

MINUTES
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Richland Township and Richland Volunteer Fire Department
March 11, 2026

Richland Township representatives and the Volunteer Fire Department representatives met at the Richland Township Administrative Offices on March 11, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., for their monthly Safety Committee meeting.

PRESENT

Bryan J. Beppler, Executive Director
Tiffany Shomo, Secretary
Wesley Meyers, Richland Fire Department
Brandon Rozich, Road Department Representative
Scott Conahan, Police Department Representative

Christopher Brandle, Guest

ABSENT

Todd Shaffer, Road Department Representative
William Lehmann, Richland Fire Department
Kevin Gaudlip, Police Department Representative

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES – February 11, 2026

Mr. Meyers moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2026 as distributed, seconded by Mr. Conahan. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1st Quarter 2026 Site Safety Inspections are due for Public Works, Police, and Fire Departments

The Police Department safety inspection was completed March 11, 2026 with no safety issues or concern.

The Public Works Department safety inspection was completed March 5, 2026 with no safety issues or concern.

The Fire Department safety inspection remains outstanding.

Safety Committee Membership List (updated), effective 2/1/26

Mr. Beppler directed the departments to post the new safety committee list in their departments so employees know who to contact if there is an issue.

NEW INCIDENTS OR NEAR MISS REPORTS

February 13, 2026 at 6:25 pm: A Fire Department vehicle (2009 Sutphen Pumper – Unit #1) was traveling south on State Route 219 (near airport) when it lost 1,400 feet of fire hose off the back of the truck. Driver in Unit #2 was following Unit #1 and struck the fire hose causing damage to Unit 2's rear vehicle, hub caps, and rear tire rim. All the damage was on the driver's side of Unit #2.

Root Cause:

1. Hose came off the back. If wind picks up, and once one goes, they all go.
2. Something wasn't packed tight enough – possibly a cuff link

Corrective Actions:

1. Will get a hose bed cover
2. 3' long plate underneath to stop the wind
3. Purchase tarps to be strapped down to cover the hose. The tarp will be strapped down.

February 23, 2026 at 7:00 am: A Fire Department member was plowing the Solomon Run Firemen Club's parking lot and backed into a vehicle causing damage to the parked vehicle.

Root Cause:

1. Plow truck was plowing and no vehicles were present. Then the vehicle parked behind where the plow was plowing and the plow backed into the vehicle
2. Improper communication
3. No backup cameras on plow truck

Corrective Actions:

1. Don't park where someone is plowing
2. Be More aware of surroundings
3. When backing up, hit horn to give other people heads up
4. Avoid backing up, if possible

NEW BUSINESS

None

SAFETY CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS

Discussion: Firearms in Township Building

Mr. Beppler spoke with the Chief about firearms in government buildings. Different rules and regulations for municipality buildings. Township buildings you are allowed. We have police officer that attends meetings. We can't wand anyone. If someone is coming in, we have to be as aware as possible. Mr. Conahan added to keep your head on a swivel. Beppler talked to Chief Pollino about where to tactfully sit during township meetings. A violation of constitutional rights to wand people. Do your best and hope for luck on our side that that day never comes. We looked into it. Nothing that technically could do. Metal detectors are allowed in schools and federal buildings, but not municipalities. Board of Supervisors will keep meetings as status quo. Conahan added that there is an armed officer there.

Information Technology Security & Threat Awareness

Mr. Beppler stated we have to make ure to be cautious when looking at emails. Rather delete an email rather than open up a threat. Tim Rhoades can look into emails that may be a threat. Inshore can also be contacted. Hackers don't discriminate when it comes to their tactics or what departments they attack. Can happen in payroll dept, etc.

The next meeting is April 8, 2026 at the municipal building at 11:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Mr. Rozich moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Meyers. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Shomo

Tiffany Shomo
Secretary