



**Allen Township Board of Supervisors
Meeting Minutes
March 11th, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Municipal Building, located at 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, PA. Mr. Behler led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1. Roll Call:

Present: Gary Behler; Dale Hassler; Jason Frack; Tim Paul; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq.; Ilene Eckhart, Manager; and Tom Gogle, Public Works Crew Leader

Absent: Paul Link; Michael Schwartz, PE, Engineer (Gilmore & Associates, Inc.), and Layla Denissen, Engineer (Barry Isett & Associates, Inc)

2. Announcements and/or Actions to Add New Items to the Current Agenda: None.

3. Public Hearings: No public hearings.

4. Public to be Heard:

A. Mr. Craig Poliner of 3076 Oakland Drive thanked the Township for assisting with getting the sidewalk on his property taken care of. Mr. Poliner indicated that he was present for tonight's meeting to request for a feasibility study to be conducted in regard to a local police force. Mr. Poliner stated that the Township will be having a dollar store and Wawa and that on Eisenhower Drive there are multifamily homes causing the street to look like a parking lot. He stated that there are new home units, however, some are being rented out resulting in a mix of people residing within the township. He explained that he spoke with Northampton Borough Police Chief Bryan Kadingo, who indicated that the Northampton Borough Police Department would be willing to assist Allen Township, however, a price would need to be negotiated. Mr. Poliner expressed concerns regarding ambulance services arriving late for an emergency and felt that a local police force would arrive faster. He indicated that he taught at the Police Academy for over 40 years and knows that Police Officers have a wider variety of medical training. He questioned what the cost would be to save children who are choking or saving someone who is unconscious. He questioned how long it would take EMS to respond. He explained that due to these various reasons it is time for the Township to do a feasibility study. He stated that with more businesses and additional housing being developed within the Township that the State Police would be arriving from Stockertown, PA and would take a while to get to the Township. Mr. Poliner stated that now that there are multiple families moving into the area, there are issues such as domestic violence that need a local police department. He indicated that he is friends with the former Township Manager at Upper Macungie Township. He stated that the former Manager informed him that the police department is funded with the

intermodal companies. He stated that FedEx is located in the Township and that there are other companies moving into the Township. He questioned what a millage increase was compared to saving someone's life. He stated that it is a higher liability for the Township to not have a police department. Mr. Poliner discussed how neighboring municipalities have a local police department. He stated that he would be willing to chair a committee to look at the feasibility of putting a Police Department in the Township. Mr. Poliner stated that the Northampton Borough Police Department was receiving complaints about motorists from Allen Township driving through stop signs. He concluded that a local police force would be able to police the signs. Mr. Behler stated that there was a feasibility study conducted about a decade ago. He stated that if there was a consensus on the Board then they could discuss it at another meeting. Mr. Poliner stated that the Township has changed over the last decade and that there is a need for a local force. He explained that he has seen State Police in his neighborhood for a domestic, however, it was two hours after the call was made. He concluded that he still teaches at the Police Academy and knows that there are well-trained Police Officers. Mr. Paul questioned who Bath Borough utilized. Ms. Eckhart indicated that Bath used Colonial Regional, however, they were too expensive and now rely on the State Police. Mr. Hassler stated that there was a cardiac arrest incident and the Fire Department was dispatched. He stated that the State Police were there about a minute or two minutes after the Fire Department arrived on scene. Mr. Hassler concluded that the State Police are quick and there is typically an Officer around. Mr. Poliner stated that the Pennsylvania State Legislature wants to start charging for State Police services. He added that if the State Police have a homicide, then the Township would not be able to have a police response. He concluded that it is a hit or miss with the State Police. Mr. Poliner stated that if there was a local Police Department then it would be a guarantee that there would be police presence. He felt that as the Township grows, there will be issues that the State Police will not respond to. He questioned if the State Police would be around if the dollar store and Wawa were robbed. Mr. Hassler stated that the topic has been discussed, however, it is out of the Township's budget. He concluded that the millage rate would go up by two or three mills. Mr. Hassler stated that the State Legislature have been going back and forth about the service charges and was uncertain if charges would happen or not. Mr. Poliner questioned if the local police department could be placed on the ballot for the next election, in order to let the people decide if they want one or not. He stated that there is a whole new generation of people residing within the Township. He stated that if a baby is choking, no one would arrive on scene as quickly as a local police officer. He indicated that the Township is lucky to have the Fire Station. He concluded that he felt that there was a liability to not having one. Mr. Behler stated if the majority of Board wishes to discuss local police department, then it could be placed on an agenda. Mr. Poliner stated that he felt the topic is important enough to be lobbied for. He explained that the millage rate would need to go up, however, if companies are not paying taxes on their intermodals, then he should not have to pay his property tax. He generalized the companies growing in the Township adds to the need for a local police department. He stated that the tractor trailers are tearing up the Township roads. Mr. Hassler stated that the Township taxes have not gone up in over 20 years. Mr. Hassler explained that the costs to maintain the Township have gone up and indicated that salt has doubled in price over the last couple of years. Mr. Poliner indicated that Allentown held their line on taxes, however, under a new administration they realized they could not afford a police force and raised the millage rate. He concluded that he appreciated the fact that his taxes have not gone up but he does not appreciate not having local police protection. He stated that the issues may not necessarily be Allen Township residents but people coming through. Mr. Paul stated that they could examine the need for a police department after the Dollar General, Wendy's, and Wawa are built. Mr. Poliner stated that he will not dispute that, however, he feels that the need is now. He expressed concerns about private property that was owned by Tepes being sold and is now North Hills Development and there

is an older population that reside in the Township. Mr. Paul stated that the Supervisors could have a discussion. Mr. Behler stated that if there is a majority on the Board who are in favor of the discussion of a local police department then it will be added to a future agenda. Mr. Poliner questioned how soon it would be on the agenda. Ms. Eckhart stated that if she receives a majority consensus from the Supervisors prior to the next meeting on March 25th, 2025 it possibly would be added to that meeting.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Hassler made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11th, 2025 and February 25th, 2025; seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Supervisors voted yes with the exception of Mr. Behler who abstained to the approval of the February 11th, 2025 due to being absent and Mr. Paul who abstained to the approval of the February 25th, 2025 minutes due to being absent.

6. **Reports - All Reports on File with the exception of the Treasurer's Report and Paying of the Bills:**
 - A. **Treasurer:** Mr. Frack made a motion to approve the paying of the bills and the treasurer's report; seconded by Mr. Hassler. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Supervisors voted yes.

 - B. **Solicitor:** On file.

 - C. **Engineer:** On file.

 - D. **Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement:** On file. Ms. Eckhart stated that she is unsure if there will be a Planning Commission meeting on March 17th, 2025. She indicated if there is a meeting there will be one item on the agenda.

 - E. **Road Superintendent/Public Works Leader:** On file.

 - F. **Fire Company:** On file. Mr. Hassler stated that they received a thank you letter from Waste Management.

 - G. **Emergency Management Coordinator:** On file.

 - H. **Nazareth Council of Government:** On file.

 - I. **Parks:** On file. Ms. Eckhart indicated that in the Township's Code there is a piece that discusses dogs being on a leash. She stated that a woman had made a concern at the Covered Bridge Park about dogs being unleashed. She stated that she would like to put up a simple sign at the parking areas that would remind residents to maintain your dog on a leash. She indicated she was thinking the sign could be similar to what the County's signs are, with the exception of the walking trail, which indicates that dogs must be leashed on a maximum of a six-foot leash. Mr. Frack stated that he saw a guy letting his dog run around in the baseball field off of Savage Road. Mr. Behler questioned if Ms. Eckhart wanted to place signs about the dogs being on a leash. Ms. Eckhart indicated that was correct and the signs would be placed where cars would be parked. Mr. Hassler stated that he has noticed that the soccer field at the Howertown Park, people have their dogs running around in it. Mr. Hassler suggested a sign be placed at the soccer field indicating no dogs. Mr. Hassler stated that at the Covered Bridge Park, the Township should place a sign in the parking areas that dogs must be on a leash. He explained that in his travels he has seen dogs running around unleashed at the park. Mr. Hassler made a motion to place "dogs must be

leashed” signs at the parks and to place a sign on the soccer field fence that says “no dogs allowed in the soccer field”; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Supervisors voted yes.

J. Planning: On file.

K. First Regional Compost Authority: On file. Ms. Eckhart announced that the next FRCA meeting would be March 18th, 2025.

L. Stormwater: On file.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Allen Township Building Renovation Project – Phase II Bids: Ms. Eckhart indicated that she is seeking a recommendation from the Board of Supervisors to award the bid. She stated that there were three bidders which were Grace Industries, Inc. with a bid of \$637,928.00, Kobalt Construction with a bid of \$812,845.00, and Semmel Excavating with a bid of \$846,836.00. Mr. Frack made a motion to award the bid to Grace Industries; seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Supervisors voted yes.

B. Applications and Certification of Payments/Change Order/Allowances – Allen Township Building Renovation Project

a. ASL Refrigeration (Mechanical Contract Sum \$828,000.00 – Remaining after release including retainage \$207,507.50) – Request #8 for \$48,402.50: Mr. Frack made a motion to approve request #8 for \$48,402.50 for ASL Refrigeration; seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Supervisors voted yes.

b. Mohawk Contracting and Development LLC (General contracting Contract Sum \$1,919,000.00 – Remaining after release including retainage \$816,981.00) – Request #8 for \$172,156.15: Mr. Hassler indicated that Mohawk has been falling behind and there are a lot of items that are not taking place. He explained that Mohawk painted the previous week and explained that they would do more work the following week when the weather would be nice to get the brick work finished. Mr. Hassler stated that no one was working outside. He concluded that as a Supervisor and a Township resident that he was not happy with what Mohawk is doing. Ms. Eckhart reflected on the delay with the interior doors and the exterior glass on the windows. She indicated that Mohawk has not explained the delays. Mr. Frack questioned if Mohawk has met the requirements for the release. Ms. Eckhart stated that they meet the requirements for this release. Mr. Hassler stated he is okay with paying them, however, they need a stern warning that the Supervisors are getting impatient and that they promised that the building would be done. He indicated that they knew about the doors last year and now they are having trouble getting them. He questioned if they waited to order the doors at the last minute. Mr. Frack stated that items like that should be ordered right away because you are at the mercy of the manufacturer. Ms. Eckhart stated that the furniture has arrived and is being stored in a common area. She indicated that the building is not clean and it should have been cleaned prior to the arrival of the furniture. Mr. Frack indicated that Mohawk should come to the next Supervisors meeting and explain why they are delayed. Ms. Eckhart stated that they need to be complete the work because they will be in the way for the

Phase II work. Mr. Hassler made a motion to pay the sum for Mohawk of \$172,156.15 but Mohawk should be notified to attend the next meeting and that the Supervisors have concerns; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Supervisors voted yes.

- c. **Albarell Electric, Inc. (Electrical Contract Sum \$715,000.00 – Remaining after release including retainage \$128,712.46) – Request #7 for \$137,605.18:** Mr. Hassler made a motion to approve request #7 for \$137,605.18 for Albarell Electric; seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Supervisors voted yes.

8. New Business

- A. **Executive Session (tentative):** No executive session.

9. Public to be Heard: No public to be heard.

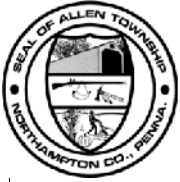
10. Next Meetings: Mr. Behler announced the upcoming meetings. All meetings and events will be held at the Allen Township Municipal Building. These meetings and events are as follows:

- Planning Commission, Monday, March 17th, 2025 6:00 PM
- Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, March 25th, 2025 6:00 PM

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber R. Averbeck



Allen Township Board of Supervisors

Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location: Allen Township Municipal Building

4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, PA

The Allen Township Board of Supervisors Meetings will be held at the Allen Township Municipal Building, located at 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, PA.

A summary of the public comment policy and procedures is located on the last page of agenda as a reference for individuals wishing to address the Board during the "Public to be Heard" segments.

Note: Per Act 65 of 2021 requirements, this agenda was posted to the Township website and physical location of the proposed meeting, by Township staff no later than: March 7, 2025.

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Roll Call

___ Dale Hassler, Board Member

___ Michael Schwartz, PE, Engineer

___ Paul Link, Board Member

___ B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr. Esq., Solicitor

___ Tim Paul, Board Member

___ Ilene M. Eckhart, Manager

___ Jason Frack, Vice Chairman

___ Gary Behler, Chairman

4. Announcements and/or Actions to Add Items to Agenda

5. Public Hearings

6. Public to be Heard (Residents shall limit their comments to no more than three minutes)

7. Approval of Minutes (February 11th and 25th , 2025)

8. Reports - All reports on file with exception of Treasurer's Report and Paying of the Bills.

A. Treasurer

B. Solicitor

C. Engineer

D. Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement

E. Road Superintendent/Public Works Leader

F. Fire Company

G. Emergency Management Coordinator

Phone: (610) 262-7012

www.allentownship.org

Fax: (610)262-7364

- H. Nazareth Council of Government
 - I. Parks
 - i. Park – Rules Signage (including dogs)
 - J. Planning
 - K. First Regional Compost Authority
 - L. Stormwater
9. Unfinished Business
- A. Allen Township Building Renovation Project – Phase 2 Bids
 - B. Applications and Certification of Payments/Change Order/Allowances – Allen Township Building Renovation Project
 - i. ASL Refrigeration (Mechanical Contract Sum \$828,000.00 - Remaining after release including retainage \$207,507.50) – Request #8 for \$48,402.50
 - ii. Mohawk Contracting and Development LLC (General Contracting Contract Sum \$1,919,000.00 - Remaining after release including retainage \$816,981.00) – Request #8 for \$172,156.15
 - iii. Albarell Electric, Inc. (Electrical Contract Sum \$715,000.00 – Remaining after release including retainage \$128,712.46) – Request #7 for \$137,605.18
10. New Business
- A. Executive Session (tentative)
11. Public to be Heard (Residents shall limit their comments to no more than three minutes)
12. Next Meetings
- * Planning Commission - Monday, March 17, 2025 6 PM
 - * Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, March 25, 2025 6 PM
13. Adjournment

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ALL 2025 PUBLIC TOWNSHIP MEETINGS WILL BE HELD

AT THE

ALLEN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT

4714 INDIAN TRAIL ROAD, NORTHAMPTON, PA

AT 6 PM.

Public Comment Policy and Procedures-

- 1. A period for public comment will be held at the beginning of the meeting and at the conclusion of all agenda business items. Any public comments or questions shall be reserved until time on the agenda. Public comments and questions will not be permitted during the course of the Board's/Commission's business items.*
- 2. Individuals who speak must give their name, address and municipality prior to speaking.*
- 3. Time limit on length of public comment or presentation will be three (3) minutes per person, per meeting.*
- 4. A speaker will only be granted one three (3) minute extension, if given, for a maximum speaking time of six (6) minutes, at the discretion of the Chairman.*
- 5. Comments/questions shall be directed to the Board/Commission members only.*
- 6. Procedures will be in place to maintain proper decorum for the hearing. Public participation will be allowed but the Board will ensure respect for all citizens and maintain order. Personal attacks and outbursts will be ruled out of order. The Chairman of the Board or Commission may, within this discretion, rule out of order scandalous, impertinent, and redundant comment or any comment the discernible purpose of which is to disrupt or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting.*
- 7. Individuals with lengthy written statements may submit them for the record and provide a verbal summary of three (3) minutes or less. Interested persons may email public comments via email, sent to manager@allentownship.org until 3:00pm local time the day of each meeting or by contacting the Township office. Public comment received via email will be read at the outset of the meeting. If you require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation, please contact the Allen Township offices in advance. In addition, an audio recording of the meeting will be posted to the Township website: www.allentownship.org within 48 hours of the meeting.*