

SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Mr. Ernest Ashbridge III, Mr. Richard Talanca, Mr. John Fogg Jr.
38 Bomboy Lane, Berwick, PA 18603

MINUTES

October 14, 2025, Regular Meeting 6:00 PM

The Salem Township Board of Supervisors met on the above date and time in the Administration Building, 38 Bomboy Lane, Berwick, PA 18603. Present were Chairman Ernest Ashbridge III, Vice-Chairman Richard Talanca and Road Master John Fogg Jr. Also present were Solicitor Alicia Marinos, DPW Foreman Ed Fenton, Police Sergeant Tom Hegland, Zoning Officer Brian Rhone, and Manager Amy Evans.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

An Executive Session was held on October 14, 2025, at 5:30 PM to discuss real estate and personnel.

Meeting Minutes

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025, the Work Session Minutes of September 23, 2025, and the Special Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2025, were approved.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Malcolm Plevyak requested that the Board change the water line design to include a T rather than an elbow where the line comes to Main Street so that he can access public water. It was discussed that the line could have come down Main Street at Route 11 past Malcolm's property, but that Malcolm preferred the line come through an existing easement at the BAJSA pump station to reach Main Street when the line was in the planning stages, and he was on the Board.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:

- McBride Library 2024 Report
- Revised 5 Year Road Program Plan
- Barry Isett & Associates Engineering Rates for 2026 (2025 Rates for Comparison)
- PA DEP AWS Caterpillar Emergency Engine 180 Day Approval
- PA DEP AWS Extension Approval
- PSATS 2026 Conference Notice April 19-22
- Request for Use of Athletic Field for Adult Football Games and Practice

- Cedar Rock Application Notice for Susquehanna River Water Withdrawal
- PA DEP Waterline Extension Project Inspection Report
- Luzerne County Conservation District Completeness Notification Letter for Bower Fill Site
- PA DEP AWS Inspection Report

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board denied the use of the athletic field by the group that requested to have adult football practices and games as it may interfere with the Berwick Area Little League practices and the Youth Soccer League practices.

Amy Evans presented the Treasurer's Report for September 2025.

Amy Evans presented the Manager's Report for September 2025.

Police Sergeant Tom Hegland provided the Chief's report for September 2025. Sergeant Hegland informed the Board that Coptoberfest was a successful event and that Trunk or Treat is on October 23rd. He informed the Board that people have been asking about Trunk or Treat days. Ernest Ashbridge III confirmed that the Trunk or Treat days are October 30th and 31st. He added that having two days will allow for a choice in the event of bad weather.

DPW Foreman Ed Fenton provided his report for September 2025. Ed informed the Board that the crew cleaned Thompson Run at the bridges and that the mowing is completed and the new mower is working well. He said that H & K paving will be closing one lane at a time as they work on Line Street. There will be one more brush drop off date for the season on November 1st. Ernest Ashbridge III informed Ed that there is a drainage ditch on Bowers Road at the Buck's residence that needs to be cleaned and reroaked. The Engineer will show Ed the location. Ed also informed the Board that Dumpster Day is Saturday, and tires are being collected all week and Saturday. A sinking pipe on Beach Grove Road was discussed. The pipes are owned by Luzerne County and Ed has been in contact with them concerning their condition. A representative from Luzerne County has been out to inspect the issues. Ed added that they cracked sealed throughout the School Zone Project area as discussed at the last meeting.

Zoning Officer Brian Rhone provided his report for September 2025. He issued 7 zoning permits, 2 building permits, and 5 road cut permits for the month.

BAJSA Representative Steven Fraind submitted a report for September 2025.

Fire Department Fire Chief Lee Smith submitted a report for September 2025. Not being present he submitted a written request for the Board to accept a new member with a one-year probationary period, Dalton Roth.

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board approved Dalton Roth as the newest member of the Fire Company.

EMA Director Tim Belles reported that the practice drill will be held tomorrow at 6:00 PM and that dinner from Mission BBQ will be served.

Shade Tree Commission member Brian Wieners provided a report for September 2025. He informed the Board that he has been trimming the trees in park.

Upcoming Community Events include a Movie in the Park Fright Night Double Feature on Oct. 17th showing Friday the 13th and Nightmare on Elm Street (Both Rated R) with a prize giveaway for the best costume. There will also be food vendors. This will be followed up by Trunk or Treat on October 23rd from 5PM – 8PM.

Old Business:

Unifirst Settlement Proposal

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the settlement proposal was rejected at the recommendation of the Solicitor for further negotiations.

Ordinance 02-2025

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., Ordinance 02-2025 an Ordinance adopting the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code, and setting its standard and fines.

It is noted that, in error, the Ordinance was numbered incorrectly on the agenda.

New Business:

Resolution 23 of 2025

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., Resolution 23 of 2025 a Resolution adopting a monthly late fee of 1.5% on all invoices that are at least 30 days late.

Employee Christmas Party Date – Thursday, December 11, 2025 (Funded Through Donations & Vending Sales)

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., an employee Christmas Party is scheduled for December 11, 2025. It is noted that the party is funded through donations and vending machine sales.

Budget – Review November 25, Consideration December 9

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the budget review date is scheduled for November 25 at the work session meeting and consideration being tentatively on December

9th at the Regular Meeting. The Manager will provide the Board with a preliminary budget at least two weeks in advance.

AWS Community Benefit Agreement – Revised

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., acceptance of a revised AWS Community Benefit Agreement is tabled at the recommendation of the Solicitor.

For the Good of the Township

Gerry Olenick of 134 Bell Bend Road thanked the Supervisors for adding the minutes to the website. He enquired about the requirements of hooking up to the waterline which is any main structure within 150' of the line. He further commented that AWS should pay for the people to hook up and added that crime will go up as more workers come in and the Township should plan to hire more officers.

Chris Cashman enquired about the October 31st closing date for the Carnival Grounds. Rock from Barry Isett explained that they need information from the National Archives Records of the Federal Railroad Administration that they cannot access at this time due to the Federal Government shutdown. The Solicitor will prepare an extension agreement for the closing to be considered at the next meeting.

Mary Beach requested a copy of blueprints that were presented shown to her in 2018 for Shickshinny Valley Road. Although unfamiliar with such blueprints, the Township Manager will search documents and contact Ms. Beach in the event something is identified.

Randy Panetta complained of mud and dust on Route 11 from the AWS construction. Ernest Ashbridge III informed Randy that he had already discussed the issue with folks from AWS and requested that they get the truck wash back that Cumulus had on the site. It was further discussed that there are areas with no rock base that the trucks are driving on then dragging the mud. Brian Rhone will go to the site and inspect, and John Fogg Jr. stated that they only take the street sweeper in one direction on Route 11, not both.

Malcolm Plevyak discussed ways to separate parcels from one deed referring to the Carnival Grounds. He was informed that the parcels do not have descriptions on the deed causing the need for the survey prior to the property transfer.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Evans, Manager