



PENN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

100 Municipal Building Road
Duncannon, PA 17020-1100
Office 717-834-5281
Fax 717-834-6854
Email Office@penntwp.us

Clifford Lindgren

Karen Potteiger

Forrest Woodward

Minutes of 7/22/25 Workshop

Fire Tax, Fire Protection, and Funding & Roads

The Penn Township Board of Supervisors (PTS) met on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building for a Workshop on the topics of Fire Tax, Fire Protection, and Funding, and Roads. Chairman Clifford Lindgren, Vice-Chairman Karen Potteiger, and Supervisor Forrest Woodward attended. Other personnel present were Secretary Jennifer Blouch (hereinafter referred to as Secretary), Darrell Dethlefs (hereinafter referred to as Solicitor), and Helen Klinepeter (hereinafter referred to as Assistant Secretary). A list of visitors attending is on file in the Township Office. Chairman Lindgren convened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes.

Secretary Jennifer Blouch gave a summary of the last workshop, feedback received from residents, and ideas brought forth from residents.

Recognition of Visitors:

Henry Holman III: Mr. Holman commented that the median income mentioned in the presentation is only for parts of the township. Mr. Holman sees a value in value engineering. Mr. Holman recommends using realty transfer tax to help. Mr. Lindgren asked the secretary where she got the information for the median income. The secretary answered the US Census.

Daniel Stump commented that the best way to move forward would be to update the fire study. He would like to see the estimated cost of the fire station with interest and other fees. Mr. Stump commented that we should think about what will happen in 50 years to the proposed fire station when it is outdated.

Joseph Landis suggested that the fire company utilize the SR 274 station for some of their needs. As a taxpayer, if the township raises the fire tax, he would want to see the township hold on to some of the money. Mr. Landis is concerned with the location of the proposed station in Duncannon Borough, due to reasons that include flooding.

The solicitor commented that the township can put conditions on the use of the money from the fire tax. The township could come up with a plan to control how the money is being spent. Mr. Landis commented that the fire chief's vehicle is often seen in Enola and Harrisburg, and he has concerns with how fire tax money is being spent. Mr. Landis would like to know what happens with



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ownership of the proposed building if we have township paid firefighters. He would like that question answered before a decision is made to raise fire tax. Chairman Lingren commented that future ownership of the building is an issue that needs to be addressed.

John Rubineck expressed that the fire company has made cuts to the original plan of the proposed station, and that they are not building the Taj Mahal of Fire Stations. Jennifer Blouch asked Mr. Rubineck why the cost of the proposed station is substantially higher than New Bloomfield's station. Mr. Rubineck replied that materials may have been a factor.

The supervisors emphasized that volunteerism is down across the board, not only in our area, and that they are trying to figure out the best way to prepare for the future.

John Keller commented that at the PSATS seminar he attended, the state Fire Marshall said that paid firefighters are in the very near future, likely before 5 years.

Henry Holman III recommended that all of the municipalities that Duncannon Fire Company serves, should get together to discuss if they can put money up front.

Chairman Lindgren commented that Penn Township is small and therefore has a small taxbase, and that the best option is not always affordable.

A resident commented that the supervisors shouldn't rush into a decision to raise taxes because of the amount of people affected, not just Penn Township residents.

A resident asked if there is a timeline for the decision to be made. Supervisor Potteiger answered that we do not know.

A resident commented that even though the fire company does a lot of good, the majority of the community is more likely to need an ambulance than the fire company.



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Supervisor Potteiger offered that DFC puts their lives on the line for us, and we can't turn a blind eye to their needs. She commented that we have been meeting with the Fire Company for a few years now, and that now there is pressure.

John Rubineck expressed that residents should visit the existing fire station in Duncannon Borough. He's concerned that it could fall into the creek. He said that one person came to the station after the last meeting, and that she saw the need for a new fire station.

Trees

The Solicitor stated that we've had issues with property owners not taking care of their trees. The landowners have a legal duty to keep their trees from becoming a nuisance. We will start sending out letters to those homeowners letting them know that they have a duty to maintain their trees. If the property owners don't comply, another letter will be sent. If they don't comply with the 2nd letter, the township will do the work and charge the property owner.

Roads

Supervisor Potteiger announced that we just completed course leveling on Cove Road to address parts that were falling off to the side, and that the water wasn't hitting the culverts correctly. The road crew is currently behind because of weather, and because of inadequate equipment. We've purchased a new mower, and a melting pot to seal cracks. We need the public to reach out and let us know what areas need work.

Supervisor Woodward commented that he went out with the engineer and that many of our culverts need work, including Haas Drive and Watts Drive . We applied for a stormwater grant.

Addition to Agenda: The solicitor announced that the Codes Enforcement Officer informed the township that he will not be available during business hours. Upon a Woodward/Lindgren motion, the Penn Township Supervisors voted unanimously to send a letter to Tony Klase, terminating his employment immediately due to his availability.



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Adjournment: Upon a Potteiger/Lindgren motion, the Penn Township Supervisors voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Blouch
Secretary