

MINUTES
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Richland Township and Richland Volunteer Fire Department
June 10, 2026

Richland Township representatives and the Volunteer Fire Department representatives met at the Richland Township Administrative Offices on June 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., for their monthly Safety Committee meeting.

PRESENT

Bryan J. Beppler, Executive Director
Tiffany Shomo, Secretary
Scott Conahan, Police Department Representative
Andrew Pasko, Road Department Representative
William Lehmann, Richland Fire Department

ABSENT

Todd Shaffer, Road Department Representative
Kevin Gaudlip, Police Department Representative
Wesley Meyers, Richland Fire Department

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES – May 13, 2026

Mr. Conahan moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2026 as distributed, seconded by Mr. Lehmann. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2nd Quarter 2026 Site Safety Inspections Due

The Public Works Department completed their Site Safety Inspections on May 27, 2026 with no safety issues or concerns.

The Fire Department completed their Site Safety Inspections on June 4, 2026 with two safety issues or concerns at the Solomon Run Fire Station.

1. Bay Emergency lighting
2. Stairway Emergency lighting

The switch/unit was repaired on June 9, 2026.

NEW INCIDENTS OR NEAR MISS REPORTS

May 19, 2026 @ 6:26 pm: A police officer responded to a shots fired call at a home located at 12th Street at Somerset Avenue in Windber while assisting Windber Police Department. When approaching the home to breach the residence, the police officer tripped on a pipe that was covered by grass. Police officer fell to the ground hitting left side of body (wind knocked out of him and right knee soreness).

Root Cause: A pipe was located in the lawn and was not easily visible due to grass coverage

Corrective Action: Be more aware and vigilant of surroundings when approaching house

June 2, 2026 @ 12:57 pm: A Public Works employee was digging a trench with a backhoe at the shed (police compound area) and hit a gas line causing a break and gas leak.

Root Cause:

1. Unmarked Line

2. Digging without PA One Call notification

Corrective Action:

1. Notifying PA One Call on any and all digs, regardless of location
2. Always have a spotter

The Road Foreman was notified by Mr. Beppler that all digs must be called into PA One Call. The gas line has been fixed by Joe Finnerty, a certified gas company contractor.

NEW BUSINESS

The Public Works Department completed repairs to the rutted area at the Scalp Avenue Fire Station's second bay. The crew excavated the damaged section and installed 6 inches of base material on June 2 and June 3, 2026.

Annual Safety Training (Barb Smith – Teeter Insurance) will be conducted on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026 at 11:00 am in the second-floor meeting room. Mr. Beppler requested the members to provide notification to the other safety committee members to be present.

SAFETY CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS

None

The next safety meeting will be Wednesday July 8, 2026 at 11 a.m.

There being no further business, Mr. Pasko moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Conahan. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Shomo,
Secretary