

Newberry Township Board of Supervisors July 28, 2026

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Mario Eckert, Chairman
Tony Miller, Vice Chairman
Diane Shellenhamer, Supervisor
Jane Harman, Supervisor
Aaron Schwartz, Manager
Braxton Ditty, Lieutenant
James Sanders, Solicitor
Bill Rudy, Engineer
Scott Getchen, Public Works Director
Brent Zeiders, Wastewater Coordinator
Donna Donald, Codes and Zoning

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Prior to the formal opening of the meeting, Chairman Mario Eckert administered the Oath of Office to a newly appointed fire police officer. The Oath was witnessed by members of the Board, and the officer was directed to sign the official oath documents, which were to be notarized by the Township.

Announcements

Chairman Eckert announced that the Board of Supervisors held an executive session on June 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM to discuss matters related to public safety.

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Chairman Eckert announced that the Board of Supervisors held an executive session prior to this evening's meeting. He noted that the nature of all three executive sessions revolved around public safety and the National Night Out event.

Public Comments

Joe Stafford, a township resident, addressed the Board, stating that he was inspired to bring public comment following media coverage of the nation's 250th anniversary of democracy. He offered a reading of a well-known quote by President Theodore Roosevelt — commonly known as "The Man in the Arena" — as a tribute to elected officials and local board members who engage directly in the work of governance. Mr. Stafford noted that Roosevelt was shot during an assassination attempt yet continued to deliver a 90-minute speech, and that Roosevelt had visited Pennsylvania in 1910 to review the Pennsylvania State Police, which he admired as the first uniformed police force in the nation. Mr. Stafford concluded by stating that the Board members "are the ones in the arena" and thanked them for their continued service.

Pat Matschke, a township resident, was called but was unable to attend due to illness. Her daughter, Melanie, who identified herself as reading on behalf of her mother, Pat Matschke, delivered a prepared statement. Ms. Matschke stated that she recently purchased a renovated church at 340 Red Mill Road and, prior to moving in, discovered that sewage was leaking into her yard. After contacting township staff and hiring a plumber, an excavation revealed that a neighbor's broken sewer line was discharging sewage onto her property at a depth of

five feet. Ms. Matschke stated she was not made aware at the time of purchase that the property was on a shared sewer system; in fact, the purchase documents indicated the question of shared systems was "not applicable." She expressed that when the property was originally subdivided, each parcel should have been required to have its own system, and she appealed to the Township to take corrective action. Chairman Eckert acknowledged the concern and indicated the Township would investigate the matter.

Rick Kann, a township resident, addressed the Board regarding a proposed data center Ordinance. He commended the Planning Commission for the thorough time — approximately 2.5 to 3 hours — they spent reviewing the draft Ordinance paragraph by paragraph and encouraged the Board of Supervisors to adopt the commission's recommendations. Mr. Kann expressed concern that data centers would impose increased utility costs — including electricity rate increases and upgrades to the grid and public water systems — that would ultimately be passed on to consumers. He noted that a neighboring farm on Cragmoor Road had recently sold for over \$3,000,000 to buyers who are proposing data centers on properties in other townships. Mr. Kann reflected on 61 years of living on the same farm and stated that most development changes he has witnessed have not benefited most residents, but instead raised taxes, increased traffic, and created other problems. He urged the Board not to allow rezoning for data centers and asked that developers be required to have infrastructure improvements in place before building. He concluded by asking the Board to act in the best interest of most residents rather than those who stand to profit from data center development.

Tom Adams, a township resident, raised a question regarding a recent announcement by State Representative Mark Anderson of a \$1,000,000 Grant for Redland High School athletic fields. Mr. Adams recalled that approximately one year ago, Dr. Cox appeared before the Board to request township assistance in funding athletic improvements at the high school and asked whether the Township had contributed or planned to contribute to that project. Chairman Eckert responded that to the best of his knowledge, no such commitment had been made by the current Board, and that Dr. Cox had not approached the new Board members on the matter. Mr. Adams also requested an opportunity to ask a question when the Board reached New Business item regarding the solid waste Ordinance amendment. Chairman Eckert confirmed that the public would have an opportunity to ask questions when that item was taken up.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve the meeting minutes for June 23, 2026. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Land Development & Subdivision Plan Review

Reapproval of Richard and Diane Fox Subdivision

Township Engineer Bill Rudy explained that the Richard and Diane Fox Subdivision had been previously approved at the November 19, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting but was never executed, causing the county's recording deadline to lapse. The reapproval was necessary solely for recording purposes, as all conditions of the plan had been met. Engineer Rudy clarified, in response to Board questions, that the subdivision involves the creation of a single new building lot taken from an existing parcel — a farm lot being subdivided to allow construction of one home.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to reapprove the Richard and Diane Fox Subdivision for recording purposes. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Police

Chairman Eckert took the opportunity to introduce the Township's newly appointed Police Chief, Farzad Sharif, to the public and those watching via television broadcast. Chief Sharif addressed those in attendance, emphasizing that his approach to leadership is rooted in service. He stated that his allegiance is to everyone in the community and that his mission will always be focused on what he can do for the citizens, and never on personal benefit. He noted that he has no political allegiances and expressed his intention to deliver the best possible service on a daily basis. Chief Sharif shared that he was born in Iran to a Polish mother, was raised

Catholic, and grew up in England before settling in the United States, where he earned a degree in administration of justice and went on to serve with the Pennsylvania State Police for over 33 years.

Lieutenant Braxton Ditty delivered the police report, noting that this was his final meeting serving in the capacity of Acting Chief. In the month of June 2026, the department handled a total of 1,171 calls for service, including 1 burglary, 16 thefts, 4 drug offenses, 4 DUI arrests, 5 simple assaults, 1 harassment, and 17 other offenses. Officers also responded to 1,123 additional calls for service, including 17 domestic-related incidents and 23 traffic accidents. Officers issued 110 traffic citations, 128 warnings, and 115 non-traffic citations, and made 16 misdemeanor and felony-grade criminal arrests. Lieutenant Ditty placed these figures in context by noting that at the same point in 2025, the department had recorded approximately 6,478 calls for service year-to-date, compared to the current figure of 7,299 — an increase of approximately 1,000 calls.

Lieutenant Ditty commended Detective Dean Bortner, who recently returned from three weeks of training at the National Computer Forensics Institute in Alabama, making him the department's third mobile device examiner. This training is provided in partnership with the United States Secret Service, which supplies congressionally funded equipment and training.

Lieutenant Ditty encouraged residents to attend National Night Out, scheduled for the following Tuesday at BAPS Motor Speedway from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, noting that the event would feature fire department demonstrations, free food, giveaways, and fireworks. He also extended congratulations to Lieutenant Jared Boyles of Fairview Township Police, who had been approved to become the next Chief of Police in Fairview Township, and expressed confidence that the strong inter-agency working relationship would continue under that new leadership.

In his closing remarks, Lieutenant Ditty expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Board for the privilege of serving as Acting Chief over the past six months, crediting the Officers of the department for making the experience possible, and thanking the residents for their support and encouraging communications throughout that period. Vice Chair Miller acknowledged the news, specifically noting his happiness to see from the police report that Canine Rico had returned to duty following surgical recovery.

Supervisors

Chairman Eckert offered remarks thanking all police officers, first responders, EMS personnel, and the highway department for their work over what he described as a hectic month, citing fallen trees, brush fires, and a high volume of calls for service, including a recent landing zone activation. He stated, "You guys do a fantastic job supporting this Township, making sure that we're all safe."

Public Safety/Fire Departments

Township Public Safety Coordinator Clint Leakway reported the following updates:

- The monthly Chief meeting was held last month; the next scheduled meeting will be August 11th at Goldsboro Station at 6:00 PM.
- The Township met with WellSpan a couple of weeks prior regarding helicopter landing zone (LZ) activations. He noted that WellSpan has changed its dispatch protocols for helicopter requests, which accounts for the recent reduction in LZ activations. The Township is still pursuing two potential permanent LZ locations.
- One Knox Box has been installed at Dream Craft and Son, has been inspected, and is operational.
- The two newest paid drivers have been certified on equipment at all three fire departments — Goldsboro, York Haven, and Newberry. Work on certifying previously onboarded drivers at Goldsboro has begun.
- Coordinator Leakway referenced a report submitted to the Board regarding Chief 360, a new dispatch/records system that would save the Township approximately \$10,000 per year for at least the next four years, while maintaining the existing First Due system during the transition.

In response to Chairman Eckert's inquiry about the status of the Knox Box Ordinance, Manager Schwartz clarified that the Ordinance itself is in place, and the remaining work involves developing an application process for both residential and commercial properties and providing guidance on ordering and installation. The Board also noted the need to establish clear criteria for which businesses are required to have a Knox Box. Chairman Eckert directed staff to collaborate and finalize the matter, acknowledging that it had been pending for some time.

Chairman Eckert also raised the matter of photo identification cards for paid fire drivers, expressing that he was not comfortable with drivers conducting Knox Box inspections on private property without proper credentials. Lieutenant Ditty confirmed that the department has the template and equipment to produce photo IDs with the Township insignia and invited drivers to come to the police station to have their photos taken. Coordinator Leakway indicated that several additional personnel also required IDs.

Fire Chief Harbold delivered the collective report for all three fire departments serving Newberry Township. In June 2026, the three departments handled a combined 106 calls for service — 92 within the Township and 14 as mutual aid responses outside the Township. York Haven handled 27 calls and reported 213 volunteer hours. Goldsboro responded to 25 calls. Newberry Township Fire Department handled 54 calls and reported 565 volunteer hours.

Fire Chief Harbold noted that on July 13th, crews responded to a residential structure fire on Pines Road, arriving to find a well-advanced fire involving a modular home with multiple additions. An aggressive fire attack was initiated with assistance from numerous mutual aid departments, and crews operated for an extended period in high-temperature conditions. Two Newberry Township firefighters were transported for heat-related issues to WellSpan Newberry Hospital; both were evaluated and released that evening. Two dogs perished in the fire, and the cause is believed to be electrical. Fire Chief Harbold expressed thanks on behalf of the department to all responding agencies, EMS, Police, township personnel, and WellSpan Newberry Hospital.

Upcoming events noted include a Newberry Township Fire Department Chicken Barbecue on August 15th and September 9th; a boot drive at Walmart on July 25th; and all three departments' participation in National Night Out on August 4th at 5:00 PM at their respective locations. Goldsboro Fire Company held an electric vehicle familiarization training on July 22nd and participated in the New York Salute for Heroes on July 26th. York Haven participated in the balloon festival at Shelley Park on July 4th and has a chicken barbecue scheduled for September 12th at noon.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 440 Amendment to Chapter 325 Solid Waste, Recycling and Refuse

Manager Schwartz explained that the amendment removes a provision from the existing Ordinance that had previously allowed the Township to waive, suspend, or reduce a property owner's trash bill. He noted that this language was a carryover from a time when the Township handled its own trash billing; since the trash contractor now bills customers directly, it is no longer the Township's prerogative to determine who does or does not pay for trash service. That determination rests with the private trash company.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to adopt Ordinance No. 440, amending Chapter 325, Solid Waste, Recycling and Refuse. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2026-17 for Byrne Justice Assistant Grant for Public Safety Radio Modernization Project

Manager Schwartz provided background, noting that the Township's public safety radios — covering both the police department and all three fire departments — are severely outdated. Multiple prior Grant applications for the full radio replacement project, estimated at approximately \$600,000, had been unsuccessful. This application targets the Police Department specifically to improve the likelihood of receiving at least partial Grant funding. Lieutenant Ditty clarified that the application covers 18 portable radios, mobile radios for each police vehicle, and a new base radio for the station, with the total cost just under \$250,000. He also noted that the new radios would offer multiband capability, enabling seamless cross-county communication with public safety entities in Dauphin and Lancaster Counties. No match is required for this Grant. In response to a Board question about the fate of the existing radios, Lieutenant Ditty confirmed that the current Harris radios — approximately 10 years old and past end-of-life support — could still function on the York County system and could potentially be repurposed for use at the fire stations, though with reduced capabilities.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to adopt Resolution 2026-17 authorizing the submission of a Byrne Justice Assistant Grant application and designating authorized officials for the Newberry Township Public Safety Radio Modernization Project. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Approve Quote No. DZ-071426-01 for Sewer Department Pump Purchase

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve Quote No. DZ-071426-01 to purchase a pump for the Sewer Department in the amount of \$24,250.00. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Proposed Resolution 2026-18 Revising Paid Fire Driver Reimbursement Program

Chairman Eckert announced that the next two agenda items (d), (e), and (f) would be tabled pending resolution of outstanding nuances with the fire department's executive board related to the transfer of the paid driver program to Station 31.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to table agenda items (d), (e), and (f). Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Proposed Superseding Paid Fire Driver Reimbursement Agreement and MOU With Fire Company

Tabled.

Discussion Proposed Termination and Supersession of 2024 Professional Driver/Operator Program MOU

Tabled.

Motion to Consider Adopting Resolution 2026-19 Vehicle Transfer to Fire Company

Chairman Eckert described the subject vehicle as the Township's decommissioned black 2014 Ford Explorer, formerly used by the code's enforcement department, which is currently already in use at Station 31. The vehicle is to be transferred for the consideration of \$1.00 for continued fire protection and public safety use.

Motion by Supervisor Harman to adopt Resolution 2026-19 authorizing the transfer of the Township-owned 2014 Ford Explorer to Newberry Township Fire Company, Station 31, for \$1.00, and approving the Vehicle Transfer Agreement and Bill of Sale. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Consider Adopting Resolution 2026-20 for Multimodal Transportation Fund Application

The Board considered authorizing Newberry Township to submit an application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority's Multimodal Transportation Fund for the Newberry Township Park Community Connectivity Project in an amount not to exceed \$425,000. Manager Schwartz confirmed that no local match is required, as this is 100% Grant funding.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to adopt Resolution 2026-20 authorizing submission of the Multimodal Transportation Fund application for the Newberry Township Park Community Connectivity Project in an amount not to exceed \$425,000. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration to Authorize Advertisement of August 5, 2026, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee's First Meeting

Manager Schwartz confirmed that the first meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the MESB building. He noted that the advertisement had already been submitted to the newspaper, and that once the Steering Committee convenes, they will confirm meeting dates for the remainder of the year, which will then be advertised in a subsequent notice.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to authorize advertisement of the August 5, 2026, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee's first meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration to Authorize Advertisement of Bid Approval for Terry Dolan Park Project

Manager Schwartz presented an overview of the proposed improvements to Terry Dolan Park, which represent Phase 2 of the park's development. Planned improvements include: conversion of the existing basketball court into three pickleball courts; a new parking area to address current limited parking conditions; all-new playground equipment with separate stations for ages 0–5 and 6–12, including ADA-accessible components; new pavilion tables; improvements to the current parking area; and ADA-accessible sidewalks connecting the parking lots, pickleball courts, and equipment areas. Manager Schwartz noted that Phase 1, which addressed the baseball fields, was completed with Grant funding secured during the prior administration. Phase 2 is funded through a Grant with a required local match of \$192,000.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to authorize advertisement of bids for the Terry Dolan Park Project. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration to Approve Request for Temporary Road Closure for Neighborhood Block Party August 1, 2026

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve the request of Sarah Tongay, on behalf of the Riverside HOA Board, to temporarily close a portion of Iroquois Trail for a neighborhood block party on August 1, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Approve ADA Accessible Porta Potty for Shelley Park

Manager Schwartz explained that the Parks and Recreation Board brought this matter forward in response to concerns from users who rent the lower pavilion at Shelley Park, as the existing restroom facilities require a significant walk to the other end of the park. The portable unit will be placed in the stone parking lot near the lower pavilion to ensure that service trucks can access it without damaging the park property. Manager Schwartz acknowledged he did not have the specific cost figure available at this meeting but confirmed it would reflect the Township's current porta potty service rate.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve an ADA-accessible porta potty for Shelley Park near the lower pavilion. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Approve Bond Reduction for Lexington Estates Phase VI

Engineer Bill Rudy noted that the wearing course placement in Lexington Estates Phase VI had recently been completed, inspected, and approved. He indicated that he anticipates the developer will seek dedication of the streets in Lexington Estates' final phase at the next Board meeting.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve the bond reduction for Lexington Estates Phase VI, Bond Establishment No. 4, in the amount of \$119,350.00. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Appoint Alex Mowery to Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Motion by Supervisor Harman to appoint Alex Mowery to the Newberry Township Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Approve Kate Benefiel to Parks and Recreation Board

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve Kate Benefiel to the Newberry Township Parks and Recreation Board. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

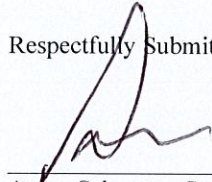
Payment Of Bills

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve payment of bills. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer.
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Schwartz, Secretary

