



# West Pikeland Township

ATTENDING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	ATTENDING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL
Noreen Vigilante, Chair	Dorene Guistwhite, Township Treasurer
Harold Hallman III, Vice Chair	Joseph L. Romano III, Township Manager
Steven Costa, Supervisor	Madison Kerr, Township Secretary
Tom McLewee, Supervisor	Sergeant Wayne O'Connell, Officer-in-Charge
Carin Mifsud, Supervisor	

Ms. Vigilante called the meeting to order on March 3, 2025, at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Mifsud made a motion to approve the agenda as presented for March 3, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting. Seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting. Seconded by Ms. Mifsud. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS**

*Library:* Ms. Nancy Niggel presented her report for the months of November '24, December '24 and January '25 and gave her written report to be filed with the minutes. The Board thanked Ms. Niggel for her report.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Invasive Project (Phase II) Funding:* Mr. Glenn Wenger (EAC) informed the Board that the invasive cleanup at Pine Creek Park had not been completed because the effort exceeded initial estimates. He shared that the Open Space Committee met on February 13, 2025, and recommended approving an additional \$3,000 to finish the project, with the Township's Public Works team treating (spraying) exposed stumps and roots, as necessary. Mr. Wenger clarified that the \$3,000 would be allocated from the Open Space budget.

Ms. Mifsud made a motion to approve and not exceed the requested amount of \$3,000 for the completion of the invasive plant removal at Pine Creek Park, which was seconded by Mr. Costa. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Boy Scout Troop 216:* Scoutmaster Phil Grant, on behalf of Boy Scout Troop 216, requested permission to camp overnight at Pickering Grove Park on March 29-30, 2025. Mr. Grant explained that for the past three years, Troop 216 has assisted Anselma Mill in preparing for their spring opening. This year, Mr. Grant is seeking approval to use Pickering Grove Park, starting on March 29, and ending on March 30, to set up the camp. During this time, the scouts will work on removing invasive species and clearing the River Birch trail.

Ms. Mifsud requested that Troop 216 sign and submit liability waivers. Ms. Mifsud made a motion to waive Ordinance 2013-01, specifically paragraphs 3a and 3o, and approve the use of Pickering Grove Park by BSA Troop 216 for the dates March 29-30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costa and passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Vigilante stated that comments would be limited to ensure the meeting remained orderly and on schedule.

-Resident, Bill Quain stated he was just made aware of the police matter, and he was concerned with eliminating the police department. Mr. Quain stated he is in favor of keeping the police department and asked about the DCED. Mr. Romano responded with the report's genesis, purpose and where the public could access and review.

-Resident, Jonathan Corle stated he is pleased with the community police and is dissatisfied with state police. Mr. Corle stated he is in favor of keeping the police department.

-Resident, Chris O'Hara stated the police department is crucial and he is in favor of the police. Mr. O'Hara stated he is willing to pay increased taxes to keep the department.

- Resident, Jim Dahme, a 30-year resident, stated that the police department is the first to show up in an emergency. Mr. Dahme stated he is concerned with the wait-time of PSP, and in favor of keeping the police department.

-Resident, Frank Glaug stated the crime in the Township is increasing and he supports the police department. Mr. Glaug stated that speeding will also increase, and the State police cannot cover all the area.

-Resident, Linda Riley explained that she believes the State police do not respond quickly enough and suggested adding the police discussion as an agenda item. Ms. Riley supports keeping the police.

-Resident, Diane Corle stated that a decision should not be made based on money.

-Resident, Alex Bratic asked the Board what risks are involved. Mr. Romano explained the DCED report cited that the police department currently lacks adequate functional internal controls for certain operational, administrative, risk reduction, cost control /containment, and sustainability aspects. Mr. Bratic asked Mr. Romano a tort-related question which Mr. Romano explained was an area outside his expertise but would pass along to the solicitor.

-Resident, Bob Boden suggested to the Board that a meeting be held over zoom so that more residents can chime in.

-Resident, Cathy Vail stated she has concerns for traffic without the police department as her family owns the building the Chester Springs Post Office operates from.

-Resident, Dennis McGonigle asked the Board what triggered the consulting study and report, and added he supports the police department.

-Ms. Vigilante stated that with the former Chief of Police's retirement expected in February '25, leadership reached out to the PA Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCED) and requested a Police Management Study. The purpose being to focus on recommending improvements of the department. Ms. Mifsud further shared that the assessment would aid in the budgeting process. Mr. Hallman commented that a similar effort was not conducted on Public Works. Whereas Ms. Mifsud responded they most certainly are by the manager.

-Resident, Jim Dahme asked the Board to make this an agenda item when they are ready to do so.

-Resident, Bob Boden, Jr., asked if a petition would help the Board make an informed decision. Mr. Boden also asked if a referendum or a public safety tax would be possible.

-Mr. Hallman, stated he did not want a reduction in hours worked by the police department and wants to hire a fulltime police officer as the budget has funds for an officer.

Ms. Vigilante reminded residents to email any questions to [office@westpikeland.com](mailto:office@westpikeland.com).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Board of Supervisors meetings are scheduled for: Monday, March 17, 2025, at 7:30 PM, and Monday, April 7, 2025, at 7:30 PM

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Mifsud made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. Seconded by Mr. McLewee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Madison Kerr  
Township Secretary