

Newberry Township Board of Supervisors March 24, 2026

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

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

Call to Order at 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. All present stood for The Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

The Board of Supervisors held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss real estate matters, personnel issues, and litigation.

Public Comments

Bob Gasswint – Red Land Senior Center - provided an update on the Red Land Senior Center's renovation progress. The center remains in its temporary location and will continue there for another couple of months. The renovation has encountered delays due to mold issues, which Gasswint referred to as "the M word" that makes people "freakish." The center has hired two mold experts and an industrial hygienist to address the situation properly.

To educate the community, they conducted a mold seminar for the Board and seniors, with plans for a community-wide seminar. Mr. Gasswint expressed cautious optimism about the timeline, he anticipates they may begin moving equipment back in sometime in April. The center continues its successful partnership with the Grange, who have been "extremely gracious" in providing temporary accommodations. Supervisor Harman inquired about the first chicken barbecue, which was postponed from March to the last Saturday in April.

Marie Dunston, a township resident, presented a comprehensive overview of senior center services in anticipation of the funding discussion later in the meeting. She framed the senior center as addressing eight aspects of wellness: physical (through exercise programs and daily nutritious meals), mental (through learning activities, games, and problem-solving), emotional (through congregational meals and social interaction), spiritual (through Bible study and daily grace), social (through clubs for gardening, books, and cooking, plus group trips via rapid transit), environmental (through safety education and prescription drug disposal programs), financial (through AARP tax help and rent rebate assistance), and intellectual (through lifelong learning, CPR/AED classes, AARP driving classes, and "science at the center" programs).

Ms. Dunston emphasized that the senior center serves as an active hub where over 250 Newberry Township residents engage in purposeful activities rather than passively sitting. She argued that if the senior center didn't

provide these wellness services, the township would have to provide them elsewhere, making the center an economical and efficient solution with a proven track record of community service.

Tom Adams, a township resident, advocated for New Hope Center, where he volunteers in the food pantry. He reported that the center's clientele continues to increase, but due to supply shortages, clients can now only visit once per month instead of twice monthly as previously allowed. Mr. Adams urged the Board to consider supporting New Hope Center financially.

Mr. Adams also raised concerns about rumors regarding a potential Love's Truck Stop on Old York Road across from Newberry Elementary School. He questioned whether the Board had heard anything about this development, noting that the rumored 30-acre site seemed constrained and comparing it to the Route 83 Diner area in Strinestown. Chairman Eckert acknowledged the Board's awareness of the proposal through media and social media but indicated no formal application had been submitted to the Township yet, with the matter currently under York County Planning Commission review.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: Supervisor Shellenhamer moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 24, 2026.

Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Land Development & Subdivision Plan Review

Richard & Barbara Rodgers-Pear Avenue Final Minor Subdivision Plan

Josh McGeorge from Land Works Civil Design presented the subdivision plan to consolidate three existing undersized parcels at the corner of Pear Avenue and Third Avenue into one approximately 0.8-acre parcel for construction of a single-family home. Engineer Bill Rudy confirmed his review and recommended approval contingent upon his March 19th memo conditions.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve the waiver to provide site context map. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve the subdivision plan contingent upon all engineer's comments being met as conditions. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Police Report

Lt. Ditty reported that in February, the Police Department handled 1,075 calls for service, including 2 aggravated assaults, 3 thefts, 6 drug offenses, 5 DUI arrests, 6 simple assaults, 1 harassment, and 13 other offenses. Officers issued 98 traffic citations, 159 warnings, 4 non-traffic citations, and made 26 misdemeanor or felony arrests.

Lt. Ditty addressed a traffic complaint at Grandview and Cragmoor Roads regarding truck traffic damage, reporting that directed patrols totaling over three hours resulted in citations, with recent major violations potentially leading to serious charges. The department held its annual award ceremony, with Board Members in attendance recognizing Officers' 2025 achievements.

Lt. Ditty highlighted the Cardona arrest case that received media attention, praising the investigative work and coordination with the District Attorney's office. He noted a dramatic increase in scams targeting older residents and offered to partner with the Senior Center for educational programs. Lt. Ditty discussed potential improvements to police reports for casier reading.

Engineer Report

Engineer Bill Rudy provided an update on the Love's Truck Stop proposal, clarifying that no formal application has been submitted to the Township. He detailed three meetings held: one with the developer at the Township

development committee to review the Township's process, one with PennDOT for the scoping application and traffic impact study requirements, and one with York County Conservation District regarding stormwater requirements.

Public Safety and Fire Departments

Fire Coordinator Clint Leakway reported on his meetings with the three Fire Chiefs individually at their stations, reviewing vehicles and conditions. The Chiefs met collectively to discuss box alarm issues, the paid driver program, and Knox box requirements. A unified command training session was scheduled for March 29th at Newberry Fire Hall, with responsibilities assigned: Fire Chief Kyle Harbold managing paid drivers and incentives, Fire Chief Doug Smith handling joint training coordination, and Chief Mark Sanders exploring bulk purchasing opportunities to reduce costs.

Fire Chief Doug Smith provided detailed call statistics for February: Station 27 (Susquehanna York Haven) responded to 12 local calls plus 3 mutual aid; Station 28 responded to 9 local calls plus 1 mutual aid; Station 31 responded to 22 local calls plus 6 mutual aid calls.

Fire Chief Doug Smith addressed the community directly about volunteer firefighting challenges, citing statistics showing Pennsylvania's volunteer firefighters decreased from 37,000 in 1970 to current levels, with national volunteers dropping from 827,000 in 2008 to 635,000 in 2023. He emphasized that 90% of Pennsylvania's 2,462 fire companies are volunteers, with each firefighter's equipment costing over \$28,000. Volunteer firefighters save Pennsylvania communities approximately \$10 billion annually.

Fire Chief Doug Smith stressed that volunteer firefighting involves significant commitment, responding to emergencies at all hours while maintaining full-time jobs and family responsibilities. He encouraged community members to volunteer in various capacities, whether responding to calls or supporting social functions, emphasizing the sense of family, acceptance, and community value that volunteering provides.

Fire Chief Doug Smith requested permission for message board placement on Valley Road for the children's fishing derby, which Lt. Ditty agreed to coordinate. He also raised concerns about low-hanging Frontier utility lines on Pines Road creating safety hazards for large vehicles.

Regarding Knox boxes, Supervisor Harkins inquired about the status of the enforcement program that had been suspended. Coordinator Clint Leakway indicated final decisions on box alarm policies would be completed the following week, with recommendations forthcoming for Board approval. L. Ditty explained the Knox box ordering process through the company's website and coordination system, noting that records exist of all purchases made since program inception.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Presentation from Dan Hernandez from WellSpan Hospital – New Opening Update

Dan Hernandez, Vice President of Neighborhood Hospitals for WellSpan, along with Dr. David Vega (Chief Medical Officer) and Bob Riley (Vice President of Government Affairs), reported on the hospital's first two weeks of operation. Key metrics included a 5-minute average from registration to seeing a doctor, 112-minute total length of stay for discharged patients, and 2-minute average for EKGs on chest pain cases.

The hospital has already handled several life-saving cases including strokes, heart attacks, and STEMIs. They're averaging 21-22 patients daily, nearly double initial expectations. Patients appreciate having local healthcare options, and the facility has reduced EMS time on tasks, allowing ambulances to return to service more quickly.

The hospital encountered helicopter landing zone challenges when their designated area was locked and alternative space was needed. Mr. Hernandez indicated renewed discussions about purchasing the small parking lot across the street. The Board discussed establishing a permanent landing zone, with Supervisor Shellenhamer noting prior coordination meetings that apparently didn't address the access issue adequately.

Motion to amend the 2026 Budget to increase Line Item 456.520 Contributions to Libraries from \$5,000 to \$15,000, with the additional \$10,000 funded from available General Fund balance

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve the budget amendment increasing library contributions from \$5,000 to \$15,000 using general fund balance. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action, 2026 Contributions to Senior Centers, New Hope Ministries, and Other Organizations

Vice Chair Miller stated the budget currently allocates \$26,000 for the senior centers, including Northeastern Senior Center and Red Land Senior Center. Manager Schwartz confirmed that in 2025, \$12,000 was distributed to Red Land Senior Center and \$4,000 to Northeastern Senior Center. Chairman Eckert inquired about the historical contributions to each center. Manager Schwartz stated that historically, \$12,000 has been allocated to Red Land Senior Center and \$4,000 to Northeastern Senior Center.

The Board agreed that additional discussion is needed to determine how to allocate the funds and decided to table the matter for further review.

Vice Chair Miller argued for restoring New Hope's full \$12,000 funding, citing their expanded services including job training, temporary housing assistance, vehicle provision, and the food pantry's increased demand requiring reduction from twice-monthly to once-monthly client visits.

Supervisor Harman supported maintaining New Hope's funding at \$12,000 given current economic conditions and grocery cost increases

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to increase New Hope Ministries funding from \$10,000 to \$12,000 and maintain other organizations at \$3,000, funded from General Fund balance. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 439 Amendment to Chapter 325 Solid Waste, Recycling and Refuse

Manager Schwartz explained that the Ordinance cleans up discrepancies between the Township's waste collection contract and existing Ordinance language, primarily addressing start times and other clerical matters without affecting collection dates.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to adopt Ordinance No. 439 amending Chapter 325 for solid waste, recycling, and refuse. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the reassignment of the 2014 Ford Explorer (mileage 121,509) from administrative use to the Fire Department Paid Driver Program

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to reassign the 2014 Ford Explorer with 121,509 miles from administrative use to the Fire Department Paid Driver Program. Seconded by Supervisor Harkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the reassignment of the 2017 Ford Explorer (mileage 106,661) from the Police Department to administrative vehicle use

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to reassign the 2017 Ford Explorer from the police department to administrative use. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to declare the 2017 Ford Explorer (mileage 95,906) as surplus property and authorize the Township Manager to sell the vehicle through an online auction on Municibid with a minimum bid of \$5,000

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to table this item pending review of potential further use for the vehicle before selling. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Portable Toilet Bid for Walters Services

Supervisor Shellenhamer raised concerns about Walters Services' maintenance performance, particularly at Shelley Park, despite their generous township support. Manager Schwartz confirmed improved communication with a new contact person for addressing maintenance issues via text messaging. Supervisor Harman encouraged residents to report maintenance problems for prompt attention, noting the contract requires twice-weekly cleaning.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve the portable toilet bid for Walters Services. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the Settlement Agreement and General Release in Newberry Township v. C&C Repair and Towing, LLC, et al.

The settlement resolves claims related to an August 17, 2023, incident on Old Trail Road and River Road, providing \$10,000 payment to Newberry Township. Solicitor Sanders clarified that the trucking company coordinates settlement payment allocation.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to authorize the Chairman to execute the Settlement Agreement providing \$10,000 to Newberry Township. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment Application No. 2 to Manada Electric for the Second Payment of the Newberry Township WWTP Generator Upgrade in the amount of \$50,413.31.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve Payment Application No. 2 to Manada Electric for the second payment of WWTP Generator Upgrade in the amount of \$50,413.31. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2026-12, Repealing and Replacing Resolution No. 2025-27 to Re-Establish the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and Clarify Membership Composition.

Manager Schwartz clarified that members of the Zoning Hearing Board are not permitted to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee which came from the recommendation of PSATS.

Motion by Supervisor Harman to adopt Resolution 2026-12 repealing and replacing Resolution 2025-27 to re-establish the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and clarify membership composition. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the hiring of Logan Amrhein for the position of Sewer Maintenance Laborer, contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve hiring of Logan Amrhein for the position of Sewer Maintenance Laborer, contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment requirements. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

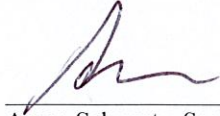
Payment of Bills

Motion by Vice Chair Miller moved to pay the bills. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Schwartz, Secretary

