HARRIS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026

Board Members in Attendance:	Dennis Hameister, Chair Frank Harden, Vice Chair Tracey Moriarty Chris Murrell
Staff in Attendance:	Mark Boeckel, Township Manager Todd Shea, Zoning/Ordinance Enforcement Officer Debbie Lang, Administrative Secretary – via Zoom
Public in Attendance:	Van Winter, Boalsburg Fire Company Chief Dottie Yukish Susan Evans Josh Lincoln, Tussey Mountain Jules Slater, CBICC Diane Farr
Public in Attendance via Zoom:	Julian Graham Bob Belicose, Maher Duessel John Sepp, PennTerra Engineering

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Hameister called the March 9, 2026 meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026 joint meeting February 9, 2026 regular meeting. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There was no one present to discuss items not on the agenda.

4. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no new items to add to the agenda.

5. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS:

a. <u>ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:</u>

Chair Hameister announced that the Board of Supervisors held an executive session on March 3, 2026 to discuss legal matters.

b. <u>PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 AUDIT:</u>

Mr. Boeckel said representatives from Maher Duessel will present the Township's 2025 audit. A copy of the draft audit was included in the packet.

Bob Belicose of Maher Duessel reviewed the audit and reports issued. He said there were no audit issues. He also reviewed the fund balances as of December 31, 2025 and the 2025 financial results. He gave a comparison of the general fund from 2023-2025. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Belicose said the audit procedure went well and he did not see any changes needed from staff. He said he would send the final letter and close out the 2025 audit.

Chair Hameister thanked Mr. Belicose for his presentation.

c. <u>REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE FLY STATE COLLEGE FUND:</u>

Mr. Boeckel provided background on the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County (CBICC) request for supporting the Fly State College Fund. Jules Slater from the CBICC was present and explained this fund helps the airport remain competitive and improves and enhances air service in the region.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the request, with several members stating that they did not see the value to the Township in providing support to the fund.

It was the consensus of the Board to not provide a financial contribution to the Fly State College Fund.

d. <u>PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A COMMEMORATIVE LIBERTY BELL IN THE DIAMOND:</u>

Mr. Boeckel said over the past several weeks, Staff met with representatives of the Boalsburg Village Conservancy and the Heritage Museum to discuss a proposal to place a commemorative Liberty Bell in the Township. He stated that representatives of the Conservancy and Heritage Museum were present to discuss their proposal to install the bell in the Diamond.

Susan Evans, a representative from the Boalsburg Heritage Museum read a statement about the 250^{th} commemorative liberty bell and provided a PowerPoint presentation showing the area they would like to have the bell placed. She explained the area would be cleaned up of clutter and a prospective eagle scout will install the base for the bell as their eagle scout project. They felt this location would get the most foot traffic.

The Board agreed this location would be acceptable for the bell. They suggested the scout should ask for donations for supplies. Diane Farr from the Boalsburg Village Conservancy said there was a grant received for this bell and the Conservancy still has approximately $122 left over from this grant that can be used for supplies. Dottie Yukish, Boalsburg Village Conservancy President, said she has reassured Susan and Sue that if the scout's materials amount to more than the $122, the Boalsburg Village Conservancy would be willing to step forward and contribute to the costs.

e. TUSSEY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT APPLICATION:

Mr. Boeckel provided background on the DRI application. He stated that Tussey Mountain is requesting that their property be added to the Regional Growth Boundary and Sewer Service Area to allow for improvements and expansion He said there is no timeframe or defined process for the Township to review the DRI request. Previous DRI requests were forwarded to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation prior to the Board of Supervisors deciding if the request merits regional discussion. It was the consensus of the Board that this application has merit and that it benefits the entire region and not just Harris Township. The Board briefly discussed this application and the beneficial reuse of water with Josh Lincoln from Tussey Mountain. The Board also briefly discussed whether the property would be grandfathered in terms of zoning or if they would need to change the use.

Following these discussions, the Board agreed to have the Planning Commission review this application and provide finding of fact for the Board to forward this application on to CRPC to begin the regional review process. Mr. Boeckel said that the item will be brought back to the Board in April for action.

f. SEWAGE FACILITIES PLANNING MODULE FOR THE LANDS OF STEPHEN D. & LINDA C. WEAVER:

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve Resolution No. 26-08, adopting the Stephen D. and Linda C. Weaver Sewage Facilities Planning Module as a revision to the Harris Township Act 537 Plan. Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

g. SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT – TERMINATION AGREEMENT:

Mr. Boeckel briefly reviewed the proposed termination agreement, noting that the agreement was being presented to each member entity of the Centre County Solar Group. He provided an overview of the legal and consultation costs related to the Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) as well as the proposed payment from the solar developer.

The Board discussed several matters related to the SPPA, including the loss of federal subsidies and the fact that this loss was never discussed at the beginning of this project. General discussion ensued about the merits and faults of the power purchase agreement. The general consensus of the Board was to approve the termination agreement.

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve termination agreement with CL-Route 58B LLC. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

h. ROPOSED TRANSIENT RETAIL MERCHANT ORDINANCE REVISIONS:

Mr. Boeckel said Staff began working on preparing a framework for an ordinance that could replace existing regulations that apply to transient retail merchants. Staff prepared three regulatory outlines that would provide requirements for solicitors/peddlers, transient retail businesses, and food trucks. He reviewed the proposed framework prepared by Staff. He said in response to a question received from a Board member, he did not believe that farmers could be required to get a license to sell their produce but he will need to get this clarified with our Solicitor. He said if the Board is agreeable to the framework provided, it could be put into ordinance format and brought back to the Board at their next meeting.

The Board discussed the event organizers collecting vendor information and fees. Mr. Boeckel discussed the Township's policing powers if vendor information is not held by the Township. The goal is to make this as easy and streamlined as possible for events. Those present discussed different pricing structures for each section.

Following these discussions, it was the consensus of the Board that Staff should move forward with drafting the ordinance based on the framework provided.

i. POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE:

Mr. Boeckel reviewed the fine amounts listed in the snow removal ordinance and noted that the ordinance had not been updated since it was adopted in the late 1990s. He recommended that the Board consider increasing the fine amount for vehicles parked on the street during a snow emergency. He also provided some examples of fine amounts in other Centre Region municipalities.

The consensus of the Board was to increase the fine to $25 for the initial offense and consider structuring the fine so the amount increases with subsequent offenses. Mr. Boeckel said he would bring this matter back to the Board at a future meeting.

j. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.8, APPLICATION FOR SHORT-TERM RENTAL LICENSES:

Mr. Boeckel explained that when the Township enacted this ordinance, the ordinance required applicants to supply proof of registration for hotel tax, which is collected by Centre County. Staff became aware that Centre County does not issue a certificate or other form of proof that a property owner has registered to pay hotel taxes for their property.

To simplify administration of the short-term rental regulations, Staff recommends that Chapter 3, Article 3, Section 3.8 be amended to remove proof of hotel tax registration from the application requirements. The Short-Term Rental License Application form would include a disclaimer notifying applicants that they may need to register for hotel taxes with both the State and the County.

It was the consensus of the Board to have staff prepare the ordinance and advertise a public hearing for the April 13th meeting for potential adoption.

Chair Hameister rearranged the agenda to discuss Committee Reports next.

8. COG COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Chair Hameister said this group set the agenda for the General Forum.

Land Use and Community Infrastructure: Chair Hameister said this group discussed refuse and recycling rates for 2026 and discussed the LUCI and CAS committees restructuring.

Parks Capital Committee: Supervisor Moriarty said this committee did not meet.

Parks Governance Committee: Supervisor Moriarty said this committee held a joint meeting with the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority.

Finance Committee: Vice-Chair Harden said this committee has pretty much completed the Fund Balance Policy and will probably be forwarding that on to the General Forum soon.

State College Area Connector Project: Vice-Chair Harden said the DEIS study has been released and is out for 45-day public comment. He said the next time we meet with PennDOT, our main focus should be on the 5-lane interchange being proposed on Route 45.

Centre County MPO: Vice-Chair Harden said this group discussed the connector project, the TIP and their work plan is getting done. They also have a lot of studies going on right now.

Centre Region Parks Authority: Supervisor Murrell said the Authority gave an underwhelming presentation and his concern was with the amount of money they want to spend for automated mowers. He said that is something for the Authority to work out.

Climate Action and Sustainability Committee: Supervisor Murrell said as mentioned previously by Chair Hameister, the refuse rates will be increasing but he did not feel it was a dramatic increase and they discussed the LUCI and CAS committees restructuring.

Public Safety Committee: There was no report this group.

k. PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES DURING BOARD MEETINGS:

Mr. Boeckel said the Board of Supervisors should discuss its current public comment procedures and determine if any changes should be made. The group discussed how they planned to handle public comment in the future and that they didn’t feel any significant changes were needed. It was agreed Chair Hameister and Mr. Boeckel will work on a procedure the Board will follow moving forward and a plan to notify the public of this change.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Boeckel said an updated map on the Project Oak Leaf gas line and a memo regarding the refuse and recycling rate changes were given to the Board members. He also advised the Board about replacing the 2011 Ford F-550. With regard to item number three on his report, the Board agreed the Township should require surety for community on-lot systems. The Board was also agreeable to item number four of the report regarding summarization of meeting minutes.

7. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve voucher transmittal sheet No. 2026-2 in the amount of $201,056.93. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Supervisors, Vice Chair Harden moved to adjourn. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. Chair Hameister adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Boeckel, AICP
Township Secretary