HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 25, 2025

PLEASE NOTE: Underlined items contain a link with additional information.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Zipfel called the June 25, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Aaron Bibro, Township Manager. Present at the meeting were President Tom Zipfel, Vice President Bob Rodgers, Commissioner Jerry Andris, Commissioner Jennifer LoStracco and Commissioner Shahidul Partha. In addition to Township Manager Aaron Bibro, also in attendance were Assistant Township Manager Scott Hutt, Township Engineer Bryan McAdam, Solicitor John Iannozzi and Chief William Tierney

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Solicitor John Iannozzi.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Partha motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no citizens comments.

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to Enter Items 1-8 into the Record

- 1. Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes May 14, May 28
- 2. Treasurer's Report -May
- 3. Bills Payable:
 - A. Paid Bills \$1,186,892.16
 - B. Unpaid Bills \$2,758,075.48
 - C. Budget Report *May*

- 4. VMSC Monthly Report <u>May</u>
- 5. NPWA Meeting Minutes *April 22, 2025*
- **6**. HTMA Budget Report *April*
- 7. Colmar Fire Report \underline{May}
- **8.** HTMA Meeting Minutes *May 13*

Commissioner LoStracco motioned to move the Consent Items into record, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote

VII. SPECIAL ITEM

A. Juneteenth Presentation: North Penn High School Student, Malachi Nisbett

Commissioner LoStracco said Carmina Taylor is here on Zoom and she is the advisor to the Black Student Union at North Penn High School. Ms. Taylor said Malachi Nisbett will be presenting on why Juneteenth is important to him and the Black community. Mr. Nisbett eloquently said Juneteenth is a heartbeat of hope, echoing through generations. The message to end slavery was delivered in Texas two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. Juneteenth is a decision to rise, to celebrate to remember and to push forward. It is a symphony of resilience sung by the souls that survived chains. Mr. Nisbett said we celebrate Juneteenth because our history is sacred, our joy is resistance and our freedom is not finished. Juneteenth reminds us that we are still writing the story and will not stop until every voice is free to sing.

B. Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board Presentation *Tessa Robinson, Communications Specialist*

Ms. Robinson made a presentation on what the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board has to offer for our community and all of Montgomery County. She said that the total economic impact of tourism in Montgomery County is \$2.4 Billion in revenue and supports 40,000 jobs in the county. She highlighted some of the area events happening in 2026 for America 250 including the NCAA March Madness Tournament, PGA Tour at Aronimink Golf Club, FIFA World Cup and MLB All-Star Game. Ms. Robinson said there will be readings of the Declaration of Independence in many Montgomery County establishments and Hatfield Township will be one of those destinations next year. They also raise money for the Valley Forge Freedom from Hunger network.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee – Vice President Rodgers

There was no report.

B. Public Works Committee

Mr. Bibro said the accessible ramps have been completed for the 2025 Roads Program. Road paving including Cowpath Road will begin in the next few weeks.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner LoStracco

Commissioner LoStracco reported on the upcoming Parks and Recreation Programs and Activities.

D. Public Safety Committee -Commissioner Partha

Commissioner Partha reported on the recent events the Police participated in.

E. Finance Committee – Commissioner Andris

Commissioner Andris said North Penn School District (NPSD) recently partnered with area police departments to install bus stop armed cameras that capture vehicles that pass a stopped school bus when the arm is extended. The fine is \$300 and \$250 of that fine goes to the NPSD, \$25 to the police department and \$25 to PennDOT for grant programs. In the month of March, there were 840 violations in the NPSD of which 647 were approved and cited. This program is aimed at reducing recklessness and increasing bus safety.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. <u>Update Speed Limit and Truck Restrictions</u>

Ordinance #708

Motion for Approval

Vice President Rodgers motioned to enter into a hearing regarding Ordinance #708, seconded by Commissioner Partha. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Solicitor Iannozzi entered the following exhibits into record;

- T1 Letter to The Reporter
- T2 Proof of Publication
- T3 Proposed Ordinance
- T4 Ordinance #708
- T5 Legal Notice

Mr. Bibro said this ordinance reflects some updates to the speed limit for safety improvements on the 309 corridor and on Cowpath Road from the borough line to Line Street. There is also the addition of a truck restriction of three axels or more on Line Lexington and Trewigtown Roads to increase safety. Mr. Bibro commended Chief Tierney and his team for making our community safer.

Mr. Iannozzi called for comments from the Board and the public.

John Spirling said the speed limit on Welsh Road is 45 mph and he asked if that can be reduced to 35 mph. Mr. Bibro said that is a County road and we can request PennDOT to review to corridor for a speed reduction if they deem it is warranted.

Joan DiMaria asked if Orvilla Road can be part of the truck restriction. Chief Tierney said Orvilla Road is a State road and said trucks may have no where to go east and west of Hatfield

Township if Orvilla is restricted. Mr. Bibro said we can do a study and coordinate with PennDOT regarding the historic bridge on Orvilla.

Charles Thompson asked if the ordinance includes motor homes as he owns a 3-axle motor home. Chief Tierney said you shouldn't have a problem as this is to target the large trucks destroying the road.

Mr. Iannozzi closed the public hearing and resumed the public meeting.

Commissioner Partha motioned to approve Ordinance #708, seconded by Commissioner Andris . The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

B. Boyle Construction – Extension of Management Contract for Police Station *Motion for Approval*

Mr. Bibro said the original contract with Boyle Construction was for a 12-month term. They are looking for a 3-month extension in the amount of \$150,000 but even with this additional cost, we are still on track to complete the project under budget.

Vice President Rodgers motioned to approve the extension of the Boyle Construction Management Contract, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

C. North Penn Health, Hospital, and Education Authority – Financing Project
Resolution #25-10

Motion for Approval

Mr. Bibro said Hatfield Township has two financing authorities, the IDA and the NPHHEA. These financing authorities encourage the creation of manufacturing and jobs. Through the authority, the borrower qualifies for a low interest, tax-free loan. This transaction generates a \$7,500 fee that is invested back into the community. This is for a \$4.8M loan for the Quaker-Horsham School to build a 13,800 sf building to house 8 classrooms, 10 offices and a sensory gym.

Commissioner LoStracco motioned to approve Resolution #25-10, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

X. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

A. Support for SEPTA Funding
Resolution #25-11
Motion for Approval

Mr. Bibro said that SEPTA is facing a major budget deficit which will result in reduced services and higher rates. This resolution stating our support for SEPTA funding through the state will be sent to Senator Maria Collett. Hatfield has 3 SEPTA locations in the township.

President Zipfel motioned to approve Resolution #25-11, seconded by Commissioner Partha. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XII. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Dean Miniger said the fire truck should be completed by mid-July with the truck committee crew leaving for Wisconsin to approve the truck. Once approved, the truck will be fitted with all its equipment in Ohio and should be completed by the end of August.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Rodgers motioned for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.