

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

MINUTES

November 17, 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 Vice-Chairman Richard Talanca and Road Master John Fogg Jr. Also present were Solicitor Alicia Marinos, DPW Foreman Ed Fenton, Police Chief Michael McNeal, Zoning Officer Brian Rhone, and Manager Amy Evans.

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

Resignation of Township Supervisor Ernest Ashbridge III

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board accepted the resignation of Board Chairman, Ernest Ashbridge III with regret.

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board approved the advertisement of requests for letters of interest from Township residents interested in serving as Township Supervisor for the remaining two years of the term.

Meeting Minutes

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025, the Work Session Minutes of October 28, 2025, with a date correction, and the Special Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2025, were approved.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Roger Hill asked the Board appoint the person that ran in the past election to the Township Supervisor position.

Paul Hess asked that the Board hire Ernest Ashbridge III as Township Administrator due to all the work he does at the Township and the knowledge he has.

Randy Panetta inquired about the purchase of 74 Walnut Drive. He was informed that the property was appraised and the reason for the purchase was to move DPW to more appropriate location for the necessary structures for the equipment. It was added that the house will not be demolished.

Nate Eachus from Drums discussed living in the evacuation zone for the nuclear power plant.

Malcolm Plevyak stated that Ernest was the most diligent, irreplaceable Supervisor and he will be missed.

Attorney David Albertson stated he represents John Zegarski and that he wants PA American Water to attend the Supervisors meetings. He said that PA American Water representatives used barbed wire on a project and that it was a liability. Attorney Albertson was informed that the topic was not on the Agenda and that he would need to speak with Attorney Marinos or Attorney Karpowich.

Dynamic Energy – Jason Funk

Jason addressed the Board and discussed installing a Little Free Pantry somewhere in the Township. He also informed the Board that they are waiting for their NPDES permit before they begin construction on their commercial solar project.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:

- Penn Environmental and Remediation NPDES Application Revisions Letter
- Luzerne County Conservation AWS Tech Deficiency Letter
- Luzerne County Conservation AWS NPDES Permit Approval
- Luzerne County Conservation PPL NPDES Permit Approval
- Luzerne County Conservation AWS Minor Amendment to Permit Approval
- NEPA Alliance Impact Report
- Friends and Feral Q3 2025 Report (14 Feral Cats)
- SPCA Q3 2025 Report
- Luzerne County Conservation District – Waterline Incompleteness Letter (2)

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

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

Police Chief Michael McNeal provided his report for October 2025. Chief McNeal informed the Board that Trunk or Treat was a success with about 1,100 kids attending. He added that Santa will be coming to the Township on December 13th.

DPW Foreman Ed Fenton provided his report for October 2025. Ed informed the Board that they cleaned up garbage along the local roads, attended Dumpster Day, and collected tires. He added that they closed the park restrooms and did some more crack sealing.

Zoning Officer Brian Rhone provided his report for October 2025. He issued 4 zoning permits, and 4 road cut permits for the month. The Board discussed properties that need to be demolished.

Engineer Rock Stahovic provided his report for October 2025. Rock informed the Board that the 2025 Paving Project was completed, and the DEP Permit for the Walker Run project was issued.

BAJSA Representative Steven Fraind submitted a report for October 2025. Steve informed the Board that AWS is helping with the installation of a new belt press.

Fire Department Fire Chief Lee Smith submitted a report for October 2025. He informed the Board that the Santa Run will be December 20th and 21st. Amy Evans informed the Board that the Relief Audit has been completed for 2022-2024. There were two findings, the bond needed to be increased, which has been corrected and in 2022 a mortgage payment was made from Relief which will be reimbursed back to Relief. All previous findings have been corrected and cleared from the Audit.

EMA Deputy Director Brian Weiners reported that the practice drill was successful. The sirens were discussed and Attorney Marinos informed everyone that she did hear back from the NRC, and they had no answers for her yet, likely due to the government shut down.

Shade Tree Commission member Brian Wieners provided a report for October 2025. He informed the Board that the tree trimming was completed, and he thanked DPW for assisting.

Upcoming Community Events include the Police Department's Christmas with Santa on December 13th 11:00-2:00 PM and the Fire Company's Santa Run on December 20th and 21st.

Old Business:

Internship – Scanning/Organizing Plans for Codes Dept.

A paid internship was discussed. The Manager will get more details from the school and add it again to the Agenda.

2025 Paving Project

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board approved a change to the 2025 Paving Project removing 150' of the alley between 2nd and 3rd with a contract price deduction of \$12,743.50 and to add the section to the 2026 Paving Project.

Resolution 26 of 2025

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board adopted Resolution 26 of 2026, a resolution authorizing the purchase of 74 Walnut Drive, Berwick, PA 18603 for \$499,000 and authorizing Richard Talanca to sign at the closing on behalf of the Township.

New Business:

PCI United Concordia Dental Insurance

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board approved the renewal of the PCI United Concordia Dental Insurance with no change in premium. This is an employee paid benefit.

2026 Meeting Date

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board approved the 2026 Meeting Dates for advertising.

Solicitor Agreement

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, a Solicitor Agreement for the Solicitor to negotiate a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) on behalf of the Township was tabled until the December meeting.

Holiday Gift Cards

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Richard Talanca, the purchase of 20 \$50 Weis gift cards for employees was approved.

Dynamic Energy

On motion of Richard Talanca seconded by John Fogg Jr., approval of a CBA, a decommission Agreement, and an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) agreement for Route 11 LLC was tabled until the December meeting due to the lack of an NPDES permit.

For the Good of the Township

Roger Hill thanked the Police Department for helping to round up his horses at 1 AM when they got loose.

A resident thanked the Police Department and Supervisors for Trunk or Treat.

Karen Earlandt inquired about lowering taxes for residents. She was informed that a municipality cannot have a different tax rate for residents than businesses. It was added that businesses pay 60% of the tax funds to the Township.

Nate Eachus informed the Board that AWS came across an endangered frog. Brian Rhone informed him and the Board that the Luzerne County Conservation District is aware and managing it appropriately.

Karen Earlandt was informed that the NRC does not have any answers yet, likely due to the government shut down, regarding the sirens.

Paul Gustine discussed electricity rates increasing due to companies that are using too much. He was informed that the PUC governs rates. He will contact the manager for contact information to complain to the PUC as well as Representative Walsh and Senator Culver. Nate Eachus added that Representative Eddie Day Pashinski is demanding that the PUC hold a public hearing concerning rate increases.

A resident thanked the Supervisors for paving Bowers Road.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Evans, Manager