

Newberry Township Board of Supervisors October 13, 2026

Workshop Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Mario Eckert, Chairman
Tony Miller, Vice Chairman
Rob Harkin, Supervisor
Diane Shellenhamer, Supervisor
Jane Harman, Supervisor
Aaron Schwartz, Manager
Jane Deamer, Comptroller
Chief Farzad Sharif
Scott Getchen, Public Works Director
Brent Zeiders, Wastewater Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The Newberry Township Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss 2027 Draft Budget

Fire Tax Fund

Manager Schwartz reported that no contributions were penciled in for Newberry, Goldsboro, or York Haven. He said the Board first needed a firm understanding of the pass-through Fireman's Relief amounts before deciding on the fire tax. He also noted that the additional line items he proposed at the previous meeting, such as building maintenance and minor equipment, were not included in this round of the draft. Those lines would let the Board decide how to allocate some fire tax funds to the Newberry Fire Department rather than giving a lump-sum donation. He invited the fire company to share its 2027 needs so he could present them to the Board. No action was taken.

Recreation Fund

Manager Schwartz reviewed line 454 374 (park repairs and parts). The 2026 budget of \$30,000 had allowed the purchase of two new zero-turn mowers. He requested the ability to purchase an enclosed trailer for the two mowers and other park maintenance equipment. The current open trailer is in poor condition and needs axles and wheels. An enclosed trailer would let mowing crews keep their equipment stored rather than loading it on and off trucks. He said he had hoped to fund it in 2026, but no funds remained after the mower purchases. No action was taken.

Sewer

Wastewater Coordinator Zeiders reported that the only change concerned the plant disinfection project (line 429 730). The total project is approximately \$925,000. Delivery of the equipment was delayed to February or March 2027, so the full amount budgeted for 2026 will roll into 2027. Comptroller Deamer noted that engineering fees would be in addition to the \$925,000 for equipment and installation. No action was taken.

Special Events

Supervisor Harman asked about line 387100 (special event contributions), which was reduced to \$5,950 for 2027. Supervisor Shellenhamer explained that the events were breaking even and that income roughly offset costs. She said the Township would look at increasing booth fees to bring in more money. In response to Vice Chair Miller's questions, it was clarified that vendor and booth fees are deposited into the contributions account. Supervisor Harman said the \$5,950 represents the amount requested, exclusive of that incoming revenue.

General Fund:

The discussion began with Manager Schwartz's proposal to use available funds for general building upgrades. These included converting the building to LED lighting and removing the stepped floor in the old meeting room to create a flat, multi-use space. Supervisor Shellenhamer confirmed that a separate RACP Grant application, for a major overhaul of about \$1.5 million with a \$750,000 Grant, had been submitted. Manager Schwartz said he was seeking only general housekeeping, not that scale of project.

The Board discussed line 41 704 1700 (capital improvements), currently budgeted at \$10,000. Supervisor Harkins said the amount was too low, noting that the sidewalk repairs alone would cost that or more. He cited the Township's liability exposure from the deteriorating sidewalks. Supervisor Harkins estimated \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the sidewalks, however, suggested a \$50,000 placeholder, noting that a budget line is not a spending commitment. Chairman Eckert preferred issuing an RFP to price the proposed renovations before assigning a dollar amount. He also identified storage and records space, including codes enforcement files, as a priority.

Vice Chair Miller noted that quotes for LED lighting and sidewalk repairs were obtained more than six years ago and the work was deferred. He recommended that no decision be made that evening and that the Manager return to the November Workshop with current quotes. Manager Schwartz agreed and noted that LED fixtures now cost approximately \$50 to \$75 each, plus installation labor. Supervisor Harkins cautioned against pricing fixtures from consumer retailers. The Board by consensus agreed to revisit the item at the November Workshop.

Chairman Eckert asked about the sewer line running from the Township building to the old police department. Manager Schwartz said the clog had been cleared but the pipe underneath the old police station is severely deteriorated. Options include lining the pipe, excavating and replacing it, or rerouting to the main line. No cost estimates or final solution were available.

Chairman Eckert asked about the 23.7 percent reduction in line 401 450 (contracted services). Manager Schwartz explained that the website cost came in lower than anticipated, that part of the cost was absorbed in the 2026 budget (which included \$60,000 for the website), and that annual maintenance was lower than projected. The Board also noted that a \$9,000 blower for the street sweeper had been listed in the wrong line in the notes. It belongs in the Highway budget.

Chief Sharif requested reducing line 410 314 (special legal services) from the previously discussed \$15,000 to \$11,000. Supervisor Harman noted that year-to-date spending already exceeded that figure. Comptroller Deamer explained that 2026 included out of the ordinary expenses related to recruitment and the Chief's replacement.

Supervisor Harkins asked if revenue would be discussed for the police budget at this time. Manager Schwartz said each borough had been sent a 2027 police services contract, with a response due before the next Workshop.

Chairman Eckert asked about the \$14,000 on line 410 242, labeled "weapons." Manager Schwartz and Chief Sharif clarified that the line covers the annual lease of conducted electrical weapons (Axon TASERs), at about \$12,000, with roughly \$2,000 remaining. There is no firearms line. The Chief agreed the label was misleading.

Supervisor Harman asked about line 410 260 (minor equipment). Chief Sharif described it as a catch-all for items not covered elsewhere, such as vehicle decals, medical supplies, optic adapters, and defibrillator electrodes. He proposed reducing it from \$15,000 to \$10,000.

Chief Sharif noted that the \$47,944 for police body cameras was tied to a Grant application awaiting a decision. He had asked the Grant underwriter whether the funds could be used toward a cloud-based system. Manager Schwartz explained that the Grant requires a 50 percent match and that the lease is already budgeted.

Comptroller Deamer said the Grant revenue appears on page 2 (line 351101) and that if the Grant is not awarded, both the revenue and expense lines are removed.

Supervisor Harman questioned why overtime premium (line 410 185) was unchanged although year-to-date spending was nearly at the budgeted amount. Chief Sharif said he hoped hiring two Officers would not significantly affect overtime, but extended leaves could require overtime coverage. On health and welfare (line 410 192), Comptroller Deamer clarified that it covers mandatory psychological evaluations, which are scheduled annually or semi-annually and may not yet have occurred.

Chairman Eckert asked why pension line 487 160 decreased from about \$307,000. Comptroller Deamer explained that the decrease reflected higher anticipated state aid, at 30 units at about \$6,460 versus \$5,750 the previous year. She noted that the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) in the prior year was affected by 27 payrolls and the Rite Aid detail.

The Board discussed the training line (410 461), proposed for \$20,000. Chief Sharif called the figure a "wish list" intended to address gaps in Officer training, particularly defensive tactics retraining. He said the effective training he had sought to host locally had not materialized, and he expected not to spend the full amount. Vice Chair Miller recalled that the Township's investment in its building and in a virtual training system was expected to reduce training costs and generate revenue from other agencies and said no such revenue had been observed. Chief Sharif agreed to investigate the system's status.

Manager Schwartz presented the Fireman's Relief pass-through, proposed at a 70 percent /15 percent /15 percent split among Newberry Township and the two boroughs. He described it as a starting point.

Chairman Eckert said the Township must support the fire department operating in Newberry Township, citing the \$219,000 needed for SCBA upgrades and the Township's obligations as a Class 2 Township. He also valued the contributions of Goldsboro and York Haven and supported the 70/15/15 proposal. Supervisors Harman and Supervisor Shellenhamer also supported it.

Vice Chair Miller disagreed with the 15/15 portion. He noted that the boroughs receive their own Fireman's Relief and do not share it with the Township, that Goldsboro reportedly provides mutual aid to Fairview Township, and that Goldsboro has an independent revenue source. He noted that Goldsboro received \$7,500 in 2026. Supervisor Harman cautioned against abruptly cutting the boroughs' funding and suggested gradual change in future years. Vice Chair Miller clarified that he did not propose eliminating funding. The Board proceeded with the proposed budget by consensus. No vote was taken.

Later in the meeting, Supervisor Harman asked about line 419 331 (SAFER Grant travel and training). Comptroller Deamer explained that the Grant writers had advised that the Grant allows retroactive reimbursement for volunteer training and mileage if receipts and proof of completion are provided. The line was left in at the request of the fire department in case training occurs before the Grant ends on June 30, 2027. Fire Chief Harbold said the department's treasurer would compile training costs for submission. Supervisor Harman encouraged the department to document and claim eligible costs.

Manager Schwartz reviewed line 437 40 (major equipment), kept at \$142,000. This comprises \$100,000 for a used paver to start an in-house road program and \$40,000 for a bucket truck that would also serve as a sign truck. He was awaiting word from Conewago Township on whether its bucket truck could be used. He offered to remove the bucket truck or return to it when firmer figures were available.

Vice Chair Miller asked why capital reserve funds could not be used for the paver, given a balance of a couple of million dollars. Manager Schwartz said he preferred using the regular budget for used equipment and reserving capital reserve funds for new, long-lasting purchases. Vice Chair Miller noted that the Board has discretion over capital reserve spending and that a previously purchased used sweeper gave about ten years of service.

It was clarified that the paver is also the subject of a Grant application. If the Grant is awarded, the Township would purchase a new paver and sell the used one, with no net loss expected. Manager Schwartz presented a five-year in-house road maintenance plan with potential savings of nearly \$500,000. Supervisor Harman and Chairman Eckert asked whether the six-person crew could carry out that workload. Vice Chair Miller considered the return on investment strong.

Under capital reserves (page 12), Manager Schwartz noted that an excavator for the Highway Department is the only item not offset by a Grant, and he sought Board approval to keep it. Chairman Eckert said he did not favor that item. Manager Schwartz said the other items are purchased only if Grants are received. He noted that a Local Share Account (LSA) State Grant application is due October 31, with no match required, and that a roller

was among the items under consideration. Vice Chair Miller said the Board should hold an open meeting to vote on the application.

Supervisor Harman asked about line 433 372 (highway street, general services and others), budgeted at \$300,000 against about \$83,000 spent year to date. Comptroller Deamer said she would adjust it.

Manager Schwartz asked for the Board's consensus on library funding (line 456 520), which the Board increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for 2026 at the libraries' request. No new information had been received from the libraries. Vice Chair Miller and Supervisor Harman were willing to leave it unchanged. Supervisor Harman and Supervisor Harkins confirmed that no tax increase was currently proposed. Chairman Eckert said all amounts would remain as proposed unless later changes were needed. Manager Schwartz noted that the only update he had received was from the Redland Senior Center.

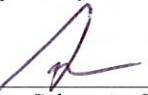
Manager Schwartz and Comptroller Deamer reported that the health insurance renewal would increase only 2.9 percent rather than the 8 percent assumed. This is a savings of over \$60,000 against the draft, allocated between Police (410 series) and administrative benefits (line 487 156). Comptroller Deamer noted that open enrollment in November could change enrollment figures.

Supervisor Harman noted that line 486 351 (insurance package) showed a 2027 proposal below year-to-date spending. Comptroller Deamer explained that allocation data from the insurance broker arrived the previous Friday. A portion of the premium will be allocated to the Sewer and Recreation funds, which will be billed for their shares. This will reduce the 2026 actuals, and the line will be corrected for the next Workshop. She also noted that insurance costs are rising with newer vehicles, buildings that belong to sewer and locations that belong to the parks, and a tough market.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Schwartz, Secretary

