

WALPACK TOWNSHIP MAYOR AND COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 25, 2025

Opening Statement: Mayor Maglio stated, "This remote meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been duly advertised."

NOTE: The system employed by the Township of Walpack for conducting its remote public meeting affords the public the opportunity to both listen to, and participate in, the meeting by means of a simple dial-in process which has been made known to the public via an announcement on the Township website since the first remote meeting was announced.

Roll Call: Mayor Victor Maglio, Deputy Mayor Ken Bechtold, Municipal Attorney Glen Kienz, MCFO Ashley Kannaley, RMC Christine Von Oesen, Committeeman James Heigis arrived a few minutes after 7 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve the October 28, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in Favor.

Resolutions:

Resolution R-37-25. A resolution approving bills and vouchers for payment. Bills list attached. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-37-25. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in Favor.

(enter Committeeman James Heigis)

Resolution R-38-25. A resolution appointing temporary QPA. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-38-25. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Committeemen James Heigis. All in Favor.

Discussion:

MCFO Kannaley advised that Walpack has been given an option suggested by Sussex County Municipal Alliance Coordinator Lisa Lombardo as to whether Walpack desires, or does not desire, given that we have no children in the school system, continue as a member of the Sandyston, Walpack, Montague Municipal Alliance, at this time. Should we opt out, we have the option of rejoining should we have Walpack children in the school system. Walpack Township currently has no children in the school system. Deputy Mayor Bechtold asked if this would affect the \$30,000 we pay yearly. MCFO Kannaley responded that the payment would continue either way, and that it assists in costs such as Red Ribbon Week. Deputy Mayor Bechtold added that Walpack resident Ken Salazar is a member of the school board. Mayor Maglio prefers that we stay in the Municipal Alliance. Walpack will remain in the Municipal Alliance.

Mayor Maglio received a list of those property owners who are currently delinquent regarding tax payments. All taxes due in 2024 have been paid. Year 2025 has approximately \$5000 outstanding. Should insufficient taxes be received, Walpack Township shall be subject to State Review, which could prove costly to Walpack Township. He added that December 31 is the cut off date for the auditors.

Mr. William Gardner sent a \$50 donation with which he would like to start a fund to remove and replace the Walpack Fire Department Building, and in the future, to have a Fire Department and EMS in Walpack Township. Mayor Maglio responded to Mr. Gardner and explained that our focus is the schoolhouse. A Fire Department and EMS is not feasible because there are not enough citizens in Walpack to maintain those memberships. Mayor Maglio requested that CMFO Kannaley return Mr. Gardner's check and express our gratitude.

Deputy Mayor attended the Frankford Court meeting. As a point of interest, he stated that Walpack has had three Fish and Game violations. Other municipalities have had hundreds.

The Fire Inspector advises that the schoolhouse building has been determined to be for light use with a max of 50 people. He is therefore changing our designation, and that change no longer requires the building to have a yearly inspection, and further, we will not be charged the yearly fee.

The Blue Ridge Rescue Squad meeting is next week. Walpack provides payments to help support Blue Ridge. Sandyston is forming a new EMS. It was discussed as to whether our funding should be split between the two organizations. BRR received an average of \$800 per call for the three Walpack calls they responded to in 2025. Mayor Maglio requested of Deputy Mayor Bechtold that he ask when the new Sandyston squad will be up and running. We pay BBR approximately \$2500 per year. Mayor Maglio has asked both BBR and Blairstown for yearly reports, but none have been received. Mayor Maglio asked Deputy Mayor Bechtold to request annual reports of Walpack call outs. One call took over an hour to respond – with our road closures, we need EMS from both the south and the north sides.

Deputy Mayor Bechtold advised that the schoolhouse tarp lifted in last week's winds. Deputy Mayor Bechtold called Chris Happe, he may be able to fix the tarp on Monday, which is also the day that Deputy Mayor Bechtold meets with Suburban Propane for the yearly furnace cleaning.

Steve Belton will fix the schoolhouse facia and take the chimney will be down, hopefully, by the end of the year.

Public Comment:

Mayor Maglio opened the floor for Public Comment.

Bill Schwab, of the Walpack Historical Society, asked if the schoolhouse repairs have been approved. Mayor Maglio responded that they have been approved, and that they are considered to fall under the category of necessary maintenance.

Bill Schwab asked if a Resolution can be made to start Phase 2. Mayor Maglio responded that we could not do that at this time. The repairs must be done and funded this year. This will give us a baseline we can build on for the next phase in 2026.

Hearing no further comment from the Public, Mayor Maglio closed the floor to Public Comment.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to Adjourn. Motion by Deputy Mayor Ken Bechtold. Second by Committeeman James Heigis. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Clerk
Walpack Township