



West Pikeland Township

+ATTENDING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	ATTENDING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL
Noreen Vigilante, Chair	Dorene Guistwhite, Township Treasurer
Harold Hallmann III, Vice Chair	Shane Clark, Chief of Police
Steven Costa, Supervisor	Joseph L. Romano III, Township Manager
Tom McLewee, Supervisor	Madison Kerr, Township Secretary
	Theresa Stockdale, Assistant Secretary
	Guy Donatelli, Township Solicitor

Ms. Vigilante called the meeting to order on February 3, 2025, at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Vigilante explained that the Board held an executive session on January 31, 2025. The topic of discussion was personnel.

AGENDA MODIFICATION & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Vigilante removed “S.A.L.T (bathroom/lobby/staging area addition update)” from the agenda. The Board unanimously approved the proposed modification to the agenda. With the modification approved, Mr. McLewee motioned to approve the agenda as presented for February 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 the January 21, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. McLewee seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation 2025-01 – Exceptional Public Service. Ms. Vigilante stated that Chief Shane Clark will be retiring on February 7, 2025. Ms. Vigilante invited the public to attend the Chief’s retirement celebration event held at the Township Building on February 7, 2025. Mr. Hallman shared Chief Clark has been a consummate public servant having mentored and protect our township for over 35 years. Mr. Romano read the proclamation aloud and presented the document to Chief Clark. Mr. Hallman made a motion to accept Proclamation 2025-01. Mr. Costa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Vigilante shared with the public, comments would be limited to ensure the meeting remained orderly and on schedule.

-Resident, Mr. Charles Knapp thanked Chief Clark for his service to the Township.

-Resident, Ms. Judith Bilenas thanked Chief Clark for his service. Ms. Bilenas stated that the state police have far too long response time and believes the township should continue with the West Pikeland Police Department.

-Resident, Mr. Edward Gallen expressed his perspective that if the township were to consider a regional police department, it would result in a loss of personalized service. Mr. Gallen suggested officers get training like that of an EMT to help the ambulance company. Mr. Gallen also indicated there is no need for a detective. Mr. Gallen stated that the state police will not enforce the townships' ordinances.

- Resident, Donald Taggart stated that having a local police department is a necessity and acts a deterrent.

-Resident, John Grablewski stated the West Pikeland Police respond to calls in minutes. Whereas Mr. Grablewski feels as though state police would not respond promptly.

-Resident Ara Chalian explained that having a local police department has a sense of safety and peace of mind. Mr. Chalian stated that having a local police department is what keeps residents here.

-Resident Ms. Mary Jo Marian expressed concern that any changes to the current police structure could result in slower response times.

-Resident Bill White stated that current police response times are fantastic and stated that the department is well equipped. Mr. White suggested holding a town hall meeting specifically to discuss the police, in a larger location.

-Resident, Joseph Chico, a 49-year resident, expressed his gratitude to Chief Clark. Mr. Chico stated his belief is that dismissing the police department would not be ideal.

-Resident, Andrew Vaskas stated he would like to see what is sustainable. Mr. Vaskas stated that taxes will only continue to increase.

-Resident, Al Switzer stated that once/if the police department is dismantled, it will be difficult to reestablish a new police department.

-Resident, Paul Chung stated that the residents' needs will not be met without the police department. Mr. Chung stated that if the residents want to keep the department, they will need to invest in it via taxes.

-Resident, Jim Cordray thanked Chief Clark for his service. Mr. Cordray suggested minimizing the number of officers.

-Resident, John Fiorillo stated that the health and safety of residents is key and supported the idea of keeping the department.

-Resident, Tobey Chadsey expressed how personable Chief Clark is compared to utilizing state police. Mr. Chadsey stated that the state police response time is too long.

-Resident Sue Mcelroy suggested restructuring the police department.

-Resident, Marc Duey expressed how much of a difference it makes that the police department knows its residents.

-Resident, Liz Roberts suggested the staff explore more grants.

-Resident, Brian Urbanski thanked the board for posting the management study to the township website and for keeping the residents informed.

-Resident, Alex Bratic inquired about what taxes would look like if the police department was to stay.

Ms. Vigilante reminded residents to email any questions to office@westpikeland.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Supervisors meetings are scheduled for: Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 7:30 PM, and Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Mr. Hallman asked Chief Clark for a staffing report: Chief Clark shared Sergeant O'Connell will be assuming responsibilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Costa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM. Mr. McLewee seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Madison Kerr

Madison Kerr
Township Secretary