

Incorporated March 12, 1738

TINICUM TOWNSHIP

Bucks County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

ELEANOR BRESLIN, CHAIRPERSON
JOHN COLE, VICE CHAIRPERSON
VACANCY, MEMBER

**TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2025
7:26 PM
(IMMEDIATELY AFTER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of 1/6/25)**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Role Call: EB Yes, RR NO, JC Yes, SH Via Zoom, CG NO, JD Via Zoom

Rules of Engagement & Community Engagement Standards Apply at all Meetings.
All Public Comment should be reserved for Public Comment portion of the meeting.
Please come up to the microphone and write your name on the sign-in sheet.

In attendance: Eleanor Breslin, John Cole, Judith Danko, Scott Holbert were in attendance. Rich Rosamilia (Resigned) and Curt Genner, engineer services, was not needed for this meeting.

Chairperson Breslin called the public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:26 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting, held in the Tinicum Township building meeting room, was live-streamed on Zoom and recorded. There were approximately 7 people present, and 15 people viewed it online.

A. Announcements – None made.

B. Public Comment

Ms. Kathryn Auerbach, resident, thanked the Board of Supervisors for the honor to serve again on the Historical Commission. She said she spoke with Amy Hollander with Bucks County Parks & Recreations, who is the Director of the Erwin Stover House, to start getting some event ideas on the 250th Anniversary of our country and Tinicum's role in it. There is a lot to celebrate, and she hopes that the Township will support their efforts and to meet with the Historic Commission at the next meeting to review some ideas. She also mentioned a grant application program that involves some kind of matching efforts by different organizations, and hopes to present the township some ideas that could be offered as a match.

Ms. Auerbach then spoke about the Golden Pheasant Bridge, thanking the BOS for sending out a letter trying to present a hybrid alternative. She urged the BOS to consider if they are looking at widening the bridge to two lanes, that this could lead to higher speed, as eliminating the stop signs will have traffic moving faster, and it will also make the case of looking at restricting trucks more difficult because a wider bridge can handle large trucks. This then would start a domino effect with other features along the road where it is close to other houses and properties, impacting for example functions at the Stover Mill. Her recommendation is keeping the bridge at one lane and that the Township work hard to work with PennDOT on the truck restriction aspect and get onto GPS, have better signage entering the roadway that will deter trucks. She reminded the BOS that River Road is designated a scenic road, which was not incorporated into PennDOT's report. The goal should be to keep the road's character and not widen the bridge.

Ms. Auerbach suggested that if there is a consideration to use signals on the bridge, to look at examples of vintage traffic signals that have a more modest and simple design. These could be found on EBAY or in the UK and other areas. She said that if the township ends up being responsible for the maintenance of the traffic signs, it should also have input on the design of the signals, and present ideas that are not so intrusive.

C. Police Chief's Report

Chief Madden stated that last month the Tinicum Police Department reported 213 incident reports. There were a total 3,176 reports for the year, which was up from 2,734 for 2023. Last month there was 1 theft arrest, 1 DUI, and 1 fraud report.

There were four reportable traffic accidents last month:

A single vehicle crash on East Dark Hollow was due to a failure to maintain a lane, a two-vehicle crash occurred at 611 and Bedminster Road after a vehicle traveling north on 611 ran a red light, a single vehicle crash on East Dark Hollow Road was due to icy conditions, and a single vehicle crash on Smithtown Road was due to driver impairment. We had an average of 3.4 reportable crashes for December over the last 5 years. Last month, the Golden Pheasant Bridge had no bridge strikes.

22 truck details were conducted on River Road, 7 trucks were reported, and all drivers were cited.

Last month, Chief Madden, the Judith Danko, Supervisor Cole, and the Public Works Department, met with PennDOT regarding the Golden Pheasant Bridge. Also present were Representative Shelby Labs and Senator Coleman's office. PennDOT informed that they will not be posting the bridge with the weight limit as announced during the October supervisors' meeting, due to the bridge's ability to accommodate the heavier trucks. PennDOT has agreed to put in a request and will be conducting a pavement study to see if the roadway can accommodate the heavy trucks, and we are still waiting to hear back on that.

PennDOT has ordered and will be posting larger yellow signs with a truck alert at a distance from the bridge. These signs will be placed on River Road at East Dark Hollow Road, Tinicum Creek Road, Headquarters Road, and Uhlerstown Hill Road. Additionally, there will be a sign at the Milford Bridge prohibiting trucks from going south on River Road. Chief Madden said this is not what we were hoping for, but it is a step in some direction.

Last month, the Tinicum Township Police Foundation sponsored 10 kids from the Tinicum elementary for the "Shop with a Cop" Program. She thanked residents for their donations, which were used to help kids in the area.

Ms. Breslin asked the Chief for clarification on the announcements made in October 2024 and those were made because PennDOT who told us they were going to up weight restrictions, and subsequently changed their mind. Chief Madden agreed, saying that District 6 denied it eventually. Ms. Breslin asked who from the township will be following up with PennDOT's next steps following the meeting, and Chief Madden responded she will be doing that.

D. Manager's Report

Ms. Danko reported that two new police vehicles have been received: a 2024 F-150 police responder pick-up truck, and a 2025 interceptor utility vehicle. They were both delivered and have been taken to the outfitter. They also received the \$120,000 grant funding for both vehicles. She anticipates the outfitting may take a couple months and she will let the BOS know when they arrive to celebrate.

Ms. Danko said she attended a meeting with KBRA Bonding rating company regarding our annual surveillance meeting. The result indicates that the township is in great shape with an AA rating, which is the Tinicum Township general obligation. She emphasized this is a high rating that recognizes the township's solid level of financial flexibility resulting from the growing general fund balances and total governmental funds liquidity coupled with the township's gradually declining debt burden. The long-term rating reflects that the township has strong and diverse underlying tax base trend of consistently positive financial operating results along with the new grant writing capabilities to fund items needed.

Ms. Danko attended a meeting with Delaware Valley Trust, a loan and bond company regarding the annual surveillance, which was also very positive, mentioning the township's excellent interest rate of 2.38% rate.

She attended the meeting with Chief Madden, State Representative Labs, and Senator Coleman's office on truck traffic issues and asking for help with GPS systems that truckers use for traveling with directions. She hopes that we will receive help in the form of systems that indicate when areas are not viable for trucks.

She also received information on section 106 where the BOS and Ms. Breslin conglomerated a letter that was sent to PennDOT regarding the Golden Pheasant Bridge, and that information is in the engineer's report today. The letter is also posted on the Township website under the Golden Pheasant Bridge page and in the "notices" section.

Ms. Danko said her team completed the fire relief paperwork and the checks were sent to the treasurers of the DVVFC, UBEFC, and Ottsville fire companies. In December 2024, we remitted checks to our EMS ambulance service units of Upper Bucks of \$22,299.75, and Point Pleasant Plumstead \$16,991.57. The remittances in 2023 for Upper Bucks were \$25,863.78 and for Point Pleasant Plumstead \$25,146.20. They have been consistent over the years.

Ms. Danko also met with Rick Armitage, Chief 48, regarding the Upper Bucks Regional EMS and Township Fire Services.

She obtained access to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) reporting systems for Tinicum. Her team reviewed the prior non-compliance reporting issues and updated and completed the reporting for non-compliance issues as well as completed current reporting requirements for December 31, 2024. \$414,960.58 in funds were utilized for replacement to cover expenditures for payroll, salary and benefits for public safety and government services beginning April 1, 2021.

She also completed year-end uniform and non-uniform pension remittances. Her team continues to review prior year information items with PMRS (PA State pension company).

Act 94 of 2024 was amended in December. The second-class township code was amended to adjust the maximum threshold for BOS compensation. The supporting information was provided to the supervisors for their review and comment. The BOS current compensation is \$156.25 a month, which is \$1,875 annually. The new amended caps amount set for supervisors interested in increasing the compensation for the future is \$3,145 annually.

Ms. Danko expressed "a giant thank you" to resident, Jane Lindley for again volunteering in assisting the township with our server and email needs and other technical website assistance over the past year. She said Ms. Lindley has been an invaluable resource, and the township is lucky to have such a great-skilled volunteer.

Ms. Danko also thanked the Public Works Department and Police Department for all their hard work clearing the roads in recent days, there were a lot of trees down, and they cleaned up everything very quickly. She mentioned that several phone calls from residents had been received thanking the departments.

She said a staff luncheon was held to thank staff and to commemorate the year-end holidays.

The new payroll company, Accupay, has been in place since 1/1/2025.

The team continues to work on the reimbursement from the DCNR to the Township with the Bowden easement, and they are awaiting the results for the grant application submission for \$1million for the municipal complex addition renovation.

The team continues to review email systems and updates technology and security improvements for the township.

Ms. Danko said that concludes her report. She has additional information for new committee members on what to do that will go out via email. And for residents who have any concerns about roadway systems and how to contact PennDOT please look at the link on our website.

E. Solicitor's Report

Mr. Holbert said he and his firm are excited about the reappointment and look forward to another great year working with the Township. There are several good projects in the loop and he is looking forward to getting those done. These include a few ordinance changes from the Planning Commission, the plastic bags ordinance, zoning changes relating to geothermal systems, and some clean-up relating to lot area size and impervious coverage, and he will have all those ready for review at the next board meeting in February.

F. Engineer's Report

Ms. Danko said there was nothing in Mr. Genner's report at this time.

G. Consent Agenda Items for Consideration by the Board of Supervisors:

[Items of business and matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. IF discussion is desired by Board Members, that item will be identified and removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately at the appropriate place on the agenda.]

1. Board of Supervisor Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2024 and their Special Public Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2024.
2. Treasurer's Report for November 2024.
3. Payroll Report for December 2024 in the amount of \$102,655.96.
4. Disbursements for December 2024: General Fund \$388,572.23; State Fund \$5,947.94; Open Space \$25,779.05; and Escrow \$7,657.69.

Motion to approve the consent agenda items #1-4 was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. Voted upon and passed. (All in favor, 2).

H. Action Items for Consideration by the Board of Supervisors:

1. Resolution 5-2025 for Real Estate Tax Millage that reaffirms the 2024 Tax Millage for 2025.

Motion to approve and adopt the Resolution 5-2025 for Real Estate Tax Millage that reaffirms the 2024 Tax Millage for 2025 was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. Voted upon and passed. (All in favor, 2).

2. Planning Module for 21 Tettermer Road, TMP No. 44-015-006.

Mr. Travis Hutchinson from Zaveta Custom Homes presented. He said he has been working with the planning commission as well as the BOS and is presenting the matter on behalf of the property owners Jamie and Steven Reed. He met with the PC last month and reviewed the planning module packet and forms to be filled out. The full package had been forwarded to Wynn Associates last month for consideration of approval of final paperwork.

Ms. Breslin clarified that the PC's recommendation was to approve. Mr. Hutchinson added that this matter has been bouncing around for some time, and he spent extensive time with Wynn Associate's office reviewing the planning module package, getting sewage management ordinance approval, and has been resubmitting the plans addressing all of Wynn Associate's comments. All technical questions are answered and everything is in order. He said a full resubmission package was sent to Wynn Associates and the township on 12/16/2024.

Ms. Breslin asked if there were any remaining conditions that have not been met. Mr. Hutchinson said no, the planning module packet was revised to comply with all conditions. Now they only need the operations and maintenance agreement from the solicitor, which is required to go with the package from the township to the DEP. Mr. Holbert agreed, and added he will be working on the O&M agreement for the February BOS meeting.

Motion to execute the Planning Module for 21 Tettermer Road was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. Voted upon and passed. (All in favor, 2).

3. Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance Agreement for 35 Ropewalk A, LLC at 35 Ropewalk Road, TMP No. 44-015-002.

Mr. Holbert added this is the standard stormwater agreement. The owners will put in a new pool and a small building addition, which results in a new impervious surface, resulting in the need of a new agreement. The agreement ensures that mitigations will be upkeep, and if the owners stop or not properly maintain them, the township can step in.

Motion to execute the Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance Agreement for 35 Ropewalk A, LLC at 35 Ropewalk Road was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. Voted upon and passed. (All in favor, 2).

4. Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance Agreement for 2 Cedar Lane, MIP Holdings, LLC, TMP No. 44-026-006. (Corrected Road to "Lane" in agenda and minutes).

Mr. Holbert added this is similar to item 3, the owners put in an accessory building and there were some flagstone walkways that were previously installed, which are now taken into consideration for the new stormwater agreement.

Motion to execute the Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance Agreement for 2 Cedar Lane, MIP Holdings, LLC was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. Voted upon and passed. (All in favor, 2).

5. Township Manager Contract Amendment.

Ms. Breslin stated that at the end of 2024, former Supervisor Rosamilia, Supervisor Cole and herself met with Township Manager, Judith Danko to discuss a consideration of the contract with Ms. Danko. It was agreed that the following amendments were appropriate:

Under Section 3.1 of the agreement with the township manager, the amendment reads as follows: Township shall compensate employee in the amount of \$170,000 annually. \$150,000 shall be paid in the same installments as all other township employees, \$20,000 shall be made as a lump-sum payment to employee in the month of January.

Section 5.4 of the agreement was amended to read as follows: township shall reimburse the employee for use of employee's vehicle at a rate of \$375 per month.

There were no other amendments to the agreement.

Motion to approve and adopt the Township Manager Contract Amendment was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. Voted upon and passed. (All in favor, 2).

I. **Public Comment** – None was made.

J. **Supervisors' Comments**

Mr. Cole said he wanted to follow up on Ms. Auerbach's comments regarding the Golden Pheasant Bridge. The meeting that took place was not just about the Golden Pheasant Bridge, it was more about the entire road with the bridge being part of the road, and the idea being to eliminate the over-the-road tractor trailer traffic. During the meeting we heard things that were

a little different than heard before, for example that the bridge is now capable of handling any traffic that goes over it, including the larger trucks. One of the problems they have is that they do not have enough time to make the maneuver once they approach the bridge. The optional traffic lights then should stop them far enough back to be able to maneuver into the opposing lane and make the turn, which Mr. Cole agreed with, and also that the bridge is capable of handling the weight. He does not think that keeping the bridge at one lane will be able to do that.

The traffic lights that PennDOT wants to put in are standard design, and he is not sure if we can talk them off of that. PennDOT wants to have traffic lights at the intersection, and also at the Sandcastle winery and the parking lot. He can see the rationale for that, as with the traffic lights, people will go across the bridge faster, not having to worry about traffic coming the other way. This will also eliminate the road rage we now encounter on the bridge.

He said that alternative number four gives us an expansion of the bridge, not a replacement. That is the choice that the BOS has, have the lights there or have a wider bridge. Neither option is great but these are the choices we have.

Mr. Cole said they discussed River Road in its entirety, that its main use is automobile traffic, and also that it supports two of the main industries we have in this township, recreation and tourism. Neither one of those require these trucks, which are simply using the road as a pass-through. He discussed the damage that the trucks cause. He discussed that the road is deteriorating on the edges, PennDOT is not widening the road with the proper road bed. Guardrails starting to lean in towards the canal, and this is also happening in other places on River Road. This is not a road that is meant for interstate tractor trailer traffic, and PennDOT finally conceded that they will do a study of the road. He emphasized that the township is working on the road in its entirety, but he is not sure we will get away from the traffic lights, and not even one is good for the scenic aspect of the road.

Mr. Cole said we are looking at alternative four with the suggestions of the stop signs and a narrower bridge. Ms. Breslin added that alternative four is a hybrid. She also said the letter that the township submitted to PennDOT on January 3, 2025, will be put on the township website, and anyone who is interested in what is going on should review the December 9, 2024 Board of Supervisor's Special Meeting, which was substantive and informative and shows the consensus based on feedback from the Police Department, the PWD, and members from the community. Mr. Cole added that he stressed the problems on the road and how current traffic is not matching what the road is intended for.

Mr. Cole said he appreciates the service that Mr. Rosamilia gave to our community for eleven years, and he wishes him well in the future and hopes he will keep in touch. Ms. Breslin added she joins these thoughts.

Ms. Breslin said she received the PowerPoint that Ms. Auerbach sent to the township and to PennDOT's historic research officer. She said the PowerPoint is very informative and asked Ms. Auerbach if she would allow for it to be posted on the township website.

Ms. Breslin said that Amy Hollander, the historic research manager with Bucks County Park & Recreation, had intended to join the meeting tonight, and she will come to the Historical Commission meeting next week to share a little bit about what might be possible for the 250th anniversary celebration for our country. Ms. Breslin also said they are aware of the grant opportunities and that she understands the second-round grant deadline is sometime in April 2025. The BOS is looking forward to hearing the proposal from the Historical Commission.

Ms. Breslin shared that the Township received a letter on Monday, 12/30/2024, from the UB Regional EMS, dated 12/28/2024, which indicated that the UBREMS location in Revere will be down and not available to any calls from 6AM to 6PM effective 12/28/2024. This step was necessitated by the financial situation they are in. She was told they will try to adjust the downtime to 8PM to 8AM when call volume is the least. Ms. Breslin said that this change is significant and presenting risks for our community that she is not comfortable with. The BOS is exploring all of our options, and appreciate the service that UBREMS has provided to Tinicum for many years. She spoke with the UBREMS board president, and the BOS will meet with their board as well as neighboring municipalities that are impacted, and she will keep the community informed as this situation develops.

K. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

The next Board of Supervisors Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Township Building.

DATE: 2/4/25

ATTEST TO:

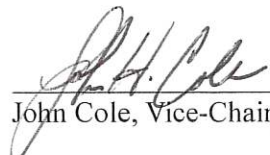


Judith Danko, Township Manager/Secretary

TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Eleanor Breslin, Chairperson



John Cole, Vice-Chairperson

Vacancy, Member

[Faint circular stamp, possibly a seal or official mark]