

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
EXECUTIVE SESSION JUNE 3, 2025
AT 6:00 PM – Real Estate**

**TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2025
7:00 PM**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Role Call: EB YES, JC YES, MK YES, SH ABSENT, CG YES, JD YES, RF 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, Curt Genner, Engineer and Township Solicitor, Randy Flager, were present at the meeting. Randy Flager, Solicitor, will represent Flager Law in Scott Holbert's absence.

Chairperson Breslin called the public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:05 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 23 people present, and 14 people viewed it online.

A. Announcements (video time: 19:04:45)

1. Executive Sessions were held on 5/13 at 11 AM re: Litigation, 5/21/25 at 12:00 PM, 5/29/25 at 12:00 PM and 6/3/25 at 6:00 PM re: Real Estate.

B. Continuation of Public Hearing

1. Consideration of the Conditional Use Application (CU#1-2025) for 140 Bunker Hill Road, TMP No. 44-005-013. Ms. Breslin said that there is a court reporter present tonight. Mr. Flager explained that the applicant had another revision so a motion needs to be made to continue this hearing to July 1, 2025.

Motion for a continuance to July 1, 2025 was made by Eleanor Breslin and seconded by Mike Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

C. Public Comment (video time: 19:06:38)

Mr. Tom Eckhoff, chair of the Bridgeton Nockamixon Tinicum Groundwater Management Committee, requested from the BOS that they may take consideration of the newly passed Nockamixon groundwater management ordinance and direct the Planning Commission to engage in discussion with the BNT in reviewing this ordinance and making a recommendation to adopt this in Tinicum Township.

Mr. Cole asked whether this had already been referred to the Planning Commission, which Ms. Danko affirmed. She added that the minutes from the most recent Planning Commission meeting state that they asked the BOS to review that ordinance and provide them with some information.

Ms. Danko asked Mr. Eckhoff to provide her with a redlined version of the ordinance so the township could see what the changes were. He agreed and said that this information had already been given to the BOS and he will give her a copy as well.

Ms. Anita Nolan, resident, wanted to follow up on the cease-and-desist order on Sand Castle Winery and asked for an update, to which Ms. Danko responded she would do that during her manager's report.

Mr. Michael Wieder, resident, asked if he could give public comment in regards to 140 Bunker Hill Road now or at the hearing, Ms. Breslin responded that should be provided during the public hearing, which will be during the July meeting.

Mr. Gene Biele, resident, asked if registered letters will be sent out to the neighbors for that meeting. Ms. Breslin said no, because the meeting was continued at a public meeting.

D. Police Chief's Report (video time 19:11:52)

Chief Madden said that Tinicum Township Police Department reported 204 incident reports for the month of May, 31 were for service, 72 were criminal or investigative including one fraud

report, one theft report, and one DUI arrest. 77 were for traffic, and 24 were for court and training.

There were four reportable traffic accidents in May: two were two-vehicle crashes on Rt 611 due to distracted driving, and one was a six-vehicle crash on Rt 611 which was due to an impaired driver. PSP handled one reportable crash on River Road. We had an average of 2.4 reportable crashes for May over the last five years.

Officers conducted 19 truck details on River Road. Two drivers were cited and there were no bridge strikes last month.

They are currently investigating the overnight theft of a blue 2017 Porsche, which was stolen from a driveway on Erwinna Valley Way during the night. In a potential related incident, a resident on Tinicum Creek Road reported that their vehicle's insurance and registration cards were taken from their vehicle during the same time frame. Additionally, at approx. 4:55AM on June 3, a resident in the 700 block on River Road observed an unknown individual leaving their driveway and getting into a vehicle and heading south on River Road. Local residents are urged to check any home security footage from the overnight hours and record any suspicious activity, especially in the Erwinna area. Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles and secure their valuables.

Ms. Breslin said she has been reading about a new law going into effect this week, regarding holding your handheld device in your hand, and asked for more details. Chief Madden said that it is already not allowed to use one's cellphone when driving, but as of June 4, there will be further restrictions. Drivers will be issued a warning at this time; they will have a year to get used to it.

E. Engineer's Report (video time: 19:15:05)

Mr. Genner said he provided an updated project list in the board package, and read the following highlights for updates:

Bunker Hill Road, which is on the agenda for discussion at the next BOS meeting on July 1.

Koenig tract subdivision, the township has until December 31, 2025 to act on that.

Headquarters Road bridge: Mr. Genner said they are currently working on the bid package, there is a draft available, and the next step is to advertise the project. The dates for the next steps are as follows: run first advertisement on June 10, run the second advertisement on June 17, mandatory pre-bid meeting on June 24, question & comment period until July 18, bid opening July 22, and award of the bid August 5. He said if the township needs more time, there are 45 days built into the draft package, which could move it out to September.

Manager's Report (video time 19:18:30)

Ms. Danko said that due to technical issues she unfortunately does not have the manager's report that was completed last Friday, but she was able to work off a draft.

Regarding the Sand Castle Winery, she said the township has been in the process of sending notice of violation letters, there were two citations issued by the building code official, and a stop order was posted in the field. Also, the township solicitor will be helping with an injunction to stop the work they are currently doing, such as erecting a tent on the parking lot, building some sort of a barn, etc., since they continued with this work even with the stop order.

Ms. Danko said her team has been diligently working on the township's escrow accounts since her arrival, and by now they have reimbursed the general fund with monies that were due from the escrow account in an amount of \$74,242.74 to date. They are continuing to work through the old escrow account to continue that work. To date they have billed \$109,000, so there is still some outstanding work to do here.

Ms. Danko said the township has received a total of \$120,000 in grant money for the purchase of two police cars. The first was a Ford Explorer that the Chief will be driving, and the second vehicle that was acquired was a Ford Pickup truck.

Her team has currently completed the 2024 financial audit and they went through that with flying colors. She will present the result to the supervisors and upload it to the website.

Other Events that were highlighted:

There will be a ZHB in July, dates and details will be on the Township website.

Every Saturday there is Polo in the fields at Tinicum Park from 12-4PM during the summer.

A new show is at the Stover Mill Gallery, every Saturday and Sunday in June through October from 1-5PM with a new artist(s) each month.

The Covered Bridge bike ride has been scheduled for October.

The Lower Delaware Valley Wild and Scenic River Management Council will meet on June 27 at 10AM.

Ms. Danko said the computer systems project has been going very well, they have transferred over 17,000 files to the Cloud just with the Public Works computers alone. They are about 60% complete with the Township IT project.

There are several committee openings: 2 openings on the Parks & Recreation Commission, 1 opening Historical Commission, 2 Land preservation Committee. There is more information on these positions on the township website.

F. Solicitor's Report (video time: 19:24:12)

Mr. Flager said he would speak to the items under H.

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's Business Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2025.
2. Treasurer's Report for April 2025.
3. Payroll Report for May 2025 in the amount of \$85,760.69.
4. Disbursements for May 2025: General Fund \$89,203.46, State Fund \$3,132.33 and Escrow Fund \$6,362.79, Escrow Management Fund \$2,477.41.
5. Consideration to authorize Tinicum Township Fire Companies fire police personnel assistance if available for traffic control and parking for two events for Milford Township VFC Annual Carnival on June 24 – June 28 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM and the Milford Township Annual AG-Daze event on September 13 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
6. Consideration to authorize Tinicum Township Fire Companies fire police personnel assistance if available for traffic control and parking for Quakertown Community Day on July 4, 2025 at 7:45 PM.

Motion to approve all consent agenda item numbers # 1-6 in one motion was made by John Cole and seconded by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

H. Action Items for Consideration by the Board of Supervisors: (video time: 19:26:05)

1. Consideration to send the Solicitor and /or Zoning Officer to attend the ZHB #2025-1 application for 102 Ridge Valley Road, TMP No. 44-014-041-001 rescheduled for Thursday, 7/24/25.

Mr. Flager explained they sent a letter to the ZHB, this is a strictly legal issue, and just a question of the ZHB applying the law.

Motion to have the Solicitor send a letter and to send the Zoning Officer to the ZHB #2025-1 application for 102 Ridge Valley Road, TMP No. 44-014-041-001 rescheduled for Thursday, 7/24/25 was made by Eleanor Breslin and seconded by John Cole. (All in favor, 3).

2. Consideration of waiver of the Sewage Management Ordinance Section 106.A of the Sewage Management Ordinance for Rendezvous Farm, LLC at 55 Municipal Road, TMP No. 44-022-034.

Messrs. Scott Drumbore from the H&K Group, Jim and Dan Haines from Rendezvous Farm, as well as Adam Haines.

Mr. Drumbore gave a recap of the application. He said the property has gotten through the planning module process as well as through the Bucks County Health Department on the actual system they are looking to install, and that permit was issued. They submitted an application to the township for sewage management and a permit application for that system, and the township engineer in his review of it noted that the system they were proposing ranks one tier lower than a conventional spray system. They submitted an application for a waiver to receive approval to install number four on the township's hierarchy list over number three.

He said this is a 113-acre property, which is under easement with the Tinicum Conservancy. The conservation easement permits having two residences on the property. Residence 1 would be accessed from Municipal Road, and residence 2 is within a 5-acre floating building area placed on the back part of the property and accessed through Tory Road. The waiver request is subject to the sewage management system for residence 2. Residence 1 will utilize the existing system that serves the existing duplex. He continued to explain the details of the waiver application.

Mr. Genner added that his office found that the on-lot drip system will disturb a smaller area of the conservation easement, and it is a newer technology that will improve the effluent quality compared to a spray system. He said that as long as the township was on board with approving this as an alternative, his office would not oppose the waiver. The township has granted waiver from the hierarchy in other cases.

Mr. Genner summarized the conditions he would want the applicants to comply with: any outstanding items in the May 2, 2025, engineering review memo, namely the item that refers to the operation maintenance agreement which would be prepared by the solicitor's office; the ordinance also requires a construction escrow of \$5,000 in a required bond (Mr. Drumbore added that this has already been placed). He said there were some other notes in the letter that clarify the flow that the system is designed for. Mr. Flager asked

the applicants directly whether they will comply with the stipulations in the letter of May 2, and Mr. Drumbore agreed. The engineer has already agreed that the alternative system is better environmentally for the township.

Mr. Drumbore said the other item to be addressed is the O&M agreement which is a standard agreement. He said there was a comment about providing an easement to protect the reserve area, and his suggestion is to do that as part of the O&M agreement.

Motion to grant the waiver of the Sewage Management Ordinance Section 106.A of the Sewage Management Ordinance for Rendezvous Farm, LLC at 55 Municipal Road, TMP No. 44-022-034 subject to the conditions stated in the engineer's letter dated 5/02/25 was made by John Cole and seconded by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3).

3. Consideration to approve advertisement of the Solicitor's proposed Ordinance amendment: Amending Section 1406 of the Tinicum Township Zoning Ordinance, Revising the Standards for the Zoning Hearing Board to Consider When Hearing Applications for Variances and Bringing the Ordinance Language in line with the Standards Set Forth in the Pa Municipalities Planning Code.

Ms. Breslin summarized that this matter had come to the attention of the BOS by the Planning Commission, who had identified the five criteria in the MPC that must be considered when considering a variance application, and noticed that our ordinance deviated slightly from the MPC. This amendment would bring our township ordinance in line with the state law.

Motion to approve the advertisement of the Solicitor's proposed Ordinance amendment: Amending Section 1406 of the Tinicum Township Zoning Ordinance, Revising the Standards for the Zoning Hearing Board to Consider When Hearing Applications for Variances and Bringing the Ordinance Language in line with the Standards Set Forth in the Pa Municipalities Planning Code was made by Eleanor Breslin and seconded by John Cole. (All in favor, 3)

4. Consideration of an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Township Committee.

Mr. Kauffman stated that Robin Lochner has applied for this position. He has been a longtime resident of the community, he recently retired, and is very passionate about giving back to his community.

Motion to appoint Robin Lochner to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a five-year term expiring on 12/31/29 made by Michael Kauffman and seconded by Eleanor Breslin. (All in favor, 3)

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5. Consideration of the Tinicum Township Planning Commission to review the Bucks County Planning Commission warehouse and logistics information.

Mr. Cole said this process started with Bucks County PC sending a letter to the BOS requesting the Tinicum Township PC to review the information. Mr. Cole added that there are a lot of things in the BC ordinance that are not pertinent to us, e.g. we are not in an urban environment, and that there are very limited places in this township where a warehouse could be placed. He added that many of the restrictions and definitions are already included in our ordinance. Ms. Danko said that goal was for the Bucks County PC to send us updated versions of their documents, so we can review them and stay up to date on matters outside our township.

Motion for the Tinicum Township PC to review the Bucks County PC's ordinance on warehouses to see if it can improve the current ordinance we have in place and to keep up-to-date on what is happening in surrounding counties and to make recommendations from their review of the BC Warehouse and Logistic information to the BOS was made by John Cole and seconded by Michael Kauffman. (All in favor, 3)

6. Consideration for the Township Engineer and Tinicum Township Planning Commission to review the Rural Road Classification Map.

Mr. Genner explained that his office was asked to generate an updated map. They started from a map in the comprehensive plan that was not really legible, so they prepared a draft of a new map. Then they noticed in reviewing the zoning ordinance, the comprehensive plan, that the map was missing designation road classifications, so they tried to make that map compatible with the existing ordinances and to be a replacement for the previous map. At this point, he said he was comfortable with it being a replacement, but if there is additional information, comments, or different edits that needed to be done, he was open to doing so. This information has already been provided to the PC.

Mr. David Upmalis, chair of the Planning Commission, said that they did review the map at their last meeting and noted that there were some issues with it, and cited some examples of discrepancies in the classification of roads. Ms. Danko asked that the PC mark up any discrepancies, and if there would be a need for a meeting with the Engineer's office, she would set that up. She added that the original purpose of the work was to get something on the books for the naming of this particular roadway for zoning purposes.

Mr. Flager clarified that there was no need for a motion to ask the PC to mark up the map and finalize their recommendations.

7. Consideration of emergency service provider alternatives as a result of UBREMS ongoing financial difficulties.

Mr. Cole stated that there have been a lot of meetings over the last several months in this regard. Ms. Breslin added that the township has been working on this issue since before the start of this calendar year, and that many members of UBREMS were present here this evening, and that it would be helpful for the discussion to hear from them.

Mr. Cole said he has some feelings of discomfort with some of the things he has heard from their presentations and how they assessing the \$108,000 they ask for. He said that it does not seem fair for Tinicum to pay this amount for the service that would be provided, especially when compared to other townships. UBREMS provided the call volumes for the three townships, Tinicum, Nockamixon and Springfield for the last two months. Tinicum had used the service over those last two months 27 times, Nockamixon 56 times, and Springfield 57 times. He said Tinicum is getting assessed \$108,000, Springfield \$188,000, and Nockamixon \$132,500. There is no relationship between those numbers. Mr. Cole said he proposed in February that townships should be assessed based on projected call volume, which has been very consistent over the last 2 years, and this idea had been immediately dismissed by UBREMS, which he does not think is fair. They want to project the population they are covering on a per capita basis. He added that the tool that UBREMS uses to make their projections is incorrect, since in actuality, we have had a decrease in population since 2000, they should not project an increase. Another issue is that there are more calls in Nockamixon because of people going to the park there, and we are paying for them. We should use per capital of residents.

Mr. Cole added that he thinks we should look into other options just like the other townships are doing, and we should be doing it together with these two townships to come up with a more attractive package. By the next BOS meeting, we should know what we are going to do. He has been in contact with the other township supervisors, who all agree to come together as a group and discuss, but until now all have worked separately. He hopes to have that meeting this month and bring ideas to the Board.

He also mentioned an email from Andy Holtzman, that UBREMS only has five months left in funding, when he was originally told that if they got the \$250,000 grant that would take care of the rest of the year, and now we are being told they need to apply a bridge loan and they need to have decision from us now. Mr. Kauffman added that he does not like how the decision to go to one station was presented to us and our residents, and how we were told the \$250,000 grant would carry them through rest of the year, and now we need to look at another option.

Mr. Cole added that UBREMS completely reject Ms. Breslin's suggestion to going to one station, Springfield also agrees with that, and yet they continue down the same path of two stations, and sooner or later they will come back saying they need more money.

UBREMS's lack of planning turned into an emergency on our part, after the budget was completed last year).

Ms. Breslin added that UBREMS provide services to two thirds of the township, the remainder is covered by Point Pleasant. She said that it is important to point out that every time we are talking about UBREMS and their financial situation, it has nothing to do with the professional service provided by the staff. She said that the BOS is speaking solely about the UBREMS Board leadership and decisions that have been made year after year by the Board. She said that Mr. Cole's suggestion was being dismissed out of hand, and so was hers. She had wanted to know why UBREMS could not function 24/7 out of one centrally located station, and the board leaders were not exploring that option. They persisted in embracing a two-station model.

Ms. Breslin stated that elected officials in various townships have been working separately and in fairly regular contact. This is a top priority issue for the municipality, but not one we can solve on our own. We have been in regular communication with another nearby service provider, and other municipalities are also in touch with this service provider, and most if not, all are exploring other options. There has been no information provided this year that would change her mind in the confidence, or lack thereof, she has in the UBREMS board.

Mr. Cole added that we have the other service, and their call volume is often higher than UBREMS and the township was not asked to pay four times more. He said there will be a meeting of the other township supervisors in this regard, and hoped that it would happen in the next two weeks.

Ms. Breslin said there would be no action on this item taken tonight.

Barry Arkles, resident, said the BOS response to the EMS service has come up quite a number of times this year, and there are always political and emotional issues with the supervisors. If the math was simple, there are roughly 2,000 residents, and \$108,000 would represent \$6 per person a year, which is a remarkably low number for 24/7 coverage.

(Correction: Tinicum Township has 3,817 population and 1,787 number of households from the Bucks County Census data: ACS2023 with 30.1 square miles and 126.9 people per square mile). Apparently, there is a relationship issue with the provider. In terms of funding he asked if there is a sense of how much other municipalities pay, as it does not seem to be a horrible tax burden, and it should be considered what is the service is really worth to the residents. He added that the township also thinks of the value of this service to the residents.

Mr. Cole and Ms. Danko explained that the allocation of the additional costs do not work on a per capita basis, but that it would be a 2.5 mill increase, which would be spread very unevenly over the residents. Some would have to pay \$,1000 more, others barely anything. It depends on the assessed value of their properties.

Anthony Mills, board president for UBREMS, said he wanted to address some of the earlier comments that had been made.

He said they never said that the grant of \$250,000 would cover them for the whole year. His statement had been "if we get the \$250,000 for this year, we would still have to get another \$250,000 bridge loan to get through the year." This had been said in January and in every meeting since.

They also did not come to the meeting and said they needed the money now, they had said they need a decision on what model the BOS supports so they can make plans for the future. They always anticipated it was going to be for 2026.

Mr. Mills said that Mr. Cole said they provided a per capita model, then they found another tool and Mr. Cole disagreed with that too. Mr. Cole interjected that that was incorrect, that he wanted to know how much per call it would cost, and that he had wanted a projection of how many calls they would get per year.

Mr. Mills continued, that the projection tool was not built by them, but it had been built by Columbia university and NASA. They did the analysis per call and it does not change the numbers significantly. He found another EMS provider that calculates 50% per capita and 50% per call volume. He put the numbers into that tool and will have the result this week. Regarding the question about fiduciary responsibility and taking care of things, he said they project to save \$100,000 to \$150,000 in expenses this year. They have explored new billing companies to reduce costs. They squeezed every expense out of the organization that they possibly could. They eliminated scheduled overtime. He added that overtime happens, but they have knocked it down from over 100 hours to 20. They are working diligently to reduce costs. As stated previously, their expense is 83% employee cost, and only 17% for everything else. There is no fat there, they cut everything we possibly can. He said he is disappointed to hear the BOS have no confidence in the Board, and he is open to step aside if that makes the township chose UBREMS.

He added that they did not dismiss the one station model. They had said that they fully support the two-station model, and they were asking the BOS which model they want. It is his opinion that a two-station model supports the community best. The square milage demands two stations, the population demands one. That's the quandary we are in.

Ms. Breslin said that is the quandary UBMREMS believes we are in. Other experts in the field believe that the coverage area supports one station.

Mr. Mills said that he understands the financial reality, but service to the community demands two stations. He has asked the township boards what they want since January, and he is asking for them to make a decision now.

Mr. Cole said that he heard from Mr. Andy Holtzman that if we don't make a decision now, we risk UBREMS going out of business in 5 months. Mr. Mills agreed and added that they need a \$250,000 bridge loan to finish out this year.

Mr. Cole asked about the population estimate service that shows an increase in the population, which he does not agree with. Mr. Mills asked if the BOS had another suggestion for a tool which they would be happy to use.

Mr. Mills said it is the decision of the BOS whether there will be one or two stations. Springfield township took a vote on what they want. Other townships are exploring options. Mr. Cole said that UBREMS is one of the options here, but the townships will explore others.

Mr. Mills ended by saying they are also exploring options. His main objective is to serve his community. When asked by Ms. Danko what options they are looking into, Mr. Mills said he cannot discuss these now as they have an NDA in place.

Ms. Breslin said the BOS will not be taking any action now, and she hopes by next month we will know what to do.

Sean Sanders, resident, said he does not understand why this is going on like this, and why there is a budget issue. He added that his son had been in a very serious accident two weeks ago, UBREMS responded, and they did a great job. They hiked 3/4 mile through the woods for his son, and at the same time they had a function somewhere else. He said the territory here is so big, he would hate for anybody not getting a response and not having backup. He said he is not against exploring other options, but he does not believe that one station will be sufficient to handle this area. Point Pleasant is at one tip of the territory. He said that we have to look beyond the cost and see how we can be best protected and make the community safe, and he would be interested to hear what the cost per resident actually is. Mr. Cole said that it will have to be based on millage, which is different for everyone, since it is based on the assessed value of a property. He added that Tinicum is locked into doing it that way. Also, UBREMS is asking for an increase, and Point Pleasant is not. But we have to do it there the same way and also give more to Point Pleasant. We are asked to pay more than what a lot of townships would do. For Tinicum the cost is double because we have two services. We also could not adjust the budget in the future if UBREMS were able

to get more grants. Once the millage is passed for the budget, then we have to do it that way. And we also have not heard from the fire departments yet.

Mr. Brian Palouian, employee at Upper Bucks, said he understands everybody's frustrations. He explained a case where he got called down to Point Pleasant for a cliff rescue and the next available ambulance was 25-30 minutes away. Station has a response time of 15 minutes based on where it is located. He understands the one station idea, but having two stations is better for the communities, as there is less response time. Somebody who has a cardiac issue cannot wait 30 minutes for an ambulance from St. Luke's. He added that he is asking for some patience, UBREMS is here for the community. The frustration and tension are high here, but the community comes first.

I. Public Comment (video time: 20:25:50)

Kathryn Auerbach, resident, thanked the EMS response people for their service. She asked when will the grit on the roads left from recent rains and winter coverage would be removed, was there an opportunity for the township to sweep the roads. Ms. Danko responded that we are down personnel in the Public Works department but we will look into it.

Ms. Auerbach said there are again big logs in Tinicum Creek, which is recurring, and would there be any way to set up an efficient system to remove them. They are causing log jams which can damage the side of the road and can cause other issues. We have exceptional value creeks that need to be kept healthy and not clogged up. These things require constant vigilance. Ms. Danko said the township can notify the county.

Ms. Auerbach asked update of the bridge rehabilitation on bridge #365 on Beaver Run, and if there were any changes made to the plans for the guiderails. Mr. Kauffman responded that he had previously reported that PennDOT had had already designed them and was constructing the bridge as planned. The guiderails will be replaced with a crash attenuating structure that is made of rounded galvanized material so it does not stick out as badly. Ms. Auerbach responded that this means that PennDOT just basically destroyed a historic bridge that is part of our collection within the wild and scenic designated area without proper discussion beforehand. And the guiderails were never an issue, the bridge was perfect. She suggested the idea of a bridge resolution so that the township verifies what is in place, that nothing is changed, but reinforces that the preservation of our historic bridges is supported. She thinks the resolution is very helpful and that the township needs to have a more substantive meeting with the county and copy PennDOT to let them know that this is something that is important. She stressed that we cannot lose one bridge after another. Ms. Breslin asked for a sample resolution from another municipality that expresses what she is describing, and Ms. Auerbach said she had already sent it a couple of times to the township. Mr. Kauffman said that it basically says that any historic bridge in the township

must be replaced or preserved in the present condition and that it would be helpful to make that statement for all parties.

Ms. Auerbach asked if there was any update on Sheep Hole, Beaver Run Creek, or Clay Ridge, one of the iron bridges. Mr. Kauffman said she had been provided with their most updated information, there has been no update since. Ms. Auerbach added that all these bridges have to be restored, and she hopes they do not go down the design path too far and then force the issue. She added that historic resources should preclude some of the standard guidelines, and to consider the location of driveways on township roads versus PennDOT roads. In some instances that is forcing a driveway into an inferior and much more damaging environmental situation than the PennDOT State road access. There is a property near her that has been advertised with an image of the driveway coming off of Center Road which is the worst possible location for a driveway and it is much easier to access from Headquarters Road, it was never approved.

Anita Nolan, resident, voiced her disappointment with the pushed out construction date of the Headquarters Road, which she estimates to be a year later than originally communicated. Mr. Genner said the township had done everything we could do to speed things up.

Ms. Breslin added that Mr. Genner has done a herculean effort since joining as the township engineer. We waited for months for PennDOT to execute the turnback agreement, then waited for months more for the DEP to issue the permit. Perhaps that explains an additional six months, but there are very few people in this community who are not happy about having the bridge open in the near future. And 2026 is the near future for a community that has been waiting for 14 years.

J. Supervisor Comments (video time: 20:40:00)

Mr. Cole asked Mr. Genner whether he thought that there had been any indication for PennDOT being ready to start the bridge when they said they were in February of 2020. We had heard for 13 years that they were ready, but how ready were they in February of 2020. Mr. Genner said there was nothing to show that they were ready then.

Mr. Cole added that he cannot comprehend how members of the community could have believed PennDOT to start the process when they had promised to. There have been many examples of PennDOT promising things that they did not keep. Based on the distrust in PennDOT, and looking at an extended period of litigation continuing with PennDOT, Mr. Cole said he had voted the way he did.

Mr. Flager added that the township did it the fastest possible way. A few months delay should not be a problem.

Mr. Genner added that the funding is coming from a private source, and if PennDOT had funded it, our residents would have to pay higher taxes.

K. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors next Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Township Building.

DATE: 7/01/2025

ATTEST TO:

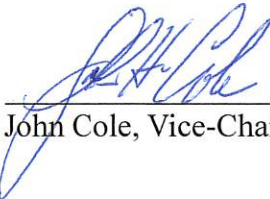


Judith Danko, Township Manager/Secretary

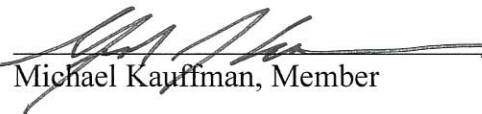
TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Eleanor Breslin, Chairperson



John Cole, Vice-Chairperson



Michael Kauffman, Member