

August 3, 2026
Supervisors' Monthly Meeting

Chairman Bird called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Chairman Bird- present, Vice Chairman Wells -present, and Supervisor Scott - present – Quorum declared

In attendance: Joseph Harris, Cheryl Macheska, Lisa Dombroski, Helen Doty, Paula Noto, Shawn Gorg, Lenay Blackwell, Jerry Blackwell, Charles Samsok, Bonnie Bozzacco, Marc Bozzacco, Dean P. Johnson, Artie & Angelika Mercado, Gary and Debra Martin, Jim & Jodi Kashuba, Eric Neishell, Tom Hess, Barbara Wetzel, Robert Lukasiewicz, Sergeant Snyder and Fire Chief Tom Summerhill.

Minutes from the July 6, 2026, meeting will be shared online– Vice Chairman Wells made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Scott - all in favor –motion carried

POLICE REPORT: Sergeant Snyder reported a total of 131 incidents for July. These responses included building checks, patrols, investigations, and welfare checks.

FIRE REPORT: Chief Summerhill reported 40 responses for the NRVFC. 7 were in Ransom – 5 EMS calls and 2 fire calls. There were also 2 outside assists.

ZONING: No report.

SUPERVISORS: Chairman Bird introduced the Cable Franchise Ordinance we have with Comcast. Attorney Rinaldi explained the components emphasizing that this is a renewal of our agreement that is overseen by Cohen Law and emphasizes customer service standards for quality control within the township. The contract is for 10 years. Vice Chairman Wells made a motion to adopt the Cable Franchise Ordinance second by Supervisor Scott – all in favor – motion carried. Chairman Bird requested a motion to initiate proceedings to amend the Ransom Township Zoning Ordinance to regulate Data Center Land Use in the Township; refer the draft text of the Ordinance to the Township Planning Commission and County Planning Agency; and take any and all action necessary to comply with Section 609 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code, as amended. Vice Chairman Wells made a motion to initiate the proceeding seconded by Supervisor Scott – all in favor – motion carried.

SOLICITOR: Attorney Rinaldi informed the residents that the Supervisors are moving to amend our current Zoning Ordinance, section 12:10 to add regulations that define, regulate and establish conditional use for data centers and data center accessory use. They need to come before the Supervisors to establish that they meet the criteria for M-1 and M-2 zoned areas. The proposed ordinance will be sent to our Planning Commission and the Lackawanna County Planning Commission for review and comment. Public Notice will be given as prescribed by the PA Municipal Code.

STAFF REPORT: Chairman Bird reported on the following:

1. Treasury Report:

- General Fund: \$2,763,726.86
- Liquid Fuels: \$1,285,561.65
- Revenues: \$492,666.64
- Expenditure: \$211,457.65
- Request for a motion to pay the July bills for \$184,432.65 – Vice Chairman Wells made such motion seconded by Supervisor Scott - all in favor – motion carried

2. Recycling for June was 6.09 tons. This month's recycling date will be July August 21.

Next Planning Commission Meeting will be Monday August 17, 2026 @ 6:30 pm at the Township Building. Next Supervisor's Meeting will be Monday, September 14, 2026 @ 6:00 pm at 2435 Hickory Lane.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cheryl Macheska saw an ad for Swamp Fest. She stated the noise ordinance governs how late the noise can go on.

Paula Noto shared that the noise doesn't bother her, and she enjoys listening to the music.

Marc Bozzacco informed us that a 200-megawatt gas generation project has been added to the hydroelectric project. No one has reached out about rezoning the districts to allow for these projects.

Bonnie Bozzacco cited repeated cancellations and no responses to hosting a public meeting for transparency by the hydro-electric developers. Chairman Bird shared that he had met with the mayors of Old Forge and Duryea concerning this project. We will be working together on the common issues in our areas.

Attorney Rinaldi shared that Judge Nealon's denial of the Pivot Energy Appeal has been appealed. The issue now is whether Judge Nealon made an error of law. The appeal is to Commonwealth Court in Harrisburg.

Tom Hess from Ransom Road expressed concern about the new pavement raising the road a good five or six inches. Supervisor Scott told him that they are not finished with the project.

Residents cited dangerous driving practices occurring in Ransom Township – speeding and passing in unsafe, no passing zone areas.

Eric Neishell asked about the bridge project on Spring Drive. Supervisor Scott told us that the project is being held up by PPL who needs to move 2 poles. There is no time limit yet. He is also being pressured by the ferc project team put an easement on his property and his cousin's property. They want to put the max electric lines in. As Eric denies their offers, they increase their offer.

Bob Lukasiewicz appreciates the new guardrails and the increased safety and thanked the Supervisors.

Barbara Wetzel asked about the Paper Mill. Chairman Bird shared that we just know it is still for sale and not any details about it. Cheryl heard a rumor that it had sold. She is concerned about asbestos in the property. Just this morning, Supervisor Scott had requested that they send a crew up to clean up the place.

Cheryl Macheska expressed concern over the favorable responses of the Pennsylvania state government to data centers.

Artie and Angelika Mercado shared the presence of 2 dams in Gardner Creek located behind the residences. Jim Kashuba shared the need to apply for cleanup grants as they become available. Chairman Bird plans to arrange a meeting with Jim Haddock to review the matter. Bonnie Bozzacco advised the residents near Gardner Creek to form a non-profit to acquire funding.

Even with all the things going on, Helen Doty shared that Ransom Township is a great place to live.

Cheryl Macheska offered a word of praise for the well-manicured shape the church and cemetery are in.

Having no further business, Supervisor Scott motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Vice Chairman Wells seconded it – all in favor – motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Julie Kelly
Secretary