

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Minutes of the meeting held on September 16, 2025

A meeting of the Lower Paxton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Laura Kurtz on the above date at the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The supervisors present, in addition to Ms. Kurtz, were Pamela M. Thompson, Allen J. McCormack, Yuhanna Njeim and Jill Vecchio. Also in attendance were Thomas G. Vernau, Interim Township Manager, Adam Kosheba, Interim Asst. Township Manager/Director Public Safety, Kevin Hall, Solicitor and Mat Jaroslawsk.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements**

Ms. Kurtz announced that the Board met prior to the regular meeting for a Public Works budget workshop and held an informational meeting to meet the Township's new solicitor, Mr. Hall of Tucker Arensberg. She welcomed Mr. Hall to the Township.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Vecchio motioned to approve the minutes from the workshop meeting held on June 17, 2025. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. Ms. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

**Public Comment**

**Public Comment**

Mr. Gene Stilp, Director of No TMI Restart, addressed the Board regarding concerns about the proposed reopening of Three Mile Island Unit 1, emphasizing public safety and

evacuation risks. He argued that radiological evacuation poses unique and severe challenges, stating that mass evacuation of residents, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and businesses in a timely manner would be impractical or impossible. He cited existing evacuation plans, population growth, traffic congestion, and limited emergency response capacity, and expressed concern about the adequacy of federal oversight and emergency preparedness agencies. Mr. Stilp urged the Board to evaluate evacuation feasibility, consult with public safety officials and Dauphin County, and consider opposing the restart to eliminate evacuation risk. He also suggested that if the Township were expected to shoulder these risks, it should receive financial compensation.

Mr. McCormack acknowledged Mr. Stilp's long history of civic involvement and asked him to clarify what action he was requesting. Mr. Stilp responded that he wanted the Board to independently analyze evacuation risks, review forthcoming utility evacuation plans, and consult with county and public safety officials. Mr. McCormack questioned whether evacuation planning falls within Township jurisdiction and noted that any such planning would likely need to be coordinated with Dauphin County Emergency Management. He also asked whether modern nuclear technology reduces risk compared to 1979.

Mr. Stilp responded that aging infrastructure across the nuclear fleet presents risks regardless of technological advances and raised concerns about evacuating hospitals and vulnerable populations. He stated that he has engaged with Dauphin County Emergency Management and is currently involved in litigation regarding mandatory evacuation language sent to schools.

Ms. Thompson asked when Mr. Stilp spoke with the Central Dauphin School Board, and he replied that it was the prior Tuesday evening.

Mr. McCormack further asked whether a comparative risk assessment of modern nuclear operations has been conducted. Mr. Stilp suggested the Township undertake a “red team” risk assessment using independent experts to evaluate worst-case scenarios and evacuation feasibility under various conditions.

Mr. McCormack concluded by stating that resident safety is a top priority of the Board. While he expressed uncertainty about the Township’s role in evacuation planning and the overall risk level, he indicated that he would review the information presented, consult with county officials, and conduct further investigation, noting that he currently has more questions than answers.

Mr. John Campbell, 710 Rigley Lane, asked whether the Township has a conflict-of-interest disclosure policy applicable to all officials and employees, beyond the requirements of the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act. He described best practices used by nonprofit and corporate boards, including regular disclosures, training, recusal procedures, and maintaining transparency to build public trust. He emphasized the value of proactive disclosure and training for all Township personnel, not just elected officials.

Mrs. Vecchio asked whether Mr. Campbell was referring to a policy beyond the Ethics Act. Mr. Campbell confirmed that he was suggesting an additional internal Township policy and training program. Mrs. Vecchio explained that the Ethics Act already governs all public officials and public employees, clearly defining conflicts of interest and disclosure requirements, including financial interest filings and recusal provisions.

Mr. Campbell questioned whether disclosures are proactively requested or addressed only when a situation arises. Mrs. Vecchio responded that the Ethics Act places the responsibility on the individual to disclose conflicts and that it applies uniformly to supervisors and employees.

Mr. Vernau stated that the Township does not have a separate conflict-of-interest policy, as the Ethics Act already defines conflicts and governs conduct. He noted that adopting a separate policy would be redundant and potentially confusing. He added that ethics training is routinely provided through professional organizations and conferences and that the Township Solicitor regularly advises on conflict-of-interest matters. He indicated that, if the Board wished, a policy could be drafted, but it would not carry greater authority than state law.

Mr. Campbell reiterated the importance of training and awareness to ensure employees recognize and disclose potential conflicts. Mrs. Vecchio confirmed that Township employees are subject to the Ethics Act and required to file annual Statements of Financial Interest. She offered to contact the State Ethics Commission to inquire about additional education opportunities for staff.

Mr. McCormack expressed support for training but cautioned that creating a separate policy could unintentionally conflict with state law if not carefully drafted.

David Bracale, 5036 Utah Avenue, spoke during public comment regarding a door-to-door interaction related to a political flyer and raised concerns related to civil litigation involving a vehicular accident. Solicitor Hall advised that enforcement and civil litigation matters are not Township issues and recommended contacting the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office or private legal counsel. Mr. Hall further stated that the matter was not appropriate for discussion at a Township meeting.

Robin Lindsey, 6244 Overview Lane, commented regarding the reference to her name during public comment and sought clarification, noting the discussion was being televised. Ms. Kurtz advised that the matter did not pertain to Township business and could be discussed after the meeting, and stated that Ms. Lindsey's request for clarification would be entered into the record.

Mr. William Miller, 4311 Crestview Lane, commented on agenda items related to traffic and roadway improvements along Colonial Road and surrounding intersections. He stated that he has taken photographs documenting deteriorated conditions and offered to prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the Board. Mr. Miller expressed concerns regarding roadway right-of-way limits, noting that PennDOT has advised that maintenance extends only to the white line, which he believes is incorrect based on parcel records and discussions with the Public Works Director.

Mr. Miller reported significant sidewalk deterioration near Central Dauphin East High School, lack of winter plowing, overgrown vegetation impacting pedestrian and bicycle safety, and debris encroaching into the roadway. He described damaged and hazardous stormwater inlets, including one at Lyters Lane and Rutherford Road and another along Route 22, which he believes pose safety risks and may have been damaged by snowplows. He noted the absence of delineator posts along several state roads, contributing to winter driving hazards and traffic congestion at various choke points, including Route 22 and Earl Drive. Mr. Miller referenced a 2005 traffic study, stating that several recommended roadway realignments and intersection improvements were not completed, including dedicated left-turn lanes and signalization at Earl Drive. He questioned the prudence of investing in traffic signal upgrades without addressing underlying roadway design deficiencies and future development impacts.

Mr. Miller also raised concerns about erosion, undermined guardrails, exposed culvert pipes, and ongoing maintenance issues that he stated had been reported to PennDOT District 8 without resolution. He requested clarification regarding right-of-way distances and accountability for maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Njeim responded that right-of-way information could be determined by reviewing the original PennDOT construction contracts and roadway drawings, which identify right-of-way lines. He noted that PennDOT could be asked to mark the right-of-way, though this may be unlikely, and stated that reviewing the contract documents would be the most practical approach. He confirmed that the right-of-way is not defined by the white line.

### **Chairman & Board Members' Comments**

Ms. Thompson cited the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act definition of a conflict of interest and referenced prior comments made by Chair Kurtz regarding her professional familiarity with the law firms that submitted proposals to serve as Township Solicitor.

Ms. Thompson stated that, to avoid even the appearance of impropriety, Chair Kurtz should have recused herself from the vote on hiring the solicitor. She also expressed concern that residents' requests for a public interview process were not followed and encouraged greater sensitivity to public input.

Ms. Kurtz responded that her professional interactions with the firms were beneficial to the Township and clarified that she has no client, employment, contractual, or pecuniary relationship with any of the firms, nor her immediate family members. She stated that under the Ethics Act, no conflict of interest exists.

Solicitor Kevin Hall, Esq., noted that he did not see a conflict of interest under the Ethics Act. Mr. McCormack added that professional interaction among attorneys in the county is common and does not constitute a conflict and emphasized the Board's role as a representative body acting on behalf of residents.

Mrs. Vecchio explained that the Ethics Act narrowly defines conflicts of interest and "business with which one is associated," and confirmed that Chair Kurtz does not meet any of those criteria. She reiterated that under the Ethics Act, Chair Kurtz does not have a conflict of interest.

Mr. Njeim provided an update on the Linglestown roundabout, reporting that Township staff held a productive meeting with PennDOT representatives. The Township will submit an official request to PennDOT for an engineering evaluation of current conditions and existing truck restrictions on SR 39 and Mountain Road. Potential signage upgrades are anticipated, with all improvements expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Mr. McCormack announced that eight full-time career firefighters began a four-week training program, marking the first step in establishing a career fire service in the Township. He praised the firefighters and commended Deputy Fire Chief Graham for the training and Public Safety Director Adam Kosheba for oversight.

Ms. Kurtz echoed these remarks and thanked both the prior and current Boards, Director Kosheba, Deputy Fire Chief Graham, and the leadership of all three volunteer fire companies for their efforts in bringing the career firefighter program to fruition.

## **Manager's Report**

There was none.

## **Old Business**

### Public Update Regarding Composting and Landfill Operations

Mat Jarsolowski provided an update on the Composting and Landfill Operations. The purpose of this update is just to give a snapshot of the actions that we've taken over the last roughly six months to address some of the complaints we've received regarding the compost operations in the uh landfill. The Township remains committed to maintaining the compost facility and closed landfill in a manner that protects public health, ensures environmental safety, and responds directly to community concerns.

Over the last six months, the township has made substantial improvements to its operations and oversight, both to comply with PA DEP permit requirements and to address issues raised by residents and complaints and a recent permit appeal addressing primary concerns. First, dust and air quality. The township purchased and is retrofitting a tanker truck for on-site dust suppression, installed a windsock, and set a policy \to halt operations when wind speeds extend exceed 10 knots. Landfill methane probes continue to show no detectable migration. And in partnership with HRG, the township has installed 19 in-home methane detectors with eight more pending resident action.

To provide ongoing safety and reassurance, future replacements will be available at the public works department for a one swap with proof of residency. Addressing noise. To address concerns about loader and grinder noise, mulch BMS have been installed and are being raised to greater heights. Equipment used on Friday has been restricted. Reducing activity near residential areas at the end of the work week.

Proper maintenance of equipment on site will help to reduce mechanical noise pollution. As for debris and safety, concerns were raised that debris may have been launched from the window row turner onto private property. While such an occurrence is highly improbable, both a resident and public works personnel reported seeing a small 2A gland on a resident's property during window wind row operations. The incident was thoroughly reviewed, and equipment was confirmed to be operating well within the established safe distance. It is possible the twig originated from another source such as a nearby tree or wildlife. As part of broader safety measures, speed bumps have been installed at the commercial entrance to slow traffic, reducing both dust and potential safety risk. Odor effective composting depends on maintenance maintaining proper oxygen, moisture, and temperature levels so that the process remains aerobic, which minimizes odor and produces a cleaner, higher quality end product. The township conducts and documents weekly temperature checks of each wind row to verify that the conditions are within optimal range to sustain the balance. The 2026 budget uh proposal included funding for a dedicated water line to enhance dust suppression, moisture control, and overall compost quality. Other community concerns include traffic and site access. The township has implemented traffic calming near the facility to monitor commercial entrance use to minimize conflicts with park users.

Mr. Jarsolawski reported on the history of the Landfill noting that regular inspections of the closed landfill by PA DEP were completed October 2024; the latest one confirming the site remains in compliance with all permit requirements and identified no violations. Routine methane monitoring continues to verify safety, transparency, and accountability. All operational complaints should be submitted through the Township's Smart Gov system. PA DEP's 2025 technical assistance study recommendations are being used as a roadmap to continue continued

improvements in communication, recordkeeping, and resident outreach. Actions completed. The Township submitted a new and improved nuisance control plan this month to comply with our current permit. Completed preparedness, prevention, and contingency plan June of 2025. General permit was renewed by PA DEP in June of 2025. PA DEP's compost facility observation was completed in June of 2025.

The Township submitted an RFP for the compost facility optimization and community impact mitigation study. That RFP was submitted in June of 2025 with no returns. Again, in July of 2025, we received one response from SCS engineers for a total cost of \$38,000. That study is on hold for further review and negotiation. The Township completed regular landfill methane testing in August of 2025 and passed the PA DEP landfill inspection with no violations and proposed expanded budget and planning for site maintenance, fleet upgrades and capital improvements.

The Township acknowledges that living near a compost and landfill facilities has raised legitimate concerns for some residents. We take these concerns seriously and have active proactively to improve operations, increase transparency and investment in environmental protections. Moving forward, we will continue to monitor performance, implement PA DEP's recommendations, and evaluate long-term solutions, including the potential for relocating the compost facility if feasible. There are five enclosures to this update; enclosure one is the improved nuisance control plan; two is the landfill gas monitoring report; three is a compost facility renewal; four is PA DEP's General Inspection report; and five is the PA DEP's Technical Assistance Study.

All of these items are available in hard copy on the table. He encouraged residents to review these materials and to contact the Public Works Department with questions or feedback.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with the community to ensure these services are delivered responsibly while continuously working to minimize community impacts.

Ms. Thompson inquired about the date of the report noting that it was not given to the Board back in May 2025.

William Miller, 4311 Crestview Lane, asked whether the Township is collaborating with any neighboring municipalities to provide a shared resource of this nature. He expressed his opinion that the existing issues along Conway Road could be resolved locally but noted that he did not see those considerations addressed. He questioned how pedestrian movement would be managed through the area and referenced prior requests from residents for a new walkway and a new basketball court, stating that several structural improvements should occur before further enhancements are made.

Mr. Miller suggested that the walkway should be located closer to adjacent backyards to improve safety and better connect residents to the new park. He also noted ongoing earthmoving activity in the area and described the situation as a significant concern. Looking ahead to future development in Linglestown and surrounding areas, Mr. Miller suggested that the Township explores collaboration with neighboring municipalities that have more available land. He specifically mentioned West Hanover Township as a potential partner, noting prior instances of intermunicipal cooperation, and proposed the possibility of developing a shared facility that could serve both municipalities.

Action to Approve a Contract with Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC to Extend Services

Mr. McCormack motion to approve the contract with Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC. to extend services. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. Mrs. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

Action to Approve a Renewal Agreement with South Central EMS

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve the renewal agreement with South Central EMS. Mrs. Vecchio seconded the motion. Mrs. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Action to Adopt Resolution 2025-08; Authorizing the Chair to Sign the Winter Maintenance Services Agreement

Mr. Njeim made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-08 authorizing the Chair to sign the Winter Maintenance Agreement. Mrs. Vecchio seconded the motion. Mrs. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

Action to Adopt Resolution 2025-09; Amending and Restating Resolution 2025-07 The Right to Know Policy for Municipal Public Records

. Mr. McCormack motion to adopt Resolution 2025-09; Amending and Restating Resolution 2025-07 The Right to Know Policy for Municipal Public Records. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. Mrs. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

Action to Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Contract for Professional Services with Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc.

Mr. Njeim motion to approve Amendment #1 to the Contract for Professional Services with Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. Mrs. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

**New Business**

Action to Adopt Resolution 25-10; Accepting the MMO's for the Police and Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plans

Mrs. Vecchio motion to adopt Resolution 25-10; Accepting the MMO's for the Police and Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plans. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. Mrs. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

Request to Utilize HRG Professional Service Grant Writer for New Mobile & Portable Radios for the Bureau of Fire

Ms. Thompson motion to approve the request to utilize HRG Professional Service Grant Writer for New Mobile & Portable Radios for the Bureau of Fire. Mr. Njeim seconded the motion. Mrs. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

Action to Award a Contract for the Colonia Road Corridor Traffic Signal Improvements

Ms. Thompson motion to Award a Contract for the Colonia Road Corridor Traffic Signal Improvements. Mr. Njeim seconded the motion. Mrs. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

**Subdivision & Land Development**

Improvement Guarantees

Ms. Thompson motioned to approve the Improvement Guarantee for Autumn Oaks Phase 3- Extension, Huntleigh Phase 2-5- Extension, Meadows at Colonial Club – Reduction & Extension, Sheetz #219 – Release, and 2321 Forest Lane – Release. Mr. Njeim seconded the motion. Ms. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

Payment of Bills – Lower Paxton Township & Lower Paxton Township Authority

Ms. Thompson motioned to pay the bills for Lower Paxton Township and the Lower Paxton Township Authority. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. Ms. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Vecchio motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion.

Ms. Kurtz called for a voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shellie Smith,  
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

Yuhanna Njeim,  
Secretary

DRAFT