

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

MINUTES

July 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, and Vice-Chairman Richard Talanca. Also present were Solicitor Alicia Marinos, DPW Foreman Ed Fenton, Police Chief Mike McNeal, Zoning Officer John Ross, and Manager Amy Evans.

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

An Executive Session was held on July 8, 2025, to discuss legal matters.

Meeting Minutes

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by Ernest Ashbridge III, the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025, and the Work Session Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2025, have been approved.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no comments at this time.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:

- Luzerne County Conservation AWS Minor Amendment Approval Letter
- PA DEP AWS Commencement Operation Letter (2)
- Luzerne County Conservation Route 11 Solar NPDES Incompleteness Letter
- Luzerne County Conservation AWS NPDES Minor Amendment Approval Letter
- Berwick Borough Riverfest Thank You Letter for Donation
- Luzerne County Conservation AWS Technical Deficiency Letter

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

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

Police Chief Mike McNeal provided his report for June 2025. Chief McNeal informed the Board that AWS would like to sign a contract with the Department for Traffic Services with the same rate as Talen. A contract is forthcoming and will be reviewed by the Solicitor. Boss Security

requested the use of the back parking lot to park a truck for two weeks while they Security at Western Gas. The Board required that they provide a Certificate of Insurance due to it being a commercial vehicle. He added that 10-8 will have the new Tahoes ready in a couple of weeks.

DPW Foreman Ed Fenton provided his report for June 2025. Ed informed the Board that Rinehimer donated a sign on the new bench. He added that the crew completed Flagger Training and that Dumpster Day went well. He also informed the Board that the new mower works well.

Zoning Officer John Ross provided his report for June 2025. He issued 9 zoning permits, 8 building permits, 1 driveway permit and 4 road cut permits for the month.

BAJSA Representative did not submit a report for June 2025.

Fire Department Fire Chief Lee Smith did not submit a report for June 2025. Amy Evans informed the Board that the Relief Audit has been completed, and we are awaiting comment/s.

EMA Director Tim Belles reported that the annual emergency management picnic will be on August 23rd, and the drill will be on October 15th this year. The sirens were discussed.

Shade Tree Commission member Brian Wieners did not submit a report.

Parks and Recreation did not submit a report for June 2025. Amy Evans informed the Board that the June 27th movie was postponed due to rain.

Old Business

Nathan Miller Benches Project

Nathan informed the Board that he will start building the benches on July 21st and that the materials cost is \$900 and that he has raised some of the money selling Jim and Vera's subs. Nathan will contact the Township Manager, Amy Evans, with the amount still needed for materials.

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by Ernest Ashbridge III, the Board agreed to donate the balance of the materials cost not to exceed \$900.

Beach Haven Carnival Grounds Agreement

Chris Cashman informed the Board that the Fire Company agreed to sign the agreement provided Vanessa Aten is removed as the name of the signor and replace her with "trustee."

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by Ernest Ashbridge III, the Board agreed to sign the contract with the signors being "trustee" for the Fire Company.

Ray Talor Memorial Pollinator Garden

Due to the weather, the date of the planting of the garden has been changed to July 12, 2025, and volunteers are still needed.

2025 Paving Project, Line and Central

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by Ernest Ashbridge III, the Board approved advertising the 2025 Paving as well as advertising the Line Street Project and the Central Ave. Project bidding.

Veteran's Memorial Project

On motion of Ernest Ashbridge III, seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board approved advertising the Veteran's Memorial Project bidding.

Appointment of Marino's Law Firm

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by Ernest Ashbridge III, the Board appointed the Marinos Law Firm to represent the Planning Commission on all matters concerning the 4/3 Overlay Amendment due to a conflict of interest existing with Donald G. Karpowich Attorney at Law PC with this matter.

New Business

Transfer Funds to UCC Money Market Account

On motion of Richard Talanca, seconded by Ernest Ashbridge III, the Board approved the transfer of \$1,073,592.00 from the General Fund to the UCC Money Market Account.

PA Municipal League Legislative Liaison

On motion of Ernest Ashbridge III, seconded by Richard Talanca, the Board appointed Manager, Amy Evans, to serve as the PA Municipal League Legislative Liaison.

For the Good of the Township

The Township Manager, Amy Evans, inquired if the Board can add core samples on the School Zone Project roads to the agenda. However, the Solicitor advised that due to it being an expense decision, it should not be added to the Agenda and the Board agreed. Core samples will be considered at the next meeting.

Paul Hess informed the Board that there have been several folks in town that have been setting off fireworks as late as 1:00 AM and not following the law concerning the vicinity of buildings.

He was informed that he should call 911 to report it when it happens so that an officer can respond.

Rebecca Bodnar informed the Board that she is concerned about the loss of the sirens and that the telephone alerts did not work in Texas during the recent flooding.

Tim Belles expressed concern over the folks that lost their jobs at the ribbon factory. Amy Evans will contact BIDA and request that they hold a job fair and invite the unions that are involved in the construction at the data centers.

Someone from Shickshinny Valley Road asked about their road getting fixed. He was informed that Supervisors will be having a meeting in two weeks with all government stake holders concerning Shickshinny Valley Road.

Roger Hill inquired and was informed that there is a current moratorium on commercial solar in the Township.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Evans, Manager