

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

March 2, 2026

The Ross Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order on March 2, 2026, at 6 PM. The meeting was held at the Township Municipal Building.

In attendance were Chairman David Shay, Vice Chairman Gregory Gill and Supervisor Randy Detrick. Solicitor Attorney Ricky Santee was also in attendance.

Chairman David Shay started the meeting asking for a moment of silence to honor several long-standing residents who recently passed away. Doris Price was remembered as serving as township secretary for 27 years. Rick Fatzinger, who in the past handled township security for many years, also passed. Rick had been renting Haney Farmhouse. Chairman David Shay stated that both were instrumental in our township. Ethan Brewer, Roadmaster, added that George Washburn had also recently passed. Chairman David Shay shared that George had mowed lawns for many township properties and had also worked as a part-time township employee. He asked that we also keep George Washburn in our thoughts.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Ross township resident Lenny Ventre reintroduced his request to donate approximately 43 acres of land for a park. The plan had been put on hold due to 1) PHLT (Pocono Heritage Land Trust) getting involved and telling him all lots must be combined from the old Weingarten subdivision before they would accept it and 2) he had been caring for several family members who later passed. The property is located between Anchorage Road and Brick Church Rd. Most of the acreage is inside Ross Township, with a small section inside Hamilton Township. He spoke to Keystone Engineering. Keystone suggested he check whether the township was still interested in it & would take it as is. He does not want anything for the land except that the land remains undeveloped. Keystone Engineering said if required, the lots can be consolidated at a cost of \$12,000-\$14,000. Lenny Ventre would like to streamline the process and avoid going through the land development/subdivision ordinance. There is a house and he may consolidate those three lots into one. That would be the only thing he would do to streamline the process.

Chairman David Shay mentioned that he recalled the Land Trust possibly being interested due to walking paths, nature, and the ecosystem. The biggest issue was road access – since Brick Church is a private road with a hard turn and some uphill travel. Lenny Ventre stated he would also have to obtain agreement from Hamilton Township. He will leave the information and wait for the board to let him know how to proceed.

Martha Rezeli, of the Ross Township Historical Society, came before the Board of Supervisors to share that the Valentine Day museum opening was a big success. The Ross Historical Society will hold a meeting, next door, on Thursday, March 12 at 7 pm. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone interested in joining is welcome. The historical society is continuing to plan future events. In May they hope to have a speaker & in September there will be an antiques/collectibles appraiser available. The historical society continues to sell copies of The History of Saylorburg written by long-term resident LeRoy J. Raseley, for \$15. She will drop a few copies off to the office. The museum will be open again to visitors on Saturday, March 14 from 11 am-3 pm.

Martha Rezeli added that she was sad to hear about the passing of Doris Price. She did not know Doris, but Doris Price was very influential in obtaining the museum. On behalf of the Historical Society, Martha sends condolences to her family.

Nina Campbell introduced herself as the new Tax Collector for Ross Township. She takes over for Laura Hoffman. She will hold office hours on Tuesdays from 10 am to 1 pm. As far as receiving hours, please feel free to stop by to pay your bill or just say hi. Nina is also available via email and has a personal tax collector cell phone. Nina left business cards in the lobby. Nina shared that if anybody needs anything outside of business hours, please reach out.

Chairman David Shay informed Nina that we will be updating the phone system. He asked Nina if it would be advantageous for her to have an option where residents could press and leave her a message or would she rather have them contact her cell phone. Nina stated that she is pushing for both. Voicemails can be checked remotely, so she does check them once every 48 hours. Directly is the best way to get a hold of her – whether voicemail or texting. Nina stated that Melissa Monaco, our Office Manager had already updated the Ross Township website with her information.

Chairman David Shay asked Nina how she wishes us to deal with monthly reimbursement of the internet. He asked whether we should give her a copy of Blue Ridge's bill each month? Nina responded that she had investigated that with the county. Since the building internet is not her direct internet line, the county won't reimburse her for any internet expenses. Chairman David Shay explained that they will need to charge her a small charge each month for office space here. Nina Campbell confirmed that she thought that might come up. Nina stated that since every single tax collector that has been in this office has never paid rent, Nina believes this may be something that we want to update on a resolution for the next election. Chairman David Shay will discuss this with our solicitor. Of course, this amount would be minimal.

MINUTES REVIEW:

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2026, meeting was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick and seconded by Vice Chairman Gregory Gill. The motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gregory Gill and carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Data Centers Ordinance/Solar Farm Ordinance

Chairman David Shay asked if there were updates on the Data Centers/Solar Farm. Attorney Ricky Santee stated he had reviewed the comments from both Monroe County and the Township Planning Commission. Attorney Ricky Santee stated typically the zoning board bases parking on square footage. However, since data center employees are minimal compared to square footage, the recommendation is for one per employee or one per 8000 square feet. Attorney Ricky Santee wanted to ask the board if that's something they would consider. Chairman David Shay stated that one space per employee works. From a planning standpoint, the concept sounds good since data centers don't have a lot of employees. As for future usage, we can make it clear that if that changed, a change of use plan would need to be addressed. Attorney Ricky Santee verified that any change of use would have to comply with that.

Attorney Ricky Santee continued that the last is for the solar farm for recommendations on the industrial/commercial district and residential district. For solar the Monroe County Planning Commission assumes solar would be commercial or industrial districts. The Township Planning Commission also said that that could be a rural residential. Chairman David Shay asked Attorney Ricky Santee to put together a proposal for review for the next meeting. Attorney Ricky Santee stated that if the board is okay with it as it stands, we can work and move to advertise it for public hearing. Attorney Ricky Santee suggested keeping the revisions within the parameters of the comments to avoid going back to the Monroe County Planning Commission. Attorney Ricky Santee would like to avoid that and get something on the books now.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to appoint Kevin Overfield, Keith Noble Jr., and Vincent Delhery

Chairman David Shay asked for a motion to appoint the following new Planning Commission members:

Kevin Overfield – term ends 12/21/2027 replacing Dave LaBar

Keith Noble Jr. – term ends 12/31/2026 replacing Frank Piraino

Vincent Delhery – term ends 12/31/2027 replacing Roger Green

The motion was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Chairman David Shay and carried 3-0. The board thanked the previous members and especially Frank Piraino for serving close to 30 years.

Proposed Zoning and Saldo Changes

Chairman David Shay stated we have a couple of issues regarding one principal use per property. We felt this could be an opportunity to resolve some of the problems in the past. Someone brought to his attention a lighting issue with ornamental LED lights that people use at Christmas. A lot of these things rotate and are almost like laser beams pointing into neighbor's houses. Chairman David Shay asked Attorney Ricky Santee to put something together. Attorney Ricky Santee stated that it might not be appropriate in zoning but more of a property maintenance issue. In zoning that might be more of a stand-alone ordinance for enforcement.

Chairman David Shay mentioned that Road Foreman, Ethan Brewer has a copy of Eldred Township's mailbox ordinance. He can have Ethan forward that to Attorney Ricky Santee to review for possibly an ordinance for Ross.

Appointment for Auditor to audit 2025 calendar year financial statements

Chairman David Shay stated that we received audit proposals from Frey & Company and Kirk Summa & Company. Frey & Company gave a quote for \$9,000 and Kirk Summa gave a quote for \$6,000.

The motion was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick to hire Kirk Summa, seconded by Chairman David Shay and carried 3-0.

Road work to be put out on bid

Road Foreman Ethan Brewer requested to push this to next month's meeting. Chairman David Shay approved and stated this would move to April's BOS meeting.

Proposal for Annual service and cleaning of heaters at maintenance garage

Chairman David Shay stated that there have been issues both at this building and the one next door with our heating system. This resulted in very dirty filters that hadn't been replaced. To prevent future issues, it would be a good idea to have an annual service agreement for both buildings. A proposal of \$390 from Affordable Comfort Contracting, Inc., was received.

Chairman David Shay made a motion to proceed with the annual service agreement from Affordable Comfort. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick, abstained by Vice Chairman Gregory Gill and carried 2-1.

Phone line transfer/Phone system

Chairman David Shay said the purchase of a new phone system was approved at the last meeting. He went out to Blue Ridge Communications, and we can get our lines covered for \$25/month.

A motion was made to switch our line service over to Blue Ridge Communications by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Chairman David Shay and carried 3-0.

Authorize solicitor to send letters to uniform companies

Chairman David Shay stated that we are currently paying two uniform companies and only need one. These contracts are renewed automatically. Attorney Ricky Santee is going to send out correspondence to Dempsey and Unifirst uniform companies to see if we can address these issues.

Chairman David Shay made a motion to authorize our solicitor to send letters to the two uniform companies. Supervisor Randy Detrick seconded and carried 3-0.

Advertise to hire road department

Chairman David Shay shared that our road department has an opening due to the employee starting a successful business. Chairman David Shay would ideally like to get this advertised ASAP so Road Foreman Ethan Brewer can start interviewing. He stated perhaps by next month's meeting we can have someone in line that we can appoint.

Motion to advertise to hire a road department employee made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Vice Chairman Gregory Gill and carried 3-0.

6:28 pm Meeting temporarily adjourned - in Executive Session

Chairman David Shay requested to temporarily adjourn the meeting at 6:28 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

6:38 pm Meeting resumed

Chairman David Shay reconvened the meeting at 6:38 pm and stated that no decisions regarding the personnel matter have been made at this time.

EVENTS:

Office will be closed Friday, April 3 for Good Friday.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT:

Road Foreman, Ethan Brewer stated that the coal star salt bed is due for next year. He figured he would continue to order the same quantity as last year – 525 tons. He has 1 more order of salt on order – but thinks we should be good to the end of year. He’s tentatively looking at April 17 & 18 for our clean-up dates. Ethan is waiting to hear back from the dumpster company & expects to confirm by the end of this week.

Chairman David Shay asked Road Foreman, Ethan Brewer whether clean up pricing or anything else needs to change from last year. Ethan responded that we’re close to breaking even and should be good. Ethan stated that it does cost us something to take away tires. He shared that Hamilton Township no longer takes tires because people can take them to the Waste Authority off Military Rd, Stroudsburg year-round. Currently, we’re still accepting tires, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, and tv’s.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the correspondence items provided and there were no further questions.

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES:

After a review of the bills to be paid, Vice Chairman Gregory Gill indicated there were 5 bills to hold back paying: Frontier, King Spry, Met Ed, SFM, and Unifirst, awaiting further explanation/breakdown. Attorney Ricky Santee will obtain itemization.

A first motion to approve the payment of current bills excluding the 5 indicated above was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick and seconded by Vice Chairman Gregory Gill. The motion carried 3-0.

A second motion to withhold payment to Frontier, King Spry, Met Ed, SFM, and Unifirst, awaiting further explanation/itemization was made by Vice Chairman Gregory Gill and seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM. The motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Vice Chairman Gregory Gill and carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Orlando
Recording Secretary