

# Newberry Township Board of Supervisors February 24, 2026

## Meeting Minutes

### ATTENDANCE:

Mario Eckert, Chairman  
Tony Miller, Vice Chairman  
Rob Harkin, Supervisor  
Diane Shellenhamer  
Jane Harman, Supervisor  
Aaron Schwartz, Manager  
Chief 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. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Supervisors held an executive session prior to the meeting involving personnel matters and real estate transactions.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dominish Miller of the Events Committee and representing the Redland Community Library addressed the Board regarding library funding. Ms. Miller, who has been involved with the library for 15 years, emphasized that the library serves as the heartbeat of the community, providing essential services including early literacy programs, workforce development through computer access, and serving as a safe gathering space. Ms. Miller noted that the library offers high-speed Wi-Fi, public computers, study rooms, STEAM materials, and various programs. She specifically mentioned Supervisor Harman's volunteer work bringing therapy dogs for children's reading programs. Ms. Miller urged the Board to maintain and prioritize funding for the library, distributing statistics to support the request.

Pastor Matthew Castillo from Believers in Christ Church delivered an invocation, reading from Proverbs 3 about trusting in the Lord and not leaning on one's own understanding. He prayed for wisdom for the Supervisors and first responders.

Nevin Shenck spoke about the planned removal of the Stone Arch Bridge (Camelback Bridge) over Red Mill Road by PennDOT. Mr. Shenck, who has lived on Red Mill Road for over 50 years, explained that PennDOT has funding to remove this historic 1910 bridge despite there being no structural issues. He requested the Board place this matter on the March agenda and consider passing a Resolution opposing the bridge replacement. Supervisor Harman expressed

support for preserving the bridge, noting it's in her neighborhood and she uses it daily. Mr. Shenck reported minimal accidents on the bridge in over 50 years of observation.

Denise Cuthbertson, a township resident, thanked the township for extending snow treatment to Sam Snead Circle, noting that for over 40 years they typically only treated other streets in the area but not theirs.

Megan Deroche, Manager of the Redland Community Library, expressed disappointment over the reduction in township funding from \$15,000 to \$5,000 without forewarning. She emphasized the library's role in providing free programs, computer access, and resources to all community members including single mothers, students, seniors, and teenagers. Ms. Deroche stated that no Board Member had reached out regarding the funding cut and requested reinstatement of the \$15,000 allocation.

Maureen Bunn, a township resident, spoke as a mother of two young children about the importance of the Redland Library during the COVID pandemic and currently. She described the library as the only indoor place within a 10-minute drive for families, highlighting programs like the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge and Miss Nancy's story hours. Her 4-year-old particularly enjoys the toys, books, lollipops, and reading to therapy dogs' programs.

Denise Deroche, a township resident, shared two personal stories about the impact of libraries on career choices. She recounted how her daughter Megan (the library manager) was inspired to become a librarian at age 16 after reading a community jobs book, and how she herself became a nurse after reading a 1950s Golden Book about Nancy Nurse. She urged the Board not to cut library funding, comparing it to cutting the roots that supply growth.

Doug Ross, President of the Friends of the Redland Community Library and 31-year volunteer, explained that the Friends group raises about 20% of the operating budget (\$53,000 last year) through various fundraising activities. He expressed uncertainty about how to raise an additional \$10,000 if township funding remains reduced.

Dave Lash, a 76-year-old Vietnam veteran and 40-year resident, expressed disappointment in the Board's recent decisions. He criticized the Board for not promoting Lieutenant Ditty to Police Chief despite community support, suggesting the decision appeared predetermined. He advocated for Ditty's qualifications and local knowledge over hiring an outside candidate.

Tina Wise, a township resident, raised concerns about agenda items O and P regarding the appointment of Clint Leakway as Public Safety Director and Kyle Harbold as Public Safety Administrative Assistant. She questioned the lack of transparency in the hiring process, asking whether positions were advertised, applications accepted, interviews conducted, or resumes submitted. Ms. Wise criticized the pattern of restructuring without meaningful public discussion and announced plans to file Right-to-Know requests for communications between Board Members regarding these appointments.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve the minutes for January 27, 2026.

Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## LAND DEVELOPMENT & SUBDIVISION PLAN REVIEW

Kenneth E. Kann Trust 645 Cragmoor Road Final Subdivision – 2 Lots

Jake Hebel from Gordon L. Brown and Associates presented the subdivision of a 56-acre farm to create a 2-acre lot around existing farm buildings. The proposal included three waivers for site context map, stormwater management plan, and plan scale. A zoning variance was granted by the Zoning Hearing Board for lot coverage. Engineer Bill Rudy indicated no issues with the requested waivers.

Motion made by Supervisor Harkins to approve waivers 1, 2, and 3. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Supervisor Harkins to approve the plan conditioned upon addressing the Engineer's comments. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

### Reapprove Lesnak/Strickhouser 10 Markley Dr & 229 Cragmoor Rd Final Subdivision for recording purposes

This item was previously approved October 28, 2025, and required reapproval for recording purposes.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to reapprove the Lesnak Strickhouser subdivision. Seconded by Supervisor Shellenhamer. Motion carried unanimously.

### Reapprove Watkins Solar Project-SolAmerica Energy, Lewisberry Road, Final Land Development Plan for recording purposes

This item was previously approved January 28, 2025, and required reapproval for recording purposes.

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to reapprove the Watkins Solar project. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## REPORTS

### Public Safety

Chief Ditty reported that officers handled 1,016 calls for service in January, including 1 aggravated assault, 9 thefts, 1 motor vehicle theft, 6 drug offenses, 3 DUIs, 3 simple assaults, 2 harassments, and 14 other criminal offenses. Officers also responded to 977 other calls including 20 domestic incidents and 25 traffic crashes. Traffic enforcement yielded 62 citations, 119 warnings, 4 non-traffic citations, and 15 criminal arrests.

Chief Ditty noted successful preliminary interviews with 13 police candidates and thanked the Board for process improvements. He reported completion of the mock accreditation assessment with minimal corrections needed before the April full assessment. Officer Stuck was recognized by VFW Post 537 as Officer of the Year. Chief Ditty thanked residents who responded to his outreach letter seeking input on police services.

### Fire Departments

Fire Chief Mark Sanders from Susquehanna Fire Company reported 40 calls in January, including 3 working structure fires. He emphasized fire prevention, urging residents to have chimneys inspected annually and maintain proper clearances around space heaters. Fire Chief Sanders announced upcoming fundraising events and recognized Lieutenant Andrew Schuller as Firefighter of the Year and Jason Seymour as EMT of the Year from Newberry Fire Company.

## Planning Commission

David Parsons, Chairman of the Planning Commission, delivered the annual Planning Commission report for 2025. He outlined the Commission's duties under the MPC and described his preparation process for meetings, including reviewing plans, checking zoning compliance, and visiting proposed sites. Mr. Parsons emphasized the importance of training for all Board Members and highlighted the need to update Ordinances, particularly regarding solar farms and data centers. The Commission reviewed various subdivisions and land developments throughout 2025, with December being particularly busy due to a proposed trailer park that drew significant public opposition.

## OLD BUSINESS

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 438, amending the Newberry Township Police Pension Plan by revising the definition of "Compensation"

Motion made by Vice Chair Miller to adopt Ordinance No. 438 amending the Township Police Pension Plan revising the definition of "Compensati. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager to approve and sign the real estate tax refund for two additional volunteer firefighters

The refund totals \$493.54 for two additional volunteers, bringing the total to 19 volunteer first responders or social members receiving real estate tax refunds.

Motion made by Supervisor Shellenhamer to authorize the real estate tax refunds totaling \$493.54. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager to approve thirteen volunteer first responders or social members for the Earned Income Tax Credit in 2025

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to authorize the earned income tax credit for 13 volunteer first responders. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agreement Regarding Fire Protection Services with Susquehanna Fire Company

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve the agreement with Susquehanna Fire Company. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agreement Regarding Fire Protection Services with Newberry Fire Company

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve the agreement with Newberry Fire Company. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## Approval of Agreement Regarding Fire Protection Services with Goldsboro Fire Company

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve the agreement with Goldsboro Fire Company. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## Motion to approve Resolution 2026-10 for Fire Tax Fund appropriations

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve Resolution 2026-10 for fire tax fund appropriations. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## Motion to advertise Amending Chapter 325 Code of Ordinances entitled Solid Waste, Recycling, and Refuse

Motion by Supervisor Harman to advertise the Amendment to Chapter 325 Code of Ordinances entitled Solid Waste, Recycling, and Refuse. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## Motion to approve Purchase Agreement of 0 Railroad Avenue for the sum of \$30,000

Motion by Supervisor Harkins to approve the Purchase Agreement for 0 Railroad Avenue for \$30,000. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## Authorization for the Township Manager to advertise, interview, select, and hire a Police Administrative Assistant

Manager Schwartz noted that current Administrative Assistant Peggy will be leaving after 25 years of service at the end of March.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to authorize the Manager to advertise for the Police Administrative Assistant position. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## Motion to approve Resolution 2026-11 authorizing the Manager to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program

The application is for \$100,000 for preparation of a Comprehensive Plan to be submitted to DCNR.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to authorize the Manager to submit the MAP application. Seconded by Supervisor Harkins. Motion carried unanimously.

## Motion to accept the DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant award

The Grant award totals \$192,400 for Terry Dolan Memorial Park with required matching funds from various sources including York County Open Space Grants and LED lighting Grants.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to accept the DCNR Grant award. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## Discussion of allocation of 2026 contributions to libraries, senior centers and other organizations

The Board discussed the current budget allocations: libraries \$5,000, senior centers \$26,000, New Hope \$10,000, and other contributions \$3,000, totaling \$44,000. Multiple Supervisors expressed support for restoring library funding to the previous \$15,000 level. Supervisor Harman noted that three current Supervisors were not on the Board when the 2026 budget was created.

After discussion about the Sunshine Act requirements, the Board added a line item to increase library funding to \$15,000. The matter of adjusting other allocations was tabled for the March meeting to allow for proper budget planning.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to add a line item to the agenda to increase library contribution from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Following public comment, Supervisor Shellenhamer made a motion to increase the Redland Library funding from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for 2026. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Supervisor Harman to table discussion of senior center, New Hope, and other contributions funding for the March meeting. Seconded by Vice Chair Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

## Motion to approve the award of the 2026 Road Program Base Bid

The base bid was awarded to Pennsy Supply in the amount of \$298,097.60.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve the award the 2026 Road Program to Pennsy Supply. Seconded by Supervisor Harkins. Motion carried unanimously.

## Motion to approve the award of the 2026 Road Program Alternate Bid

The alternate bid was awarded to Pennsy Supply in the amount of \$71,360.95 for additional road work on deteriorating roads in close proximity to the base project.

Motion by Supervisor Shellenhamer to approve the alternate bid award to Pennsy Supply. Seconded by Supervisor Harkins. Motion carried unanimously.

## Motion to appoint Clint Leakway as Part-Time Public Safety Director

Despite concerns raised during public comments about transparency, the Board proceeded with the appointment. Chairman Eckert clarified that Clint Leakway is Fire Chief at Goldsboro with over 23 years of experience and extensive relationships with all three fire departments in the township.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to appoint Clint Leakway as part-time Public Safety Director at \$4,500 annual compensation paid quarterly. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Al Norris, a longtime resident, spoke against the appointment, questioning the qualifications and transparency of the process while supporting Lieutenant Diddy for Police Chief.

## Motion to approve Kyle Harbold as Part-Time Public Safety Administrative Assistant

Supervisor Shellenhamer clarified that these positions had always existed, but the previous holders had stepped away, necessitating replacements. Both appointees work for fire departments and bring extensive first responder knowledge.

Motion by Vice Chair Miller to approve Kyle Harbold as part-time Public Safety Administrative Assistant at \$4,500 annual compensation paid quarterly. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

## PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Vice Chair Miller moved to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Harman. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Schwartz, Secretary

