

The Board of Supervisors met at the Township Office Building for their regular meeting on October 2, 2025, 7:30PM with Lowell Fry, Mark Erb & Randy Fox present. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September 18, 2025 Work Session and the September 18, 2025 Meeting were distributed. **Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the Minutes from the September 18, 2025 Work Session and the September 18, 2025 Meeting as presented; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

PLANNING

Duane Nolt Poultry Operation
366 E. Hernley Road, Manheim
Final Plan and Stormwater Management Plan RT# 24-457
Red Barn

Mr. Erb made a motion to reduce the Financial Security for the Duane Nolt Poultry Operation, RT#24-457 to \$7,662.00 as recommended by the RETTEW letter dated September 23, 2025; second by Mr. Fox.

Mr. Erb made a motion to accept the Zoning Officer's September Report; second by Mr. Fox. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding Baseball/Softball field light installation in the Rapho Community Park - Andrew O'Connell of Musco Lighting shared with the Board the lighting that his company recommends to use for the ball fields at Rapho Community Park if the Board should be awarded the grant they applied for. Mr. O'Connell used a PowerPoint showing the type of light fixtures and how it will reduce glare and spillage. He explained that the LED lights give off a clean crisp white light and also explained that the higher the poles, the better the directional aiming angle is by shining downward. Mr. O'Connell said he is planning to use 12 70' poles with 64 fixtures.

Chris Ritchie of 1868 Emerald Way said if there are a dozen poles that are 70' tall, even if the lights aren't on he will be staring at the poles 365 days of the year.

Dan Cremins of 1870 Emerald Way asked if the lights are dark sky compliant. Mr. O'Connell said they are and explained how they are compliant.

Sally Ritchie of 1868 Emerald Way asked how many nights a week the lights would be on. She mentioned there is no noise ordinance so she and her neighbors are wondering what time the cut off would be. Mr. Fry explained

that the township staff has done some homework by checking with other nearby parks that have lit ball fields what their cut offs are. He was surprised that they didn't have anything in writing extending hours when the ball fields are used after dark. Mr. Fry said Rapho is considering having some cut off times for amplified noise. He said they have not discussed how many nights a week the lights would be used. He explained that leagues don't plan every night but play more on weekends. Township Manager Randall Wenger said when he reached out to the neighboring municipalities their park hours are listed as sunrise to sunset even with lights. He said a sample township agreement to use ballfields that he has obtained states that the park has to be cleared out a half hour after the event has ended and no later than 10:30PM. Mrs. Ritchie said she believes the park is beautiful, but people do linger and people do come into the parking lot after dark. She asked if there will be more of a police presence. Mr. Wenger explained that the park rules would be enforced by the Manheim Borough Police Department.

Mary Ann Bruton of 1888 Emerald Way said her house faces the park's driveway and there are cars coming in and out all hours of the day and night. She suggested the Board consider gating the driveway when closed. She is concerned if the park is open later at night there may be more issues than there are now. She does not see a lot of police. Mr. Fry asked what time she sees the cars and she said 11PM to 11:30PM she sees cars driving in and just sitting there. Ms. Bruton said she is not as opposed to lights as much as having the park opened later.

Jolene Miller of 1854 Emerald Way asked if the restrooms will be open and if the pavilions will be open along with the walking paths. She is concerned about the coolers that come in and if they will be monitored. She feels there are a lot of issues and thinks they should be discussed before decisions are made to have better control over the issues. Mr. Fry said the coolers would not be monitored. He said other areas in the park would still be opened dawn to dusk. The bathroom doors are set on a timer and the times can be changed. Ms. Miller said the bathrooms have been vandalized, which Mr. Fry acknowledged. He explained that there are security cameras around the bathrooms.

Jeannette Carter of 1462 Fieldstone Drive said she feels the leagues should be filling up the schedule when it's light. She said the daylight hours are not being used. She also feels a field supervisor should be hired so there is someone present while the games are happening. She said there have been instances of people using bushes for urinals, alcohol cans behind the barn and cigarette butts. She feels there is nobody from the township monitoring what is happening. She suggested the leagues would pay for the salary of the field supervisor. Then when there is an issue that person can call the police. Ms. Carter said that even though the Board is saying the rest of the park is not opened, what is going to happen with the families that come to watch the game and the children wanting to play on the playground. She said there will be more wear and tear on the equipment which already has issues. She does not think the playground has been maintained and feels it needs a good power wash and is in dire need of maintenance. She suggests the maintenance cost would be factored into the field use fees. Ms. Carter asked if the fields are baseball as well as softball. Mr. Fry said the fields can be for either, but baseball would need to be for no older than youth leagues. Ms. Carter would also like to see improved signage if there is a change in the use of the park. She does not think the signage is great or prominent. She would like to make sure a PA System or airhorn is not used during the games.

Bob Miller of 1854 Emerald Way asked what the reason is for the Board to consider spending money for lights. Mr. Fry explained that there is a demand for fields with lights. He said as a society we do not like that kids are

not doing outside activities but are instead playing video games inside and as parents we are also concerned about them wondering down the streets. Because of that there are more structured activities such as leagues which are growing and creating a demand for youth sports teams. This summer has seen a growth in Lancaster County of 25-30 youth leagues. Some of the older fields are out of use, some are not maintained, and some have been sold for another use creating a growing need for fields as seen in Manheim and Mount Joy. This need for more fields causes the Board to look at more efficient solutions and cost effective solutions by using what we already have.

Steve Skiles of 1466 Fieldstone Drive said when the grant was applied for it was because of the need for additional field times for existing leagues but wondered if the Board is hoping to increase revenue by making the fields available for everyone in Lancaster County. Mr. Fry said he is not looking to bring in leagues from outside the area but is looking at taking care of the needs in our own backyard. He said it is not just youth leagues but adult leagues and senior leagues that are also growing. Mr. Skiles said he appreciates the presentation from Mr. O'Connell and he now is not as concerned about the lighting. He said he has tracked the fields from May through summer and said the fields were not in use 50% of time. He talked with people from various teams who told him they are finished playing by 6:30 – 7:00PM and they do not need to play later. Mr. Skiles thinks there are plenty of opportunities to play without lights. He asked the Board to look at this from his perspective that there is not a need for the lights.

Mr. Ritchie said he feels the school fields could be used because those teams are not playing June, July or August. Mr. Fox said the school district fields are astroturf and cannot be used because of injury. Mr. Fry said the fields are used over the summer by 16-18 year olds for several games a week. Those fields are leased out over the weekend for tournaments for high school baseball and are not changeable to youth games.

Bryan Hollingsworth of the Manheim Little League said they love the fields at Rapho Community Park. Little League is ages 7-10 and they do not play in the summer but play in the spring and the fall. They are excited about night games which would end around 8:30PM – 9PM.

Chris Neiles of 1437 Fieldstone Drive said he believes lights at the fields are a great idea. He has 3 sons who have played in the leagues. He said they have struggled with field times. He feels more fields are desperately needed. He said it would be great to have the ability to move bases so that both 10U and 12U could play. He said his concern about the lack of fields is for the Manheim kids, without thinking of bringing in outside teams.

Justin Manning of 1452 Fieldstone Drive asked the Board to strongly consider a 9:30PM or 10PM cut off. He said he is not opposed to the lights, but the noise is his main concern.

There was a question about the possibility of staggering times for the lights to go off. He also asked how the lights will go on and off. Mr. O'Connell said they can be set up to go on and off manually or automatically.

David Kazimierczak of 1501 Fieldstone Drive asked if the lights will be turned on when the fields are not in use. Mr. Wenger said if the field is reserved the lights will be turned on.

Donna Folker of 1886 Emerald Way said she thinks a majority of the neighbors would like the lights off at 9:30PM feeling that gives the ball players enough time to pack up their bags, get to their cars and leave the park by 10PM. When they come in they park their cars, slam their doors and get their gear to go to the fields. Then when they leave they will get into their car, slamming the doors, headlights on shining into the houses and gearing up the vehicle. She asked the Board to consider what the residents in the area have to go through. She asked for the night games to be limited to 3 times a week. She said these are their homes and feels they deserve a peaceful evening.

There was a question asking what percentage are adult teams and what percentage are youth teams. Mr. Fry said he does not have the answer to that. He feels it varies between seasons and years. It was asked why the township would not have that information if they are renting out the fields. Mr. Wenger said Don Wenger volunteers his time to do the scheduling for all the fields in the Manheim Central School District. The resident said she feels there are very few youth playing on the ball fields.

Mr. Fry appreciates the comments and input. He said he knows the police do monitor the park, but they should be called if there are problems. At this time the township does not know if they will be awarded the grant but should find out in the next couple of months. He explained that the money for the grant comes from the taxes received from online gambling. After finding out if the grant is awarded to the township, the Board would have to accept it, sign it and then begin the process. The electric service for the lights is already installed.

Jim Campbell of 1864 Emerald Way asked if the lights are put in and the residents have a significant increase in problems with loitering, noise, misdemeanor crimes, etc. would it be possible to dial back this program or cancel it altogether. Mr. Fry explained that organized leagues are concerned about how the players and families interact with the facility. If it is not the leagues causing the problems then police should be notified.

Mr. Skiles said he wanted to say the police have been very responsive and professional. He asked the Board if they would consider enacting a noise ordinance. Mr. Fry said noise ordinances are not enforceable unless you have a decibel meter on your lot lines. Mr. Skiles said they need to be written well in order to be address PA systems, compressors on trucks and barking dogs. Mr. Fry does not feel that is a noise ordinance issue but something to address in the park rules where they would become enforceable.

Dave Snyder of 1523 Fieldstone Drive said there is a mechanism in the zoning ordinance which is a nuisance clause. If there is a problem, Mr. Fry advised the residents to call the police.

Ms. Carter asked what the hours are that the restrooms are open? Public Works Director John Haldeman said they are currently on a light sensor so they are open dawn to dusk but could also be put on a timer.

Mr. Fry thanked everyone and said the Board has some work to do. Mr. Erb said he respects everyone's opinion. Mr. Fox thanked everyone for their input.

Mr. Erb made a motion to approve the Lancaster County 2025 Hazzard Mitigation Plan Resolution 2025-17; second by Mr. Fox. All voted in favor.

Mr. Fox made a motion to approve sending correspondence to the Manheim Borough Council to affirm the Board's support of the police department; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

The Tax Collector's September Report was distributed and reviewed.

The Earned Income Tax Collections September Report was distributed and reviewed. This revenue line item is currently 4% behind the budgeted amount.

CORRESPONDENCE

Milanof-Schock Library- September 2025 Newsletter

Consideration of Adoption of New Comprehensive Plan – West Hempfield Township

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

Ms. Carter asked the Board to address the issue of repairs to the playground equipment. Mr. Fry explained that the Board is working through a budget which plans for maintenance on playground equipment. Mr. Wenger explained that parts have been ordered and have not yet been received.

There being no further public business or public comments, the meeting adjourned at 8:47PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melva J. Kready
Recording Secretary