

The Board of Supervisors met at the Township Office Building for their regular meeting on September 18, 2025, 7:30PM with Mark Erb & Randy Fox present. The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September 4th Meeting were distributed. **Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4th Meeting as presented; second by Mr. Fry. All voted in favor.**

POLICE REPORT

Chief Jason Riggle distributed and reviewed the August statistics which included 205 Incident Reports, 10 Criminal Arrests, 26 Traffic Accidents, 13 Traffic Citations, 25 Traffic Warnings, 1 Non-Traffic Citations and 14 Offenses, all of which were cleared. Upcoming community events are the Manheim Farm Show October 6-10, 2025 with the parade on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 6:00PM. A Civil Service meeting is scheduled for September 25th at which they will be discussing hiring 2 police officers to fill vacant positions. Chief Riggle explained how the Crash Mapper shows crash locations and hot spots. He said with that information, their department can focus efforts on where they are needed. Chief Riggle was asked to stay for Public Comments by **Ron Harper** of 484 Cider Press Road. Mr. Harper would like to talk about police in Rapho Township. When asked why the Board did not stop Chief Riggle from leaving, Mr. Erb said Chief Riggle gave his report, and he was free to leave.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Fire Department Mount Joy

Brett Hamm of the Fire Department Mount Joy reported on the quarter June 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025. There were 164 incidents (45 in Rapho) with the total time in service at 120 hours and 2 minutes and 4 seconds. The average manpower per incident was 9.17 members per call. Community Service Events in Rapho were LCBC Motors Sports Show, Garber Farm Fireworks and Reist Popcorn Anniversary & Fireworks. Mr. Hamm reported on the fire department's responses due to flooding that occurred July 14th in the township. The department applied for and received a grant to purchase a bin rescue tube and also received training to use it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Harper said he moved to the township 5 years ago. He shared with the Board some concerns he has about the police coverage that Manheim Borough Police Department provides in Rapho Township. He stated police officers are not held accountable to anyone and yet they have authority over the us and our children.

Mr. Harper feels that the township does not need the level of protection that is currently provided and does not feel that Rapho residents need a constant police presence and that 2 new officers should not be hired. He stated that the Board should not contract with the Manheim Borough Police but instead contract 10 retired police officers and deputize them to handle traffic accidents. He indicated that he will be suing Manheim Borough and the Manheim Borough Police Department in a federal lawsuit. Mr. Harper would like the Board to pass an ordinance that would require mandated reporting, meaning if you see an officer misusing his/her authority it needs to be reported, and the police department would be required to act on the allegations. He would also like the Board to submit a formal letter to the Manheim Borough Police Department standing up for Mr. Harper and his friend Ben Vonderheide who have reported 2 incidents of being mistreated by officers at a speed detail at the Sunoco and while directing traffic after an accident at the intersection of Route 72 and Elizabethtown Road and stated the department did nothing about it. He also would like the letter to ask about their public comment policy and why Rapho residents aren't allowed to question the police practices at their Council meetings.

Mr. Fox said his stepmother was an officer for 28 years and he commented that the last 5 years he would not have wanted her job because of how people act. He asked Mr. Harper if he talks to the officers in the tone he was addressing the Board. He stated that tone means everything and doesn't feel you have to be loud and boisterous to make your point. Mr. Harper asked Mr. Fox if he believes in freedom and liberty and if he believes in the system and the right to challenge the police? Mr. Fox said he absolutely does believe in those rights. Mr. Harper said according to the Supreme Court if someone addresses police officers with name calling, the officers should stand down and not retaliate. Mr. Harper does not believe the police have a tough job in Rapho. He does not feel that he should be told to change his tone because that is part of his freedom. He doesn't feel he has freedom and liberty because he is told he will be arrested if he challenges the police. Mr. Harper states that City of Huston v. Hill, 482 U.S. 451 says he has the right to challenge the police without being arrested. He would like the Board to hold the police serving Rapho Township accountable. Mr. Harper does not think that the current police chief is competent. Mr. Harper said the mayor of Manheim should be overseeing the police department and he stated it isn't right when the mayor does not listen to the complaints of the citizens of Rapho Township. He said he is trying to change the policy concerning the police and he would like the Board to back him up. Mr. Harper told Mr. Fox that he is getting only 1 side from his stepmother whereas he has been involved on the other side and is asking the Board to respect his 25+ years of experience working on the other side.

Mr. Erb said he respects what Mr. Harper has to say. He said the Board will talk about it and take everything into consideration. Mr. Fox told Mr. Harper he understands where Mr. Harper is coming from.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

PLANNING - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the 2026 Rapho Township Budget Schedule; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

Mr. Fox made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-16 authorizing the purchase of a portion of the 1404 Kinderhook Road property; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$75,000 with Mason Dixon Contracting LLC for the demolition of the South Garfield Road Bridge; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

DEP Technical Deficiency Notice #2 for Colebrook Ridge School.

Lebanon County Conservation District – 4 gravid mosquito traps were set in RT and 1 tested positive for West Nile Virus on 8/11/2025.

APPROVAL OF THE DISBURSEMENT LIST – Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the disbursement list and pay the bills; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

Approval of a transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund – Mr. Fox made a motion to approve a transfer in the amount of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

Approval of the Fire Capital Fund Transfer in the amount of \$89,733.02 – Mr. Fox made a motion to approve a transfer in the amount of \$89,733.02 from the General Fund to the Fire Capital Fund; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

There being no further public business or public comments, the meeting adjourned at 8:21PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melva J. Kready
Recording Secretary