been signed. Funds have been received for escrow. Homeowner will be responsible for the total construction cost & will install per Twp. engineering direction & later turn part of the line over to the Twp (from the grinder pump to the main line). Residents were notified that the agreement has been completed & their contractor may begin the design planning for approval. **Traffic on Wick Road:** L. Lennon speeding complaint-wants a solution to slow down traffic. Requesting a traffic study to lower the speed limit from 35 to 25 mph & possibly install speed humps. J. Bennett, Jr. will contact our engineers. E. Treese advised her to call PSP (as they are the enforcement for Mercer Twp. J. Bennett, Jr. spoke to our engineer who advises this is an enforcement issue. There is nothing that can be done by engineering. A lower speed limit is still an enforcement issue. Installing traffic calming devices such as speed humps only creates more of a hazard for drivers & makes it more difficult to plow snow in winter. Office will respond to resident. **NEW BUSINESS: Mercer Township, Butler County / Ag Security Area:** received inquiry. Office is working on updating. **OTHER BUSINESS: Animals:** Office received complaint about a neighbor's chickens destroying garden produce. Supervisors investigated & spoke to resident. **PennDOT Bridge Inspections:** Courtney Mill Bridge owned by B&E Railroad (Canadian National) is scheduled for an interim inspection on 10-2-25. **McCummins Lane:** Office received a call from 911 Center regarding a missing address on this lane in Mercer Twp. on AMC property. Assisted all parties to resolve this issue. **Landlords/Renters:** We have an ordinance that requires property owners to routinely report updated renter contact information to the Township for emergency & tax purposes. Office has put this form on the website. **ATV Ride Agreement:** Harrisville VFC requested permission earlier this year to use Twp. roads for an ATV fundraiser ride next Spring. J. Bennett, Jr. called D. Evans to get an update on where this agreement stands so we can review & accept it. Agreement should be provided to us & solicitor by next month's meeting. **MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAINING: Butler Co. Municipal Outreach Mtg:** (8-11-25) John & Nikki attended. Commissioners provided updates. Focused on EMS services, road projects, election mail-in ballots, USPS mail issues & other general happenings. B. Harold from Area Agency on Aging gave a detailed overview of all the services they provide to Butler County seniors. They act as advocates & provide many services. Info. to be provided for us to place on our websites & in newsletters. **Broadband Planning Mtg:** (8-18-25) John was unable to attend. **ROAD REPORT:** 7/1/25-Cleared tree from Browntown Rd (PSP call). Met with Cory Shaffer-PennDOT to inspect paving project. 7/3/25-Bob, Greg & I worked on berms. 7/7/25-Bob, Greg & I worked on berms. 7/9/25- Met with Blue Ox Logging about road damage on Whitaker Rd. 7/10/25-Bill & I did PA1 Call. Mowed STP. 7/15/25-Greg & I sprayed the Twp. 7/17/25-Bob, Greg & I cleaned ditches & put two culverts in place. 7/18/25-Checked on Kozy Rest sewage manhole. Greg, Bob & I worked on berms. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** General Fund: \$83,355; Sewer Fund: \$70,555; Liquid Fuels Fund: \$103,663; Capital Reserve: \$75,784; Escrow Fund: \$18,417; Total: \$351,774. Financial Report dated 7-18-25 to 8-14-25 received & reviewed by all Supervisors. Motion to accept the Financial Report & pay all expenses: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **ADJOURNMENT: Motion** to adjourn meeting at 8:35 pm: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Nikki Ciochetto, Secretary/Treasurer

