

Incorporated March 12, 1738

TINICUM TOWNSHIP

Bucks County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

ELEANOR BRESLIN, Chairperson
JOHN COLE, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
MICHAEL KAUFFMAN, MEMBER

TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 4, 2025 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Role Call: EB Yes, JC Yes, MK Yes, SH Yes, CG Yes, JD Yes

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, Michael Kauffman, Judith Danko, Township Engineer Curt Genner, and Township Solicitor Scott Holbert were present at the meeting.

Chairperson Breslin called the public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:02 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 34 people present, and 16 people viewed it online.

A. Vacancy Appointment/Oath of Office

1. Ms. Breslin stated that former Supervisor Richard Rosamilia resigned on January 6, 2025. Following that, the township opened up applications, received four applications, and Ms. Breslin and Mr. Cole interviewed all four candidates and are ready to make an appointment.

Motion to appoint Michael Kauffman to the Board of Supervisors with a term expiring 12/31/2025 was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 2).

Kathy Moreni, notary, administered the oath of office for Mr. Kauffman and Mr. Kauffman joined the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Breslin welcomed Mr. Kauffman and thanked the other applicants. Ms. Breslin stated out of our approximately 4,000 residents only four

applicants threw their hats in for the position and she thanked them for their interest. Mr. Cole added that there are still vacancies on other Township committees and commissions and asked residents to consider applying.

B. Resolutions (video time: 19:07:05):

1. Resolution 6-2025: Recognizing Richard Rosamilia for his 11 years of exceptional service to Tinicum Township as a member of the Board of Supervisors from January 6, 2014 to January 6, 2025, and extending a heartfelt thanks for his dedicated service. Ms. Breslin read Mr. Rosamilia's email thanking the Board of Supervisors for the recognition and wished the current board success in their efforts.

Motion to adopt the Resolution 6-2025 Promulgation recognizing Richard Rosamilia for his 11 years of service to the Township was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

2. Resolution 7-2025 Promulgation of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP/NARM). **Motion to adopt the Resolution 7-2025 Promulgation of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP/NARM) was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).**

Ms. Breslin added that the emergency operations plan has to be updated with current names and addresses.

3. Resolution 8-2025 PMRS 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police Pension.

Ms. Danko explained that the police pension plan did not meet the obligation of a 5% contribution in 2024, it was reduced to 3%, which prompted this resolution.

Motion to adopt the Resolution 8-2025 PMRS 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police Pension was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

C. Announcements (video time: 19:12:33):

1. Frenchtown Bridge project and closure to westbound traffic, open to eastbound.

Ms. Breslin stated that the Frenchtown bridge project will soon be under way, which will result in a nine-month closure of westbound traffic. Traffic coming from Frenchtown will have to go up to Milford and then down River Road. More information about the project and detour roads can be found on the Township website or <https://www.drjtbc.org/project/frenchtownbridge>.

As a result of public comments, the Township submitted comments on the project, which resulted in the DRJTBC Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission modifying the lighting plan (they warmed up the color of lighting and redirected lighting features downward). They will also take measures to widen the lanes of travel from a current 16 feet 6 inches to 17 feet 1 inch.

D. Public Comment (video time: 19:14:44):

Tom Casola, resident, said he has not had the opportunity to meet Mr. Kauffman and asked for a summary of his background. Mr. Kauffman said he has lived in the township for 9 years, has been involved with the Township's Historic Commission as well as the Tinicum Civic Association, and he is the treasurer of the Tinicum Conservancy. He said he is deeply involved with the community and Tinicum is very important to him, and he is happy about the opportunity to help shape the future of the township while preserving the past.

For the last 25 years, he has owned and managed a firm that handles facilities management needs of large commercial real estate developers, including malls, shopping centers and housing developments.

Steve Gidumal, resident, said that he had been informed that PennDOT did not extend the bridge permit on 12/31/2024 as he had been predicting that PennDOT would make it challenging.

Dan Ullman, resident, read a letter asking to implement a "lights out" program in the community, in order to save birds and conserve energy. He read that turning out lights can help protect birds and the environment. This involves turning off unnecessary lights, use motion sensors, and dim atrium lighting, at certain times of the day and the year. Mr. Ullman said that communities across the country have seen the benefits of the lights out program, and he asked the township to consider implementing it here in our community. He handed the letter and other support documentation to Ms. Breslin and Mr. Cole.

Ms. Danko said she believes that the township already did a resolution to participate in the program. Ms. Breslin added that we have a lighting ordinance in place, and that the lights out program should be given to the EAP for consideration and recommendation.

Tim Cashman, resident, asked for an update on the permit for the turnback agreement for HQRB. Ms. Breslin said this will be included in the engineer's update.

Kathryn Auerbach, resident, announced that the next concert of the Lenape Chamber Ensemble will be on February 28, 2025, at the Upper Tinicum Lutheran Church. There will be another concert in April, and the Lenape Chamber Ensemble also offers children concerts. Ms. Auerbach asked if there is an update on the closure of Beaver Run bridge as it is undergoing a rehabilitation project. The only information available is about the detour. Ms. Auerbach asked if the BOS could work on improving the relationship the County of Bucks, as many of the bridges are in critical areas and may lose their character defining features. Ms. Breslin said they will make any additional information available on the website. Ms. Auerbach provided a report on the bridges of Tinicum, which is available to residents to look at, but it is not on the website. There is no update on the Golden Pheasant bridge project at this time.

Ms. Breslin said there are members of the Groundwater Committee here tonight to give an update on their work. Ms. Carrie Manfrino said she has been on the committee for 2 years and she introduced some of the other members, Riley Murphy and Dr. Tom Eckhoff. The committee has been collecting data on groundwater levels for 20 years and focuses on quality. Their mandate is to monitor and report on ground water levels so it is reliable, safe and adequate for the community. Considering the current population level, the community has sustainable groundwater resources. The data also provides an important early warning systems in terms of droughts and water availability.

Ms. Manfrino said we had a very rough year with very low water levels, however, there has been good recovery. She emphasized that everyone needs to test their water annually, and ways to do so can be found on the township website. They would like to update the groundwater ordinance this year, and the committee is hoping to meet with the Planning Commission in February. Ms. Breslin stated that the groundwater committee as well as the planning commission meetings are open to the public, and the time and location is on the township's website. Ms. Manfrino said they are encouraging the community to do water quality testing, which can be expensive. She added that the committee is grant funded.

E. Police Chief's Report (video time: 19:41:05)

Chief Madden

The Tinicum Township Police Department reported 244 incident reports for the month of January, there were two DUI arrests and one fraud report. There were four reportable traffic accidents in January: one was a single vehicle crash on Durham Road due to impairment, there was a two-vehicle crash at 611 and Tohickon Valley due to a driver proceeding through a stop sign without proper clearance, a single vehicle crash on Cafferty Road was due to snowy conditions, and a single vehicle crash on River Road was due to an environmental issue. We had an average of 4.25 reportable crashes for January over the last five years.

Last month the PD conducted 33 truck details on River Road and to the Golden Pheasant Bridge, five drivers were cited, and the bridge was struck one time on January 6, 2025.

LTAP came out in January to conduct a traffic engineering and safety study of Tory Road and Wormansville Road at the request of the Supervisors. Following an engineering study by LTAP, no extra traffic control is warranted. Noted in the report was that the traffic volumes were not high enough, there were no reportable crashes in the last five years, there is no delay at the intersection, and the site distance is more than adequate. They gave some optional signage improvements and pavement markings, such as installing large arrows, replacing the faded stop sign, and installing double yellow dotted lines on the uncontrolled approaches and through the curve.

Mr. Cole asked if the study would provide different results if not done in the middle of the winter, because there are different traffic volumes on nice weekends in the summer, which increase the possibility of a crash. He is concerned because on a nice Saturday, that intersection gets jammed, there is also bicycle traffic, and if everyone assumes they have the right of way, then there would be a problem, which is why he wanted a stop sign. Chief Madden responded that they did review the whole intersection, and she is not sure if the traffic volumes alone would change anything.

Chief Madden announced that the drug takeback has been scheduled for April 26, 2025, from 10AM to 2PM at Wehrung's Home Center.

Ms. Breslin asked if there has been an update on PennDOT going to do a pavement study on the Golden Pheasant Bridge, and Chief Madden responded, there has been no update yet.

F. Manager's Report (video time: 19:45:43)

Ms. Danko thanked Mr. Rosamilia and the candidates that showed interest in the vacant supervisor position, congratulated Mr. Kauffman, and welcomed all new committee members. We still have a few openings on the township committees, including the Building Renovation Ad hoc Committee, Parks and Recreation, the Historical Commission, the Land Preservation Committee and Planning Commission. Information to apply is on the website.

Ms. Danko said she received a resignation notice by Carl Ruthardt from both the Ad hoc Township Building Renovation Committee and the Vacancy Chair appointment. She also acknowledged a resignation by Eric Hinrichs from the Parks and Recreation committee due to the conflict of serving on another board/commission that is a quasi-judiciary capacity.

Ms. Danko and Chief Madden attended a meeting at Senator Coleman's office regarding grant opportunities, and they will look at grants as a more viable way of doing things.

Ms. Danko also attended an UBREMS leadership meeting. They discussed the 9-month long PA traffic detour which will begin on February 18, 2025. See information on the township website or <https://www.drjtbc.org/project/frenchtownbridge>.

She also mentioned the formation of a new steering committee led by Amy Hollander, the director of the Erwin Stover House, to plan the event for the History Fair at Tinicum Park in the spring of 2026 to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America. They are looking for representatives from the township to join and volunteer to make this event come to life.

a. Engineer's Report (video time: 19:49:15)

Mr. Genner said he had provided a report to the board dated 1/31/2025 on the status of the updates on the subdivision of land development projects, however, he focused on general projects pertaining to the township.

Mr. Genner said he will discuss the ordinance on truck restrictions for Hollow Horn Road that went to the Planning Commission later tonight. He mentioned there was an additional study requested on dirt and gravel roads, where he will have to work with the Township to determine timing to get started.

Mr. Genner said the update on the Golden Pheasant Road bridge project is that the township held a special meeting on the bridge that had a very large turnout, a response letter which included every resident comment that was made and finalized and sent on January 3, 2025. He has not heard back yet, which makes him hopeful that they are considering our input.

The GP11 application and the PA State historic preservation officer submission for the Headquarters Road Bridge was made as of December 19, 2024, he is still working with the DEP on the permit approvals, and received a clearance from the PA SHPO and a letter of support from the National Park Service that no adverse impact was proposed. Mr. Genner said he is hopeful to receive the GP11 permit and will give another update in a month. He has been working with McMullen and Associates to further the development of the project specifications and the bid package. There is a design plan for the structure that is approximately 90% completed, and he is looking to schedule this item for the March BOS meeting.

b. Public Work's Report (video time: 19:52:10)

Ms. Danko said the Public Works has been very busy thanks to the latest weather: they have repaired pot holes, removed trees from Lodi Hill, made repairs to the dump trucks, and worked on signs that needed to be replaced, and also worked on the Township building to create a storage area that allows easy access to signs.

G. Solicitor's Report (video time: 19:53:12)

Mr. Holbert thanked Mr. Rosamilia, who he has enjoyed working with, and extended a welcome to Mr. Kauffman. He said he will cover his projects later in the meeting.

H. Consent Agenda Items for Consideration by the Board of Supervisors (video time: 19:53:52)

[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's Organizational Meeting Minutes and Business Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2025.
2. Treasurer's Report for December 2024.
3. Payroll Report for part of December 2024 for \$39,735.29 and January 2025 in the amount of \$99,976.04.
4. Disbursements for January 2025. General Fund \$169,908.91, State Fund \$10,505.45 and Escrow Fund \$5,284.88.

One motion to approve the above Consent Agenda items 1-4 was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

I. Action Items for Consideration by the Board of Supervisors (video time: 19:55:05)

1. Appointment of special legal counsel, Manko Gold, for environmental matters related to Headquarters Road Bridge (HQRB).

Motion to appoint special legal counsel, Manko Gold, for environmental matters related to Headquarters Road Bridge (HQRB) was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

Ms. Breslin and Mr. Holbert gave a brief description about how the Woodtiger Fund is providing all the funds for the HQRB and currently the Township has three million dollars earning interest waiting for the bridge project. The amendment the BOS is contemplating is to create an additional escrow fund, where the Woodtiger Fund would provide an additional escrow fund of \$50,000 for all soft costs incurred by the township in the form of engineer, consultants, counsel, etc. to not drop below \$5,000 where it will then be replenished. As that fund depletes to \$5,000, Ms. Danko will reach out to the Woodtiger Fund and it will be replenished. In this way we may sure we have the large lump sum intact and keep the accounting relating to the soft costs clear and visible. The HQRB will also be funded by Woodtiger Fund into perpetuity for the maintenance of the bridge into the future.

2. Amendment to the agreement between Tinicum Township and The Woodtiger Fund.

This item was tabled until the agreement is signed by a Woodtiger Board member.

Ms. Manfrino asked for clarification whether the fund was multi-year or just for one year. Ms. Breslin responded that the Township accepted an offer from the Woodtiger Fund whereby they pay all the soft costs relating to doing a historic rehabilitation of the bridge, they also offered to fund the rehabilitation project in full, and on top they will give the

township funds to put in escrow for maintenance because the township has taken ownership of the bridge, so the township will receive these funds in perpetuity.

Neil Sullivan, resident, asked whether we are anticipating an adversarial relationship with the State regarding hiring an environmental attorney and what would have created a need where we thought we were getting permits any day now that we would need an environmental attorney to assist us? Ms. Breslin confirmed that the Woodtiger Fund is paying for the entire expense of this project, but people are worried because of the history of this bridge. She explained that the GP11 permit was submitted December 19, 2024, and five days later, on December 24, the permit was issued. On January 13, the permit was rescinded by the DEP. The Township was given notice that we have a right to appeal the decision of the DEP within 30 days. In this intervening period, Mr. Genner communicated with the DEP, responding to follow up questions, and he also communicated with other involved parties including the National Park Services, and the Army Corps of Engineers, and we are making progress. There will be a meeting February 7 with DEP council, the township supervisors and Mr. Genner, who said he is confident they will issue a GP11 permit. Mr. Sullivan asked whether this is the only other permit that is needed, which was confirmed, and Mr. Genner added that he anticipates to receive this permit within 30 days if not sooner.

3. Township Committee Appointments.

Motion to appoint John Clement as the Vacancy Chair for a one-year term expiring 12/31/2025 was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

Motion to appoint Janine Black to the Historic Commission for a three-year term expiring 12/31/2027 was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

Motion to appoint Gail Nagele-Hopkins to the Historic Commission for a three-year term expiring 12/31/2027 was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by Mike Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

4. Consideration to send Rise Up Towers Ground Lease and Terms agreement to our solicitor for review.

Ms. Danko explained the need for a cellular tower because residents cannot access the website, we have minimal coverage here at the township, residents need to make cell calls or reach emergency services. There is a vacant piece of property across the street, which is owned by the township, where the tower could be built. The township would also be able to charge rent for it, which can help with township

expenses. Mr. Cole added that about 10 years ago the township wanted to do the same project, a balloon test had been done and the township was ready to file permits, but then the Cell Tower company, Sprint, dropped out. He added that the need is still here and that it is crucial for emergency services. Ms. Danko added that out of 37 areas that were researched, Tinicum came up 5th on the list regarding need.

Mr. Barry Arkles, resident, agreed that the cell tower would be important for communication, even if sending and receiving data is much better now, it is much better than it was 12 years ago. He emphasized that the township should make sure that the balloon will be put up in the same spot where they plan for the cell tower and that it has appropriate setbacks.

Ms. Breslin added that all that the BOS will consider tonight is whether to send the agreement for review by the solicitor, they are not voting on signing the contract.

Ms. Anita Nolan, resident, asked if Ms. Danko had researched companies other than Rise Up Towers, which she affirmed, and whether she found any others, which she denied. Ms. Nolan said that the company looked very unprofessional when she researched their website, the data provided about their officers is very vague and they don't seem to have the relevant experience. She said she was concerned about the township going down the path with this company and not looking at any others.

Mr. Carl Ruthardt, resident, said he wanted to make the Supervisors aware that the post tower placement is in a section of the airport overlay so it will need FAA approval. Ms. Breslin acknowledged they were aware.

Motion for the township solicitor to review this draft agreement was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

5. Consideration of the purchase of new computers for the administrative office and software not to exceed \$25,000 to be paid from the Capital and Equipment Fund.

Ms. Danko elaborated she and her team are working under archaic conditions, they cannot send or receive emails due to capacity issues. Their computers are so outdated that they can't add new software. She said she is aware this is a large amount, but they are not just looking at only replacing computers, but also hardware, software, network, server backup and the email system, and possibly adding a TV screen for presentations and virtual meetings. She said she had hoped to acquire a grant but has unfortunately not been successful in that matter. Ms. Danko said a prior estimate for \$18,000 was just for computers.

Mr. Arkles said it appears to him the township representatives do not know much about computer, software, connectivity, and how can the township be sure to know

what they are going to get for that amount. Ms. Danko said she is working with several different IT companies to get quotes and guidance as to what is needed as well as what it will take to stay current and ensure security.

Motion to made to authorize the township manager to purchase of new computers for the administrative office and software not to exceed \$25,000 to be paid from the Capital and Equipment Fund was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

6. Consideration of a request for waiver of recorded subdivision plan note to permit earth disturbance for seepage bed outside the limited disturbance area for 148 Municipal Road, TMP No. 44-014-111.

Mr. Noone was in the audience for this matter. Ms. Breslin said this is a request from a property owner to waive a note that was recorded on the plan at the time the property was subdivided, from parcel number one into parcels number two and three. The BOS at the time who approved that subdivision gave it due consideration and they wanted to restrict the area of earth disturbance for parcels one and two. The request here is for the current Board to override what the previous Board many years ago decided was the appropriate thing to do in connection with that subdivision. Ms. Breslin said she was not inclined to do that; this was a restriction that they felt was appropriate and she does not see any compelling reason to override it.

Dr. David Upmalis, resident and chair of the Planning Commission, explained that the property owners came to the PC with a partial application for a partial waiver, which was difficult to understand how that could be accomplished although the desire is understandable that they want to get some approval before they start investing in a full-scale plan. The property owners said that the survey did not point to their lot as being restricted and therefore the restriction does not apply to that lot, and also, the survey for the lot was the wrong survey. It was his understanding they would resubmit the application with the correction.

Mr. John Clement, resident and member of the Planning Commission, added that the existing septic system on the property is functioning and providing for the needs of the main house. The property owners are asking for an additional septic system for an accessory dwelling, which is not according to the township ordinance. He reiterated their understanding that they expected the property owners to come back to the PC, not go to the BOS with this request.

Mr. Genner and Mr. Holbert added this procedure is illogical and there is no action to take at this BOS meeting. Ms. Danko added that she feels strongly since they came to the BOS requesting a waiver, it should be denied, so they can go back following the appropriate process.

Mr. Neil Sullivan, resident and member of the Planning Commission, added that the property owner's attorney had been directed to go to Mr. Holbert for the legality of overriding a deed restriction. Mr. Holbert said it is not a deed restriction, but a condition of plan approval. If the request is to modify a condition from 30 years ago, they should have submitted a new subdivision application, which was not done correctly.

Motion to deny the request for waiver of the recorded subdivision plan for 148 Municipal Road was made by John Cole, with second by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

7. Consideration of Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance Agreement for 25 Tammany Road, TMP No. 44-006-017.

Mr. Holbert elaborated this is the usual stormwater amendment agreement, which is applicable for a single-family dwelling and associated improvements. This property is privately owned, but per DEP regulations, the township has to make sure there is an established enforcement mechanism for the township to enter the property and fix any issues. He added it contains standard language.

Motion to approve the Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance Agreement for 25 Tammany Road, TMP No. 44-006-017 was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

8. Consideration of the purchase of the a Bomford Robin 4.3/14 ft reach Boom Mower for Public Works Department using Liquid Fuel funds.

Ms. Danko explained the need given that that the Public Works Department currently is using a very old, antiquated boom mower that has been welded and repaired to keep it going, which is no longer possible, and it is also oversized, causing damage to our tractor. The plan is to purchase the item that will fit correctly. Mr. Kauffman asked what is the plan for the old mower, and Ms. Danko said she has not discussed that with the PWD as of yet. PWD have attained a price quote from a co-star dealer of \$38,498.80, which includes a 12% discount.

Ms. Danko explained the Liquid Fuel funds amount that is allocated to the township based on the millage of roadway systems that we own, and these amounts are deposited into a special account, that the township is allowed to spend on roadway systems and equipment. She added that there is a nice amount of funds in this account that can be used at this time. Ms. Danko proceeded to read an analysis from the PWD regarding the boom mower.

Motion was made to authorize the purchase the a Bomford Robin 4.3/14 ft reach Boom Mower for Public Works Department using Liquid Fuel funds was made by John Cole, with second by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

9. Consideration of the EAC's annual Earth Day Fair on Sunday, April 27, 2025 from 11-2pm at the Tinicum Community Park and request for the township to pay for the rental cost of a port-a-potty in the amount of \$299.13.

Motion to approve and authorize the payment for the rental of the port-a-potty in the amount of \$299.13 for the Earth Day Fair at Tinicum Community Park was made by John Cole, with second by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

10. Consideration of the Land Preservation Committee's Scoring & Point Adjustments for Property Easement Evaluations.

Mr. Dan Ullman explained the committee wanted to make sure to create the best scoring plan possible to give supervisors relevant information when requested to give money for an easement. They looked at the old plan and the one prior, as well as other townships' plans, and came up with the final draft that is in front of the tonight. He said that it was important to the committee that when they score a property to do it accurately and not create any negative feedback that might sway a landowner from considering an easement, and also to provide the best information possible for the BOS to evaluate a property.

Ms. Cindi Gasparre added that they received and took into consideration feedback from the Tinicum Conservancy and the Planning Commission, who are familiar with the easement process. She said that the new form considers all available maps of a property, and it awards point rather than taking points away like the old form did.

Mr. Cole added that the monetary incentive for a property owner from an easement in Tinicum is a lot less than in other townships, and he sees no point in punishing property owners from doing an easement to conserve open space. Mr. Kauffman added that the system only applies for people who are seeking township money for their easement and not directly donating their properties, and that the township should do whatever they can do under the law to make it easier for people to conserve land in the township.

Motion to approve the Land Preservation Committee's Scoring and Point Adjustments for Property Easement Evaluations was made by John Cole, with second by Eleanor Breslin. (All in favor, 3).

11. Consideration of the proposed Ordinance #269 Amending section 706 of the Tinicum Township Zoning Ordinance to create a Municipal Government Use.

Ms. Breslin spoke about the need for the township offices and to alleviate the restrictions for the Municipal Building renovation. She elaborated that the current building does not accommodate the day-to-day needs of conducting township business. There is an ad hoc building renovation committee that is working on building an addition to this building. She said that sometimes a municipality will make an application seeking relief from the zoning ordinances, and more often than not a municipality will create a use for a municipal government which alleviates the municipality from many of the restrictions relating to the site. This has been discussed for almost a year.

Mr. Holbert added to take the recommendation from the Bucks County Planning Commission into consideration was added into the draft, and he was asking whether the BOS wanted to incorporate additional proposed changes from the Tinicum Township Planning Commission into the draft for the final version. Mr. Ruthardt provided the recommendations from the Tinicum Township Planning Commission, as per the minutes from November 26, 2024, when they last reviewed the draft ordinance, recommending four amendments regarding language changes.

Mr. Neil Sullivan added that the rules apply to the township but the municipal building wants to be exempt so that it only applies to this particular location. Mr. Genner added that if these recommendations were not incorporated, the township would be required to buy a separate parcel of land to house all the buildings.

Motion to incorporate the Planning Commission's recommendations from the November 26, 2024 minutes and to advertise the Ordinance #269 Amending section 706 of the Tinicum Township Zoning Ordinance to create a Municipal Government Use of F6 was made by John Cole, with second by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

12. Consideration of the proposed Ordinance #270 Restricting Truck and Trailer Traffic on Hollow Horn within Tinicum Township.

Ms. Breslin spoke about the background of this ordinance and Mr. Holbert stated that he did not recommend the repeal of any prior ordinance and that this should be an ordinance with some of the Planning Commission's recommendations. Mr. Cole agreed that this should be overlay onto the existing ordinance. He then discussed what constitutes a trailer and whether the known weight limit includes both the truck and a trailer. Mr. Holbert said it would be the combined weight.

Mr. Arkles said that he noticed an incredible increase in traffic on Dark Hollow Road, and asked whether it has been considered where the redirected traffic would be going to, he thought likely onto Dark Hollow Road. Mr. Genner said that prior ordinances already put prior restrictions on sections of Hollow Horn Road, this is to make it uniform.

Mr. Ruthardt asked whether all recommendations from the planning commission have been addressed, and Mr. Holbert affirmed that they were included. The recommendations were then discussed.

Mr. Todd Quinby, resident, asked why all these restrictions are being put on the local roads. He said he feels like an outlaw delivering supplies in his truck. Mr. Cole said the trucks restrictions exempt local deliveries. Mr. Quinby added that the township should fix the roads to accommodate traffic by widening all the roads.

Ms. Breslin reminded the public that this restriction is the result of a traffic study conducted by our Police Department and the recommendation to do this restriction came from the Tinicum Township Chief of Police.

Motion to incorporate some of the Planning Commission's recommendations from their minutes regarding the "definition of Truck" and to advertise the Ordinance #270 Restricting Truck and Trailer Traffic on Hollow Horn Road within Tinicum Township was made by John Cole, with second by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

13. Consideration of the proposed Ordinance #271 Single-Use Plastic Bags.

Ms. Breslin explained that the Environmental Advisory committee researched this, looking at ordinances at a variety of municipalities within Bucks County that have imposed restrictions. She said she reviewed the draft ordinance, and found particularly appealing that it is rooted in Article 1 Section 27 of our State Constitution, which provides for the right of everyone in Pennsylvania and generations yet to come to benefit from clean air, clean water, and all of our natural resources including historic resources. She said she believes that plastic bags cause more harm than good and appreciates the opportunity to consider this ordinance.

Mr. Ruthardt said that the Planning Commission made a recommendation on this matter as well, and that it is an overstep for the township to mandate the price that vendors need to sell paper bags, the PC recommended to not tell business vendors what to charge. Doylestown does not have it in their ordinance and it seems not to be a problem, and it should be up to the vendor.

Mr. Clement read from the minutes of the PC meeting of November 26, 2024, also reading what constitute a violation, and the recommendation is that each distribution of a plastic bag is its own violation.

Ms. Breslin said that Section 5B iii does not constitute a mandate, it reads “may”, which is permissive. Retail establishments may choose up to the cap. Her understanding of these plastic bag ordinances is that even a very small fee is enough for a shopper to bring their own bag or not use a bag. Mr. Ruthardt asked why would there be a cap, and how would a vendor be punished or how will this be enforced.

Ms. Wendy Ullman, said the committee did discuss this in detail. They did not want to make this onerous for the vendor, who know best how to handle their customers, weighing goodwill against paying their bills. She said using a % percent cap was an elegant solution that adopts to changing prices.

Mr. Arkles added that the township is crossing a line when they tell businesses what they can do or charge. It makes sense to place a ban on plastic bags, but it is not proper for the township to tell them what they can charge.

Mr. Kauffman added that the proposed ordinance is significantly less onerous than in neighboring townships.

Ms. Barb Quinby, resident, urged the BOS consider how they may be backing themselves into a corner where the ordinance may be totally unenforceable, and what could be done if someone charges over that limit.

Mr. Dan Ullman, resident, said for the program to be successful, we need two participants: consumers and business owners. It appears that there is an incentive for consumers not to use plastic bags, but business owners should not be penalized nor told what they can be charged. They need to be on board with the program.

Mr. Cole said he agreed with the comments that were made by the residents.

Motion to advertise the proposed Ordinance #271 Single-Use Plastic Bags with the deletion of section 5B iii to remove a cap on the cost of bags and let the business owners determine their costs was made by John Cole, with second by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

14. Consideration of the proposed Ordinance #272 amending Section 809 to permit only Closed Loop Geothermal Systems.

Mr. Holbert said this was a recommendation from the PC for him to create, and it will be sent back to the Planning Commission and the Bucks County Planning Commission.

Ms. Breslin elaborated that if anyone wants to put in a geothermal system on their property right now, they can choose either an open system that draws groundwater from the aquifer and runs it through the system, or one that just circulates water in a closed loop system. Given the concerns about groundwater levels, we want to be as efficient with our water as we can. This ordinance eliminates the possibility of an open loop system.

Motion to have the Planning Commission review the proposed Ordinance #272 amending Section 809 to permit only Closed Loop Geothermal Systems was made by Ms. Breslin and second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

15. Consideration of the proposed Ordinance #273 amending Impervious Area and Lot Size Requirements.

Ms. Breslin said that the version that the BOS received in the package is missing some language. Mr. Holbert agreed that the sent version was different from what he last saved, and he will fix that before sending it on to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Ruthardt gave some background. He said there are issues with undersized lots and the definition of lot area. They had some residents come to the Planning Commission that had problems with how the zoning officer treated their undersized lots, and the ordinance also incorrectly states the coverage of the impervious area, so both needed to be corrected.

He said that currently it is not very clear what is covered in the title, and the Planning Commission suggested to separate the ordinance into two ordinances which will be easier to find for the applicant and zoning officer. Mr. Holbert said he can split them out and make them separate, and send to the Planning Commission.

Motion to have the Solicitor to split into two separate ordinances and have the Planning Commission review the proposed Ordinances amending Impervious Area and Lot Size Requirements was made by Ms. Breslin and second by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

16. Consideration of the execution of the Police Contract 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Ms. Danko gave a brief description of the contract negotiation process. She said she worked together with the Police Union, and the BOS voted to approve the increase in raises. Another item was that they allowed officers to take their vehicles home with them making them more efficient when driving into work. She added that she has heard from several officers that this has been very successful. Ms. Danko added that there is a

lot more work that could be done on this contract because it is old, but with the timing, she is confident that it can be adopted and followed through.

Motion to execute the Police contract was made by Eleanor Breslin, with second by John Cole. Michael Kauffman abstained since he was not appointed during the Contract development and negotiations in 2024. (In favor, 2).

J. Public Comment (video time: 21:42:52)

Mr. Cashman, resident, asked whether the GP11 for Headquarters Road bridge was needed from the beginning of the process. Mr. Genner answered that the GP11 was specifically designed for a rehabilitation, so it has been needed the whole time and it will be applied once the turnback agreement goes through. Mr. Cashman asked whether we are still on schedule for January 2026 completion. Mr. Genner replied that as long as we get the permit back, we will be able to put out the bid package and award the project. He said that we are cutting the timeline close but we are still moving ahead with the design. The meeting with the DEP will be this Friday 2/7, it is not a public meeting, and there is no guarantee that any decision will be made, it is really only a discussion.

K. Supervisor Comments (video time 21:44:35)

Mr. Cole gave a quick overview of the meeting he had with UBREMS. They cut Tincum Township's service for the ambulance by 12 hours, giving reasons like they have not done fundraising efficiently, they have not maintained their employment records, have not kept track of manager personnel, nor finances, which kept them on the verge of closing their doors for the last 20 years. Now there is a new person in place who is taking a different approach, they will be following more of a business-oriented model, including having guaranteed streams of revenue, better fundraising, and manage personnel better to eliminate overtime. Mr. Cole said there has not been good transparency and accountability in the past, but they are promising to be more transparent in the future.

Tincum has another option, and UBREMS was pushing hard not to take those other options. They also asked for an enormous increase in price, we have been paying about \$25,000 for their service in the past, now they want \$107,000 for EMS services. It is not clear how this amount was calculated. Mr. Cole said they will have to build some trust with him, as he did not appreciate that they cut 12 hours with only 24 hours of notice and would this happen again. His major concern is the safety of the Tincum residents.

Representatives of UBREMS will join us hopefully next month at the BOS meeting, so they can justify the price of over 4 times than what they get now. We cannot make a determination whether this is reasonable, we first must analyze information they give us and what we should be paying.

Ms. Breslin added that the Point Pleasant EMS handle more calls than UBREMS. For recent years that data is available, Point Pleasant handled about 70 more calls than UBREMS. She also wanted to make sure to say that the quality of service provided by UBREMS is exceptional, there is no problem with the service quality, but the management is the problem.

Ms. Breslin said that we have options and are exploring them, and the BOS is aware that any decision we make in Tinicum will have ripple effects in neighboring municipalities and are in touch with supervisors there. This is a top priority for the BOS. Mr. Cole said we need 24/7 coverage for ambulance that is reliable and will not go away within 24 hours of notice.

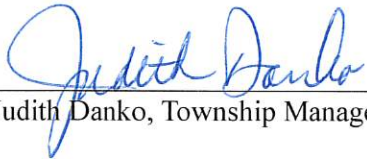
L. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 9:55 p.m.

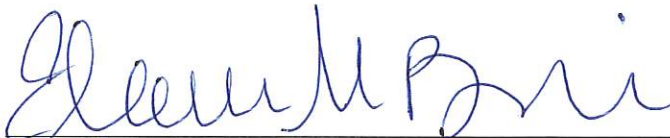
The Board of Supervisors next Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Township Building.

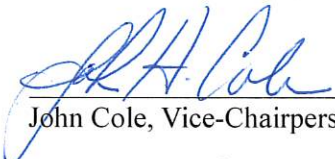
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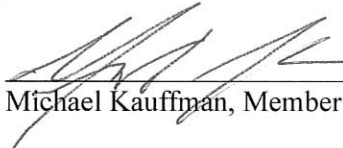
ATTEST TO:


Judith Danko, Township Manager/Secretary

TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


Eleanor Breslin, Chairperson


John Cole, Vice-Chairperson


Michael Kauffman, Member