

The agenda meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6:15 p.m.

Present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Robert Salzer
Paula Gasper
Barry Moore

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
William Wert, Assistant Manager
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 pm. Members of the Board present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Robert Salzer
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Paula Gasper
Barry Moore

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
William Wert, Assistant Manager
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Selisker led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Chairman Selisker congratulated Supervisor Barry Moore on his re-election to the Board and welcomed Supervisor-elect Joe Lombardo.

Public Comment

None was heard.

Consent Items

Board Minutes

Ms. Gasper presented the Board meeting minutes of October 22, 2025, and the November 13, 2025 Budget Workshop, for approval.

Accounts Payable

Dr. Rose presented the Accounts Payable for approval: November 12, 2025, for \$2,395,545.05.

A motion was made and seconded **(Salzer-Rose)** to approval all consent items as presented.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Public Hearing

No items were presented under Public Hearings.

Unfinished Business

No items were presented under Unfinished Business.

New Business

(C) Consider Authorization to Advertise an Ordinance Establishing a Fire Fighters Pension

Mr. Moore noted that in consultation with the Township's pension advisor Conrad Siegel, recommends establishing a separate Fire Fighters Defined Contribution Pension Plan. This would allow the Township to qualify fire fighters as uniformed employees eligible for two units of state aid instead of one. To receive higher aid, the Township must create a stand-alone plan with benefits identical to the current non-uniform plan and maintain it for three years before eligibility begins. New hires would enter the new plan immediately, and current fire fighters would transfer into it after the three-year maturity period.

A motion was made and seconded **(Moore-Gasper)** to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance creating a separate Fire Fighter Pension Plan as required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to qualify for Essential Public Safety Worker-level state aid to support municipal pension plan funding.

Mr. Moore noted that once fully implemented over three years, the Township will save about \$250,000 annually.

Motion Passed 5-0.

(D) Consider Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Pension Recipients

Mrs. Gasper explained that the Pension Plan Advisory Committees are recommending the Board of Supervisors authorize a cost-of-living (COLA) adjustment for retirees in accordance with Section 6.7 of the Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan and Section 6.2 of the Police Pension Plan.

A motion was made and seconded **(Gasper-Rose)** to approve a cost-of-living adjustment as determined by the Township Actuary in the amount of 3.0% effective retroactively to January 1, 2025 for retirees in the police and non-uniformed pension plans.

Each member of the Board of Supervisors provided their individual comments.

Motion Passed 5-0.

(E) Consider 2026 Preliminary Budget Adoption

Chairman Selisker called forward Mr. Pellegrino, Township Manager and Mr. Wert, Assistant Township Manager to present the Preliminary Budget.

Mr. Pellegrino and Mr. Wert presented a summary of the proposed 2026 Budget and explained the variables that affect revenues and expenditures. The presentation included a review of completed and on-going infrastructure projects.

Mr. Pellegrino noted changes from 2025 and 2026 and stated the proposed 2026 budget includes a recommended tax increase of 2.75 Mills.

Mr. Pellegrino also noted that the Fire Company Capital Reserve account is the collateral for the loan to purchase a 2023 Pierce Pumper. The capital reserve account will maintain 150% of the outstanding loan balance in the Fire Equipment Capital Fund until the loan balance is paid in 2031 .

Mr. Pellegrino noted that the Board may make whatever changes it deems appropriate to the Preliminary Budget before its adoption. The Board may also make changes to the adopted Preliminary Budget before the final adoption scheduled for December 10, 2025, meeting within the limits established by the Second-Class Township Code. The Code states that a line item (Department total) may not be changed by more than 25% and the total budget may not be changed by more than 10%.

A motion was made and seconded (**Salzer-Gasper**) to adopt the 2026 Preliminary Budget and advertise its availability for public inspection for a period of not less than twenty days as required by the Second-Class Township Code.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Mr. Moore requested that the Township Administration prepare an analysis comparing Northampton Township fire service costs with other municipalities. He suggested a comparison on a per capita cost basis.

Mr. Pellegrino confirmed that staff are currently gathering data for the requested analysis and will present the comparison at the December 10 Board meeting.

Mr. Selisker added that smaller municipalities typically staff one station and may lack 24/7 service, while Northampton staffs two stations on a 24/7 basis to provide faster response time to calls in the Township's 27 square mile area. Although staffing two fire stations does increase costs, he believes the comparison will show that Northampton Township's expenses align with what other municipalities would face at similar service levels.

Mr. Moore requested a simple explanation for residents on why taxes will increase 8.5% in 2026, and why the Fire Fund tax has increased 700–800% over six years.

Mr. Salzer noted that no one had asked him about the tax increase before this meeting and asked whether anything has changed in the previously approved plan to implement full-time 24/7 fire service.

Mr. Pellegrino confirmed that the plan to expand fire services and the associated tax increases for funding the service were previously discussed in budget presentations.

Mr. Salzer requested that Mr. Pellegrino re-review a previous slide presentation which provided 2026 tax bill breakdown on monthly Township services which notes that average cost to have 24/7 Fire and Emergency Medical Services and a five-minute response time is \$22.49.

Mr. Salzer encouraged any residents concerned about the cost for this level of service and response time to contact him directly. He noted that many, including the family of a child who nearly drowned over the summer, appreciate the service which the Board had committed to maintaining.

Dr. Rose highlighted the success of merging the Parks and Recreation Department with the Senior Center, noting increased resident engagement and excellent work across Township departments. She highlighted improvements such as the Iron Works Creek Bridge, the Ivy Green curve extension, and new pickleball courts, emphasizing that resident feedback was heard. She also thanked Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Wert And Ms. Narisi, for their work on the budget. She concluded by acknowledging the tax increase is necessary to meet community needs.

Mrs. Gasper emphasized that strengthening the Fire Department meets residents' expectations, justifies the tax increases necessary to fund the costs, and aligns with the Board's longstanding focus on health, safety and welfare.

Chairman Selisker emphasized that the Board's primary responsibility is residents' health, safety, and welfare, noting the fire service plan aligns with the strategy laid out five years ago. He added that the plan has been transparent, well thought out, and comparable to what other communities are implementing. He added that placing an ambulance in Holland, with a paramedic unit, was a major quality-of-life improvement for residents.

Chairman Selisker noted that after years of underinvestment, the Township is now resurfacing about 10 miles of road annually, improving conditions and reducing complaints. Preventative maintenance and cost-effective treatments are helping stretch funds, with most major road issues expected to be addressed in five to six years.

All Board members expressed their agreement that the proposed budget is well-prepared and extended their gratitude to the Administration and Finance Department for their diligent efforts in developing it.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Reports

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

Parks and Recreation

- The Parks and Recreation Department successfully hosted the revamped *Halloween Happening* on October 24. The new format was well received by residents.
- The Winter Brochure will be delivered to residents by month's end. It features new youth programs and provides registration details for the 2026–2027 preschool year and 2026 Summer Camps. Registration opens early January.

- The first annual *Winterfest* will be held December 5th, featuring tree and menorah lighting, Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse and carriage rides, live music, and an expanded outdoor holiday marketplace in a heated tent to accommodate more vendors. For a complete list of programs and events, visit www.northamptonrec.com.

Senior Center

- The Senior Center Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd at the Northampton Valley Country Club. Kick off the holiday season and celebrate the spirit of friendship! There will be music, dancing, prizes and a delicious lunch! Tickets are \$35. Call the center for more information.
- Tickets for the December 10th American Music Theatre Holiday show/Shady Maple luncheon trip are SOLD OUT. A waitlist is available! Stop by the center or call for more information. \$130 members / \$140 for non-members.

Mrs. Gasper made the following announcements:

Veterans Advisory Commission

- Mrs. Gasper reported that the Veteran's Day event was successful, though less attended than in past years.
- Upcoming wreath-laying ceremony at Union Cemetery is scheduled for December 6th at 11:00 a.m.

Library Board

- Effective January 4, 2026, the library's Sunday hours will change to 12 PM – 4 PM, aligning with Friday and Saturday closing times for consistency and improved public access.
- The library actively engages local teens and serves as a reliable partner in providing community service opportunities for Council Rock School District students. Highlights include: 15 Sloan School students volunteer weekly; Teen volunteer hours in 2024 totaled 1,700, and 2025 is on track to match that; and Five of eight 2025 National Merit Scholarship Finalists from Council Rock School District are regular library volunteers. Visit our new website at freelibrarynt.org for the latest information of all things going on at the Free Library of Northampton Township.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- Mr. Moore reported that Planning and Zoning Department has been quiet, with no November meeting.
- A few residential approvals were issued, and upcoming projects include a Bucks County Roses development on Buck Road, activity at the Mill Race site, an 18-lot proposal at Russell Gardens on New Road, and a six-lot development on Ford Road, with plans forthcoming.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- The Police Department's Thanksgiving food drive was very successful, collecting 4,515 pounds of food and \$3,515 in donations, all converted to gift cards for the Jesus Focus Ministry food pantry. He congratulated the department and volunteers.
- The Fire Department held a successful Fire Prevention Month Open House and community events, including the Halloween candy run and school trunk-or-treats.
- He also announced the Saturday with Santa event on December 13th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Richboro Fire Station.
- Reminded residents of the free smoke detector assistance program for those needing help checking or replacing detectors. Call the Fire Department's business office to schedule.

Manger's Report:

There was no report from Township Manager, Robert M. Pellegrino.
Mr. Pellegrino wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Assistant Manager's Report:

There was no report from Assistant Manager, William Wert.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Pizzo wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Engineer's Report (Gilmore and Associates)

No Report.

Public Comment

Joe Lombardo (Holland, PA) thanked Mr. Mayer for recognizing his wife—calling her his best asset. He also expressed appreciation to the Board, Mr. Pellegrino, and Mr. Wert for responding to residents' feedback about the park and addressing the basketball court padding, noting it as a strong example of the Board and community working together. He reflected on the budget discussion, comparing it to car insurance—though increases are unwelcome, they are necessary to protect what matters, just as investing in fire, EMS, and Police keeps the community safe. He expressed gratitude for living in a township that is financially healthy and stable, emphasizing its importance for the future, and wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Ed Mayer (Churchville, PA) congratulated Barry Moore on his re-election and Joe Lombardo on his election. He shared that after meeting Mr. Lombardo's wife at the polls; it was clear he has strong support behind him. Mr. Mayor noted that tonight's budget discussion reminded him of the Eagles' "tush push"—we were just a yard away from delivering a no-tax-increase budget, and the healthy, respectful debate showed our shared commitment to the community's health, safety, and welfare.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Gasper, Secretary