

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

MINUTES

March 10, 2026, 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 Richard Talanca, Vice-Chairman Steven Fraind, and Road Master John Fogg Jr. Also present were Solicitor Anthony McDonald, 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.

Announcements: An Executive Session was held on March 10, 2026, to discuss personnel matters.

AWS CBA Disbursement Presentation

Due to flight delays, AWS representatives were not in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Steven Fraind, the Emergency Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2026, the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2026, and the Work Session Minutes of February 24, 2026, were approved.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ann Vinatieri informed the Board that a PIN on a letter from AWS was incorrect.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:

- Luzerne County Conservation – AWS Approval of Minor Amendment to Permit
- AWS – Request for LERTA Application
- Penn DOT Traffic Signal Permit Application Returned for Revisions
- Penn DOT Traffic Counting Notification
- PA DEP Key Trucking Inc. Air Quality Plan Approval (2)
- PA DEP Riverview Quarry Surface Mining Permit
- PA DEP Cedar Rock Quarry Bond Increment Approval
- Key Trucking DEP Permit Application Notice concerning On Site Rock Crushers

- SPCA 2025 Report – 0 Intakes
- Berwick Industrial Ribbon Cutting Invitation
- Luzerne County Upset Tax Sale Notice
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Richard Talanca and John Fogg Jr. informed the Manager that they will attend the ribbon cutting for Berwick Industrial.

Amy Evans presented the Treasurer’s Report for February 2026.

On motion of Steven Fraind, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Amy Evans presented the Manager's Report for February 2026.

Police Chief Michael McNeal provided his report for February 2026.

On motion of Steven Fraind, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board approved the purchase of an Intoxilyzer 9000 breathalyzer for \$13,864 from CMI Inc., a specialized company.

On motion of Steven Fraind, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board approved the purchase of a Speedalert 24 Radar Message Sign for \$19,636 from All Traffic Solutions, a Costars dealer.

DPW Foreman Ed Fenton provided his report for February 2026. He informed the Board that the Walker Run Culvert project has been completed except for the paving work that will be finished by Don E. Bower. The DPW crew started cleaning road shoulders and they replaced a bad pipe on Main Street.

Zoning Officer Brian Rhone provided his report for February 2026. He issued 4 zoning permits and 5 building permits.

Engineer Rock Stahovic provided his report for February 2026. He informed the Board that the Central Ave. project is currently out for bid. The Board received an update on the subdivision of 74 Walnut and discussed QTS installing a sewer line directly onto the QTS property rather than running it up Stone Church Road and requiring additional hook ups.

BAJSA Representative Ernest Ashbridge informed the Board that the BAJSA meetings are the day after the Township meeting and requested that the BAJSA report be given at the Work Session meetings.

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Steven Fraind, the BAJSA report is tabled until the next Work Session Meeting.

Fire Department Fire Chief Lee Smith submitted a report for February 2026. He informed the Board that the Easter Egg Hunt will be March 22nd.

On motion of Steven Fraind, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board approved the apparatus servicing for three vehicles for \$9,487.05 by 10-8 Emergency Vehicle Service.

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Steven Fraind, the Board approved Toby Taylor as a new member for the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Company.

EMA Director Tim Belles had nothing to report.

Shade Tree Commission member Brian Wieners had nothing to report.

Community Events dates were presented to the Board.

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Steven Fraind, the Board approved the following events and estimated budgeted costs:

- Elec. Recycling - Wed. May 13th- 2:30pm-4:30pm **\$500**
- Paper Shredding- Thurs. May 14th- 2pm-5pm **\$600**
- Dumpster Day- Sat. May 16th- 7am-Noon **\$2,200**
- Community Yard Sale – Saturday of the East Berwick Carnival (May 30) **\$450**

Old Business:

PA American Water Fire Hydrant Agreement

On motion of Steven Fraind, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board approved an agreement with PA American Water for the fire hydrants along the route of the new waterline extension as recommended by the Solicitor.

New Business:

Barry Isett and Associates Playground Project

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Steven Fraind, the Board approved a proposal from Barry Isett and Associates for \$20,000 for the playground design, survey, engineer, and construction of the new grant funded playground equipment. It was noted that the grant will cover \$10,000 and the Township will pay \$10,000 which will be included in the Township grant match.

Geisinger Plan Renewal – Monthly Premium \$26,380.56 (13.63% Increase)

On motion of Steven Fraind, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board approved the Geisinger Plan Renewal with a 13.63 percent increase in premiums with an estimated monthly premium of \$26,380.56 as per Union and other employee contracts.

AWS Traffic Signal Update

The Board was informed that all items were submitted to Penn DOT and there is an estimated project completion of May 2026. The Salem Township Police will continue with the traffic control which allows overtime for the police and is fully funded by AWS with a net profit to the Township of \$19,130 per month.

Building Renovations Project

On motion of John Fogg Jr., seconded by Steven Fraind, the Board approved the Building Renovation Project to be advertised for bids upon the preliminary review by Barry Isett & Associates at an estimated project cost of \$845,000.

For the Good of the Township

A resident inquired about rules for construction on Sunday and was informed that there are no restrictions on construction work on Sundays.

A resident expressed concern over vacant homes on Stone Church Road that are owned by Talen Energy. Some were torn down; others have demolition permits and some of them will be used. The Police are concerned about them as well and watch them regularly. A plan for the homes has not been submitted to the Township.

Randy Panetta asked if the DPW property has been sold and was informed that it has not been sold.

Karla Puterbaugh inquired about a model ordinance for data centers that she provided to the Supervisors. The Supervisors informed her that they will not be changing the current data center ordinance at this time. She also began requesting information that she submitted to the Open Records Officer, Amy Evans, who informed her that most of her questions can be answered by going to the Township website and reviewing the Ordinances.

It was discussed that during a meeting with AWS, it was confirmed that they will have four buildings that will be fan cooled.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Evans, Manager