

Newberry Township Board of Supervisors August 25, 2026

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Mario Eckert, Chairman
Tony Miller, Vice Chairman
Rob Harkin, Supervisor
Diane Shellenhamer, Supervisor
Jane Harman, Supervisor
Aaron Schwartz, Manager
Chief Farzad Sharif
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.

Announcements

Chairman Eckert announced that the Board of Supervisors held an executive session prior to the regular meeting to discuss matters pertaining to the police department and pending litigation.

Public Comments

Pastor Matthew Castillo of Believers in Christ Church addressed the Board. He opened with a scripture reading from Proverbs 22:6 and offered remarks connecting the passage to the responsibilities of community leadership, encouraging those present to lead with a focus on instilling democratic values, unity, and civic care in the next generation. He noted that his church recently launched an early learning center serving children ages 2 to 5 to address what he characterized as a growing literacy concern in the country. He then offered a prayer on behalf of the Board, Township staff, and the community, asking for protection over students and school staff as the new school year commenced.

Bob Gasswint appeared before the Board on behalf of the Red Land Senior Center. He announced with great enthusiasm that the Senior Center had officially opened its new permanent home the previous day, August 24, 2026. He described the excitement among participants — including a 93-year-old member — upon seeing the newly renovated facility, which features new flooring, fresh paint, and a commercial kitchen. Mr. Gasswint reported that 79 meals were served on the opening day and 90 meals the following day, with 78 reservations already confirmed for the next day. He noted that membership had surpassed 600 and was approaching 700.

Mr. Gasswint presented a certificate of appreciation to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Board of Directors Senior Center for the Township's longstanding support, particularly during the transition to the new facility. He also presented a separate acknowledgment to Supervisor Harkins, whose company contributed to the opening of the new building. Supervisor Harkins offered additional recognition of the work done by Bath Fitter during the transition.

Mr. Gasswint extended an open invitation to the Board and public to visit the Senior Center, which operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. He also announced the Senior Center's first major

fundraiser, the Lewisberry Fall Fest, scheduled for October 10th, noting with good humor that it coincides with Penn State's White Out game. He described a planned pumpkin roll competition involving Fairview and Newberry Supervisors, Police, and Firefighters. He requested police K-9 and drone demonstrations for the event, to which Chief Farzad Sharif confirmed the department could accommodate both. He also inquired about the availability of traffic cones from the Highway Department, which was confirmed.

Supervisor Jane Harman asked about the first meal served at the new center, and while Mr. Gasswint could not recall the specific menu, he confirmed the participants thoroughly enjoyed it. Before departing, he acknowledged the Grange Hall for hosting the Senior Center during the year-long transition period and reiterated that the endeavor was a true community project.

Dave Parsons, Chairman of the Planning Commission addressed the Board regarding two Ordinances appearing on the night's agenda: one amending Chapter 3 of the Township Zoning Code to define and regulate data centers, and one establishing regulations for solar energy systems. Mr. Parsons noted that the Township currently has no Ordinances addressing either subject and commended the Board for being proactive rather than reactive in addressing these emerging land use issues.

He clarified that the Planning Commission is not aware of any imminent applications involving either data centers or solar installations but emphasized that having clear regulations in place will ensure applicants know the precise conditions they must meet before submitting plans. He noted that both proposed Ordinances were reviewed by the York County Planning Commission, the Newberry Township Planning Commission, and the Township Solicitor. The data center Ordinance ran 14 pages and required approximately three hours of line-by-line review at the Planning Commission's July 23rd meeting; the solar Ordinance was 16 pages and required approximately one hour of review. Supervisor Harman, who attended the Planning Commission meeting, acknowledged the depth of the effort. Motions were made by the Planning Commission to recommend both Ordinances for approval by the Board.

Mr. Parsons announced that a special public meeting and hearing on both Ordinances is scheduled for October 13th at 5:00 PM in the MESB Building, and he urged residents to attend, noting the significance of these regulations for the Township's future. He requested that the Ordinances be posted online in advance for public review, which the Manager Schwartz confirmed would be done. Manager Schwartz expressed appreciation for the red-line version of the documents provided by the Planning Commission, which greatly facilitated the Board's review. Mr. Parsons also confirmed that residents may submit comments to Manager Schwartz in advance of the October 13th hearing.

Dave Lash of VFW James A. Danner Post 537 introduced himself as the newly appointed VFW Liaison to the Township, a position created to keep the Township informed of VFW activities and foster continued collaboration. He welcomed newly appointed Police Chief Farzad Sharif and acknowledged the long-serving relationship between the VFW and former Lieutenant, noting the department's assistance over more than 18 years.

Mr. Lash provided an overview of the VFW's community programs, including Thursday evening Grill Nights open to the public during the summer months; an annual fishing derby conducted in coordination with Goldsboro Fire Company and the Newberry Police Department; Memorial Day ceremonies and parades, with Mr. Lash noting that the Post may be among the first Memorial Day participants in the Commonwealth; and pre-Memorial Day cemetery flag placements across more than 17 cemeteries in the area. He requested continued support from the Township for traffic signage and volunteer assistance with the cemetery work.

Regarding youth programs, Mr. Lash described the VFW's coloring contest for elementary students, patriotic essay contest for middle schoolers, and recorded speech competition for older students — competitions that progress from the post level to district, state, and potentially national levels, with national scholarship awards of up to \$100,000. He expressed concern that some teachers had opted not to participate in the prior year and urged school principals to encourage teacher involvement.

Mr. Lash also announced that the Post has a new Commander, Rob Kunzer, who was described as young, energetic, and deeply engaged in the community as an EMT, firefighter, and business owner.

Chairman Eckert raised an item from a recent VFW Bingo event, where outgoing Commander Greg Regal had mentioned the Post's interest in installing a digital sign. Mr. Lash noted that a Post member had indicated they may still fall under a grandfather clause regarding signage regulations. Chairman Eckert invited the VFW to contact him directly to outline the specifics and explore what could be done.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve the meeting minutes for July 28, 2026. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Land Development & Subdivision Plan Review

There was no land development or subdivision plan review business to come before the Board.

Reports

Police

Chief Farzad Sharif presented the department's statistics for the month of July 2026. The department handled a total of 1,169 calls for service, including 3 aggravated assaults, 9 thefts, 2 drug offenses, 7 DUIs, 9 simple assaults, 1 harassment charge, and 13 other offenses. Officers also responded to 1,125 other calls for service, including 21 domestic-related incidents and 17 traffic accidents. The department issued 76 traffic citations and 123 warnings, 13 non-traffic citations, and made 23 misdemeanor and felony criminal arrests.

Chief Sharif reminded the public that school is back in session and asked drivers to exercise heightened vigilance around school buses and in neighborhoods during morning and afternoon bus runs. He noted that school buses are equipped with 16 cameras that record vehicles approaching stops, and that five officers are actively reviewing footage for enforcement purposes.

On a personal note, Chief Sharif expressed gratitude to all civilian and sworn members of the Newberry Township Police Department for their professionalism and dedication during his first three weeks as Chief, acknowledging that transitions in leadership can be unsettling and praising the department for handling it flawlessly. He also thanked the Board of Supervisors, Township Manager, and all departments and volunteers for making the National Night Out event a success. Chief Sharif emphasized his open-door policy and invited all residents to stop in and share concerns or ideas.

Events Committee

Events Committee Chair Dominish Miller reported that the Committee had voted to move forward with the Harvest Moon Festival, scheduled for Saturday, September 26th from 4:00 to 9:00 PM at Shelley's Park. The event will be free to the public and will feature children's activities including pumpkin painting, music, and hayrides, with food available for purchase from food trucks. Ms. Miller also noted that the Township's annual Veterans Day event will be held at the Veterans Memorial Walkway parking lot on November 11th, in partnership with the VFW.

Supervisors

Supervisor Harman thanked the Police Department and local businesses for the National Night Out event and asked that the Chief pass her appreciation on to his staff. She also recognized Events Committee Chair Dominish Miller and her volunteers for the work done on the Township's flower bed. Mr. Lash noted on behalf of the VFW that new flags had been provided for the Veterans Memorial area and invited the Township to reach out if additional flags were needed.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

Approve Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2026 Police Pension Plan.
\$469,814.00

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2026 Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$469,814.00. Seconded by Supervisor Harkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2026 Non-Uniformed Pension Plan. \$96,565.00

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2026 Non-Uniformed Pension Plan in the amount of \$96,565.00. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Schwartz noted for the Board and public that the combined total of both MMOs is approximately \$10,000 less than the prior year, and that approximately 47 percent of the total cost is offset by State aid funding.

Approve Payment Application No. 5 to Manada Electric for the fifth payment of the Newberry Township WWTP Generator Upgrade in the amount of \$29,920.42.

Township Engineer Bill Rudy noted that this is the final payment for the WWTP Generator Upgrade project, and that all work has been completed.

Motion by Supervisor Harman to approve Payment Application No. 5 to Manada Electric for the final payment of the Newberry Township Wastewater Treatment Plant Generator Upgrade in the amount of \$29,920.42. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. as the lowest bidder for the total bid amount of \$69,580.00 for the electrical contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Upgrade.

Township Engineer Rudy noted that PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. was a known entity to the Township, having worked with them on several prior projects in the wastewater field, and that they were the low bidder on both the electrical and general contracts for the UV Upgrade.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. as the lowest bidder for the electrical contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Upgrade in the amount of \$69,580.00. Seconded by Supervisor Harkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. as the lowest bidder for the total bid amount of \$500,229.00 for the general contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Upgrade.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. as the lowest bidder for the general contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Upgrade in the amount of \$500,229.00. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider a motion to approve and award the Dolan Park Phase II Project to the lowest responsible bidder, in accordance with the bid results and recommendation of the Township Engineer and authorize the Township Manager to execute all necessary documents related to the award.

Township Engineer Bill Rudy requested that this item be tabled. He explained that while the project had been bid as a combined general and electrical contract, and several electrical contractors had been contacted, no bids were received for the electrical portion. The Township will evaluate how to proceed and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to table consideration of the Dolan Park Phase II Project. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve payment of Invoice No. 140589 to Kompan for playground equipment for Terry Dolan Park.

Manager Schwartz clarified that the invoice covers the purchase of playground equipment itself, which is partially funded by a Grant covering approximately half the cost including installation. The Board noted that this purchase can proceed regardless of when the broader Dolan Park Phase II project is completed. Supervisor Harman inquired about the installation timeline; Engineer Bill Rudy indicated that installation is anticipated for this year, though final determination will follow next month's discussion on the tabled Phase II award.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve payment of Invoice No. 140589 to Kompan for playground equipment for Terry Dolan Park. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-18 – Paid Fire Driver Program

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve Resolution No. 2026-18, amending and replacing Resolution No. 2024-38 and authorizing the revised Paid Fire Driver Program with Newberry Township Fire Department, Station 31. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried, with Supervisor Harkins voting in opposition.

Paid Fire Driver Reimbursement Agreement and MOU

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve the Superseding Paid Fire Driver Reimbursement Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Newberry Township and Newberry Township Fire Department, Station 31, consistent with Resolution No. 2026-18. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried, with Supervisor Harkins voting in opposition.

Termination of Prior Driver/Operator MOU

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve the Termination and Supersession of the prior 2024 Professional Driver/Operator Program Memorandum of Understanding authorized by Resolution No. 2024-38. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried, with Supervisor Harkins voting in opposition.

Resolution 2026-19A – 2014 Ford Explorer Transfer

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve Resolution No. 2026-19A, amending Resolution No. 2026-19 to correct the legal transferee of the Township-owned 2014 Ford Explorer to the Newberry Township Fire Department Fireman's Relief Association, and to approve the corrected Vehicle Transfer Agreement and Bill of Sale. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Contract Change Order No. 1 to Pennsy Supply, Inc. for the 2026 Road Program for \$32,582.29 to the total contract price for a total adjusted contract price in the amount of \$402,040.84.

Township Engineer Rudy explained that the change order consists of two additions and one credit: a scratch leveling add of \$43,771.00, necessitated by ballast material encountered during base course reclamation on a road that was difficult to grade to the required slope; a PennDOT-required asphalt escalation add of \$6,648.00; and a credit of \$17,837.40 for the Hill Drive wearing course, which was deferred pending a potential sanitary sewer installation in the shoulder area. The net change order total is \$32,582.29, which fell within the project budget.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve Contract Change Order No. 1 to Pennsy Supply, Inc. for the 2026 Road Program, adjusting the total contract price to \$402,040.84. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment Application No. 1 to Pennsy Supply, Inc. for the 2026 Road Program in the amount of \$330,816.52.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve Payment Application No. 1 to Pennsy Supply, Inc. for the 2026 Road Program in the amount of \$330,816.52. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider approval of Resolution No. 2026-21 accepting the Deed of Dedication for Bentley Court, Madison Drive, and Thoroughbred Drive in Lexington Estates Phase VI and accepting the streets into the Newberry Township public road system.

Township Engineer Rudy confirmed that all inspections had been completed and the roads are ready for dedication. The Township Solicitor had reviewed the Deed of Dedication documents.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve Resolution No. 2026-21 accepting the Deed of Dedication for Bentley Court, Madison Drive, and Thoroughbred Drive in Lexington Estates Phase VI and accepting those streets into the Newberry Township public road system. Seconded by Supervisor Harkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration and possible approval to move forward with Revize for the redesign, development, hosting, and support of the Newberry Township website at a project cost of \$11,700, with an annual hosting, CMS license, and support fee of \$3,900, subject to final contract review.

Manager Schwartz reported that the Board had previously authorized an RFP for a website redesign earlier in the year. Approximately six providers were contacted, and three proposals were received. The selected vendor, Revize, specializes in government and municipal websites, and their proposal was the most cost-effective of the three. Manager Schwartz noted that the new website will fulfill the Township's obligation to achieve ADA compliance by 2027 and will include features such as GIS map integration, online pavilion and ball field reservations with payment processing, and online submission of zoning and codes applications — benefits both to residents and to Township staff. Supervisor Harman expressed that the current website has been a longstanding source of frustration and expressed strong support for the upgrade. Manager Schwartz indicated the build-out timeline is estimated at 20 to 28 weeks.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve moving forward with Revize for the redesign, development, hosting, and support of the Newberry Township website at a project cost of \$11,700, with an annual CMS license and support fee of \$3,900, subject to final contract review. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

DCED MAP Grant – Consider approval of Resolution 2026-22, authorizing application for up to \$50,000 in DCED MAP funding for the Newberry Township Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Supervisor Harman to approve Resolution No. 2026-22, authorizing application for up to \$50,000 in DCED MAP funding for the Newberry Township Comprehensive Plan. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

York County Open Space Grant – Consider approval of Resolution 2026-23, authorizing application for up to \$25,000 in York County Open Space funding for the Newberry Township Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve Resolution No. 2026-23, authorizing application for up to \$25,000 in York County Open Space funding for the Newberry Township Comprehensive Plan. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Schwartz noted for the record that both Grant applications — the DCED MAP Grant and the York County Open Space Grant — are for the same project, the Township's Comprehensive Plan. Applications were also submitted in the prior year without success, but York County has been working closely with the Township in the lead-up to this cycle, which the Manager indicated was a positive sign for the Township's prospects.

Motion to approve advertising of a special meeting and public hearings for Data Center Zoning Ordinance and Solar Energy Ordinance.

The Board confirmed the special meeting and public hearing date of October 13th in response to a clarifying question.

Motion by Supervisor Harman to approve advertising of a special meeting and public hearings for the Data Center Zoning Ordinance and Solar Energy Ordinance, to be held on October 13th. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve and promulgate the 2026 Newberry Regional Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The Township's Emergency Management Coordinator, Tom, provided an overview of the plan. He explained that Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Code requires the local emergency management coordinator to update the Emergency Operations Plan every two years. The Newberry Regional Emergency Management Program serves three municipalities: Newberry Township, York Haven Borough, and Lewisberry Borough. The full plan consists of the overarching Emergency Operations Plan, the Notification and Resource Manual (NARM), and Implementing Procedures (IP). The Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) is included as a current annex, which has taken on renewed significance given the reopening of the Crane nuclear facility.

Vice Chair Miller raised a longstanding concern that while an intergovernmental MOU exists with the served boroughs providing for a modest financial contribution to the program, the boroughs have not contributed in several years, leaving Township residents to bear the full cost. Township Manager Schwartz acknowledged the issue and agreed it needed to be revisited. Supervisor Harman noted a minor typographical error in the plan — a missing digit in the phone number listed for Newberry Elementary School — which the Coordinator agreed to correct.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve and promulgate the 2026 Newberry Regional Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Plan, consisting of the Emergency Operations Plan, Notification and Resource Manual, and Implementing Procedures, with the Radiological Emergency Response Plan as the current annex, and to authorize appropriate officials to execute the promulgation. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Halloween in Newberry Township for Saturday, October 31st between 6:00-8:00 pm.

A brief discussion followed regarding whether the Board should formally establish a rain date or alternate date. The Board acknowledged that confusion had arisen the prior year when weather threatened the event, and determined that while October 31st is the established date, a change could be communicated via social media if extraordinary circumstances warranted it. The Board did not formally adopt an alternate rain date.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve Halloween in Newberry Township for Saturday, October 31st between 6:00 and 8:00 PM was made and seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve \$100.00 for pumpkins to be painted by children at the Harvest Moon Festival.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve \$100.00 for pumpkins to be painted by children at the Harvest Moon Festival. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve The Famous Rumors Band to play at the Harvest Moon Festival for a total of \$900.00

Vice Chair Miller voiced several substantive objections to the motion. He recalled that both he and Mr. Lash had recommended at the February meeting that the Events Committee use local bands, such as those that perform at the VFW, rather than outside performers. He expressed skepticism that the Famous Rumors Band, which he believed to be from New Cumberland, represented the best use of Township or donated funds. He further noted that the \$900 fee for what amounted to two hours of performance time — given two 30-minute

breaks within a three-hour engagement — equated to \$450 per hour of actual performance. Most significantly, Vice Chair Miller argued that there was no contract before the Board that addressed what happens in the event of a rain cancellation, drawing a parallel to the prior year's Balloon Fest, where the balloons did not fly but full payment was still obligated. He argued that any future entertainment agreements should include a clause providing for reduced or withheld payment in the event of a complete washout. Supervisor Shellenhamer acknowledged the concern and attempting to obtain a contract for the engagement.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve The Famous Rumors Band to play at the Harvest Moon Festival for a total of \$900.00. Seconded by Supervisor Harkins. Motion carried, with Vice Chair Miller voting in opposition.

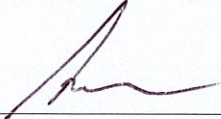
PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Schwartz, Secretary

