

MINUTES
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 29, 2026

The Richland Township Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Monday, June 29, 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

ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Heffelfinger called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

Mr. Wingard moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2026 as distributed. Seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVE AGENDA - ANY CHANGES TO WRITTEN AGENDA

None.

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

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Application to Alter Crossing – Forest Hills Drive

A letter was received regarding proposed improvements to the railway crossing at Forest Hills Drive and Berwick Road. Mr. Gvozdoch explained that the proposal is to upgrade the existing antiquated incandescent lighting at the flashing crossing signals with new LED lighting. He noted that the Township has 20 days from the date the letter was received to submit comments if desired. He further explained that the Township is not required to take any action and may choose to support the proposal, intervene to request additional improvements, or take no action. Mr. Gvozdoch indicated that no action needs to be taken until the next meeting. Mr. Beppler stated that if the Township does not take any action, the project will move forward as proposed. Mr. Gvozdoch added that approximately 40 parties were notified and have the opportunity to intervene.

Notification of Application of Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit – SR 0219 Pipe Rehabilitation

The Board acknowledged receipt of the letter. Mr. Gvozdoch stated that the proposed project is located just across the township line in Adams Township.

OLD BUSINESS

Intermunicipal Agreement (Mandated Bi-ennial MOU) Between Richland Township Police Department & Richland School District

Mr. Beppler stated that the agreement included revisions made by the state since the previous version. Chief Rick Pollino and Arnie Nadonley had no additional feedback. Mr. McCombie moved to approve the agreement. Seconded by Mr. Wingard. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Payment of the Bills

Mr. Lehman moved to approve the general fund bills totaling \$73,602.74, payroll in the amount of \$100,109.13 and State Liquid Fuels Fund for \$42,711.90. Seconded by Mr. Saylor. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution Approving the Issuance by the Public Finance Authority of Bonds on Behalf of Citadel Housing I, Inc.

Mr. Lehman clarified that the Board is not approving the transaction itself, but is approving the entity's request to seek tax-free funding. Mr. Gvozdich noted that a public hearing regarding the matter was held earlier that evening at 5:30 p.m. Mr. McCombie motioned to approve the bond issuance for the purchase of Richland Woods. Seconded by Mr. Saylor. All in favor. Motion carried.

School Resource Officer MOU between Richland School District and Richland Township

Mr. Lehman motioned to approve the agreement. Seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor. Motion carried.

End of Probationary Period – Sergeant III – Robert Zada

Sergeant Zada successfully completed a 1-year probation. Mr. Wingard motioned to approve retaining Sergeant Zada as Sergeant III. Seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor. Motion carried.

End of Probationary Period – Sergeant III – Daniel Mock

Sergeant Mock successfully completed a 1-year probation. Mr. Wingard motioned to approve retaining Sergeant Mock as Sergeant III. Seconded by Mr. McCombie. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resignation – Christopher W. Brandle, Public Works Operator I - Effective 7/6/2026

Mr. Wingard motioned to accept the resignation of Christopher Brandle. Seconded by Mr. Saylor. All in favor. Motion carried.

Johnstown-Cambria County Airport – NPDES Permit – Construction of Eastside Development and RJ Hanger

Mr. McCombie motioned to approve signing the Municipal Notification Letter for the Construction of Eastside Development and RJ Hanger. Seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Strushensky asked for clarification on the Resolution Approving the Issuance by the Public Finance Authority of Bonds on Behalf of Citadel Housing I, Inc. Mr. Gvozdich explained that an organization is obtaining bond funding from a public entity in Wisconsin to support a nonprofit in purchasing facilities, including Richland Woods. He stated that, to qualify for the private activity bonds, the host municipality must approve a resolution indicating it has no objection to the bonds being issued. He further explained that the resolution does not pledge any credit of the municipality, does not recommend that anyone purchase the bonds, and is simply a required step in the bond issuance process. He noted that the same process would be completed in other municipalities. Mrs. Strushensky asked who currently owns Richland Woods. Mr. Gvozdich stated that he did not know but

said that Citadel Housing would be the acquiring entity. He added that the existing management company would continue managing the facility and that the financing is intended to make the acquisition more affordable for the new owner.

Mrs. Strushenky stated that an electronic speed limit sign had been installed on Pleasant Dr. Mr. Beppler explained that the Police and Public Works Departments coordinate placement of these signs based on need. The Police Department can collect traffic data, review reports, and increase enforcement if warranted. Mr. Beppler noted the difference between a perceived problem and an actual issue, stating that data helps determine the appropriate response. He added that neighborhood speeding is often caused by neighborhood drivers rather than through traffic. Mr. Strushenky commented that young drivers and their friends contribute to speeding. Mr. Lehman noted the Police Department's diligence in addressing complaints. Mr. Heffelfinger added an example from Luther Road, where traffic data confirmed speeding concerns and led to increased patrols and improved conditions.

Mr. Strushensky asked if there was a follow-up with residents on Fulmer Road who were blocking the road. Mr. Beppler stated that there has been some improvement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Shomo

Tiffany Shomo
Secretary