

# LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 14, 2025

## Minutes of the Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting

President Martin C. McDaniel called the Regular Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Formal roll call: The Commissioners present were Donna Adipietro, Martin P. Zimmer, Martin C. McDaniel, Dan Peluso, and Rody Nash. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager  
Steve Chesney, Solicitor, via phone  
Bob Gulish, Resident  
Charlie Frederick, Resident  
Katie Melodini, Resident  
Deb Cheddar

Chief Brian Jameson  
Josh Calendar, LSSE Engineer  
David Kovacs, Resident  
Tom Lench, Resident

Mr. McDaniel welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that the Board would hold an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Wernicki Zoning Hearing issue and possible litigation after receiving word that the Allegheny County Courts ruled in favor of the Leet Township Zoning Hearing Board. The Board may or may not decide on the issue at this meeting.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Deb Cheddar asked the Board about the Wernicki decision and the next steps. Mr. Chesney stated that Mr. Wernicki has 30 days to appeal the decision. The Board cannot act until after the 30-day appeal period ends. The Board will need to decide how to move forward if Mr. Wernicki does not appeal the decision.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Approval of the June 9, 2025, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mr. Zimmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Adipietro. A formal roll-call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, also yes. The motion carried.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. McDaniel clarified that the bill list included funds allocated for the Fair Oaks Fire Department to repair the fire truck's water pump. Nate Turner presented the Board with a detailed list of the bids received for this repair, totaling \$35,414.30, which will be paid from the General Fund and later reimbursed by the Fireman's Truck Fund. Additionally, a payment request for light bars was made, Check #11899. The Board decided to postpone the distribution of the check for the light bars until the Public Safety Committee could review the invoice with Fire Department officials.

Mr. McDaniel asked for the memos on the checklist to be more precisely worded.

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**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to pay the bills and invoices as presented for \$204,351.42, excluding check 11899 to Click Fire Equipment for \$6,037.74. Mrs. Adipietro seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

Mr. McDaniel reviewed the Budget to Actual report and found that the Township was pretty much on track with revenue and spending at the six-month mark.

### **Circulation of Department Reports**

The Department Reports were circulating in the meeting room. Later in the meeting, a vote will be held to accept the reports.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Ordinance 2025-01 (Parking Ordinance)**

Mr. Chesney stated that language had been clarified, and an address had been corrected in the ordinance. Chief Jameson briefed the Board on the wording change regarding parking on Plum Street.

A resident previously complained about a truck that was parked in Maple Alley. The alley is not posted, so the truck is allowed to park there. There was a brief discussion about the issue. Chief Jameson will speak to the truck's owner about parking the truck in a different area.

Mr. Frederick asked about the wording for stop signs at Main, Orchard, and Mound because there are no stop signs on Main Street at Orchard or Mound. He also pointed out that Short Street does not intersect with Ambridge Ave. This wording was in the current ordinance that had been adopted in the 1990s, so it was not a recent change. The Board agreed to remove the wording related to these issues.

**MOTION:** Mr. Zimmer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-01 for parking provisions in the Township, as amended to remove the stop signs on Main Street at Orchard Street and Mound Street, as well as on Short Street and Ambridge Avenue. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

### **Ordinance 2025-03 (Prohibiting the use of electric, gas-powered, manually powered scooters, skateboards, skates, roller blades, bicycles, and other recreational vehicles not meant for regular roadway travel on township property, with certain exceptions)**

There was a discussion about the ordinance and whether other park addresses should be included. Other ordinances prohibit motorcycles, minibikes, or similar vehicles in Township Parks.

The courts at Ambridge Ave Park will receive an acrylic coating, and we need to determine if the surface can handle the use of inline skates. The Board postponed the vote on the ordinance until it could be confirmed that inline skates are acceptable on the acrylic surface.

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### **War Memorial Design Elements Discussion**

Mrs. Adipietro reported that she has been exploring design options for the War Memorial, including benches and flagpoles. She showed samples of the flagpoles, benches, and a picnic table available for purchase. The proposed items include three Hannah benches at \$2,900.00, along with mounting brackets, three 25-foot flagpoles costing \$ 5,085.00, and one picnic table. A discussion ensued regarding the remaining grant funds for these design features and whether the War Memorial Donation should cover their costs. The motion to buy these items was postponed until a final decision is made regarding the remaining grant funds and whether to allocate War Memorial funds for the design elements or the granite memorial. There is also a possibility of adding solar lights to illuminate the flagpoles.

### **Hiring a Seasonal Public Works Employee**

There was a brief discussion on hiring a seasonal public works employee. The topic will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

### **Follow-up on Public Works Complaint**

Mr. McDaniel stated that he and Mr. Nash met with Foreman Andy Wanto to investigate a resident's complaint that the Public Works Department was mowing on private property in Leet Acres. They found that the Public Works Department mows certain areas to keep the line of sight open for traffic and along the guard rails on Watson Street. The Township owns four lots on Ridge Street, and they mow along the back of the guard rail there to control the weeds. There is a storm drain area that they mow occasionally because the resident next door also mows it. The corner on Leet Street and Ridge may be questionable, and the owner of the property should be contacted to mow it themselves. It was found that the Public Works Department does not mow private lawns.

### **Plum Street Traffic Issues**

After receiving complaints about speeding on Plum Street, Chief Jameson installed a digital speed sign there. The sign generated a twenty-two-day report, ending on July 8th, which showed that the average speed was 7 miles per hour. The sign counted 5179 vehicles, including bicycles. Out of these, 50 vehicles were speeding and exceeded the 15 miles per hour speed limit by 1 mile per hour. The highest speed recorded was 23 miles per hour by one vehicle. The average speed on the street was 12 miles per hour. The peak traffic occurred during the week, with a decline on weekends. The Board asked Chief Jameson to send a copy to the complainant for her review.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Soracco Lot Consolidation Plan**

Mr. McDaniel explained that the Board must re-vote on the Soracco lot consolidation plan from 2024, because it was not filed with Allegheny County within the 90-day time allotment, leading to its rejection. He asked that they provide proof once the plan is recorded with the county.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Adipietro made a motion to approve the Soracco Lot Consolidation Plan for 236 High Street. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

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**Annual Pension Plan Report and Request to Move the Custody of the Plans to Charles Schwab**

Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Zimmer, and Ms. Rengers met with Bill Smith from Girard to review the annual uniformed and non-uniformed pension performance report. The plans were found to be solid. Mr. Smith asked the Board to move the plans from Nationwide to Charles Schwab due to issues with Nationwide.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to authorize Girard Pension Services to move the Leet Township Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans to the custody of Charles Schwab. Mr. Nash seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

**American Rescue Plan Act Grant Account Closeout**

**MOTION:** Mr. Nash made a motion to authorize Ms. Rengers to close the American Rescue Plan Act Grant Account and move the \$1.98 balance to the General Fund. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

**198 Ambridge Ave Meter Socket and Mast Repair**

The Township received two bids to repair the meter socket and mast at the public works building after it was damaged in a storm. Mr. Peluso reported that the quote included an inspection by Duquesne Light after the work is completed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the bid from Beverly Services for \$2,211.25 to repair the meter socket and mast at 198 Ambridge Ave. Mr. Nash seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

**Cloud Services Purchase for Digital Speed Sign**

Chief Jameson explained that the contract for cloud services had expired on the older digital speed sign and needed to be renewed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Zimmer made a motion to renew the cloud services for the digital speed sign for one year for \$500.00. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. A formal roll call vote was conducted, and the following votes were recorded: Mrs. Adipietro, yes; Mr. Zimmer, yes; Mr. McDaniel, yes; Mr. Peluso, yes; and Mr. Nash, yes. The motion carried.

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Josh Calendar asked the Board to hold a Workshop Meeting in two weeks to discuss the designs for the Fair Oaks sidewalk project and the Quaker Heights drainage project.

Chief Jameson reported that Officer Ken Battaglia submitted his resignation letter as of July 15<sup>th</sup>. Officer Janicki will be promoted to full-time.

The Board was pleased with the new format of the public works report that included a to-do list of upcoming work.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. McDaniel reported that the Leet Township Municipal Authority had sent the Board a letter about the impending sewer rate increase. They will send the residents a letter explaining the rate increase, which is about \$30.00 a quarter.

The DEP sent a ten-page letter to the school district, requesting that they thoroughly address each identified technical deficiency on the proposed high school project plan.

The Allegheny League of Municipalities is sponsoring a clay pigeon shoot.

There was a brief discussion about the school district's site plan. If there are changes to the plan as a result of third-party agency reviews, it will need to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Mr. McDaniel explained that the district received a federal grant to widen Camp Meeting Road. The funds are administered to PennDOT. PennDOT will control the plan, and it will take a year to review the plans for the road. They are also having a historical review of the property.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation at 8:37 pm. Mr. Nash seconded the motion, with all in favor of it.

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso made a motion to go into regular session at 9:00 pm after discussing potential litigation. Mr. Nash seconded the motion, with all in favor of it.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Peluso moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m., seconded by Mr. Zimmer, with all in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

TOWNSHIP OF LEET

/s/Betsy Rengers

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BETSY RENGERS, MANAGER

/s/Martin C. McDaniel

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MARTIN C. MCDANIEL, PRESIDENT

Date: August 11, 2025