HARRIS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2026

Board Members in Attendance:	Dennis Hameister, Chair Frank Harden, Vice Chair Nigel Wilson 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:	Cynthia Hahn, C-Net Executive Director Robert Watts, McCormick Taylor Pam Adams, CRPA Planning Director Roy M. Love, DC Bud Graham Harmony Schmidbauer Alexander Schmidbauer, C-Net Representative Jacob Mchael, *CDT*
Public in Attendance via Zoom:	Lucille Hammond Ed Ferguson

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Hameister called the May 11, 2026 meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Murrell moved to approve the April 13, 2026 public hearing minutes, the April 13, 2026 regular meeting, the April 22, 2026 joint meeting and the April 27, 2026 special meeting minutes. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Dr. Roy Love said he is here with Karen Conroy and they are very interested in looking where we are going with both speed humps and traffic calming both on West Main Street, Academy Street and the rest of Boalsburg and particularly downtown. He said the community is growing, especially at the west end of town and cars go past his house at least 35 mph. He said this item was brought up a couple years ago and they would really like to see this as an agenda item and have the Board look at this. He said they feel this is something that is strongly, urgently needed. He said this would make a big difference in the safety of our community. He said there are younger families moving into this area with children and if speed humps were installed, it would deter people from cutting through. He said they would like the Board to consider this and let them know when it will be on the agenda as an item for discussion.

Karen Conroy from Academy Street said she just wanted to back up what Roy said. She said she came to a meeting about two years ago and brought this up. She said she just wanted to talk about what a good job Boalsburg has done with connecting the neighborhoods and has made it a real walkable community. She said there are many residents concerned about this, especially since there are so many areas that don't have sidewalks. She said if we could get this on an agenda, it would be greatly appreciated.

4. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no new items to add to the agenda.

5. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS:

a. C-NET UPDATE:

C-NET Executive Director Cindy Hahn and Alexander Schmidbauer, the Township's representative to C-NET were present to give an update on the organization's activities.

Ms. Hahn said this will be her last meeting with the Board since she will be retiring at the end of the month. She reviewed the 2025 highlights. She said Harris Township programming in 2025 totaled 29.5 programs. She explained the funding formula which is based on a 5-year rolling average. She explained the funding and franchise fees from Comcast.

Ms. Hahn explained how and where to watch Supervisor meetings and noted all meetings are chaptered on C-NET so it is easy to find a particular subject. She said Supervisors' meetings are streamed live on YouTube (CNETCentreCounty) and are also available to view "on-demand". She said the meetings are also on Roku, AppleTV and FireTV and C-NET has also provided video tutorials showing how to view these meetings on these devices. She also reviewed the online programming data showing the average number of views. Ms. Hahn discussed the candidate interviews that C-NET provides every year for both the primary and general elections. She said C-NET has been providing these interviews since 1994.

The Board and Ms. Hahn briefly discussed the funding of meteorological programs, the status of Shentel service and closed captioning. Ms. Hahn said the closed captioning is done through AI.

There were no other questions from the Board. Chair Hameister thanked Ms. Hahn for her many years of service and what she has done for public television and he wished her a happy retirement.

b. PENNDOT BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECT:

Mr. Boeckel informed the Board that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation proposes to perform bridge preservation work to the structure on S.R. 0322 that carries traffic over S.R. 0045. Roadway work will consist of paving the roadway 100’ at each end of the structure. A High Friction Surface Treatment will be applied for approximately 400’ before and 1900’ after the structure. Centerline delineators will also be replaced. This project is tentatively scheduled to be let in September 2026.

To increase public involvement and awareness of their projects, PennDOT requested that this information be added as an item to an agenda and that any comments from the public be provided.

c. BOAL AVENUE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND BOAL AVENUE NEEDS STUDY UPDATES:

Mr. Boeckel said in 2024, the Township received an Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) grant for the construction of a pedestrian crossing on Boal Avenue at the intersection of Old Boalsburg Road and the Pennsylvania Military Museum entrance.

In addition to the proposed crossing, the Township has also been working on a needs study for the Boal Avenue corridor. The needs study includes several projects along the corridor that would improve safety and access for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Traffic Engineer Rob Watts provided an update on these two initiatives. He discussed the ARLE grant and what this project will include. He noted we heard today from Neil Brofee from the Governor’s office that they are progressing the right-of-way plan for this signal. Mr. Watts said we need an area where we can put the signal equipment on the MOU to locate this signal on the Military Museum side and PHMC needs to approve that. He said Mr. Brofee did a great job in negotiating that and the PHMC isn’t going to require any money to allow the equipment to be located there. He explained the right-of-way process and how it is governed in Pennsylvania. He explained the funding stream of the ARLE grant program. He said that has held up this project. He said the design is virtually done. We needed to get through the right-of-way process and Neil has progressed that MOU with the PHMC. He said we should be receiving that back from them very soon. He said from there, it is a matter of design with PennDOT. Once this MOU is received, we hope to put this in the hands of a contractor so that they can order their signal poles and put them in early next year. He said there is a 6-month timeframe for getting the traffic signal poles ordered and fabricated. He said if we could get someone under contract by the end of summer, they can order the poles but complete the other necessary work on the project until the poles arrive.

Mr. Watts said with regard to the needs study, this study has been delayed due to the coordination that will be needed with the connector project. He said he believes melding these two projects is something they will be coordinating more on very soon. He said it is not a forgotten study; it has just been delayed because PennDOT doesn’t want to get ahead of the bigger project and cause more headaches for anybody.

d. FUTURE GROWTH IN HARRIS TOWNSHIP:

Mr. Boeckel said Pam Adams, Director of the Centre Region Planning Agency (CRPA) is present to review the areas discussed at the Joint Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission FLUM meeting held on April 22, 2026, at the Township Building. The purpose of this review is to ensure that Planning Commission's direction and recommendations are aligned with the desires of the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Adams gave a brief update on what a Comprehensive Plan is and progress on the update process. She reviewed the Harris Township Fact Sheet and Harris Township Open House Goal Prioritization Results for the Board's consideration. Together, these materials reflect both the technical data on Harris Township's RGB capacity and growth needs, and the priorities expressed by residents at the April 22, 2026 Open House. Updated analysis indicates that when accounting for approved but unbuilt dwelling units remaining within the RGB, Harris Township has sufficient residential capacity to accommodate its projected growth through 2045.

Ms. Adams said the Board should consider what criteria the Planning Commission and CRPA should use to identify and evaluate potential growth areas outside the RGB — and what site characteristics should be prioritized or avoided. She reviewed several areas that were identified as “housekeeping” items that should be addressed in this process.

It was the consensus of the Board to address the “housekeeping” items only at this time. The Board stated that they do not want big developments in the Township and that they want to preserve the current character.

Bud Graham cautioned the Board to proceed slowly and be careful with expanding the Regional Growth Boundary. He agreed the “housekeeping” items should be handled.

Ms. Adams said she is not telling us what we should do, but to think about what we might want to do. She said the CRPA has presented the data and the Board needs to decide what they would like to see. The group briefly discussed the FLUM and zoning with regard to the density the Board would like to see.

Ms. Adams said what she is hearing from the Board was to proceed with the clean-up of the “housekeeping” items discussed at the Joint Meeting in April. She said following the Board's discussion and direction, CRPA staff will carry this feedback to the Planning Commission at its June 15th meeting, where recommendations on future growth areas and land use designations will be formulated. Those recommendations will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors at a subsequent meeting for consideration and action.

e. FEES FOR SOLICITORS/PEDDLERS, TRANSIENT RETAIL BUSINESS, AND MOBILE FOOD VENDOR LICENSES:

Mr. Boeckel said at last month’s meeting, the Board of Supervisors reviewed three draft ordinances that would separately provide license requirements for solicitors and peddlers, transient retail businesses, and mobile food vendors. He stated that he talked with the Solicitor regarding the questions the Board had last month about farmers and minors. He said he will include those changes in the next draft. The Board briefly discussed the State law exempting farmers that are selling items that they produced.

The Board discussed the proposed fees for these various licenses. The consensus of the Board was that Staff did a good job on these fees, and they should proceed with finalizing the ordinance and fee schedule.

Staff will finalize the draft regulations and fee schedule and include them on an upcoming agenda.

f. REVIEW OF COG FUND BALANCE POLICY:

Mr. Boeckel said the COG Executive Committee recently forwarded the draft Fund Balance Policy, which was developed by the Finance Committee, to the municipalities for review and comment. The COG has requested that consensus comments related to the fund balance be sent to the COG Executive Director. Comments will be included in the agenda packet for the May 26, 2026 General Forum meeting.

The Board discussed the difference between enterprise agencies and other agencies. They questioned if an enterprise fund balance gets too high, how it is reduced. They also felt if a fund balance is to remain, only the amount of funds needed for a specific amount of time should be decided upon.

Mr. Graham said the COG is almost 60 years old and it may have morphed into more than what it was started as or was meant to be. He said maybe it is time to look at the overall picture of COG. He said they are growing exponentially. He noted that the document references multiple past reviews where COG saw no need for a fund balance, yet the current document justifies maintaining one for periods when revenues are low and expenses are high. He argued that the municipalities pay them every year based on their request. . He questioned why COG should retain taxpayer funds at year-end, and that the document authorizes COG to draw on the fund balance without member approval, which is spending funds that weren't in their budget. .He said he doesn't think they need a fund balance. He said the Finance Committee should sit down every year with each agency to determine what they need for their budget for the year and they should not be holding any of our money at the end of the year.

The Board agreed that COG does need to be pulled back. They also discussed their previous request for more statistics on how this money is being received and how and spent. They want a better breakdown in costs and revenues from all departments and agencies. It was also agreed that this document is a good mechanism for outlining something where there was a problem before because nothing was written down and this is a good start to solving the problem.

g. PARKS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FINAL DRAFT:

Mr. Boeckel said the Parks Governance Ad Hoc Committee recently completed revisions to the Intergovernmental Agreement and forwarded them to the municipalities for further review and comment. He said some of the things the Board and our Solicitor previously commented on have been incorporated into this document.

The Board would like to see the MOU on maintenance spelled out a little more. That is something that needs to be looked at on a park-by-park basis and this document kind of glosses over that. More detail on that process would be nice to see. The Board also felt if we are going to make Parks and Recreation an authority, which they are, then we should let them do everything and "divorce" them from COG. If they are an authority, we should make them an authority and then we don't have to look at their budget. They can come and ask us for money, and we can give them x amount of dollars and be done with it. The Board also felt there was multiple levels of management in this document. The Board also agreed that a job manager, rather than the Agency Director, should oversee managing future capital projects.

Mr. Graham said this document needs to spell out who is in charge. Is it the agency or the authority.

h. STREET SWEEPER PURCHASE:

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve the purchase of a 2009 Johnston Street Sweeper from College Township for $12,000, with funds to be taken from the Capital Equipment fund. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. ENTERING INTO A NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER CONTRACT:

The Township's current electricity contract is due to expire in June of this year. Staff reached out to the Municipal Utility Alliance, a program of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, which utilizes cooperative purchasing to reduce the impact of increases in the cost of electricity. The Township currently purchases electricity with 100% renewable energy credits (RECs) from Direct Energy at the cost of $0.08111 per kwh.

The Board were supportive of entering into a long term contract based upon the information provided, and that electricity should be purchased with RECs.

j. RESOLUTION 26-11: UPDATING THE TOWNSHIP FEE SCHEDULE:

This resolution updates the current fee schedule to include the 2026 hourly billable rates schedules for the Township Engineer (Jere Northridge - College Township), Strategic Solutions (Planning), and the Traffic Engineer (McCormick Taylor) per sections 503 and 510 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC).

Vice Chair Harden moved to approve Resolution 26-11, updating the Township's fee schedule. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Boeckel said there was a drawing on the bulletin board from the Plant Science 461 class regarding their evaluation of the land addition to Kaywood Park. He also noted that he has been working on obtaining prices for a new roof for the office. He has been advised that a standing seam roof would be a better long-term solution. He said this will be over the spending threshold and will need to be advertised and put out for bid. He will get something back to the Board on this probably in July. He also asked the Board if they were interested in holding a mid-year work session in July, as has been done in previous years to discuss future budgets and upcoming projects. The Board asked Mr. Boeckel to send some dates for consideration.

7. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Supervisor Wilson moved to approve voucher transmittal sheet No. 2026-04 in the amount of $201,220.43 Supervisor Murrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. COG COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Land Use and Community Infrastructure: Chair Hameister said this group held a joint meeting with the CAS Committee and discussed the Comprehensive Plan and discussed ARL at PSU Innovation Park.

Finance Committee: Vice Chair Harden said last month, this group worked on finalizing the draft Fund Balance policy to get it out to the Executive Committee.

State College Area Connector Project: Vice-Chair Harden said there is nothing new to report on this project.

Centre County MPO: Vice-Chair Harden said this group authorized the advertisement of the final 2027-2030 TIP, made some revisions to the 2025-2028 TIP to move some money around to take care of some projects and discussed the Rail Access study.

Parks Capital Committee: Supervisor Moriarty had no report from this committee.

Parks Governance Committee: Supervisor Moriarty said this committee is working through the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Centre Region Parks Authority: Supervisor Murrell said the authority reviewed concessions sales tax compliance, discussed the Millbrook Marsh Boardwalk community input survey and discussed agency goals and a project status update for 2026.

Climate Action and Sustainability Committee: Supervisor Murrell said Chair Hameister did not report the discussion on merging the LUCI and CAS has been forwarded to the General Forum. He said as things pop-up, ad hoc committees can be created on an as needed basis.

Spring Creek Watershed Commission: Supervisor Murrell said group will meet next week.

Public Safety Committee: Supervisor Wilson said this committee received a summary on the disaster preparedness workshop and continued discussion on the winter sports weekend.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Supervisors, Vice Chair Harden moved to adjourn. Chair Hameister adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Boeckel, AICP
Township Secretary