

Newberry Township Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting

January 5, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order-Solicitor

The meeting was called to order by Township Solicitor James Sanders. The purpose of the meeting was explained as a reorganization meeting, required to be held on the first Monday following the start of the year. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The Solicitor noted that there were three new supervisors: Tony Miller, Mario Eckert, and Jane Harman.

Nomination and Election of Chairman of the Board

Solicitor Sanders opened nominations for Chairman of the Board.

Motion: Tony Miller nominated Mario Eckert for Chairman of the Board. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all Supervisors voting in favor.

Following the election, Solicitor Sanders relinquished his duties to the newly elected Chairman Mario Eckert.

Nomination and Election of Vice-Chairman of the Board

Chairman Eckert opened nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board.

Motion: Supervisor Harman nominated Tony Miller for Vice Chairman. Chairman Eckert seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously with all Supervisors voting in favor.

Public Comment

Several residents addressed the Board during public comment:

Dominish Miller (Events Committee Member) expressed concerns about changes to the Events Committee. She explained that she founded "Preserving the History of Newberry Town" in 2022, which now has nearly 10,000 members in a township of just under 16,000 residents. In 2024, she and Supervisor Shellenhamer started the Newberrytown Events Committee, which has worked to be transparent and inclusive. She stated that removing an integral member of the team would undermine their work and accomplishments. Ms. Miller indicated she would be prepared to remove herself from the committee if the integrity of the team was compromised.

Vice Chairman Miller responded to her comments by acknowledging her volunteer service but provided background on issues with the Events Committee. He explained that until March 2025, it was an unofficial group of volunteers. He stated that Supervisor Shellenhamer had used her position without proper authority to involve township staff and resources. Vice Chairman Miller outlined the timeline of the committee becoming official in March 2025 and noted that Supervisor Shellenhamer was initially a liaison, not a voting member, until October 2025. He clarified that the Resolution before the Board would result in both him and Supervisor Shellenhamer stepping down as committee members, but they could still be involved in planning and volunteering at events.

Supervisor Shellenhamer requested that Vice Chairman Miller send her the documents backing up his claims and noted that she believed the Resolution was developed without transparency.

Doug Klinefelter (Police Officer) requested to speak about the agenda item regarding the appointment of Police Chief. Chairman Eckert declined to allow public comment on this issue during the meeting, stating they would address it during executive session. Officer Klinefelter argued that under the Sunshine Act and First Amendment rights, the Police Association should be permitted to address a matter listed on the public agenda. After some debate about procedural matters, Chairman Eckert maintained his position that the police would have an opportunity to speak during executive session.

Supervisor Harkins expressed that he believed Officer Klinefelter should have been allowed to speak.

Mike McCleary – Resident, 3455 Grandview Drive - spoke about data centers, expressing his opposition to them in the township due to infrastructure strain, noise, and negative impacts. He also expressed support for Supervisor Shellenhamer, stating she "always shows up" and makes positive differences in the community.

Norman Sietz (Events Committee Member) addressed Resolution 2026-08 regarding the Events Committee. He explained that the committee started as volunteers and evolved organically. He described their accomplishments, including the Veterans Memorial project and other community events. Mr. Sietz expressed concern that removing Supervisor Shellenhamer would handicap the committee, as she had been a key leader who "kept us cemented together."

Chairman Eckert responded that the board was not looking to dismantle any committee programs but to build upon them.

Dave Lash – Resident, 670 Whisler Road - spoke in support of Supervisor Shellenhamer, describing her volunteer work with the VFW and various community events. He detailed her involvement in organizing the Christmas tree lighting and other successful township events. Mr. Lash expressed concern that removing her from the committee would hurt the community.

Terry Von Nieda (Owner of The Warehouse at 700 York Road) explained his support for community events, noting that his business had contributed to township events by providing DJ services and food for events. He expressed concern that dismantling the committee might result in fewer donations from community members and businesses.

Chairman Eckert reiterated that the intent was not to dismantle the committee and that community involvement was important but emphasized that "not any one person comprises that committee and decides whether it sinks or swims."

Vice Chairman Miller clarified that they were not dismantling the committee but addressing concerns about having Supervisors serve as voting members on township committees, which could present conflicts of interest.

Supervisor Harman added that she had previously served on the Park and Recreation Board but stepped down upon becoming a Supervisor, as she believed it was inappropriate for a Supervisor to have "two votes" on issues - one at the committee level and another at the Board of Supervisors level.

Appointments

Motion: Supervisor Harman moved to approve appointments A through K on the agenda (excluding item C for Alternate Zoning Officer/Building Code Official as there was no appointment for this position).

Vice Chairman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

These appointments included: a. Manager/Secretary/Asst. Treasurer b. Zoning Officer/Building Code Official d. Comptroller/Treasurer/Asst. Secretary c. Public Works Director f. Wastewater Services Coordinator g. Sewage Enforcement Officer h. Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer i. Solicitor j. Labor Attorney k. Engineer

For item L regarding the Police Chief position:

Motion: Chairman Eckert moved to designate Lieutenant Diddy as the officer in charge of the Newberry Township Police Department, effective immediately, to oversee day-to-day operations until the Board takes further action regarding the position of Police Chief. Vice Chairman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

For item M regarding Third Party Inspection Services:

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to appoint Commonwealth Code and Approved Code as the third-party inspection services. Supervisor Harkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorize Supervisors to serve as Township Employees

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to authorize Supervisors to serve as Township employees. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion.

During discussion, Supervisor Harman requested clarification about what this meant. Township Manager Aaron Schwartz explained that this would allow Supervisors to be paid for additional work like snow plowing or mowing parks in emergency situations, but not for their regular Supervisor duties.

The motion carried with all in favor.

Set Treasurer Bond at \$1 million for Treasurer and Manager

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to set the treasury bond at \$1,000,000 for the treasurer and the manager. Supervisor Harkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorize Township Manager to appoint Township staff to serve as Township employee within another department

Motion: Supervisor Harkins moved to authorize the township manager to appoint township staff to serve as township employees within another department. Vice Chairman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Open Records Officer(s)

Motion: Supervisor Harkins moved to appoint Aaron Schwartz as Open Records Officer for the Township with Donna Donald as alternate, and Lieutenant Braxton Diddy as the Open Records Officer for the Police Department. Vice Chairman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint York County Planning Commission Local Advisory Committee

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to appoint Aaron Schwartz to the York County Planning Commission Advisory Committee. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Newberry Township Planning Commission Member(s)

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to appoint James Alexander to a 4-year term on the Newberry Township Planning Commission. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Two Supervisors to the Public Safety Committee

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to appoint Mario Eckert and Jane Harman as Supervisors on the Public Safety Committee. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion.

During discussion, Supervisor Shellenhamer noted that she had been involved in the committee and would like to remain on it. The motion carried with Chairman Eckert, Vice Chairman Miller, and Supervisor Harman voting in favor. Supervisor Harkins and Supervisor Shellenhamer opposed. The motion carried.

Appointment of the Board Chairman to Serve as Liaison to the Police Department

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to appoint Mario Eckert to serve as a liaison to the police department. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Newberry Township Vacancy Board Chairman

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to appoint Dave Parsons as the Newberry Township Vacancy Board Chairman. Supervisor Harkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorize PSATS Convention Attendance & Appoint Voting Delegate

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to authorize Aaron Schwartz, Township Manager, to attend the PSATS Annual Convention in Hershey on April 19-22, 2026, and to appoint him as voting delegate. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Newberry Township Park and Recreation Board Member(s)

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to appoint Karen Hubbard of Etters to the Park and Recreation Board for a 5-year term to fill the vacancy created by Jane Harman becoming a Supervisor. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-01: Order to Conduct Meetings

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to approve Resolution 2026-01, Order to Conduct Meetings. Supervisor Harkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-02: Establishing the fee schedule for Newberry Township

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to approve Resolution 2026-02, establishing the fee schedule for Newberry Township. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-03: Establishing employee contributions to the Newberry Township Police Pension Plan for plan year 2026

Motion: Supervisor Harman moved to approve Resolution 2026-03, establishing employee contributions to the Newberry Township Police Pension Plan for plan year 2026. Vice Chairman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-04: Establishing employee contributions to the Newberry Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for plan year 2026

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to approve Resolution 2026-04, establishing employee contributions to the Newberry Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for plan year 2026. Supervisor Harkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-05: Designating banks for the depositing of Township Funds

Motion: Supervisor Harkins moved to approve Resolution 2026-05, designating M&T, Member's 1st, ACNB, PLGIT, Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC and LPL as the banks for the deposit of Township funds. Vice Chairman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-06: Setting 2026 wages

Motion: Supervisor Harkins moved to approve Resolution 2026-06, setting 2026 wages. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Resolution 2026-07: Establishing the IRS rate of mileage reimbursement for the use of personal vehicles on Township business

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to approve Resolution 2026-07, establishing the IRS mileage reimbursement for the use of personal vehicles in township business set at 72.5 cents per mile. Supervisor Harkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Resolution 2026-08: Establishing the Newberry Township Events Committee

Motion: Vice Chairman Miller moved to approve Resolution 2026-08, establishing the Newberry Township Events Committee. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion.

During discussion, Supervisor Harkins noted that he was not involved in drafting the Resolution and had no prior knowledge of it before it was posted on the agenda. Supervisor Shellenhamer expressed concerns about the lack of transparency in developing the Resolution and asked who was involved in writing it.

Supervisor Harkins also stated that while he was initially not excited about the new board members, he had come in with an open mind. However, he expressed concern about excluding Supervisor Shellenhamer from the committee. Supervisor Harman stated that her position was that no board member should sit on any committee and have a vote, as it represents a potential double vote.

Gary Hatter – Resident, Efters - suggested tabling the Resolution to rewrite it to clarify that Supervisors could be on committees but not have voting rights.

Motion to Table: Supervisor Shellenhamer moved to table Resolution 2026-08 until the next Board of Supervisors meeting to address concerns and potential ambiguity. Supervisor Harman seconded the motion. The motion to table carried unanimously.

Other Business

Appointment of Newberry Township Events Committee Member(s)

This item was tabled pending the Resolution of the matter regarding the Events Committee structure.

Motion to approve the Township Manager to execute and sign the Axon Enterprise, Inc. quote for the Newberry Township Police Department

Chairman Eckert explained that this was for updating the police department's taser systems, which were outdated. The cost would be spread over five years.

Lieutenant Ditty provided additional information, explaining that the tasers are a less-lethal tool that officers use frequently and effectively to keep officers and the public safe. The package includes five new tasers, associated equipment, training for all officers, and instructor training.

Motion: Supervisor Harkins moved to approve the Township Manager to execute and sign the Axon Enterprise Inc. quote (Quote No. Q-736217-46020AM) for the Newberry Township Police Department, in the total amount of \$68,271.40 over a 60-month term. Vice Chairman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The Board retired for an executive session to discuss personnel matters related to the police chief's resignation/retirement and litigation matters.

Adjournment

Motion: Chairman Eckert moved to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Harkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Schwartz, Secretary

