

**HARRIS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2026**

Board Members in Attendance: Dennis Hameister
Frank Harden
Nigel Wilson
Tracey Moriarty
Chris Murrell

Staff in Attendance: Mark Boeckel, Township Manager
Debbie Lang, Administrative Secretary – via Zoom

Public in Attendance: Eliza Pennypacker
Miles Guralnick
Bob Hoffman
Alexander Schmidbauer
Harmony Schmidbauer
Dale Fritts
Pam Carina
Jeanne Foster
Lee Gilbert
Becky Gilbert
Paul Gibbons

**Public in Attendance
via Zoom:** Nathaniel Holland

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Wilson called the January 5, 2026 meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Honorable Greg Koehle was present to swear in newly elected Supervisor Chris Murrell and newly elected Tax Collector Bridget Armstrong.

Vice Chair Wilson said he is excited to have Supervisor Murrell join the Board. He said since Supervisor Murrell entered the race for the Board of Supervisors, he has attended all the Board meetings to get up to speed on issues before the Board. He said Supervisor Murrell previously served as the Judge of Elections for the Harris Township West precinct. Vice Chair Wilson said he is looking forward to working with Supervisor Murrell and he is sure the rest of the Board members do too.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Harden moved to approve the minutes of the two December 8, 2025 public hearings and the December 8, 2025 regular meeting. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were no citizens present to discuss items not on the agenda.

4. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

Pennsylvania Act 65 requires the posting of agendas on the Township website 24 hours before a meeting. Only emergency and de minimus items, and items for discussion only, can be added to the agenda by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

If the Board has any items they wish to add to the agenda, they should discuss them at this time.

There were no new items to add to the agenda.

5. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS:

a. ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Board members shall nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for calendar year 2026.

Vice-Chair Wilson said since he was Vice Chair last year and our Chair is no longer with us, he will preside over this item. He said the Board needs to elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2026 and he opened nominations for this item.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to elect Dennis Hameister as Chair and Frank Harden as Vice-Chair to serve in calendar year 2026. There were no other nominations. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. INTERVIEW WITH PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF ABCS:

Mr. Boeckel said the Board meets with prospective candidates for our various ABCs prior to making appointments. He noted the first candidate, Cory Baggett, has withdrawn his application. . The remaining candidates were Robert Hoffman, Alexander Schmidbauer and Kelly Wolgast. He said after the Board has an opportunity to meet these folks, the Board will make appointments later in the meeting. He asked Mr. Hoffman if he wished to speak first.

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

- *Robert Hoffman RA, 238 Beacon Circle, is interested in serving on the Planning Commission.*
- *Alexander J. Schmidbauer, 138 Harris Avenue, is interested in continuing as Harris Township's C-NET representative and is also interested in serving on the Planning Commission.*
- *Kelly A. Wolgast, 129 Sophie Court, is interested in serving on the Planning Commission.*

The Board will make appointments to these boards later in the meeting. A copy of each person's application was in the agenda packet.

Robert Hoffman introduced himself. He said he has known most of the Board members for a long time. He said he used to be on the College Township Planning Commission and he really enjoyed it. He said he enjoyed being involved with the community and the activities and proposals that were going on in the township and being able to offer some comments on those land development items. He said when he and his wife Ann moved to Harris Township he had to get off the College Township Planning Commission, and he realized he missed being involved with the Planning Commission. He said he would really enjoy being on the Planning Commission in Harris Township. He said Harris Township is a different township with different chemistry and different motivations. He said he would like to contribute to township planning needs and realizes he would have some homework to do to catch up on changes in zoning and land development, but he is willing to do that. He said he is now retired however he still has his license. Supervisor Wilson pointed out Mr. Hoffman has also been a long-standing member of the Boalsburg Fire Company. Mr. Hoffman said he is now more active in the Lions Club.

Mr. Boeckel said next up is Alexander Schmidbauer and he is currently our C-Net representative. Mr. Schmidbauer is interested in continuing as Harris Township's C-NET representative and is also interested in serving on the Planning Commission. He has been the Township's representative to C-NET for the past year and would still like to continue that involvement as well as getting involved in the Planning Commission. Mr. Schmidbauer said he wants to serve the Township by leveraging his engineering and leadership skills to support thoughtful, well-planned growth consistent with the Pennsylvania Municipality's Planning Code and the Township's comprehensive plan and ordinances. He said he is eager to learn and is committed to developing a strong working knowledge of local zoning, subdivision and land development regulations and long-term planning principles. He said he values objective, fair decision-making collaboration with fellow commission members and meaningful public input. He said he is currently reading *The Citizen's Guide to Planning* to build a strong foundational knowledge of land use planning and municipal governments. He said he is committed to continued education so that he can provide informed while reasoned recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. He said if he is appointed, he will pursue formal training through the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association. He thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

Mr. Boeckel said the last candidate is Kelly Wolgast who is also interested in serving on the Planning Commission.

Kelly Wolgast said she lives on Sophie Court in Springfield Commons. She said she has been a member of this community since 2016, coming here after a long time of being in the military. She said she currently works at Penn State. She said she is a registered nurse and is a graduate faculty at their College of Nursing and also a Penn State graduate. She said she came back to this community, not just because of the job, but because she knew about Happy Valley and her love for this place. She said she is originally from Rochester, New York but really knew about this beautiful part of the country. She said the Board is wondering why someone who is a nurse wants to be on a planning committee. She said she has had a lot of executive leadership experience in the military. She was responsible for facility planning and also for community planning as part of her role in the military for many years. She said she is not an engineer, but she does think like a scientist because she is in the healthcare field. She said engineers and scientists tend to think alike because of their structure and education. She said she is here in the spirit of serving the community. She looks forward to serving in any capacity the Board sees fit and she would be a new voice for the Board to consider. She thanked the Board.

Vice Chair Harden said we would probably be remiss we don't explain the situation on the Planning Commission alternates and what we are going to do and how that will transition. Mr. Boeckel explained it was found that the Planning Commission ordinance was never amended back in 2015 to include the alternate positions. . He said the Board could still appoint alternates, but they would not officially be in that role until the ordinance is adopted. He said he has drafted that ordinance and it could possibly be adopted as early as next month. He said alternate members are seated on the Commission, but they don't vote unless they're actually put into a vacant seat when they're required for a quorum. Nonetheless, they could be participating in all the deliberation as a regular member would. Vice Chair Harden said the Board has found success in having these alternates.

c. RESOLUTION 26-01: ADOPTING A NEW TWO-YEAR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Mr. Boeckel said Resolution 26-01 adopts a new two-year agreement with the Township Manager. The agreement becomes effective January 6, 2026 and expires January 3, 2028.

Supervisor Wilson moved to approve Resolution 26-01, adopting a new two-year employment agreement with the Township Manager. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. RESOLUTION 26-02, SETTING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S SALARY FOR 2026:

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Chapter 1-2.5 of the Harris Township Code requires that the salary of the Township Manager shall be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Board.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to adopt Resolution 26-02, setting the Township Manager's

salary for fiscal year 2026. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. PRESENTATION FROM RETHINKING 45 TASK FORCE:

Mr. Boeckel said representatives of the Rethinking 45 Task Force will provide a presentation outlining key concerns regarding the potential expansion of Route 45 which is included in PennDOT's State College Area Connector Recommended Preferred Alternative. A copy of the Rethinking 45 Task Force request was included with the agenda.

Eliza Pennypacker said she has been appointed spokesperson for a group of residents from Liberty Hill on this matter. She provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation. She said they are also concerned about the residents of Ashworth Woods. Their concern is about the proposed interchange between Boal Avenue and the 322 interchange area. She said they learned about this just this afternoon. She said this area was removed from the Route 45 study that PennDOT conducted. She said they are asking for clarity on how this decision was made and now it is back in the scope of the project. She said the residents at Liberty Hill met with PennDOT in September of 2025 . She said their core concerns are safety and access and the loss of walkable and bikeable access to Boal Avenue. They feel safety on 322 should strengthen, not compromise safety on Route 45. She said their "ask" on this is for process clarity and public input. She said they are asking the Board of Supervisors to request clarification from PennDOT regarding the status of the PA-45 Corridor Study announced in January 2024 and to ask PennDOT to explain how PA-45 concepts shown in SCAC materials released after the January 19, 2024 announcement will be handled and what opportunities for public input will be provided.

Vice Chair Harden said he has been on this Board for 10 years. He said we have asked PennDOT to reduce the speed on Route 45 from Shingletown and we have asked PennDOT for cooperation with the road diet along Boal Avenue and reducing the traffic on Boal Avenue. All to no avail. He said the next public input period on this project will probably be the NEPA stage this spring or early summer. He said the Route 45 study is a project that will go to the MPO and will be placed on the TIP. He said MPO meetings are open to the public and he would urge the residents of Liberty Hill to attend those meetings. He said he also talked with Chair Hameister prior to the meeting and told him Harris Township needs to write a letter to PennDOT in conjunction with what this Task Force is doing, that addresses these issues and telling them we want this road diet. He said when he met with the residents of Liberty Hill, he told them don't write one letter, write 240 letters. He said today's announcement about PennDOT on this project does not surprise him at all. He said PennDOT does what they want to do. He said all we can do is continue being a squeaky wheel about this.

Supervisor Moriarty said her biggest concern is this huge interchange around 45. She said there is no reason for this huge interchange. She said she wanted a shorter interchange and PennDOT said they could do something like that. She said there really isn't that much traffic coming in on 322 and getting on 45. She said she doesn't agree with Vice Chair Harden about the road diet.t. She said she agrees with the Task Force and she just doesn't see the need for it.

Ms. Pennypacker said the Liberty Hill resident's recollection on their September meeting with PennDOT was very different from PennDOT's. She said they voiced a whole lot of concerns and were simply told "sorry, it's got to be that way". She said a colleague of hers who is an expert in trying to counter DOT demands said it is all about numbers. She said Vice Chair Harden is correct in that we have to write a lot of letters and a lot of statements of concern. Ms. Pennypacker thanked the Board for their time.

Jeanne Foster said when PennDOT came to Liberty Hill to meet, there was a huge outcry from the Liberty Hill residents that if they were going to put this huge road in, if they could at least have a stop light there so they could get in and out. She said the response from PennDOT was that they've done a traffic study and it doesn't merit a stop light.

Miles Guralnick from Liberty Hill said this is just a timing thing. He said the opportunity to comment will occur starting January 1 with a 90-day window. He said the DEIS is supposed to drop within that period – the first quarter of 2026. He said that when the DEIS is released, there will be a 30-to-45-day period for public comment. He said this will be formal public comment that will be put into the record. He said this is an opportunity for all of us who want to express our concerns formally and get it into the record. He said all the data they have collected to support this project will be in that DEIS. He said that will give us an opportunity to take a close look at it. He said if we don't agree with it or have questions about it, that is the time to do it.

Supervisor Murrell said one of his biggest concerns about it is the bicycle and pedestrian access. He said it is not just Liberty Hill and Ashworth, it is out to Kaywood and Rockey Ridge and Willowbrook. He said, as a biker, it is horrible riding out there. He said knowing that they've got the multi-use path going now all the way out to Bear Meadows Road, he thinks there is a real opportunity to connect that part of the Township to the downtown area. He said it is incredibly walkable if it's safe. He said he thinks if we can get enough people from Liberty Hill, Ashworth and Kaywood together, it at least gives us a chance. He said as Supervisor Harden said, they can ignore it but the only way they are going to know it is a concern for us is for us to get together in force and be heard.

Kelly Wolgast said she lives in Springfield Commons and this is a concern for them as well. She said we should not limit this to just Liberty Hill because this is impacting everyone. She said something that was not introduced in this presentation is the issue of noise that will be created by this project. Supervisor Moriarty said PennDOT has already stated that the noise level coming off 322 is beyond acceptable and she believes they are going to address that. Ms. Wolgast said this should blanket the whole Township. She suggested a draft letter for all to use.

Supervisor Wilson said he has been a resident of the Hill for 35 years. He said one of his big concerns was traffic turning left off Boal Avenue onto Boalsburg Pike to get to Liberty Hill. He said he has been pushing for a dedicated turn lane at this intersection. He said he would appreciate it if the Task Force would add that section in with their request. He said we are not giving up on that road diet. He said this is bigger than just that interchange, it is the whole Township.

Chair Hameister suggested Liberty Hill residents get in touch with other neighborhoods to see if they can put something together to send to PennDOT. Ms. Pennypacker said if they could get contact information for these other neighborhoods, they could do that.

f. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chair Hameister said the Board will recess to an executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The Board recessed to executive session at 7:55 PM. The meeting reconvened at 8:47 PM.

g. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT TO POSITIONS STIPULATED BY CODE OR ORDINANCE:

- Township Secretary – Treasurer

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

One of the functions of serving as the Township Manager is serving as the Secretary-Treasurer. This is an annual appointment as required by the Second Class Township Code.

The Treasurer's bond has been set at \$1,000,000. This is based on the maximum amount of transferable or liquid assets available at any one time during the year.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint Mark Boeckel to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of Harris Township for 2026, setting the Treasurer's bond at \$1,000,000. Chair Hameister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Resolution 26-03 appoints an Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. A resolution is required by the Second Class Township Code. Supervisor Moriarty served in this position last year.

Supervisor Wilson moved to appoint Supervisor Moriarty as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer and adopt Resolution 26-03. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

h. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Township Engineer

Mr. Boeckel said in 2025, Harris Township received engineering services from College Township, Century Engineering, and McCormick Taylor. We have received engineering services

from College Township since 2002. Per our agreement with College Township, they provide engineering services for land development plan reviews and stormwater matters.

Beginning in 2023, the Township retained Century Engineering, which is a subsidiary of the Kleinfelder Engineering network, to provide engineering services for public infrastructure projects and other needs. Century Engineering has expressed an interest in continuing in this capacity in 2026.

McCormick Taylor has served as the Township's Traffic Engineer for many years and is interested in being reappointed in 2026.

Staff recommended that the College Township Engineering Department and Century Engineering be appointed as our primary municipal engineers, and McCormick Taylor be appointed as our Traffic Engineer.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint the College Township Engineering Department and Century Engineering to serve as primary municipal engineers for Harris Township in 2026 and to appoint McCormick Taylor to serve as traffic engineer in 2026. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO)

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

The Centre Region Code Administration (CRCA) has served as the Township's primary SEO since 2023. The CRCA provides SEO services to the other five Centre Region municipalities and is self-funded.

Laron Horner served as the Alternate SEO in 2025 and is interested in being reappointed in 2026.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint Centre Region Code Administration as primary SEO and Laron Horner as alternate SEO. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Township Solicitor

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

In 2025, Thomas S. Schrack and Jennifer L. Bauer from the firm of McQuaide Blasko served as our primary solicitor and Ron McGlaughlin from Stover McGlaughlin served as our alternate solicitor. All are interested in being reappointed in 2026.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint the law firm of McQuaide Blasko, with Thomas S. Schrack and Jennifer L. Bauer as principal counsel, to serve as Harris Township Solicitor

for 2026 and to appoint Ronald McGlaughlin and the law firm of Stover McGlaughlin to serve as alternate solicitors for 2026. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Zoning Hearing Board Solicitors

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Scott Etter has served as our Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor for several years. David Gaines from Miller Kistler and Campbell has served as our Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. Both Mr. Etter and Mr. Gaines are interested in continuing to serve in their respective capacities.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to appoint Scott Etter and the Etter Law Firm as Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor and David Gaines and the law firm of Miller Kistler and Campbell as Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. Vice Chair Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Act 511 Tax Collector

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Act 511 are non-property-based taxes, i.e. earned income tax. These taxes are collected on a countywide basis and the Centre Tax Agency has been named collector by the Centre County Tax Collection Committee.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to appoint Centre Tax Agency as the Act 511 Tax Collector for 2026. Vice Chair Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. ANNUAL COG AND RELATED COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Board members should decide who will represent Harris Township on the following Committees:

Executive – **Chair Hameister**
Finance – **Vice Chair Harden**
Parks Capital – **Supervisor Moriarty**
Public Safety – **Supervisor Wilson**
Climate Action and Sustainability – **Supervisor Murrell**
Land Use and Community Infrastructure Committee (LUCI) – **Chair Hameister**
Parks and Recreation Governance Special Committee – **Supervisor Moriarty**
Centre County MPO Coordinating Committee (4-year term) – **Vice Chair Harden**
Facilities Committee – **Supervisor Moriarty**
Human Resources – **Supervisor Wilson**

Per a motion by the General Forum at the November 2025 meeting, municipalities were asked to not appoint members to the Facilities or Human Resources Committees in the first half of 2026.

The COG Executive Director annually wishes to know whether there will be a departure from past practice relative to substitution at meetings and voting by those that substitute. The 2025 policy was that any Board member could substitute for any other Board member at the request of the appointed Committee member, and had voting rights, but the Committee member has the responsibility for briefing the substitute before the meeting where a vote may occur. The Township Manager can substitute if no Board member is available or interested but has voting rights only if specifically instructed by the missing Committee member on how to vote on that member's behalf.

In addition to the COG appointments, the Board needs to appoint representatives to the following:

Spring Creek Watershed Commission – **Supervisor Murrell**
Boalsburg Heritage Museum of Harris Township Board – **Bud Graham**
Centre Area Cable Consortium
Centre County Solar Group – **Chair Hameister**

Since 2023, the vice-chair has served as the primary representative to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission. Bob Igo has indicated a desire to continue serving as the alternate to the Commission.

The Heritage Museum Articles of Agreement indicate the Supervisors should appoint a representative to the Board annually. It does not have to be a Township Supervisor, just someone chosen to represent the Township. Charles (Bud) Graham previously served as the Board's representative and is interested in continuing in this capacity.

Vice Chair Harden moved the appointment of Committee members for 2026 as noted above in bold and direct Township to notify the COG Executive Director that the substitution/voting policy shall remain unchanged for 2026. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

j. OTHER MUNICIPAL APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS:

- Vacancy Board

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

The Board of Supervisors must make an appointment to certain positions vacated by death, disability, or resignation, such as elected positions, within 30 days of the vacancy occurring. Failure to make an appointment within 30 days would require an appointment by the Vacancy Board, which consists of the Board of Supervisors and one electorate of the Township. The Township Code states that this appointment should occur at the organizational meeting or as soon as practical. This is an annual appointment.

The Board has historically appointed a former member of the Board of Supervisors to serve as the Vacancy Board Chair, with Charles (Bud) Graham holding the position in 2025. Bruce Lord expressed an interest in serving as the Vacancy Board Chair in 2026.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint Bruce Lord to serve as Vacancy Board Chair for 2026, with a term ending December 31, 2026. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Planning Commission

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

There are two regular positions open on the Planning Commission. One regular position vacancy was created by the recent resignation of Peter Irish. Phill Becker holds a regular position and is interested in being reappointed to serve another term. Both vacant regular positions are four-year terms.

Cory Baggett, Robert Hoffman, Alexander Schmidbauer, and Kelly Wolgast have expressed an interest in being appointed to the Planning Commission.

As a reminder, the Township had previously appointed alternates to the Commission, and all terms ended on December 31, 2025. It was recently discovered that Chapter 1, Article III was never amended to include alternates as members of the Commission. Staff will be preparing amendments to the ordinance to establish the role of alternates. The Board could move forward with appointing alternates to the Commission, with the understanding that such appointments will not take effect until the ordinance is amended.

Renee Diehl and Chuck Risio currently serve as alternates on the Commission, and both have expressed an interest in being reappointed.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint Robert Hoffman and Phill Becker as regular members of the Planning Commission and Renee Diehl, Alexander Schmidbauer and Kelly Wolgast as alternate members of the Planning Commission to terms ending December 31, 2029. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Zoning Hearing Board

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

There is one position open on the Zoning Hearing Board. Len Rockey has indicated that he would like to be reappointed to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Board meets only when necessary.

Supervisor Wilson moved to appoint Len Rockey to the Zoning Hearing Board to a three-year term ending December 31, 2028. Vice Chair Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- State College Borough Water Authority

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Michael Smith served as the Township's representative to the Water Authority in 2025. He has expressed an interest in serving another one-year term.

Supervisor Wilson moved to appoint Michael Smith to serve as Harris Township's liaison to the State College Borough Water Authority in 2026. Vice Chair Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C-NET Representative

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Alexander J. Schmidbauer served as Harris Township's representative to C-Net in 2025. He has expressed an interest in serving another one-year term.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to appoint Alexander J. Schmidbauer to serve as Harris Township's C-Net Representative in 2026. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Bruce Lord had previously served as Harris Township's representative to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority. He is not interested in being reappointed. Authority representatives serve a five-year term.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint Supervisor Murrell to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority to a five-year term, ending December 31, 2030. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Centre Region Planning Commission

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Jeff Duerr served as the Township's representative on the CRPC and is interested in being reappointed for another two-year term. Staff will inquire if any Commission members are willing to serve as an alternate.

Supervisor Wilson moved to appoint Jeff Duerr as the Township's representative to the Centre Region Planning Commission with a term ending December 31, 2027. Chair Hameister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Peggy Johnson served as the Township's representative on the Centre County MPO Technical Committee over the past two years. Based on 2023 CCMPO bylaw amendments, appointments to both the Coordinating and Technical Committees are for four-year terms. Ms. Johnson has expressed an interest in being reappointed.

Supervisor Murrell moved to appoint Peggy Johnson to serve as Harris Township's representative to the CCMPO Technical Committee for a four-year term, ending December 31, 2029. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Centre County Tax Collection Committee

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Township Manager Mark Boeckel was appointed to serve as the Township's representative to the Centre County Tax Collection Committee in 2025. Bridget Armstrong was appointed to serve as the alternate representative.

Supervisor Wilson moved to appoint Township Manager Mark Boeckel as representative and Finance Assistant Bridget Armstrong as alternate to the Centre County Tax Collection Committee. Vice Chair Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

k. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Mr. Boeckel said Board members shall select dates for the Board meetings for 2026. The proposed meeting schedule adheres to the current format (primary meetings on 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m.; secondary meetings and road inspection on the 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.).

PROPOSED MEETING DATES

Regular Meetings	2 nd Meeting (as needed)
January 5	January 28
February 9	February 25
March 9	March 25
April 13	April 22
May 11	May 27
June 8	June 24
July 13	July 22
August 10	August 26
September 14	September 23
October 12	October 21

November 9
December 14

November 25

In response to a question from Chair Hameister, Mr. Boeckel said there are no conflicts to this proposed schedule with regard to holidays, etc.

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve the meeting schedule as proposed. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE TO STATE CONVENTION

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

The annual PSATS Convention is scheduled for April 19th – 22nd at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Among the Board members who attend, one Board member should accept the responsibility of serving as the delegate to the Convention. A vote of the Board is required for appointment of the delegate.

Vice Chair Harden moved to appoint Chair Hameister as Harris Township's delegate for 2026 at the PSATS convention. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

m. RESOLUTION 26-04: FEE SCHEDULE:

This was not read at the meeting; however, was part of the agenda language.

Each year, the Board adopts a Fee Schedule that lists the amounts charged for various Township and other agency services. Proposed changes to the fee schedule are highlighted in yellow.

In response to a question from Chair Hameister, Mr. Boeckel said there were some minor changes to the fee schedule. He said there were some minor amendments from the Code agency on the sewage enforcement costs. He believes the per hour cost went up a little bit and the add-on fee of \$3.00 for rental permits that the Board previously discussed was added.

Vice Chair Harden moved to adopt Resolution 26-04, setting the Fee Schedule for Harris Township. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Boeckel said the 2026 PSATS Educational Conference and Exhibit Show will be held from April 19th - 22nd in Hershey. Registration for the event opens on January 13th. Please let me know ASAP if you plan to attend so we can complete registration as early as possible. Chair Hameister and Supervisor Murrell both said they would be attending this conference.

The Conservancy is interested in having the fiberglass commemorative Liberty Bell installed on Township property, specifically in the Diamond near the wooden pump where there is an underutilized planter. A local scout would prepare the base for the bell as his Eagle Scout project. The Parks and Recreation Committee is supportive of locating the bell in the Diamond. Supervisor Moriarty said she wasn't even sure where this location is. Mr. Boeckel explained where the suggested location is. Supervisor Moriarty said that area has never really been taken care of by the Township. Chair Hameister suggested putting it near the Township building. Supervisor Wilson said he would like to look at this location and look around and scope out other possible locations. He said that location is not very visible because cars park there all the time. He said the bell should be displayed where it could pretty much be seen all the time. Supervisor Murrell said he likes the idea of the Diamond area. Mr. Boeckel said there is no urgency on this matter. He just wanted to make the Board aware of this and get their thoughts.

Mr. Boeckel said the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau is requesting a letter of support to have Route 45 designated as a scenic byway. The Board had received a presentation from HVAB at the May 2025 meeting. If the Board has no concerns with supporting this initiative, he would draft a letter for the Chair to review prior to sending it to the HVAB. He said there will be no impact to the Township on this request it is more a tourism type tool. It was the consensus of the Board that they do not need another presentation.

Mr. Boeckel reminded the Board they will meet with the Planning Commission, the Shade Tree Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on January 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Murrell asked about the software mentioned in item number 3 on the Manager's Report and wondered if this Rentalscape software is covered in the \$250 fee being charged for the rental license and if other municipalities use this same software. Mr. Boeckel said the cost of the software is covered in the fee being charged. He said College Township and State College Borough both use this software.

Supervisor Moriarty asked about the status of the property at 102 Wyndham Court. Mr. Boeckel provided an update on this property.

7. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve voucher transmittal sheet No. 2025-12 in the amount of \$438,733.88. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. COG COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The only committee report was from the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee: Chair Hameister attended this meeting for Vice Chair Harden and he said this group had a brief discussion on enterprise funds and they also talked about the excess funds in two or three programs. He said it was basically decided not to pull them back and to allow them to stay and the agency to spend that down. He said they have not solved the enterprise fund

issue with respect to growth. Vice Chair Harden noted the committee is hoping to have a fund balance policy within the next couple of months.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Supervisors, Vice Chair Harden moved to adjourn. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. Chair Hameister adjourned the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Boeckel, AICP
Township Secretary