

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

MINUTES

April 8, 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 Supervisor John Fogg Jr. Also present were Solicitor Alicia Marinos, DPW Foreman Ed Fenton, Police Chief Mike McNeal, Zoning Officer Brian Rhone, and Manager Amy Evans.

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

Meeting Minutes

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025, and the Work Session Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2025, have been approved.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

John Stefanovich informed the Board that he has a petition for the Board to enforce the noise ordinance. He was asked to wait until we get to “for the good of the Township” since the Noise Ordinance is not an Agenda item.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:

- Luzerne County Conservation DMB Land Co. NPDES Permit Notification Letter
- DEP Cumulus Inspection Report (2)
- DEP BAJSA Acceptance of Chapter 94 Report
- Luzerne County Conservation AWS Incompleteness Letter
- Luzerne County Conservation Cumulus Data Violation Letter
- Haven to Home Thank You Note for Donation of Dog Kennel

The Manager informed the Board that the DEP reports have kept the project name as Cumulus but the permits for the project have been transferred to AWS.

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

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

Police Chief Mike McNeal provided his report for March 2025.

DPW Foreman Ed Fenton provided his report for March 2025. Ed informed the Board that street sweeping has started, and PA American Water will fix street patches by the end of the month.

Codes Officer Brian Rhone provided his report for March 2025. He issued 7 zoning permits, 1 building permit, and 1 road cut permit for the month. Brian informed the Board that he received a complaint that a utility company has damaged someone's driveway. After investigating it was determined that it was Breezeline, and they will fix it properly.

BAJSA Representative Steve Fraind presented the BAJSA report for March.

Fire Department Fire Chief Lee Smith submitted a report for March 2025. Lee informed the Board that airpack testing will take place tomorrow and that they got a price on getting radios that will also allow them to communicate with Columbia County and it was \$45,000. He added that they will not purchase the radios because they cannot afford to at this time. The Board asked that they get the cost in writing for the Board to consider purchasing them for the Fire Company at the work session. It was noted that there are only two companies that can provide compatible radios and Motorola, being one, will not provide them due to a lawsuit it is involved in with Luzerne County. Chris Cashman added that the Berwick Theatre requested that they participate in an event at the theatre. The Boards agreed they should participate.

EMA Director Tim Belles informed the Board that EMA will need a radio as well. One will be added to the quote from the fire company. Tim added that he is still working with the County on an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan and that there will be a CodeRed Meeting in May to help people get signed up.

Shade Tree Commission member Brian Wieners had nothing to report.

Parks and Recreation did not submit a report.

Old Business

StopHopper Rabbit Transit Service

Amy Evans reported that she has not heard back from Rabbit Transit regarding the request to include Beach Haven in their expansion plan. This will be discussed at the work session should they respond to the request.

Architect Bids

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board accepted the bid from W2A Architects in Allentown pending a review by the Engineer to ensure that the proposal includes plans and a cost estimate for the project.

Resolution 11 of 2025

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board approved a Resolution banning burning in the Township for 30 days due to dry weather conditions and brush fires.

Curtiss Wright Lease Agreement

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board approved a payment of \$12,000 to Curtiss Wright and the approved them to use a conference room/EMA room twice per month until the end of the current lease agreement in exchange for ending the lease and vacating the office by June 30, 2025.

Beach Haven Carnival Grounds Agreement

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board approved the agreement with two additional stipulations; the soccer league will continue to use the property acknowledging the work they did to the property to use it for the season and that should the Township decide to no longer own the property, the Fire Company shall have first right of refusal to purchase the property back for \$1.

Volunteer Fire Co. Stipend Program

The Township Manager informed the Board that the School Board is reviewing the idea to offer property tax rebates to members of the Volunteer Fire Company and that she will also talk to the County to see if they will consider the same for County taxes.

Line Street Paving

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the Board accepted a proposal from Barry Isett to complete design work for Line Street, perform core sampling, and add Line Street the 2025 paving project for \$30,000 and construction observation services to be billed hourly.

Amending Zoning Ordinance

Brian Rhone informed the Board that he is waiting for two quotes and should have them by the work session.

Comcast Service

The Manager informed the Board that Comcast will not be providing courtesy cable to the Township because it is not on the Franchise Agreement, and they will not amend the agreement or honor their promise for the courtesy cable when the Board accepted an agreement for phone service. The Manager will get the cost of the cable.

New Business

Resolution 12 of 2025

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by John Fogg Jr., the adopted Resolution 12 of 2025, a resolution adopting/approving changes to the Act 537 Plan.

For the Good of the Township

John Stefanovich provided the Board with a petition to enforce the noise ordinance but the ordinance that he had with him belonged to another Salem Township. He informed the Board that the noise coming from the ribbon factory is very loud. The Zoning Officer will test the noise level.

Robert Eyer also complained of the noise at the ribbon factory.

Roger Hill inquired about the stone wall on Route 11. The manager contacted PennDOT, and they said that they will clean the shoulder and repair the wall but did not provide a timeline.

Rebecca Bodnar informed the Board that WBRE did a story on the sirens.

Randy Panetta asked who would be paying for the new streetlights at the AWS entrance and was informed that AWS would be paying for the lights.

Malcolm Plevyak complained of trucks waiting in the turning lane on Route 11 to get checked in at AWS. He was informed that AWS has applied for a stop light, the streetlights were installed and that the Zoning Officer has been working with AWS to resolve those issues.

John Fogg suggested that we should ask AWS to have a representative attend Township meeting.

Someone asked about the status of the solar farm to be installed on Bomboy Lane and was informed that the project received Conditional Approval from the Board.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Evans, Manager