

MINUTES
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 22, 2025

The Richland Township Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Monday, September 22, 2025 at the Richland Township Municipal Building, 322 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown, PA 15904 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Bob Heffelfinger, Chair
Gary A. Paul
Keith W. Saylor
Brian H. Lehman
Jeffrey D. Wingard

Bryan J. Beppler, Executive Director
George Gvozdoch, Jr., Solicitor

ABSENT

Kimberly D. Stayrook, Administrative Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Heffelfinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

READING OF MINUTES - September 8, 2025

- Mr. Wingard moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2025 as distributed, seconded by Mr. Paul. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from PA Liquor Control Board – Liquor License Transfer from Former Red’s Texas BBQ to Richland Indoor Golf Tavern LLC

A letter, dated September 10, 2025, was received from the PA Liquor Control Board informing Richland Township of a transfer application for Richland Indoor Golf Tavern LLC from Johnstown Beer and Eats LLC (Former Red’s Texas BBQ).

Letter From Cambria County Controller To Michele Ziants, Real Estate Tax Collector – March 1, 2024 through January 15, 2025

A letter, dated September 8, 2025, was received from Ed Cernic, Cambria County Controller, advising that the Controller’s Office completed an internal audit of the Richland Township Tax Collector that concluded on August 4, 2025. The internal audit focused on the collection of the County real estate taxes for 2024. The 2024 tax year covered the period of March 1, 2024 through January 15, 2025. However, when warranted, the scope was expanded. Based on the results of the internal audit, the Controller’s office concluded that there were no findings, significant deficiencies, or non-compliance noted.

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Letter From Department Of Transportation – Final Review On Installation Of Traffic Signals Upgrades And Corresponding Traffic Signal Permits

Theatre Dr. (T312) and Schoolhouse Rd. (T-305)
Schoolhouse Rd. (T-305) and Highfield Ave. (T-816)
Theatre Dr. (T-312) and Rosefield St. (T-330)

A letter, dated September 5, 2025, was received from the PA Department of Transportation advising that a final review verified that the traffic signals are operating in accordance with Revised Permit Nos. 9-3-130, 9-3-138, 9-3-140, and their condition diagrams. The 30-day operational test of these locations has been successfully completed.

Letter From PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs – Miles E. Palasz Approval of Real Estate Tax Exemption As A Disabled Veteran

A letter, dated August 7, 2025, was received from the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs advising that the State Veterans' Commission is required to review all property tax exemption cases at least once every five years for determination of continued financial need. A review form will be mailed to Miles Palasz.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Payment of the Bills

- Mr. Saylor moved to approve the general fund bills in the amount of \$70,111.34, and payroll in the amount of \$94,672.93, seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution – Support Of University Of Pittsburgh RACP Grant Project And Submission

The University of Pittsburgh is planning to upgrade its facility located at 500 Schoolhouse Road, designated and known as the Pitt-Johnstown John R. Musulin Center. The estimated total cost of the project is \$16,000,000 and the Township is applying for a grant of \$8,000,000. If awarded the grant, the Township will negotiate a Cooperation Agreement with the University of Pittsburgh. The Cooperation Agreement will include Township indemnification, with no financial commitment of funds to this project, and Township reimbursable administrative costs.

Mr. Lehman moved to approve the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Wingard. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Katherine Dagostino (Bertmin St.) inquired about what happened to the business, Lifeline Medical Center, on Donald Lane.

- *Mr. Heffelfinger responded that he is not aware of specifics, only that their Davidsville location is still open.*

Professor Stanford G. Mukasa, Ph.D. and students from U.P.J. (Reporting class) attended the meeting and had the following questions:

What are the effects of tariffs on local business?

- *Mr. Heffelfinger responded that product costs have increased significantly, and small businesses are trying not to pass on these additional costs to customers. This is a national issue that affects local business. Mr. Lehman states this matter needs to play out and the goal is to drive business from overseas and to build more facilities and business in the U.S.*

Does the Township have any future partnerships in the community?

- *Mr. Heffelfinger responded that the Township partners with the Richland School District, Penn Highlands Community College (Act 120 – Police Training), U.P.J., and the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center (work with Fire Department). All of the educational institutions are important to the success of our region.*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan J. Beppler

Executive Director