

The Board of Supervisors met at the Township office building for their regular meeting on December 18, 2025, 7:30PM with Lowell Fry, Mark Erb and Randy Fox present. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the November 20, 2025 Work Session and December 4, 2025 Meeting were distributed. **Mr. Erb made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 Work Session and the December 4, 2025 Meeting as presented; second by Mr. Fox. All voted in favor.**

POLICE REPORT – None

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Fire Department Mount Joy

Brett Hamm of the Fire Department Mount Joy reported on the quarter September 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025. There were 118 incidents (31 in Rapho) with the total time in service at 166 hours and 45 minutes and 25 seconds. The average manpower per incident was 8.55 members. Community Service Events during this quarter were Reist Popcorn Anniversary & Fireworks, Manheim Farm Show, LCBC Trunk-or-Treat, Janus School 5K and Tractor Supply First Responder Event. The Grain Bin Rescue Equipment & Training Grant has been completed and is in service. The final order has been placed to complete the required radio upgrades. Changes of the multiple Chief and Line officers will occur in 2026. At the request of Township Manager Randall Wenger Mr. Hamm reviewed the letter Fire Department Mount Joy asked the township to send the Lancaster County Department of Public Safety asking for approval of First Response Change Request.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alyssa Zevallas of 123 W. Main Street, Mount Joy read a letter to the Board that she had prepared asking for them to reconsider removing library support from the 2026 budget. She asked for the Board to phase out the library contributions instead of completely dropping them. She also suggested removing several Capital Road projects in order to make contributions to the library.

Dale Murry of 1286 Willow Creek Drive, Mount Joy pointed out that the libraries have lost the right to do passports resulting in a 20% cut in income before Rapho Township cut their contribution. He feels the Rapho residents would like the Board to reconsider.

Matt Brallier of 450 Anderson Ferry Road, Mount Joy said he and his son have used the library heavily and feels it is a great resource for low-income families and single parents. He feels the development in Rapho is changing the landscape of the community especially with all the warehouses. Mr. Brallier was wondering where all the money is going from these businesses and feels that if the Board cannot afford to contribute to the libraries they should at least come up with a good fundraiser for them. He has 4 children and they all use the library which he feels is a great public service and really doesn't understand how the Board can drop what he considers a good resource for the community.

Jonathan Matias of 1317 Fieldstone Drive Mount Joy spoke in support of maintaining the funding for the libraries. He said he grew up going to the library every week, checking out books and then reading them. He said he has experienced first hand how library books, library media, access to the internet, programs, etc. helped shape him and they help to shape township residents. He feels libraries help children do better in school and help them to get better paying jobs. The library led him to go to grad school and begin a non-profit that benefits

the community. Mr. Matias asked the Board to consider the generational impact if funding for the libraries is cut.

Josh Deering of 33 Frank Street, Mount Joy said he agrees totally with the other comments. He is disappointed that the Board has decided to completely cut the funding for the libraries to zero and feels this shows that the Board does not care and does not want to invest in the children that are up and coming. He hopes the Board will reconsider.

Thom Swarr of 3153 Pleasant View Drive, Manheim feels there is a very easy solution and that is to reopen the budget and increase the tax millage to 2 mills. He feels that with the 2027 reassessment the millage will drop back down. Mr. Swarr appreciates everyone coming in support of the libraries.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS – None

PLANNING - None

OLD BUSINESS

2026 Budget – Mr. Fry explained that over the last few years even though the budget had a deficit on the bottom line, it did not end with a deficit because some of the expenses listed did not happen. He said he is not sure yet if 2025 will end in a deficit but if it does the cash reserves are strong enough to hold that. Mr. Fry said the cut to the library funding is not a surprise to the libraries. The libraries were notified in October that there may be a cut in the funding from Rapho Township. He said the Board has dealt with dysfunction in the library boards. He feels they do not know their direction and where they are going and when asked their role and how they are going to meet the needs of the community the Board gets no definitives. He feels the primary question for the libraries is what their role is in today's society. Mr. Fry thinks libraries are turning into civic centers which is causing a lot of confusion with the library boards and management. He said nobody likes change but change is the only way to get progress. He used the example of how the township takes care of roads and how that has changed in the past 50 years or so. Municipalities are not required to fund libraries. Their jobs are land use, fire protection and roads. That is where municipal funds are supposed to go. Mr. Fry said the libraries have known that the federal funding will go away and they have made no plans on how they will make up for that funding.

Mr. Erb said he feels he was elected to uphold his oath for the safety of the township and he has come to the point when he has to go back to what he was elected to do. He told those supporting the library that he is sorry but he doesn't feel that the library is a vital part of the township. He thinks that fire, police and EMS are the vital parts and it costs a lot to provide that. He feels the Board had to make a choice and cutting the funding for the libraries is what they chose. Mr. Erb would like to see the libraries coming up with creative ways to fund themselves. There was discussion between the Board and Mr. Brallier about the development of the township and the repercussions of development like traffic, loss of farm land, etc. and how it affects quality of life issues. Mr. Ballier feels taking money from the libraries is not progress but it is regression. Mr. Erb said he would like to see the library boards having a plan going forward and being accountable to the municipalities funding them.

Mr. Fox suggested adding to the 2026 budget a donation of \$10,000 to the Milanof Shock Library and a donation of \$10,000 to the Manheim Library. Mr. Erb feels there should be guidelines on how the libraries are going to fund themselves in the future. He feels the Board was elected to provide public safety and the libraries need to come up with a plan for themselves to survive and not count on contributions from Rapho Township. He said he has to wonder how many people that use the libraries donate funds themselves. Mr. Erb said the Board needs to stick together on this decision regarding the budget so he will go along with Mr. Fox's suggestion. He wants the best for everyone in the community. Mr. Swarr said he would like those connected with the libraries to pass on the concerns of the Supervisors concerning the management, the organization and the fundraising.

Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the adoption of the 2026 General Fund Budget and the State Fund Budget, and to acknowledge the 2026 Capital Fund Budget and the 2026-2030 Capital Projects Plan in addition adding a \$10,000 donation to the Milanof Shock Library and a \$10,000 donation to the Manheim Library out of the General Fund; second by Mr. Fry. All voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Fox made a motion to authorize the chairman to sign the township offer to Lance Peifer and approve the hiring of Lance Peifer as outlined in the December 18, 2025 employment offer letter; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

Mr. Fox made a motion to acknowledge and approve the changes requested by Fire Department Mount Joy and authorize the township manager to send the draft letter to the County; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

Mr. Fox made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-20 setting Rapho Township's 2026 Real Estate Tax Levy at 1.9 Mills; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

Comprehensive Plan for the Manheim Central Region – Township Manager Randall Wenger said this plan was started a year ago and this is the final step to adopting it. Penn Township approved it and Manheim Borough plans to approve it at their January meeting. The biggest change is creating a growth area in the vicinity of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Interchange.

Mr. Murray lived most of his life in the Mount Joy area and the area has changed a lot. He said when the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan started, Mount Joy Borough Council asked to sit at the table and were told no. Mr. Fry asked what Borough Council wants and why do they feel they need input since there is nothing changing around the Borough. Mr. Murray said he does not want high density development next to the Borough and said density requirements were changed. Mr. Wenger said the Lancaster County Planning Commission removed the density suggestions because no one was meeting them and it was not Rapho Township requesting a change.

Brian Youngerman of 663 Florin Avenue, Mount Joy and Mount Joy Borough Council initiated a letter to the Board but said he is not representing the Council. He feels Comprehensive Plans are promoting building and developing. He wonders what happens when we run out of farm land to develop. He said the traffic is getting

worse and worse around the triangle. He feels that the people designing the plans don't have plans for traffic and parking. He thinks that Rettew as an engineer and Lancaster County just want more building and don't think about the effect it has on surrounding areas like Mount Joy Borough. He said Manheim and Penn Townships are miles away from the area that is affecting Mount Joy Borough. The development of warehouses and tall buildings has changed the landscape and character of the area. Mr. Fry asked what he suggests should be in the plan. How would he address the traffic and where is the traffic problem? Mr. Youngerman said the intersection of Main Street and Mount Joy Road is the biggest problem. There was discussion on how that could be resolved since there is already a problem, therefore growth wouldn't be causing the problem. Mr. Youngerman said there is also a problem with flooding and would like to see more stormwater management to control that. He said everything is laid out in the letter to the Board.

Mr. Deering said he chairs the Mount Joy Planning Commission and is disappointed that Mount Joy did not get a seat at the table to discuss the Comprehensive Plan especially since Rapho Township wraps around the Borough. He reviewed some statistics on the Donegal Urban Growth Area. He feels that even though Lancaster County Planning Commission recommended removal of the density requirements it did not have to be removed from the Manheim Central Region's Comprehensive Plan. He said the plan does not mention flooding on Longenecker Road and Mount Joy Road and there was no reference to the Little Chiques Park. He said it does not reference the traffic problems specifically at the 772 and 283 Intersection and the 772 and 230 Intersection which he believes is the worst intersection in Lancaster County.

Jere Swarr of 4218 Elizabethtown Road said there is a big difference between boroughs and townships planning codes. Townships are required by law to provide all zones and if a township doesn't have a particular zone, they have to provide it. He said it happens all over the state that the township needs to provide the various zones and the impact is felt by the neighboring boroughs.

Mr. Fry said he believes people forget that the growth around the triangle that is being developed today was planned 35 years ago. In planning back then, the sewer system was put in which now results in Mount Joy having the lowest rates in Lancaster County. He said Main Street in Mount Joy has 8 casual restaurants, 3 diners and numerous small restaurants. This has happened because of the development around them. He feels the benefit of a vibrant downtown and the strength around it comes from neighboring development. He feels that instead of looking at the benefit, they are looking at the traffic problems. Mr. Fry said the way to solve traffic problems is by talking to the developers. He said he has heard that when the developers in Rapho Township sit with the Mount Joy Borough Council, they are dismissed and do not negotiate with them but just say no to their requests. He reviewed some instances of how roadways were designed to improve traffic by the Rapho Board negotiating with developers. He feels Council can say no to the requests made or they can be part of a solution to make traffic better.

Mr. Fox made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-21 adopting the Comprehensive Plan for the Manheim Central Region; second by Mr. Erb. All voted in favor.

Consider a Resolution to approve an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Manheim Borough and Penn Township to reimburse them for a portion of the cost of utilities for housing the Penn State Life Lion EMS unit. Mr. Wenger said the agreement is not ready so the Board tabled this discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notification of ACT 14 – Chiques Roller Mill Dam Removal –8085 Old Auction Rd - Leon & Carol Koser

Notification of PennDOT implementing safety enhancements recommended as a result of a 2024 traffic study

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.

There being no further public business or public comments, the meeting adjourned at 9:09PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melva J. Kready
Recording Secretary