

MINUTES
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Richland Township and Richland Volunteer Fire Department
December 10, 2025

Richland Township representatives and the Volunteer Fire Department representatives met at the Richland Township Administrative Offices on December 10, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., for their monthly Safety Committee meeting.

PRESENT

*Bryan J. Beppler, Executive Director
Scott Conahan, Police Department Representative
Kevin Gaudlip, Police Department Representative – via cellular phone
William Lehmann, Richland Fire Department
Brandon Rozich, Road Department Representative*

ABSENT

*Todd Shaffer, Road Department Representative
Kimberly D. Stayrook, Administrative Assistant
Wesley Meyers, Richland Fire Department*

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES – November 12, 2025

- Mr. Rozich moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2025 as distributed, seconded by Mr. Lehmann. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Fourth Quarter 2025 Safety Inspections

Fire Department (Scalp Avenue Fire Station) - Follow up from 11/11/25 safety inspection: On November 26, 2025, Mr. Lehmann advised that the rear station step handrail was installed.

The following Departments completed their 4th quarter safety inspections with no safety issues or concerns: Administration (11/24/25), Public Works (12/5/25), and Police (12/8/25).

NEW INCIDENTS OR NEAR MISS REPORTS

November 18, 2025 at 10:40 am: The Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire call on Dupont St. (Johnstown). When the firefighter was doing an overhaul in one of the rooms and pulling down drywall ceiling, a sheet of drywall fell and struck firefighter in the face, causing debris to get in subject's left eye. Firefighter was taken to the Conemaugh Hospital emergency room for treatment and released.

The root causes of this incident were that the firefighter was using a shorter hook for pulling down the drywall ceiling, working directly overhead, and was not wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or face shield.

The corrective actions are using a longer hook to allow for additional spacing and distance when working overhead. Also, firefighters should work at an angle when pulling down drywall ceiling to avoid direct falls. In addition, an eye shield or face protection should be worn.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Safety Meeting Schedule – On December 3, 2025, Mr. Beppler sent the Safety Committee a 2026 safety meeting schedule via email. All meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the 2nd floor Community room.

2. Kim Stayrook – Retirement 2026

Ms. Stayrook's last working day will be at the end of January 2026. An employee from Administration will replace Ms. Stayrook on the Safety Committee, contingent upon Safety Committee approval.

SAFETY CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS

None

The next meeting is January 14, 2026 at the municipal building at 11:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Mr. Lehmann moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Conahan. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan J. Beppler
Executive Director