MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING – SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

The September 2, 2026, Public Hearing of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Jon G. Wilt. President Wilt called for the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Roll call was taken with the following officials in attendance:

- Jon G. Wilt, President
- Todd F. Truntz, Vice President
- Ronald J. Paul, Assistant Secretary
- Michael J. Davies, Commissioner
- Christopher DeHart, Commissioner
- Zachary Border, Manager
- Tracey Bechtel, Township Secretary
- Brett Flower, Eckert Seamans, Solicitor
- Mike Wood, HRG
- Thomas Bell Jr., Police Chief
- Don Fure, Director of Planning and Zoning
- Rich Snyder, Planning and Zoning Coordinator
- Scott Washinger, Director of Public Works

Residents and visitors in attendance: (See attached sign-in sheet)

All Proceedings Relative to the Public Hearing are produced as part of an Official Transcript, separate from the Meeting Minutes.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:23 P.M.

MINUTES

WORKSHOP MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

The September 2, 2026, Workshop Meeting of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:32 P.M. by President Jon G. Wilt.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Vice President Truntz to approve the Minutes of August 19, 2026 Legislative Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lower Swatara Township Municipal Sponsorship for the American Legion, Post 594, Middletown, Dauphin County Gaming Grant Application

Vice President Truntz stated that at the Board's last meeting representatives from the American Legion were here and presented a letter requesting Sponsorship. He would defer to the Solicitor for any additional explanation, but it is his understanding that if the township would co-sponsor this request and for some reason it would not be repaid, the township would then be responsible for paying it. Vice President Truntz emphasized how much respect he has for the American Legion. They sponsored a baseball team that his son played on; they sponsored a boy scout troop that Lower Swatara kids have participated in. They have supported our Police and Fire Departments. They have done a lot for this community; the list goes on. It breaks his heart that he cannot support this because there are rules imposed by the County, and as he understands it, we would be responsible if the money were misappropriated or misused. As in any organization we see the facts as we see them now, the people that are involved now certainly are beyond reproach and beyond being trustworthy, but circumstances change, things change. In his opinion he does not think as a fiduciary for our taxpayer dollars we can expose ourselves like that.

Solicitor Flower confirmed that everything that Vice President Truntz just said was accurate under the revisions. The 25/26 gaming grant year agreement that was just approved by the Dauphin County Commissioners a few weeks ago, there is revised language that is expected to carry forward into the upcoming cycle that does have indemnification language as stated. The township is now classified as a co-grantee where it was a co-applicant before. In a partnership role under the current agreement, the role is more oversight and expectation that the township is participating in the oversight of the spending of the funds and the township is indemnifying the County to the extent that any funds misused and are not collectible from the first grantee, the nonprofit, the County has the ability to come directly to the township for repayment.

Commissioner DeHart asked if the Board needs to revoke our sponsorship to "Off the Streets"?

Solicitor Flower informed the Board that the township has not signed a grant agreement for the 25/26 cycle, but when that grant agreement comes out to be signed for anybody the township was co-applicant on, those restrictions are going to be in there, so she thinks we should have another discussion at that point.

(The Board continued a brief discussion regarding the language in the grant agreement)

A motion was by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by President Wilt to reject the request for Municipal Sponsorship for the American Legion, Post 594, Middletown, Dauphin County Gaming Grant Application due to the County Commissioner's changing their contract for the Gaming Advisory Board, which would require the township to indemnify at a great risk. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Paul opposing.

Lower Swatara Township's request for County Sponsorship of Local Share Municipal Grant Application to the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Paul to approve Lower Swatara Township's request for County Sponsorship of Local Share Municipal Grant Application to the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Middletown & Hummelstown Railroad request to use Township property at the north end of Swatara Park

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Paul to approve the request by Middletown & Hummelstown Railroad to use Township property at the north end of Swatara Park during October 1, 2026 through January 1, 2027 for upcoming events. The motion was unanimously approved.

Written request for a 90-Day Time Extension for PC#2026-03 NHS Middletown Parking Lot

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve a written request for a 90-Day Time Extension for PC#2026-03 NHS Middletown Parking Lot (2030 N. Union St.) extending the deadline to act to December 21, 2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

Hiring of Johnmichael Schue to position of public works laborer effective September 8, 2026

A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, second by Vice President Truntz to approve the hiring of Johnmichael Schue to position of public works laborer effective September 8, 2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Planning/Zoning/Codes Department

Mr. Fure updated the Board on the following: **MASD New K-3 /Elementary**-The school passed their inspections and got their temporary occupancy. **MIWD Flight**-Interior work is nearing completion. **Union Knoll**-Three more buildings have broken ground since our last meeting. **The Ponds**-Is moving along

good.

Mr. Fure reported that this is the first time in almost two years that there are no action items for the planning commission next month. We will, however, have the data center discussion, but there are no active plans on the agenda. There is also a Zoning Hearing set up for 1819 Bonnie Blue Lane for a dimensional Variance for a residential addition.

Mr. Fure added that they issued their first two quick tickets for high grass, weeds, and trash.

Public Works Department

Mr. Washinger updated the Board on the following: Woodridge **Playground**-The playground was on hold till we received final design approval, Mr. Fure just approved the final permit so construction will presume, and it should be completed by the end of September. **Storm Sewer Projects**-Kinsley will be starting both projects tomorrow. **Hot Box**-The hot box will be delivered in the next two weeks. **New Leaf Truck**-Should be here within the next two weeks. The truck will be on display at the Public Works Equipment Extravaganza on September 10th at the Farm Show parking lot. **Fire House**-Envirep is finalizing the quote for the two grinder pumps and new panel.

Stormwater Department

Mr. Davies is absent this evening, but his written report is as follows: **Stoner Drive Culvert** – The reinforced concrete pipe has been ordered for this project, and we are now awaiting its delivery. Due to how the pipe is manufactured, the culvert will be slightly wider than existing pipe. HRG does not feel this will affect the culvert hydraulics, but this is being verified prior to installation. **Blacklatch Lane and Davis Drive Repair Projects** – The pipe and materials have been delivered for both projects. Our contractor, Kinsley Construction, is preparing to mobilize and begin work on Monday, August 31st. **PA DEP Audit** – DEP performed an audit of our MS4 program on August 25th. While we are still waiting to hear back on the complete results of the review, it does not appear that there will be any glaring deficiencies in our program. The file/recording keeping portion of our system was found to be more than satisfactory, and the reviewer noted that we have made solid progress in our continued rehab of the rain garden in Shope Gardens. **WREP BMP Mapping Project** – Rettew performed an onsite visit on August 17th. The representative spent most of the day combing through our files and past land development plans. The information they have recorded/digitized as part of this visit has now been taken back to populate the new BMP mapping for the county. We are hopeful that upwards of possible 40-50 BMPs will be added through this process; significantly increasing the overall BMP coverage for our inventory mapping. **Scouting America** – A local cub scout troop has reached out to the Township. They are looking for someone in the field of stormwater management to speak to their scouts regarding the MS4 program. I have agreed to give a short presentation, tentatively scheduling the meeting for some time in March. This will benefit the Township by continuing to help us meet our MCM #1 (Public Education) permit requirements. We are also hopeful that this may help to

foster a better working relationship with the local scout troops, which could lead to new MCM #2 (Public Involvement) opportunities; like tree planting events or storm inlet stenciling.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Staff Safety Training

Mr. Border noted that staff will be receiving some safety training once a month during the next three months. Topics covered are defensive driving, how to deal with hot/cold conditions and ergonomics back safety.

STMP Phase 2

Mr. Border reported that the Township did get awarded the STMP Phase 2 money which is going to cover some IT needs, such as software for the budget, record management which was previously approved by the Board. The grant was a matching grant so the Township received $56,000 from them and the Township will match the other $56,000 for these projects.

Trash RFP

Mr. Border noted the summary reports showing the results for the trash RFPs. It looks like Goods are likely the lowest bidder. There are different options that the Board will have to decide on such as a three-year contract versus the five-year contract; the township doing the billing versus the contractor doing the billing and a few other items. Vice President Truntz mention that there looks to be a significant savings if the township does the billing verses the contractor doing it, but we do have to contemplate additional staff time and dealing with delinquents etc. there is more than just cost savings involved.

Vice President Truntz also encouraged a conversation with Goods, letting them know of all the past issues and how frustrated our residents are and if they are confident that they will be able to avoid that. Mr. Border indicated that during the pre-conference meeting, we did emphasize the issues we are having. Commissioner DeHart suggested that we get their customer list, call those municipalities, and see what feedback they give. Commissioner Davies asked what day(s) of the week they will be picking up? Mr. Border indicated that their proposal is Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, they will break it up into three days.

Commissioner Paul noted that the document that was included in the packets on the Highland project would be very helpful if they had shown the township border property lines when they give a schematic like this, because the bulk of it is in Swatara Township. Commissioner Davies agreed that he went looking for a map that detailed that as well and could not find one.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Mr. Wood noted the monthly engineering report and stated that he has had a few updates since this report was distributed. **Fiddler's Elbow Box Culvert Replacement** – Mr. Wood noted that he personally went out there to check on this project since we just had some recent rainstorms and it looked like it has been holding up well with the absence of the vegetative stabilization. HRG will continue to keep a watch while that grass grows, and we have the vegetative stabilization. **2024 CIP Project** – Work is continuing all three project sites. Lakeside Drive, they are still working on sanitary. Lumber Street, they are nearing completion for the storm sewer replacement improvements. HRG has a meeting tomorrow to discuss pavement restoration out there. Burd, Richard and Nissley, they are working their way up, they are still in the middle of Richard right now with the reinforced concrete pipe. **Salt Shed Improvements** – The project is now substantially complete. HRG is working through final contract closeout documents. HRG has received the application for payment number three which will be the final from the contractor. HRG just received their final closeout documents today along with the soil bearing capacity tests and the results from their sub consultant there, so everything should be good at that end. **Oberlin and Spring Garden Sidewalk Connections and the Fiddler's Elbow Road Report** – Both these projects' designs continuing advancing through permit coordination roadway plans, ENS plans as well as contract documents. The Township is still working through easement acquisition there for each of these projects. HRG is currently preparing the HOP package for submission to PennDOT. **Municipal Bond Stormwater Projects** – Georgetown and Turnpike Industrial final design is as mentioned before resumed there with the subsurface utility engineering complete design teams continuing to advance that next phase of design development as well as work on contract documents. **Stoner Drive Culvert Replacement Project** – Initial project efforts are focused on completion of the field survey and wetland delineation, which will provide the information necessary to advance the design and permitting phases of the project. **2026 Paving Project** – HRG received partially executed contract documents back from Kinsley on Monday. As soon as those are fully executed by the township, we will schedule the pre-construction meeting as well as the notice to proceed for Kinsley. The hard date for completion is October 31st.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Commissioner DeHart mentioned that he has been talking with Mr. Border about switching our advertisement to post to The Sun in Hummelstown instead of Pennlive, whose costs are getting outrageous. This is a way we could save some funds. He also talked with Chief Bell this week, with the Colony project getting up and running here in the next couple of months, we must come up with plan B for Longview Drive. There have been two accidents where North Union was shut down and traffic was diverted to Longview Drive, but when Longview Drive is closed to shift the road down for the Colony project. He directed Chief

Bell to call Gary at Hummelstown to work together to come up with alternate ways to send traffic if need be. Commissioner DeHart also noted that he wants to follow up with HRG who designed the bridge over the Swatara Creek, he knows that weight limit sign is not correct. He also asked Mr. Border if he has followed up with UPS regarding the red light. Mr. Border indicated that he did and was told it is still with their public affairs department. Commissioner DeHart thanked everyone for coming out this evening and requested an executive session for personnel.

Commissioner Davies thanked everyone for coming out for the Hearing on the conditional use for the property that many people know as "Williams Farm." There were some that questioned whether using this property for senior housing is the best choice. In reality, Pennsylvania has 3.4 million seniors out of a total of about 13 million people, that's about 25% of the state's population who are senior citizens. That is significant population and he is glad to see it used for this type of development.

Commissioner Paul commented that he feels there are certain times when the board as a whole needs to give some unofficial direction to the planning and code department on certain projects that come through. As an example, road improvements on Longview Drive could be curbed or could have a shoulder on it the entire length, from N. Union St to Fulling Mill Rd, currently there is no curbing at all. There is no curbing on Old Reliance, the road comes out and goes around to the radius. The next section of plan that comes in does not call for curbing in that section; it calls for a fee in lieu of. There is the egg processing plant going down at the end towards North Union and there are all kinds of gyration going on in there as far as trying to get the proper width and shifting the center line. Perhaps Longview Drive is a good place to leave with an additional four-foot shoulder, let the water runoff, keep it rural. He just feels that staff would appreciate a little direction from the board.

Commissioner DeHart noted that we probably should do what we did at Colony, if you are not putting in curb or sidewalk you should pay a fee in lieu of so we can put it in areas that need it to fill the gaps. Commissioner Paul added that he always thought that Longview Drive was strictly agriculture and that is the way we want it or do we want it developed? He thinks it is something that the board should think about.

Vice President Truntz again stated that he feels bad that we could not assist the American Legion based on the indemnification provisions that would be required of us, which would mean if money was misappropriated, the onus would be on the taxpayers to repay that. He also thanked everybody who came to the hearing tonight as well as showed respect to the board. These are never easy decisions. We have a lot of interest to consider but everyone was respectful, and we had a productive hearing which is much appreciated. He wished everyone a good night.

President Wilt thanked everyone who came out this evening. He also thanked Senator Patty Kim and Representative Tom Mehaffie on the Greenfield Park Grant process.

ADJOURN AND CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Hearing no other comments, a motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to adjourn the meeting and convene into executive session. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

ATTEST:

Tracey Bechtel
Township Secretary

PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 2, 2026
PUBLIC HEARING AND WORKSHOP MEETING (6:30 PM)

Name/Organization	Address/Contact Information
Bonnie + Stacey Swartz	1937 Oberlin Rd. Hbg 717-439-7179
Jean Spagnolo.	1 Goldcrest Place Hbg
Estela Sotomayor	5 Goldcrest Pl.
Tom Williams	2408 Fulling Mill
Laurie Castagna	Scarlett
Deb & Dean Cotton	Bonnie Blue Lane
Heather Schleh Richmond	1938 Oberlin Rd
Charles & Jennifer Eckinger	1191 Lumber
Alexa Fulmer	1842 Ohara Lane
Scott + Samantha Robillard	1948 Oberlin Rd.
Mary Golab	804 Nissley
Claudia Sisti	resident
Pete Kelly	LOCAL RESIDENT
Johanna Williams	1003 Lumber St.
Barbara Florence	1874 O'Hara Lane
Dale Messick	President
Emily Botterbusch	Resident
Dave Frost	763 Zurich Dr 17036
Rich & Leslie Rayson	701 Melanie Ln M-town 17057
Gabriel Obadare	1507 High Pointe Dr.
Patty + Bill Pronick	604 Wilkes Dr

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 2, 2026
PUBLIC HEARING AND WORKSHOP MEETING (6:30 PM)

Name/Organization	Address/Contact Information
Jennifer LeKites	1805 Scarlett Ln
Karen West	2 Goldcrest Place
PETRA BARBEZAT	3 GOLDCREST PLACE
LORETTA MILLER	1846 Bonnie Blue Ln
Jesse Williams	9 Laurel Dr
Ronda Kluttz	
Bob Wahl	
Dale Brown	