

**LOWHILL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARCH 13, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

The Lowhill Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Curtis Dietrich. Also present were Vice Chairman Michael Divers; Supervisor Jack Iannantuono; Solicitor David Brooman, Esq.; Engineer/Zoning Officer Ryan Christman; Consultant Michael Siegel and Secretary Jill Seymour.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mike Divers made a motion to approve the agenda, as submitted. Jack Iannantuono second the motion. Roll call: Mike Divers, yes. Jack Iannantuono, yes. Curtis Dietrich, yes. Motion carried. There was an executive session held on February 28, 2025 at 2:00 pm to discuss real estate and there will be one this evening to discuss litigation.

Mike Divers made a motion to approve the February 13, 2025 meeting minutes, as written. Jack Iannantuono second the motion. Roll call: All, yes. Motion carried. Mike Divers made a motion to pay the monthly bills, as submitted. Jack Iannantuono second the motion. Roll call: All yes. Motion carried.

Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong was present inform the Township of his last term as County Executive. He will continue on to be 1st VP to the County Executive and 1st VP of National Organization of Regional Council's. He thanked the Township for the good communication over the years. Also informed the Board that there is a no interest for 5 years bond available through the County for radios for our fire companies. Rick Molchany is handling. The cost is \$7000 per radio.

Lowhill will allow transmitters on our existing cell towers, if need be, for radio transmission. Curt Dietrich thanked Phil for his service.

Donna Wright from Lehigh County Farmland Preservation was present to discuss preserving farmland. The only townships in Lehigh County that are not participating at this time are Washington, Lowhill and South Whitehall. There are currently 410 farms preserved in Lehigh County. Owners can reach out to farmland preservation directly. Once the farm is in, it can not be removed. There is a deed of easement and can not be bought out. Entitled to one additional home, not more than 2 acres. Location must be approved by county preservation and the township. All ag building permits must be sent to preservation as well. The county gives 1 million and the state matches up to 2 – 3 million per year for preservation. They pay up to \$6000 per acre maximum, anything over, will ask the township to give an offer. Township can decide what they will pay per acre.

Curt Dietrich – The Valois property is a preserved farm. It was willed to the township.

Donna Wright – There is no home on the property. The township could choose which side gets the house and could sell as 2 parcels. Must be in ag security before it can go preserved.

Curt Dietrich thanked Donna for coming in and talking to us.

The floor was opened for public comment, hearing none, moved on with the agenda.

Replacement of the 2008 Peterbilt dump truck with 2017 Ford F350 dump truck with plow for an even trade. The Peterbilt needs a lot of work.

Mike Divers made a motion to make an even trade with RH Kressley's garage, to trade the 2008 Peterbilt dump truck for a 2017 Ford F350 dump truck with plow. Jack Iannantuono second the motion. Roll call: All yes. Motion carried.

Curt Dietrich announced that we still have planning commission member and alternate vacant and tabled until next month.

Curt Dietrich made a motion to allow Hincapie bicycle event to travel through Lowhill Township on May 31, 2025 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, pending being listed as additional insured on the certificate of insurance. Mike Divers second the motion. Roll call: All yes. Motion carried.

Berkheimer and Associates has sent a proposal to collect our real estate taxes starting in 2026. This will be tabled until next month. David Brooman will check if we can appoint Berkheimer before the elections. Jack Iannantuono will review the proposal. Curtis Dietrich made a motion to table until next month. Mike Divers second the motion. Roll call: All yes. Motion carried.

Mike Siegel – The planning commission recommended advertisement of the SALDO for 30-day public review. Will need a stenographer and must go to the LVPC for review.

Curt Dietrich made a motion to advertise the SALDO for April 30 at 6:30 pm. Mike Divers second the motion. Roll call: All yes. Motion carried.

Curtis Dietrich made a motion to establish an ordinance for Supervisors compensation. Mike Divers second the motion. Roll call: All yes. Motion carried.

Solicitor Comment: None at this time.

Kim Weinberg – Weisenberg Township – Do you have a status update on the warehouses?

David Brooman gave the update at the last meeting and doesn't have his file with him and does not want to give incorrect dates. At this time, they are all in litigation.

Ryan Christman – Zoning – Sent a letter to the methadone clinic, haven't heard back yet.

David Brooman is going to check to see if there are zoning issues and possibly speak to them.

Mike Siegel will be cleaning up the zoning ordinance after the SALDO is adopted.

Joe Kalusky gave a road master report on what they have done the past month and plans for the upcoming month. He contacted AMS for a quote for Old Village, 1.2 miles of road. \$256,000, Joe will check the costars pricing, if it isn't lower Ryan Christman will go to bid through PennBid.

Mike Divers made a motion to approve AMS to pave Old Village Road at the costars rate, if it is lower than the quoted price. If it is more expensive, we will go to bid. Jack Iannantuono second the motion. Roll call: All yes. Motion carried.

Jay Scheffler, Fire Chief of Germansville Fire Company was present to give an update on portable radios. Currently need 32 radios and the total needed is \$329,000. He is working on a FEMA grant for \$118,000.

Mike Divers wasn't at the recreation meeting as he was on vacation.

Mike Divers made a motion to have Apollo, Ltd to replace the boiler at the price of \$10,800. Jack Iannantuono second the motion. Roll call: All yes. Motion carried.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Joe Howard – Lowhill Township – made a suggestion of a \$3.00 per week privilege tax to provide more income to the Township.

Jay Scheffler – Germansville Fire Chief – Asked about burn bans. If the County isn't in a burn ban, who makes the choice for the township and for how long? He recommends two weeks and to notify all fire chiefs that the Township is in a burn ban.

Currently, the EMC, Gene McGorry is in charge of burn bans.

Jack Iannantuono would like expanding depositories on the agenda for April.

The Lowhill Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,