

**MINUTES**  
**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

The Richland Township Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Monday, February 23, 2026 at the Richland Township Municipal Building, 322 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown, PA 15904 at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Bob Heffelfinger, Chair  
Keith W. Saylor  
Brian H. Lehman  
Jeffrey D. Wingard  
W. Ray McCombie

Bryan J. Beppler, Executive Director  
George Gvozdoch, Jr., Solicitor  
Tiffany Shomo, Secretary

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

Mr. Wingard moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2026 as distributed, seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA - ANY CHANGES TO WRITTEN AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS** - *The Public has the right and the opportunity to comment on any agenda item.*

No comments.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

***HSWA Notification – 2026 Water Replacement Project – Chapter 102 Notification***

A letter was received from The EADS Group regarding the Highland Sewer and Water Authority 2026 Water Line Replacement Project. The project proposes the use of federal and state funding for both design and construction. The correspondence requested the Township's signature on the Municipal Notification Form for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**OLD BUSINESS**

*None*

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Payment of the Bills***

Mr. Lehman moved to approve the general fund bills totaling \$272,010.57, and payroll in the amount of \$99,143.07, seconded by Mr. Saylor. All in favor. Motion carried.

***Grass Bag Collection 2026***

Mr. McCombie made a motion to permanently discontinue the Township's grass bag collection program. He explained that the annual cost for dumpsters is approximately \$20,000, not including summer employee wages, vehicle expenses, and equipment wear and tear. He also noted that summer employees spend an entire week collecting grass bags, time that could otherwise be devoted to mowing and other maintenance tasks. When the full road crew assists, collection takes approximately two days.

Mr. Lehman stated that he would prefer to review the financial figures in greater detail and expressed concern about making a decision shortly before the start of grass collection season and only two months after the budget was approved. Mr. McCombie responded that he was not serving as a supervisor during the budget process and therefore did not have the opportunity at that time to raise the issue.

Mr. Saylor asked whether eliminating the program would impact the hiring of summer employees. Mr. McCombie stated that summer workers would still be hired but would be reassigned to other needed projects, such as improving maintenance at Township-owned parks. Mr. Heffelfinger added that the parks have not been adequately maintained.

Mr. Heffelfinger reported that Pro Disposal was contacted and the owner indicated that residents may dispose of grass clippings through their regular weekly trash collection service. Mr. Saylor noted that some residents believe grass is recyclable, but it is not.

Mr. Saylor further stated that residents may want an alternative if they prefer to bag their grass. If recycling options are not feasible, residents would be encouraged to place bagged clippings in their regular trash containers. He suggested providing public awareness through the Township's Facebook page. He acknowledged that discontinuing a long-standing service may be difficult for some residents, although many already mulch their clippings or leave them on their lawns.

Mr. Lehman stated that while the proposal may ultimately be appropriate, the timing provides very short notice.

Mr. Wingard seconded the motion.

Mr. Heffelfinger and Mr. Saylor voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Lehman voted opposed.

***Richland Community Days – Road Closure – August 12, 2026 to August 16, 2026***

A letter was received from Jeff Berkey on behalf of East Hills Recreation regarding events scheduled in Richland Township in August. The request was made to close Schoolhouse Road between Theatre Drive and Highfield Avenue for the 16th Annual Richland Community Days event. The closure would be necessary beginning Wednesday evening, August 12, to allow for setup of the main event tent, with the roadway to reopen following tent removal on Sunday, August 16.

Mr. Wingard made a motion to approve the road closure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lehman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

***Tyler Sivi – Public Works Department Promotion from Laborer to Operator 2, effective 3/1/26***

The Board considered the promotion of Tyler Sivi from Laborer to Operator 2, effective March 1, 2026.

Mr. Wingard made a motion to approve the promotion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saylor. All were in favor. Motion carried.

***Shaffer – Subdivision/Land Merger – 356 Mount Airy Dr/126 Pleasant Dr***

The proposed plan calls for the subdivision of 0.713 acres from 356 Mt. Airy Dr to be merged with 126 Pleasant Dr. This will result in 126 Pleasant Dr. being 1.468 acres and 356 Mt. Airy Dr. being .457 acres. The lots are zoned R2.

Mr. Saylor made a motion to approve the subdivision/land merger. Seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor. Motion carried.

***FLICORE – Subdivision – 1130 Scalp Ave***

The proposed plan calls for the subdivision of one lot into two lots. Lot 1 will be comprised of 1 acre and Lot 2 will be made up of 1.81 acres. The lots are zoned C-2 and are accessed by Scalp Avenue.

Mr. Lehman made a motion to approve the subdivision. Seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor. Motion carried.

***Public Comment***

Marsha Strushensky inquired about land mergers.

Mr. McCombie explained that a portion of the Shaffer property is being subdivided and combined with the Del Signore property.

Mr. Gvozdich clarified that a land merger typically involves taking two existing lots and combining them into one. In this case, a portion of one lot is being conveyed and added to an adjoining lot. He noted that when a neighboring property owner has additional land, a section may be transferred and attached to the adjacent parcel, resulting in one dwelling on the entire tract.

Mr. Saylor stated that the Township has a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance that addresses both subdivisions and land mergers. He explained the distinction between the two processes and noted that there are established guidelines and minimum lot size requirements. He emphasized that no lot can be created that does not conform to the requirements of the ordinance.

Ms. Strushensky inquired about who oversees Community Days. Mr. Heffelfinger responded that the event is primarily managed by East Hills Recreation, which is responsible for coordinating food vendors, marketing, advertising, entertainment, and most other aspects of the event. The Fire Department manages the beverage cart. Overall, East Hills Recreation oversees approximately 95% of the event operations. The organization operates under a board of directors, on which Jeff Wingard serves as the Township representative, along with other community members.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*T. Shomo*

Tiffany Shomo  
Secretary