

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

Present were:

Robert Salzer
Paula Gasper
Barry Moore
Joseph Lombardo
Dr. Kimberly Rose

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
William Wert, Assistant Manager
Kenneth Ferris, Township Solicitor
Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer

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:

Robert Salzer
Paula Gasper
Barry Moore
Joseph Lombardo
Dr. Kimberly Rose

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
William Wert, Assistant Manager
Kenneth Ferris, Township Solicitor
Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Gasper expressed the Board's condolences on the death of Tom Yaegel, who passed away on June 27 at the age of 79. She recognized his service as a Vietnam veteran, his devotion to his family, and his lasting contributions to the community through his ownership of the Richboro Swim Club and the Valley of Fear. Mrs. Gasper stated that his legacy will be the many lives he touched and the impact he had on the Northampton Township community.

Chairman Salzer led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for Mr. Yaegel and his family.

Special Presentations

Presentation by State Officials on Grant Awards

Chairman Salzer welcomed Senator Frank Farry and State Representative Kristin Marcell to the meeting. Senator Farry recognized Northampton Township for its proactive efforts in securing grant funding and presented a \$364,027 check from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Small Water and Sewer Fund for the Tanner Estate Basin Retrofit Project.

Representative Marcell also commended the Township for its success in obtaining grant funds and presented a \$2,010,171 check to support four pedestrian safety improvement projects. The projects include the Richboro Sidewalk Project, Village of Richboro Pedestrian Lighting, Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements, and the Rock Way Trail.

Proclamation Recognizing Parks and Recreation Professionals Month

Mr. Lombardo read a proclamation designating July as Parks and Recreation Month, recognizing the important role of parks and recreation in promoting health, wellness, conservation, and community engagement.

Derek Gianitti, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Board of Supervisors for its continued support and recognition of the department's efforts.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Consent Items

Board Minutes

Chairman Salzer noted that the Consent Agenda includes the Board meeting minutes of June 24, 2026.

Accounts Payable

Chairman Salzer presented the Accounts Payable for approval: July 8, 2026, for \$1,695,091.33 and July 22, 2026, for \$1,177,342.95.

Consider Resolution R-26-12 authorizing Execution of Jacksonville Road and Almshouse Road Roundabout Project Maintenance Agreements

Dr. Rose explained that as part of the construction of the roundabout at Jacksonville and Almshouse Roads, PennDOT requires the Township to execute two maintenance agreements for the roundabout and the associated stormwater management system.

The Township's responsibilities include routine maintenance of landscaping, sidewalks, signs, pavement markings, lighting, mowing, and removal of sediment and debris. These obligations are similar to the Township's existing maintenance responsibilities for PennDOT traffic control devices.

Dr. Rose noted that the project is currently scheduled for bid opening in December 2026, with utility relocation in 2027, and construction in 2028.

The Resolution authorizes the Township Manager to execute the required maintenance agreements on behalf of the Township.

Consider Resolution R-26-13 authorizing Submission of Grant Application to PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) for installation of a traffic signal at East Holland and Holland Roads

Dr. Rose reported that in response to resident safety concerns, the Township Engineer and Police Department evaluated the intersection of East Holland Road and Holland Road and determined that a traffic signal is warranted.

The Administration recommends applying for a Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund grant to help fund the estimated \$443,875 project. If grant funding is awarded, the Township will fund \$29,500 for engineering, permitting, and bidding, with a total grant request of \$414,375. Resolution R-26-13 authorizes the grant application and execution of all required documents.

A motion was made and seconded (**Moore-Gasper**) to approve consent items as presented.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Public Hearings

Consider Ordinance Establishing Regulations for Electronically Motorized Devices (EMD's)

Chairman Salzer opened the hearing.

Mrs. Gasper explained that the Administration reported increasing concerns regarding the use of electronically motorized devices (EMDs), including e-bikes and e-scooters, due to accidents, reckless operation, and lack of helmet use, particularly among minors.

She shared that the draft ordinance would prohibit individuals under 16 from operating EMDs in Township parks, open spaces, trails, sidewalks, and parking lots, while requiring all operators over 16 years of age to wear approved helmets, yield to pedestrians, and comply with state regulations.

She explained that the ordinance would be enforced by the Police Department. The Administration recommends the Board adopt the ordinance to enhance public safety.

Chairman Salzer called for public comment. There was none.

A motion was made and seconded (**Gasper-Rose**) to adopt the ordinance amending the Township Code in Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles and Traffic by adding Part 13 to include regulations for the use of electronically motorized devices in the Township.

Mrs. Gasper reminded residents that the draft ordinance is available on the Township website.

Mr. Lombardo stated that the proposed ordinance will align Township regulations with state statutes, assist the Police Department with enforcement, and help improve safety for residents, particularly children, following several serious accidents involving e-bikes.

Mr. Moore expressed support for the ordinance and emphasized the importance of educating parents and children on the safe operation of e-bikes. He noted concerns regarding unsafe practices, including riding without helmets, carrying multiple passengers, and young children operating e-bikes in unsafe conditions. He stated that while e-bikes can be enjoyable, proper rules and parental oversight are necessary to ensure safe use.

Dr. Rose also expressed strong support for the ordinance, noting that it will help protect pedestrians and residents from unsafe e-bike operations and address the increasing number of accidents involving these vehicles.

Mrs. Gasper added that parents play an important role in monitoring their children's use of e-bikes and ensuring compliance with the ordinance.

Mr. Salzer stated that safety is one of the Board's primary responsibilities and described the ordinance as an important safety measure. He noted that the regulations establish necessary limits to protect the community and expressed support for its adoption.

Motion Passed 5-0. Chairman Salzer closed the hearing.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

New Business

Consider Lot Line Change, Veytsman/Lynen, LL 26-1, Columbia Circle

Mr. Moore explained that the proposed lot line change is a minor adjustment between two neighboring properties to correct a fence that was inadvertently placed on the wrong property. He noted that there is no change to the overall square footage of either lot, as the adjustment simply involves an equal exchange of land between the two properties.

A motion was made and seconded (**Moore – Lombardo**) approval of the Veytsman/Lynen Lot Line Change, LL 26-1, subject to compliance with the Township Engineer's review letter dated May 13, 2026, and the recording of a new record plan and deeds for the subject properties.

Mr. Moore stated that the lot line adjustment is a straightforward matter that should be completed. He noted that the two neighboring property owners worked together to resolve the issue and commended them for reaching agreement.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Preliminary/Final Plan of Land Development, Holland Middle School, SLD 26-2, East Holland Road

Terry DeGroot, Terraform Engineering introduced himself as the representative for the Council Rock School District and was joined by Jessica Binda, Building Grounds Supervisor.

Mr. Moore explained that the application involves the Holland Middle and Hillcrest Elementary Schools, and that the Applicant proposes to construct a new building addition on the South side of the existing Middle School totaling 10,072 square feet as well as constructing additional sidewalk, an asphalt walkway, and asphalt driveway.

Mr. DeGroot explained that the purpose of the addition is to provide additional space for middle school students within their existing community rather than transporting students to other district facilities. The proposed addition will include six classrooms to accommodate student growth, as well as storage space for general district use and Holland Middle School. He noted that the project is intended to address an increase in students attending the school. The District projects an increase of approximately 25 to 50 students per year until the school reaches its capacity of 1,100 students.

Mr. Moore noted that, consistent with previous Council Rock School District projects, the Township has an agreement to waive the parks and recreation impact fee and reduce the building permit fees to 70% of the required amount.

A motion was made and seconded (**Moore-Gasper**) to approve the Preliminary/Final Holland Middle School Land Development Plan, SLD 26-2, subject to the following requirements:

1. Compliance with the Gilmore & Associates review letter dated July 2, 2026
2. Compliance with the Bowman review letter dated July 2, 2026,
3. Payment of 70% of the required permit fees.
4. Approval from the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority.
5. Execution of land development and escrow agreements in a form acceptable to the Township Solicitor and Engineer.
6. Execution of a stormwater management maintenance and operations agreement.
7. Approval from any outside agency having jurisdiction including but not limited to PennDOT and the Bucks County Conservation District.

Approval is granted for submission of any documents that may be required as part of the sewage facilities planning process. In addition, all requested Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance waivers are approved, and the park and recreation impact fee is waived.

Mr. Moore expressed his support for the project, noting his familiarity with the Council Rock School District and the Holland Middle School and Hillcrest Elementary School facilities. He commended the School District for the quality of the schools, programs, and staff and stated that he was pleased to see continued improvements and investments being made to the district's facilities.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider authorization to advertise Ordinance Setting Fees and Charges for Collection of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Mr. Lombardo explained that the Bucks County Tax Claim Bureau has revised its process for collecting delinquent real estate taxes and is requesting municipalities adopt an ordinance to participate in the new collection method. Under the current process, the Bureau collects delinquent taxes, interest, and penalties and returns 95% of the collections to the Township. Under the proposed method, the Bureau will collect an additional 5% collection fee from delinquent taxpayers and return 100% of the delinquent taxes, interest, and penalties to the Township. This change shifts the cost of collection from taxpayers who pay on time to those who are delinquent.

A motion was made and seconded (**Lombardo-Gasper**) to authorize advertising an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances at Chapter 24 by adding a new Part 5, appointing the Bucks County Tax Claim Bureau as Alternate Collector and establishing fees, interest and charges for collection of delinquent real estate taxes.

Mr. Lombardo expressed support for the ordinance, stating that it should have been done sooner and that the Township should not continue to forgo the 5% collection fee.

Mrs. Gasper agreed, stating that the change is a practical decision and that the Township should not lose revenue that is owed.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Bids for Pavement Markings

Dr. Rose noted that the Township received three bids for the 2026 Pavement Markings Project, which includes pavement markings on various Township roadways. Traffic Lines, Inc. submitted the lowest responsible bid with a base bid of \$39,490 and an alternate bid of \$30,427, for a total bid amount of \$69,917.

A motion was made and seconded (**Rose-Moore**) to award a bid to Traffic Lines, Inc. of Farmingdale, New Jersey to install pavement markings for the base bid amount of \$39,490 and the bid alternate amount of \$30,427.00 for the total amount of \$69,917.00 as outlined in the bid documents and specifications.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Public Works Services

Dr. Rose provided an overview of Public Works activities completed during the month of July. She reported that the Public Works Department completed cart path upgrades at Northampton Valley Country Club, continued inlet and base repairs in preparation for the 2026 Paving Program and widened and re-paved a walkway at Municipal Park.

She noted that Parks Maintenance supported several community events and activities, including the Thursday Night Concert Series, the Veterans Advisory Commission's "Flags for Forgotten Veterans" display, the Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Carnival Day, and the Wall of Honor Ceremony. Dr. Rose concluded by reporting that the mechanics completed major maintenance and repairs on tractors and mowers and assisted the Fire Department with battery replacements for equipment.

Dr. Rose then provided an update on the recent Wall of Honor Ceremony, recognizing Martin Wade as the newest inductee. She described Mr. Wade as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, veteran, engineer, coach, mentor, volunteer, and friend, and highlighted his many contributions to Northampton Township.

She noted that Mr. Wade's dedication helped shape many Township amenities and programs, including Big Meadow Park, Municipal Park, athletic field and court improvements, and expanded recreational opportunities. She stated that his legacy will continue to impact generations of residents.

Dr. Rose also congratulated Holland Middle School student Harmony Swan on receiving the American Legion School Award, which recognizes outstanding qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service.

Community Services

Mrs. Gasper shared that to help celebrate the USA's 250th birthday, the library is hosting The American Revolution Traveling Exhibit, sponsored by the Washington Crossing Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. It is one of only four libraries in the Commonwealth to host the exhibit which is on display from July 21 – 31.

She also noted the following dates for additional America 250 PA programming at the library: Saturday, July 25 – Northampton Through Film; Monday, August 3 – Bucks County Covered Bridges; and Saturday, August 29 – The Battle of Crooked Billet.

Mrs. Gasper recognized the passing of Tom Yaegel on behalf of the Veterans Advisory Commission. She noted that Mr. Yaegel was a founding member, longtime Chairperson, Vietnam veteran, and a dedicated volunteer who helped shape the Commission and supported numerous community veteran events. Mrs. Gasper extended condolences to his family and stated that his service and contributions to Northampton Township will not be forgotten.

Recreation Services and Parks

Mr. Lombardo stated that July brought challenging weather and poor air quality from the Canadian wildfires, resulting in several event cancellations. He recognized Dr. Rose for doing an excellent job at the Wall of Honor event honoring Mr. Wade despite the Code Purple conditions. He highlighted the upcoming Summer Concert performances by Yacht Rock on July 23, the Fabulous Grease Band on July 30, and Gonzo on August 6.

He reported that Parks and Recreation's bus trip to Nemours Estate included approximately 50 participants. Attendees toured the mansion and gardens and enjoyed lunch at Firebirds Wood Fire Grill. He noted that the trip was very well received, with positive feedback from participants.

Mr. Lombardo provided an update on the conclusion of the "Flags for Forgotten Veterans" program at Municipal Park, which was well received by the community. He thanked the Board, administration, staff, and Veterans Advisory Commission for their support.

Mr. Lombardo reported that the Senior Center continues to be a hub of activity and is experiencing strong participation. He highlighted several new and returning programs, including Balanced Strength on Wednesdays, Spanish classes, Pennsylvania Health and Wellness Bingo on August 3, National Cookie Day on August 4, and a lottery ticket drawing on August 11. He also noted that an AARP Safe Driver Course and Estate Planning Presentation are scheduled for August 14.

Mr. Lombardo reported that the Senior Center's membership drive is going very well, with five new members joining in one day. He noted that more than 180 people were at the Senior Center that day, demonstrating the continued strong participation and interest in its programs.

He concluded by reporting that Northampton Valley Country Club has strong participation in golf and encouraged residents to visit Tavern on the Ten.

Community Development and Planning

Mr. Moore noted that home construction on the former Bucks County Roses property on Buck Road is moving forward, with construction of a model home expected within the next month. He also reported that former Russell Gardens property has an approved land development on New Road for 18 new homes and construction is expected to begin soon.

Mr. Moore further noted that the property behind Fluehr Funeral Home is undergoing land development review for the construction of three residential lots consisting of approximately 1.5 acres, 2.7 acres, and 3.8 acres.

Public Safety

No report.

Manager's Report:

No report.

Assistant Manager's Report:

Mr. Wert announced that the Township will host its first National Night Out event, a partnership between the Police Department and Parks and Recreation Department, on Tuesday, August 4, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Municipal Park. The event will include an opportunity for residents to meet first responders and enjoy food, beverages, games, and activities for families.

Mr. Wert also noted that construction of the Route 332 Trail from Rock Way to St. Leonard's Road is expected to begin in mid-August and take approximately one month to complete. He further reported that the Richboro Sidewalk Program Phase II improvements are nearing completion and are expected to be finished by the end of the summer.

Solicitor's Report

No report.

Engineer's Report (Gilmore and Associates and Bowman Engineers)

No report.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Upon motion and second (**Lombardo-Salzer**) the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barry Moore, Secretary