

MINUTES
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 1, 2026

The Richland Township Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Monday, June 1, 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
Emily Pollino, Secretary

ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES

Mr. Wingard moved to approve the minutes of May 4, 2026 as distributed, seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVE AGENDA - ANY CHANGES TO WRITTEN AGENDA

Mr. Heffelfinger moved Mr. Bryant Greene's MS4 presentation to the first item.

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

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Richland Township / Highland Regional Park - LSA Grant, Authorization to purchase / install playground equipment at Highland Regional Park - \$84,650.18

Mr. Wingard made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Payment of the Bills

Mr. Lehman moved to approve the general fund bills totaling \$94,685.73, payroll in the amount of \$103,868.34, and a check from Capital Equipment in the amount of \$30,124.69 to Government Leasing & Finance, Inc. for a fire department vehicle. Seconded by Mr. Wingard. All in favor. Motion carried.

Annual MS4 Presentation (Bryant Greene / HF Lenz)

Mr. Bryant Greene of HF Lenz gave an overview of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program and how it applies to Richland Township. He explained that only the portions of the Township located within the Johnstown Urbanized Area are required to meet MS4 requirements. These requirements originate with the EPA and are administered through PADEP before being implemented

by local municipalities. Richland Township submits an annual report to PADEP outlining its compliance efforts and water quality activities.

Mr. Greene reviewed water quality efforts throughout the Township, focusing on Little Paint Creek and Sams Run, which have been identified as impaired by sedimentation. The Township tracks and measures sediment removed from stormwater facilities and reports that information to PADEP. He highlighted projects completed to reduce sediment runoff, including a swale near Vo-Tech Drive along Paint Creek and improvements near Nadona Avenue along Sams Run that help capture runoff and sediment from winter maintenance activities. These projects are intended to improve water quality in areas where sediment has been identified as a concern.

He noted that stormwater leaving Richland Township ultimately flows through the Conemaugh, Kiskiminetas, Allegheny, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers before reaching the Gulf of Mexico. While the Township is not part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, local actions can still affect water quality throughout the larger river system.

Mr. Greene also discussed the Township's stormwater management ordinance and its compliance with PADEP's MS4 program requirements. He explained that Richland Township has incorporated Act 167 requirements for the Stonycreek River watershed and that both water quantity and water quality must be addressed during development projects. Any project disturbing more than one acre must meet NPDES permitting requirements and conservation district regulations. The Township encourages the use of stormwater management practices such as detention basins and rain gardens to help reduce runoff and improve water quality.

As part of the MS4 program, Richland Township has mapped and monitors 126 stormwater outfalls. These outfalls are regularly inspected, and information collected during inspections is used for reporting to PADEP. Public education is also a required part of the program. The Township provides information through its website, educational materials, and outreach efforts to help residents better understand stormwater management and water quality issues.

Mr. Greene explained that stormwater-related complaints may be submitted directly to the Township or referred through PADEP. Complaints are investigated to determine whether any corrective action is needed. He referenced a complaint from last year regarding vehicle washing on Elton Road. After an investigation, it was determined that the activity was being conducted properly, and the findings were shared with the complainant. Township staff are also trained to identify potential illicit discharges and report any concerns for follow-up. He noted that no significant illicit discharges have been identified in Richland Township.

The presentation included several ways homeowners can help improve water quality. Residents were encouraged to properly dispose of household chemicals, oils, cleaning products, and paint rather than allowing them to enter storm drains. Soil testing before fertilizing lawns, using slow-release fertilizers, and avoiding excess nitrogen and phosphorus were recommended to help reduce runoff and protect local streams. Mr. Greene also discussed lawn care practices such as maintaining taller grass and mulching grass clippings to improve soil health and reduce erosion.

Other recommendations included washing vehicles at commercial car washes or on lawn and gravel areas instead of paved driveways, using rain barrels to capture and reuse stormwater, installing small

rain gardens, and planting trees to help absorb water and reduce runoff. He also discussed using infiltration areas or gravel sumps to help manage runoff on residential properties.

Mr. Greene concluded by reviewing responsibilities for businesses. Commercial property owners are responsible for maintaining stormwater management facilities, properly handling and disposing of chemicals, and reporting spills or illicit discharges when they occur. He also noted that commercial car washes recycle and treat wastewater before it is discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Greene added that residents planning to fill a swimming pool should contact Highland Sewer and Water Authority beforehand to ensure they are charged only for water usage and not assessed sanitary sewer fees.

Aaron Garretson, Aaron Averl, & Jacob Gdula – Public Works Department Promotions from Laborer to Operator 2, effective 6/1/2026

Mr. Wingard made a motion to approve the promotions for Mr. Garretson, Mr. Averl and Mr. Gdula. Seconded by Mr. Wingard. All in favor.

Hiring Full Time Public Works Laborer – Eric St. Clair – \$20.10 p/h, effective 6/8/2026

Mr. Lehman made a motion to hire Mr. St. Clair. Seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor.

DCED Greenways, Trails, & Recreation program (Luray Avenue Park) Resolution & Match

Mr. Wingard made a motion to approve the Resolution and match. Seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor.

Greater Johnstown Area Vocational Technical School – Vo Tech Dr/ Elton Rd – Subdivision

The proposed plan calls for the subdivision of three new building lots from one existing parcel (Lots 1, 2, 3). The lots are zoned R-2 and accessed by Vo Tech Drive.

Mr. Wingard made a motion to approve the Greater Johnstown Area Vocational Technical School subdivision plan, dated March 23, 2026, and prepared by Cortese Associates. Seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor.

Highland Sewer & Water - Mine 37 Sanitary Sewer Extension

Highland Sewer and Water Authority is proposing to replace its existing antiquated sanitary sewer collection lines in the Mine 37 area of Richland Township. Mr. Beppler added they will also extend the line to include three existing homes that do not currently have access to public sewer service.

Mr. Lehman made a motion to approve signing the Sewage Facilities Planning Module. Seconded by Mr. Wingard. All in favor.

Public Comment

Mr. Strushensky asked about the Greater Johnstown Area Vo-Tech subdivision planned along Vo-Tech Drive and Elton Road. The Board explained that the subdivision is being created to provide lots where Vo-Tech students can build three homes as part of their schooling, with the homes to be sold once completed. Mr. Strushensky also asked how close the homes could be built to the road. Mr. Lehman explained that the homes would have to meet all Township setback and ordinance requirements. Mr. Wingard noted that the property includes about four acres, even though it may not

appear that large. Mr. Beppler stated that ABD Construction will handle the code inspections for the project.

James Brown asked about the legalities of panhandling near the Giant Eagle. Mr. Beppler informed him that would be a police matter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Shomo

Tiffany Shomo
Secretary