

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

SPECIAL MEETING

January 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

The Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lois Rankin on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. as advertised. All rose to pledge the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were Lois Rankin, Chairperson – Braden Beblo, Vice-Chairmen. –Ford Stepp, - Supervisor, Leo J. Rosenbauer, III, Manager, and Angel File, Sec/Treas.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

MINUTES: Prior minutes of Jan. 5 and Jan. 20 will be approved at the Feb. 9, 2026, regular meeting.

FINANCIAL: No report given at this special meeting but will be reported at the February meeting.

BUSINESS: Selection of a Sewage Enforcement Officer for 2026. *Motion* by Braden Beblo to accept Patrick West as primary SEO and Collin Fantaskey as Alternate SEO. *Second* by Ford Stepp. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Discussion of the SEBCO Pool Renovation Project. Many residents and non-residents were present for the discussion of the pool renovation project.

Pool Board member Stephanie Oswald (non-resident) spoke to the Board of Supervisors. Stephanie supports the pool. The pool offers swimming lessons, a good way to make friends, many first jobs held as lifeguards, good for physical fitness, and playing for kids.

Karen Limbaugh (resident) spoke and said that her kids grew up at the pool, was on swim teams. She asked if the library could do some sort of sponsorship?

Doug Farney (non-resident) has been with the pool since day 1. Prior president/lifeguard. Feels it's an asset, thousands of kids take/took lessons there, many people are swim team members, they offer birthday parties, reunions, and volunteer hours. It would be a shame if we lose it.

Greg Bauer (resident) for 60 years, multi generation, Greg volunteers on the board, it's non-profit, has jobs for teenagers, swim lessons, public pool, swim teams, summer rec. program, high school and college kids parties, birthday and showers.

Randi Kummer (resident) secretary of SEBCO swim team, had to outsource last year, and will not have a pool this year, practice is held in the evenings. Could possibly do fundraising matches, flag, team fundraising that can go toward pool renovation projects.

Bruce Thoma (resident) for 35 years. No one knows anything on the financials, I don't think anyone should invest in this project.

Correne Jones (resident) for 33 years. Swim coach for AK Valley swim team for 15-20 years, understands it's a difficult decision, feels it's very important, they had 2 daughters who took swimming lessons and no kid should ever drown, Lois Rankin's kids swam at Sebco. It was Jone's older daughter's first job, need to figure out some sort of funding.

Chairperson Lois Rankin stated should my taxpayers fund it. The disrepair didn't happen overnight. We want a good township.

Lance Welliver from Butler County Parks and Recreation provided a funding breakdown.

Carol Freehling (resident) feels the pool board should be showing money or a break even and recommends background checks.

Jamie Boyle is the pool manager and board member. Stated "I have everything organized and all clearances".

Chairperson Lois Rankin has asked for an audit in the past and has not received anything and have been hearing differ things.

Bruce Dean (resident) 45 years. Questions the pool, and what's the actual cost of 1 mill or 2 mill. Is that an increase for us. Has there been an audit?

Township Manager Leo Rosenbauer said a pool study and master plan was completed for this renovation. The pool study showed:

A profit of 11,545.00 in 2019 with 6,172 people using the pool

A loss of 18,062.00 in 2020 (COVID) with 3,844 people using the pool

A profit of 23,924.00 in 2021 with 7,379 people using the pool

Upkeep hasn't been done. The Pool has not been totally renovated in 59 years.

The use of existing funds would not deplete all park funds from the Township.

There is a gas lease on the park, oil and gas royalty funds have to be used in the park, these funds are a replenishable source, if they wish to use future funds terms and conditions are up to the board, royalites bring in approximately 3-5,000 a month.

Bruce Thoma spoke up and said it would take 20 years to pay it off using the royalties.

Eveie Gross (resident) have we put money into the pool yearly? No

Township manager stated that the funds have to go to park maintenance, the township owns the pool, and the park.

Supervisor Ford Stepp stated that they are just able to keep the lights on, the infrastructure of pool is insufficient, they have had no heat for 3 years. Repairs would increase people using the pool and The Pool Association should be able to maintain a budget.

Vice-Chairperson Braden Beblo says we have 60 days to make a verbal decision which is up on Feb. 2, 2026.

Devin Dunwoody from HRG said that the Township has 60 days to make a decision, from the BID date, then the BID Bond expires, there are three contracts for the pool project, and a verbal communication to extend for 30 days was received today by all three contractors.

Township Manager stated that there is a risk they wait for 30 days.

Evie Gross asked Leo does this effect future grants? Would we have to return the money and would the township end up owing advertising and engineering fees. Not a good sign.

Chairperson Lois Rankin stated she didn't know that voting was tonight. Association, money, memberships, do we need to hire someone to run the pool.

Lance Welliver spoke and said that possibly membership money and swim team money could go into separate accounts.

Chairperson Lois Rankin said that the money needs ran through the Township.

Doug Farney said the bills, payroll for pool, have had volunteers to handle it. Leaks, chlorine etc., pool heater have been expensive.

Rob Rankin asks where are the receipts? They need presented.

Carol Freehling stated what is coming in and going out.

Evie Gross stated that all associations have leases and are not required to give audits. They would have to negotiate with these groups. Leases should be changed.

Amy (non-resident) from Natrona Heights. Has been coming since 2020, park and layout is beautiful. She lives 5 mins from her local pool but travels to Sebco for the pool/park. The membership costs less, knows a family and kids that are lifeguards that like to work there. Freeport has no pool; they back filled the pool and put in special needs playground.

Randi Kummer (resident) can they cut back on something and increase annual membership possible?

Chairperson Lois Rankin states I do not want to raise taxes 3-4 mills. We have not had to raise taxes. This has been working for us, the roads are good, but I can't believe taking this on just for a pool.

Sharon Conner swim team coach. She circulated a petition for 10 days and has 700 signatures, 500 where in the Sebco area. The petition was presented to the board. Young kids and swim meets, and know a 13-year-old boy with disabilities, and a 17-year-old with down syndrome. Please consider continuing the pool.

Dan Byerly (resident) not every person uses the pool, like we all don't drive every single road, it's a non-profit and needs to operate at cost, Township should see what the numbers are, a new pool could attract new people in the community and add to the tax base.

Leo Rosenbauer Township manager explained how much a one mill tax increase would effect residence.

Chairperson Lois Rankin would like Sebco to come forward. She's been asking for 2 ½ years, for an audit.

Robert Veselich has lived in the township for 45 years, has attended the meetings, feels the pool association should have some accountability, maybe do community service, taxpayers are concerned, over losing their state grants in the future.

Braden Coleman (nonresident) member of Knoch Soccer Association. We maintain everything inside, we do fundraising, cut grass, clear fencelines, volunteers in the community help to clean up, just enough to maintain and improve fields, board members come and go.

Chairperson Lois Rankin said years ago Soccer was fundraising for shingles for concession stand.

Jim Jones Softball Association, and Park Board member says the board of supervisors had to take over the park so the organizations could qualify for grants. The park helped the Township get grants, for sidewalks, and bleachers, etc.. This will affect us; the pool needs to be better.

Robert Veselich Feels that the Board of Supervisors need to sit with Pool Association, and needs to talk to them, BOS if there is accountability.

Jaime Boyle, Township Manager Leo Rosenbauer, and Supervisor/Braden Beblo- discuss that Sebco gave statements back in 2024.

Jamie loves teaching, lifeguards, and kids. It's so important, no drowning, and special needs people can learn to swim.

Chairperson Lois Rankin understands but states she didn't receive the paperwork in 2024.

Jim Jones once complete the budget will change once things are fixed.

Supervisor Ford Stepp feels there needs to be a capital replacement plan with the pool association for pumps, heaters, and concrete. Needs budget neutral to Township.

Sue Hartzell (resident) spoke about her recollection of the history of the land and feels that we need to renovate the pool. That's the only reason the land was given was to build a pool.

It would cost 500,000 to cover up and dismantle the pool.

Brenda (resident) buys a membership, says it's not just a pool – speaking to Chairperson Lois Rankin. It has pizza parties, and is affordable for people to come.

Chairperson Lois Rankin responded and said didn't mean it wasn't just a pool.

Brenda said last season we didn't know if it would be open, it closed early, kept getting delayed. Sebco will be able to sustain and bring people back in.

Chairperson Lois Rankin stated that Township workers help out.

Lance stated that 50% partial payment equaling \$277,500 plus, engineering fees, etc. will need paid back if the Township decides not to proceed.

Chairperson Lois Rankin says that people need to be informed.

Supervisor Ford Stepp confirmed the amount the Township will have to pay.

Shelia Howard (resident) says that many residents are single, elderly people. Hard on them for a tax increase.

Supervisor Beblo said there has been no mention in raising taxes. If we do raise taxes, it would be for the cost of living etc. Not for the pool. Our last public meeting was 3 years, and we aren't raising taxes.

Doug Farney is a retired accountant and offered the Board of Supervisors help, he can look at income statement etc.

Supervisor Ford Stepp asks if they do a head count at the gate?

Jeff Finnagan feels that we have done a great job budgeting.

Supervisor Braden Beblo said we just have to decide if we do it for the pool?

Robert Veselich feels the Board of Supervisors need to talk to the pool association, taxpayers could have less fee/membership, outside township could pay more. This would help increase revenue.

Brandon Coleman mentioned about asking neighboring municipalities for help.

Vice Chair Beblo said that he would like to get an extension in writing and from the contractors to make sure they hold the price. Meet with an interested non-profit, talk to with the Board of Supervisors or other townships.

Supervisor Ford Stepp asks when does the pool association meet?

Motion by Braden Beblo to table the decision on the pool BID, to look into other things, funding, non-profit. *Second* by Ford Stepp. All agreed and motion carried.

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Pits from the Butler Eagle, and 63 people signed in for the meeting.

ADJOURN:

Lois Rankin moved to adjourn at 8:51 P.M. on Jan. 28, 2023. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. at the municipal building - 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002.