

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MEETING
JUNE 26, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Chairman, Ken Field, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL:

The following Supervisors answered roll call: Chairman, Ken Field, Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, Supervisor, Nolan Kemmerer, Supervisor, Jonathan Itterly, and Supervisor, Kenneth Fairchild.

Also present were Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, Solicitor, David Backenstoe, Esq., and Secretary/Permit Coordinator, Amy Kahler.

Township Engineer Representative, Dave Crowther, Township Engineer, Kevin Horwath, P.E., and Finance Director, Nicholas Steiner were not present.

Approximately 29 members of the public were in attendance.

I. SECRETARY -- AMY KAHLER:

1. Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes- May 14, 2025- DRAFT:

ACTION: Motion was made by Ken Field and seconded by Nolan Kemmerer to table the Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes for May 14, 2025. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

II. FINANCE DIRECTOR -- NICHOLAS STEINER:

1. Review and Approval of Accounts Payable:

ACTION: Motion was made by Ken Fairchild and seconded by Ken Field to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$180,647.54. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

A. New Business:

1. AMS Road Maintenance 2024 Projects- FYI:

Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, provided an update on the AMS Road Maintenance 2024 Project, as this past week some of the roads have lifting asphalt, and residue on tires. Ms. Stefanelli advised that this is not just a Plainfield Township issue and will keep everyone updated as information is received.

III. SOLICITOR'S REPORT -- DAVID BACKENSTOE, ESQ.:

1. Consideration of Approval to allow Township Solicitor and Township Manager to forward Proposed Ordinances and Zoning Map Amendment (as requested by Waste Management) to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and Plainfield Township Planning Commission for their Review and Consideration:

ACTION: Motion was made by Nolan Kemmerer and seconded by Ken Field to allow Township Solicitor and Township Manager to forward Proposed Ordinance and Zoning Map Amendment to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and Plainfield Township Planning Commission for their Review and Consideration. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

Solicitor, David Backenstoe, reviewed the requirements of having the ordinances reviewed by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) and Plainfield Township's Planning Commission (PC). Mr. Backenstoe provided a summary of the 3 ordinances being submitted for review.

Supervisor, Glenn Borger, asked why we are so worried about having these ordinances sent to LVPC and Plainfield Township PC so quickly as we have not received the review from Strategic Solutions yet. Chairman, Ken Field, advised that the request is to send it to those parties for their review and comment of the ordinances and rezoning map. Supervisor, Glenn Borger, indicated that the Supervisors owe everything to the Residents, not Waste Management. I was elected to represent the residents not Waste Management. The concerned citizens are here. Chairman, Ken Field, indicated that there are strong residents that have strong opinions here, but we are here to support and consider the opinions of all 7,000 residents. We do not all agree on the same thing.

Resident, Wayne Miller, asked if the ordinances being sent to the PC and LVPC for review are the original Ordinances that Waste Management submitted with the rezoning request. Solicitor, David Backenstoe, advised that it is based off the request and there have been some amendments to the ordinance.

Resident, JR Renna, indicated that the Waste Management submission has been reviewed by the PC and they are not in support of the requests. Mr. Renna indicated that there is no limit to the scope; Waste Management could provide another rezoning request in 10 years. Mr. Renna questioned what the hurry is. He noted, Mr. Michael Smith had spoken at the last meeting, stating that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Waste Management have conducted meetings/discussions behind closed doors.

Resident, Jane Mellert, asked if the entire submission that was originally submitted by Waste Management will be submitted to the LVPC. Solicitor Backenstoe indicated that it will not as the drafted ordinances were completed by himself, based on the request of Waste Management's submission. They will be sent to the LVPC for review and comment along with presenting them to the PC for their review and comment. LVPC has already submitted a letter of review to all surrounding Townships/Municipalities per the submission that Waste Management provided to them for review in September 2024. Mr. Backenstoe provided an update indicating that the applicant is not required to provide the submission to LVPC, but they did, and a review of that submission was completed. On behalf of the Township, I will be providing the draft ordinances to the LVPC, requesting review and comment. This is a requirement under the Municipality Planning Code (MPC).

Ms. Adrienne Fors verified that Waste Management was under the impression that they were to provide the LVPC the submission while the submission was sent to the Township along with the digital version.

Resident, Paul Levits, asked if the request for rezoning would be presented to the BOS by Waste Management and then the BOS would send the request to the LVPC for review and comment, followed by approval from the BOS. Mr. Backenstoe indicated that is not correct, any draft ordinance which proposes a change to Subdivision, Land Development, or Zoning is required to be reviewed by the LVPC and the PC. Mr. Levits asked if the draft ordinance which was provided by Waste Management was reviewed by the BOS for approval to move forward. Mr. Backenstoe indicated that in order for the BOS to officially consider the request, he drafted the proposed Ordinances based on Waste Management's submission and they will be provided to the LVPC and PC for review per the requirements of the Municipality Planning Code (MPC).

Resident, Mr. Renna, inquired if the review that was sent to Strategic Solutions has been received and is it normal to send the Ordinance for review even though a review letter has not been received from Strategic Solutions at this point in time. Mr. Backenstoe indicated that each ordinance is a case by case basis, many ordinances in the Township have been reviewed by the LVPC and come back with comments and the ordinances were modified or changed prior to approval. Mr. Renna asked if there is an intention to consider feedback in future deliberations. Ms. Stefanelli indicated that there will be consideration based on the comments received.

Resident, Joe Colosi, inquired why the draft Ordinances would be sent to LVPC. Solicitor Backenstoe advised that when a parcel/property is being considered for amendment of the current zoning district, the ordinance is required to be reviewed under the MPC by LVPC and Plainfield Township PC. They are recommending bodies only.

Resident, Nancy O'Keefe, asked why the Board of Supervisors was bypassed by Waste Management. Mr. Backenstoe indicated that the BOS was not bypassed and that all parties received the same submission at the same time.

Resident, Millie Beahn, indicated that when the submission was submitted by Waste Management, there was 1 ordinance being presented with the rezoning request, but when the review took place by the PC, they presented 3 different items, are all 3 of those requests being

submitted to LVPC. Solicitor Backenstoe indicated that there are 3 different ordinances being presented to LVPC and PC for review and comment, which include Zoning District, Use Permitted by Right and Steep Slopes in the Solid Waste Zoning district. Ms. Beahn expressed that this is not right and should not be sent to those parties as the PC has already provided their opinion.

Motion approved. Vote 3-2, Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, and Kenneth Fairchild were opposed.

IV. CITIZEN'S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA (*Only persons who have signed the Sign-In Sheet by 6:15 PM will be allowed to speak. There is a 5-minute time limit for speakers*):

- **Wayne Muller**

Mr. Wayne Muller expressed his awareness of what Waste Management has provided in regard to community support, health risks, and environmental impacts of residing near the landfill for so many years. He requested the Board of Supervisors consider other options that could be utilized to survive without the landfill.

- **Millie Beahn**

Ms. Beahn asked about the roads that look like they have been repaved, and/or chipping in areas. Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, advised that the Road Department has applied quarter inch and 3B stone in order to maintain the roads in a drivable condition due to the intense heat. Some sections of roadways need to be fixed by AMS in October 2025. She added that we are not the only Township. This issue with the oil and chip treatments has occurred on State Roads across the state and PennDOT is currently investigating the matter.

- **JR Renna**

Mr. Renna expressed concern of the expansion being closer to the sport fields where the kids play. They already suffer enough with the smell; the new generations deserve better.

- **Jane Mellert**

Ms. Mellert requested consideration with moving forward to have the meetings televised for any residents that are unable to attend. She also requested the posting of the financial reports/packets on the website prior to the meetings for viewing. Ms. Mellert expressed the cowardness from a resident/party that sent a letter out to Plainfield Township residents trying to scare residents and trying to persuade them in a certain direction. Ms. Mellert expressed that some residents are not aware of the Second-Class Township Codes and regulations and that they should be posted on the website.

- **Brenda Stoudt**

Ms. Stoudt indicated that she has attended a good portion of the BOS and PC meetings, and everything that has been discussed in the past and current is concerning. Everyone, including residents and staff, needs to think a lot of all situations and scenarios. She added if Waste Management does not receive the rezoning, then where will all the money come from to fight against the spreading of the sludge. She questioned whether anyone thought about that. Ms. Stoudt expressed how that is more of a priority.

- **Jeff Stoudt**

Mr. Stoudt expressed his amusement at some discussions that have taken place. He stated it has taken numerous meetings to have a decision made with the prior Board of Supervisors. Mr. Stoudt expressed concern about Mr. Renna's comment about participating in activities on the fields near the Waste Management site, but no one has requested them to be moved, nor have you moved off of the fields. Residents that are complaining are the same residents still attending these events and participating in them. Mr. Stoudt expressed the concern about the health risks being spoken about claiming to be caused by the Landfill. He questioned if anyone has looked at the health risks caused by radon. Mr. Stoudt expressed that a lot of Plainfield Township is covered in shale and slate which significantly increases radon in homes. He asked if anyone has spoken to the farmers to get their opinions on if spreading sludge would be beneficial to them.

- **Carlton Michaels**

Mr. Michaels expressed that there are so many negative comments. He questioned if anyone has really looked at our community and what could assist us with revenue. He asked if we are able to create a new financial committee. He stressed the Township will not always be able to pull from the Trust Funds. Mr. Michaels indicated that everyone is worried but has anyone looked at the health of the employees of Waste Management who work directly in the landfill. Mr. Michaels advised that he had participated in the testing of Little Bushkill and nothing was ever found contaminant wise that could be linked to the Landfill. What is the plan, no one has provided answers.

- **Paul Levits**

Mr. Levits questioned Solicitor Backenstoe if he is aware if the LVPC meetings are held publicly and if residents can provide comments. Mr. Backenstoe indicated that he is unsure, but information can be found on the LVPC website.

V. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

- **Ken Field**

Nothing to report.

- **Glenn Borger**

Mr. Borger expressed concern regarding a letter mailed from an anonymous person which was not signed. Numerous members of the audience commented, he asked if a resident was ok, and then advised them to shut up and listen. Mr. Borger indicated that he had been recognized to speak. Mr. Borger reviewed the letter that was sent out to residents indicating information about Waste Management. He also reviewed the report from Susquehanna Accounting & Consulting Solutions Inc. which indicated that they have spoken with management and the BOS regarding agreements between the Township and Waste Management, the summary references a discussion on the estimated revenue growth and inflationary averages and estimate expansions with the BOS. Mr. Borger indicated that he has never spoken to Susquehanna Accounting & Consulting Solutions Inc. We purchased vehicles, capital improvements and we worked very hard for everything. Waste Management has donated millions; he questioned if it has been millions. Mr. Borger stated this is called corporate welfare, the idea is to give money to local organizations so they will continue to need the money, there is no way of replacing the money, but we will have cleaner air, less smell, less pollution, less truck traffic, and return to a beautiful farm and forest Township. Mr. Borger stated Wind Gap and Pen Argyl should have questioned what they were going to do financially when the landfill was due to close, he stated if they haven't made provisions for that they cannot blame Plainfield Township. Waste Management does not want to negotiate anything. If you do not live in the smell zone, you do not know what the standard of living is, taxes will rise, costs will rise, but not more than 14 mills. Scraping and coming up with the money can be done, we have done it previously.

- **Nolan Kemmerer**

Nothing to report.

- **Jonathan Itterly**

Nothing to report.

- **Kenneth Fairchild**

Nothing to report.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Kenneth Fairchild to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kahler
Secretary/Permit Coordinator
Plainfield Township

These minutes were prepared with the assistance of Secretary/Permit Coordinator of the Township, Amy Kahler under the direction of the Township Manager.