

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
JULY 13, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, which is located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064. The meeting public notice was duly advertised in the January 4, 2022 issue of the *Express-Times* newspaper.

Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following Supervisors answered roll call: Vice-Chairman Stephen Hurni, Supervisor Jane Mellert, and Supervisor Donald Moore. Chairman Glenn Borger and Supervisor Randy Heard were excused from attending the meeting.

Also present were Township Manager Thomas Petrucci, Township Engineer Jeff Ott, and Solicitor David Backenstoe.

**I. TOWNSHIP SECRETARY– THOMAS PETRUCCI:**

1. Consideration of Approval: June 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes (DRAFT):

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Donald Moore to approve the June 8, 2022 regular meeting minutes.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

2. Consideration of Approval: June 23, 2022 2nd Regular Meeting Minutes (DRAFT):

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Donald Moore to approve the June 23, 2022 second regular meeting minutes.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

3. Notification of Receipt and Consideration of Transmittal of Comments: Draft Nazareth Area Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan (Received June 6, 2022) – Comments Due July 21, 2022:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to authorize the administrative personnel of Plainfield Township to submit a response to the Steering Committee for the Nazareth Area Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan on or before the response deadline of July 21, 2022.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

## **II. TREASURER – THOMAS PETRUCCI/ASSISTANT TREASURER – SELMA RITTER:**

1. Consideration of Approval:

- June, 2022 General Fund Disbursements **(\$292,623.81)**
- June, 2022 Highway Aid Fund Disbursements **(\$0.00)**
- June, 2022 Host Retro Agreement Fund Disbursements **(\$0.00)**
- June, 2022 Capital Reserve Fund Disbursements **(\$24,172.61)**
- June, 2022 Recreation Fund Disbursements **(\$10,966.00)**
- June, 2022 Environmental Fund Disbursements **(\$0.00)**
- June, 2022 Open Space Fund Disbursements **(\$0.00)**
- June, 2022 Refuse Fund Disbursements **(\$0.00)**

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve the June, 2022 disbursements as listed above.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

2. Consideration of Approval: June, 2022 Treasurer’s Report:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve the June, 2022 Treasurer’s Report.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

3. Consideration of Approval: Confirmation of Updated Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Mileage Reimbursement Rate from 58.5 cents to 62.5 cents per mile (Township Union/Non-Union Employees) – Effective July 1, 2022:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve increasing the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Mileage Reimbursement Rate from 58.5 cents to 62.5 cents per mile for Township Union/Non-Union Employees, with an effective date of July 1, 2022.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

Prior to the vote, resident, Brianne Kemmerer, inquired how often Township employees use their personal vehicles, and Township Manager Petrucci responded that the amount is fairly low (noting that the reimbursement amount is in the hundreds of dollars- not thousands of dollars).

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

4. Consideration of Approval: Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company Funding/Reimbursement Request – Aerial Truck Apparatus Equipment:

The Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company is seeking approval from the Board of Supervisors to allow for a temporary loan from the Township to fund the purchase of the apparatus equipment for the forthcoming aerial tower truck, which is currently under construction.

Solicitor Backenstoe indicated that he will review the Second Class Township Code in order to ascertain whether or not it is legally permissible for the Township to enter into such a financial arrangement- noting that the Township is not a financial institution. Solicitor Backenstoe questioned how the Board would secure the loan, and what actions the Board would be willing to take in the event of a payment default.

5. Consideration of Approval: Real Estate Refund for 5669 Sullivan Trail (\$46.34):

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve a real estate tax refund in the amount of \$46.34 for Real Property Taxes for 5669 Sullivan Trail.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Vote 3-0.**

6. Consideration of Approval: Disabled Veteran’s Real Property Tax Exemption for 1992 Delabole Road:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve a Veteran’s Exemption for Real Property Taxes for 1992 Delabole Road.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Vote 3-0.**

7. Consideration of Approval: Disabled Veteran’s Real Property Tax Exemption for 695 Rasleytown Road:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve a Veteran’s Exemption for Real Property Taxes for 695 Rasleytown Road.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

Prior to the vote, Supervisor Mellert expressed a concern with the criteria for granting disabled veteran’s real property exemptions- specifically, the income limits. She noted that the maximum household income requirements (an annual income of \$92,594 or less) are relatively high. Among other requirements, it was identified that applicants must occupy the real estate as his/her principal dwelling and that said dwelling is owned solely by the veteran. The applicant must also be one-hundred percent (100%) service disabled. Supervisor Mellert expressed her general support for disabled veterans.

**Vote 3-0.**

### **III. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER – JEFF OTT, P.E.:**

1. No specific agenda items; Township Engineer Ott was not in attendance.

### **IV. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – THOMAS PETRUCCI:**

1. Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan – Monthly Update:

Township Manager Petrucci reported that the draft Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan will be forwarded to the Plan Slate Belt Steering Committee in the next few weeks.

2. Plainfield Township MS4/Stormwater Management Program – Monthly Briefing:

No update was provided.

3. Consideration of Approval: Collective Bargaining Agreement between Plainfield Township and Teamsters Local Union #773 of Allentown, Pennsylvania for the Plainfield Township Road Department Employees Effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024:

Township Manager Petrucci provided an overview of the key revisions from the last Collective Bargaining Agreement, for the following provisions:

Regular vs. Part-Time/Seasonal Workers; Term; Hours of Work; Wages; Holidays/Personal Leave; Uniforms; Holiday Call-Outs; Vacation Leave; Pension Plan; Health Insurance.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Plainfield Township and the Teamsters Local Union #773 of Allentown, Pennsylvania for the Plainfield Township Road Department Employees Effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

4. Consideration of Approval: Confirmation of Conclusion of Probationary Period for Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer (Effective July 10, 2022):

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Donald Moore to approve ending the probationary period of Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer Selma Ritter, effective July 10, 2022, in accordance with a recommendation provided by Township Manager Petrucci.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

5. Public Hearing: Ordinance No. 413 – Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) Amendment Revising Plan Submission Deadline from Twenty-One (21) Days to Twenty-Eight (28) Days:

A public hearing was conducted for Ordinance No. 413, which is an amendment to the SALDO. The public hearing and the notice to adopt the ordinance was advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Municipalities Planning Code and the Second Class Township Code.

The proposed amendment to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to be considered by the Board of Supervisors amends the plan submission deadline from twenty-one (21) days to twenty-eight (28) days prior to a regularly scheduled Plainfield Township Planning Commission meeting for all sketch plan, subdivision, resubdivision, and land development applications.

No comments (either written or verbal) were received before or during the public hearing.

6. Consideration of Adoption: Ordinance No. 413 – Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) Amendment Revising Plan Submission Deadline from Twenty-One (21) Days to Twenty-Eight (28) Days:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve the adoption of Ordinance No. 413, as advertised.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

7. Consideration of Adoption: Ordinance No. 414 – Slate Belt Regional Police Commission Charter Agreement Amendment Ordinance:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Donald Moore to approve the adoption of Ordinance No. 414, as advertised.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

8. Consideration of Approval of Recreation Board Recommendation: Addition of Pickleball Striping to One (1) Tennis Court at Municipal Park (Dual Option Court):

Township Manager Petrucci reported that he had received a few inquiries from residents concerning the possibility of adding pickleball courts to the Township. After researching this matter, he had discovered that pickleball is a sport with established rules, has an extensive following, and is more forgiving on knees and joints than sports such as tennis. Both Forks Township and Palmer Township provide their residents with multiple pickleball court options.

The Recreation Board discussed this matter during their July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was decided that it would be more advantageous to only line one (1) of the tennis courts at Municipal Park to provide a dual-purpose tennis or pickleball option. The Recreation Board recommended that the Board of Supervisors install one (1) dual-purpose pickleball court at the Municipal Park at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Donald Moore to authorize the addition of pickleball striping to one (1) existing tennis court at Municipal Park at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00. The lowest responsible vendor shall be utilized.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

9. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 2022-17: GrowNorco Grant Opportunity (Road Widener) – Due July 29, 2022:

Township Manager Petrucci reported that the maintainer that the Road Department uses to conduct base repair has reached the end of its useful life. The equipment has been in use for a period of over twenty-five (25) years. He is recommending that the Township pursue a 2022 GrowNorco grant to obtain a Road Widener machine as a replacement.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to approve Resolution No. 2022-17, as submitted.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

10. Consideration of Approval: 2022 Line Striping Expenditure:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to authorize line striping work up to the amount of \$15,500.00 for ~thirty (30) miles of local roads utilizing the Lehigh Valley Cooperative Purchasing Council (LVCPC) bid.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

Resident, Konrad Mellert, stated that the vendor that is typically utilized does not seem to apply a thick coat of paint. In response, the Board of Supervisors indicated that it would be appropriate for Township representatives to more closely monitor the application of the line painting and to communicate the Township's concerns regarding the thickness of the paint application to the vendor.

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

11. Consideration of Approval: Feasibility Study – Additions to Township Building (Follow-Up to Discussion on Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds):

The Board of Supervisors had previously discussed the possibility of utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds to renovate portions of the Plainfield Township Municipal Building/Police Station. In order to follow up on this matter, Township Manager Petrucci had obtained a proposal from architect Kip Fedetz to conduct a feasibility study to determine the scope of the renovations that are available as options to the Board of Supervisors. The Board noted that Chairman Glenn Borger was absent, and that he had not had the opportunity to review this matter. Given this information, the Board felt it would be appropriate to table this agenda item.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to table the review of the feasibility study for additions to the Plainfield Township Municipal Building.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

12. Review and Consideration of Approval of Next Step(s): S.R. 33 Emergency Access Road/Gate Location On-Site Meeting (June 28, 2022):

Township Manager Petrucci provided a summary memorandum to the Board of Supervisors concerning this ongoing matter:

On June 28, 2022 Supervisor Donald Moore and Township Manager Petrucci attended an on-site meeting with PennDOT officials (Steve Ehlman, Joseph Petrakovic and Derek Herrmann) to discuss and investigate the feasibility and possibility of utilizing the below-described location as a possible S.R. 33 southbound emergency access point with lockable gates. The following summarized points of the meeting were reviewed:



**Location:** Monroe County Tax Map Parcel ID# 15.1.1.15 (specifically, the triangle of land located between S.R. 33 and S.R. 115 next to the Wind Gap S.R. 33 southbound exit that is owned and maintained by PennDOT). Portions of this property appear to be located in Ross Township, Plainfield Township, and Hamilton Township. The property is split almost evenly between Monroe County and Northampton County. This parcel was identified as an area that could possibly be leveled out to give emergency responders/tow trucks the access they need to address issues on S.R. 33 during inclement weather and closures of the highway.

**June 28, 2022 Meeting Observations/Summary of Key Points:** PennDOT clarified that emergency access roads/gates are only able to be utilized during closures of S.R. 33. Closures are typically initiated by the Pennsylvania State Police or other first responders.

It was observed that the triangle piece of land features a significant grade/elevation change between S.R. 115 and S.R. 33. Please reference the attached photographs that depict the existing conditions of the triangle piece of land, the exit ramp and the overall site.

Derek Herrmann expressed concerns with re-grading the triangle piece of land for purposes of creating a new emergency access road/gate. His expressed concerns included site distance, insufficient space to create a suitable deceleration/acceleration lane, and the proximity to the bridge that is located further down S.R. 33. Specifically, the expressed concern concerning a suitable deceleration/acceleration lane was that those first responders using the emergency access location may not have enough distance to get back up to speed to get onto S.R. 33 southbound from the emergency access road. It was discussed that the emergency access road would only be used during emergencies/closures of S.R. 33, so a full acceleration lane may not be needed.

The estimated costs of engineering, designing and constructing the emergency access road/gate utilizing the triangle piece of land would be significant, especially factoring in PennDOT's Highway Occupancy Permit requirements, as stated by the PennDOT officials in attendance. Stormwater would need to be mitigated for all new impervious surfaces to ensure there are no impacts to S.R. 115.

Derek Herrmann stated that emergency vehicles (ex. ambulances and fire trucks) are permitted to go in the opposite direction on exit ramps to get onto S.R. 33 in the event of emergencies/highway closures, provided there are appropriate traffic controls in place to allow for the safe ingress of the emergency vehicle from the exit ramp to S.R. 33. Safe ingress would be accomplished by utilizing Pennsylvania State Police or PennDOT responders to prevent vehicles from going from S.R. 33 to the exit ramp while the emergency vehicle is entering onto S.R. 33.

In lieu of utilizing the triangle piece of land to create an entirely new emergency access road/gate, it was suggested to explore the feasibility of widening the existing S.R. Southbound Wind Gap ramp. In this scenario, the exit ramp could possibly be widened to accommodate the turning movements of emergency vehicles to allow these types of vehicles access onto S.R. 33 during road closures. In this concept, the emergency vehicles would enter from S.R. 115 and travel onto S.R. 33 Southbound using the ramp (and traveling in the opposite direction of the normal flow of traffic on the ramp) only during emergencies/S.R. 33 highway closures. This was identified as a much more cost-effective option than dealing with the significant grade changes and site distance issues that are present for the original triangle piece of land concept. Derek Herrmann is going to let the Township know whether or not the permitting process could be streamlined for this potential project. It was noted that this project would require safety measures, including methods to ensure that motorists do not use and/or abuse the widened ramp and relocated/enhanced signage.

It appears that the ramp to be widened is located within Ross Township and Hamilton Township in Monroe County. Coordination with these entities would be required if the widened ramp concept is pursued.

**Next Step(s):** It is necessary for Plainfield Township to confirm whether or not widening the S.R. 33 Southbound Wind Gap exit ramp would provide for the desired emergency access onto S.R. 33 southbound during closures of the highway.

Fire Chief, Alex Cortezzo, who was in attendance, expressed the concern that the widened ramp may still not provide the necessary access he and other emergency responders are seeking. If the emergency ramp is not maintained during inclement weather or closed down in time, the Saylorburg exit further up S.R. 33 may still have to be utilized. Fire Chief Cortezzo expressed the sentiment that this is a PennDOT issue- not a local Township issue.

Vice-Chairman Hurni expressed the concern that the emergency first responders would still be exposed to potential safety issues in responding to closures on S.R. 33- even with the widening of the ramp.

No further action was taken on this matter. The Board of Supervisors expressed the sentiment that this agenda item should be tabled indefinitely.

13. Review of Comments Received/Review of 100' Buffer Analysis/Review of Revised Definitions: Warehouse Zoning Ordinance Amendment (DRAFT):

The Board of Supervisors had previously established the deadline to receive written comments concerning the draft Warehouse Zoning Ordinance Amendment on or before July 7, 2022 in preparation for the Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting. Township Manager Petrucci was also directed to prepare a one-hundred feet (100') setback analysis of the properties that could possibly support warehousing/wholesale storage and distribution uses.

New comments were received from Attorney Joseph Zator (representing Jaindl Land Development) and Nolan Perin (President of NAPER Development).

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the one-hundred feet (100') setback analysis prepared by Township Manager Petrucci. Following review and in accordance with the discussion that occurred, no official action was taken by the Board of Supervisors.

Township Manager Petrucci was directed to review all comments received and attempt to revise the ordinance in order to address the comments.

14. Consideration of Approval: Use of Refuse Fund Accumulated Balance:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Donald Moore and seconded by Jane Mellert to authorize the Township Manager to send out a survey to residents regarding recycling containers. The responses to the survey will be utilized to ascertain relevant next steps concerning the possible purchase of recycling containers by the Board of Supervisors.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

15. Review of Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Raising and Keeping of Backyard Chickens and Backyard Fowl Accessory Residential Use:

Following discussion, the Board of Supervisors tabled this draft ordinance pending the receipt of comments to be received from Supervisor Mellert and sent to Township Manager Petrucci.

16. Review/Discussion: Revised Definition of Winery – Option A and Option B:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Donald Moore to forward the review of the definition of a “winery” to the Planning Commission, with the below options delineated:**

**Option A- Direct Agricultural Nexus of Vineyard and Winery Uses**

**Option B- No Direct Agricultural Nexus of Vineyard and Winery Uses – Slate Belt Region Grapes Transported to Winery**

**Option C- Agritourism perspective.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

Comments received included the following:

- Resident, Nolan Kemmerer, stated that some varieties of grapes may not be able to be grown on Plainfield soil. The grapes need to be imported from other regions. The Township will attempt to ascertain whether it is feasible and practicable to make wine from grapes that are sourced locally (at the percentage of twenty-five percent (25%) as set forth in the current proposed definition).
- Resident, Brianne Kemmerer, stated that each vineyard makes its own kind of wines.
- Resident, Peter Albanese, questioned why there is a need to further regulate the operation of wineries in the Township. He pointed out that some wineries located in the Poconos do not grow any grapes on-site, but they have been able to introduce an agritourism element to the municipalities where they are located. He cautioned the Township against restricting an agricultural business in the Farm and Forest Zoning District. He also expressed the sentiment that these types of businesses thrive when there are multiple similar businesses in a location. Wineries will bring agritourism and stimulate the local economy, in his opinion. He recommended that the Township should allow the businesses to develop as they see fit, and the Township should not attempt to regulate these businesses to that degree. In response, Supervisor Moore stressed that it is the intent of the Township to have a direct agricultural connection for wineries. Mr. Moore expressed the personal opinion that there was a zoning error made in allowing the Franklin Hill/Social Still (Farmstead Realty Holdings) use. He stressed that the Township is now going to look at the zoning definition of “winery” to ensure that a similar mistake is not made.

Supervisors Hurni and Mellert stated that the Planning Commission will take up this matter, and then make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

**Vote 3-0.**

V. **BOARD AND FIRE COMPANY AND AMBULANCE REPORTS:**

1. Planning and Zoning Report- June, 2022
2. Road Department Report- June, 2022
3. Fire Company and Ambulance Report- June, 2022
4. Recreation Board Report- June, 2022 (NONE)

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Donald Moore to approve the June, 2022 reports as listed and presented.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

VI. **SLATE BELT REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

1. Slate Belt Regional Police Department Monthly Report- June, 2022:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Donald Moore to approve the June, 2022 Slate Belt Regional Police Department Monthly Report as listed and presented.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Hurni, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 3-0.**

VII. **CITIZEN'S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA:**

1. ***Nolan Kemmerer:*** Mr. Kemmerer stated that the Board of Supervisors had collected a \$280.00 fee from residents for about seventeen (17) years for garbage. By his calculations, he was of the opinion that the amount of the fees collected (~\$11,000,000.00) is consistent with the amount taken in from the landfill for host fees over that same time period. He expressed the sentiment that residents are subsidizing the garbage bills, and that the host community fees could be utilized to pay the Township's single hauler contract.

In response, Supervisor Mellert questioned whether there was an actual legal agreement to use the host community funds to pay the garbage bills. Supervisor Mellert also stated that garbage collection is a service, and that the original garbage contract was overpriced due to the way that the specifications were written. In 2011, the Township did rewrite the specifications and lower the cost.

2. **Brianne Kemmerer:** Mrs. Kemmerer questioned the Board of Supervisors on the financial impact of the landfill closing in the next several years- specifically, the impact on the Plainfield Township Budget. Members of the Board of Supervisors attempted to respond to her questions. The governing body collectively expressed the sentiment that the Township should provide an informational packet to residents concerning the closure of the landfill.
3. **Adrienne Fors, Waste Management:** Adrienne Fors thanked Supervisors Mellert and Hurni for attending the expansion meeting held on July 21<sup>st</sup>. About sixty-five (65) residents were there (with about 6,500 mailers sent out). Not all in attendance were against the expansion. She noted that the meeting was productive, and that some of the feedback received is being factored into the expansion plans. She noted that there was a lot of publicity for Paul Karner, who is retiring, and that the landfill plans to give him recognition. Adrienne also introduced Eric, who is joining the Waste Management team as a project manager. The next landfill public tour is scheduled for August 24th. Adrienne also confirmed that the current landfill expansion project is the same proposal that was discussed back in 2020 (for a new solid waste disposal area to be located across from Pen Argyl Road). The height of the new disposal area will be the same height as the current facility.
4. **Joe Statile, Waste Management:** Joe Statile was in attendance to address a Notice of Violation from the Department of Environmental Protection that was sent to the landfill on July 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a leak of leachate into the Little Bushkill Creek back in April. Mr. Statile explained that the leachate leak was a result of a mechanical failure of a gasket. A little bit of leachate sprayed out into the Little Bushkill Creek. When they were notified of the incident at approximately 4:00 AM, the crews took action and had the site cleaned up by 7:00 AM. The Department of Environmental Protection Solid Waste Department came out for four (4) days, and the Water Quality Department never came out. The landfill crew conducted testing to show that the basin and downstream areas of the stream were clean. The landfill operators were shocked to receive the Notice of Violation. A response letter is being worked on.

Supervisor Mellert inquired if the landfill uses neutralizing sprays to attempt to sanitize landfill odors, and Mr. Statile replied that these are used every day by landfill crews. There is an odor mister that is used by the landfill. Supervisor Mellert stated that she had smelled an odor in the air one morning. Mr. Statile stated that the odor currently in use is “rain fresh”. Mr. Statile will send out the SDS sheets to the Township for reference.

## VIII. **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORTS:**

1. **Stephen Hurni, Vice-Chairman-** No report.

2. **Jane Mellert-** Supervisor Mellert stated that additional ash trees need to be removed from the Farmer's Grove complex. She also reported that she will be selling the Township's surplus 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary t-shirts at the upcoming Farmer's Fair event.

Supervisor Mellert reported that Pen Argyl Borough is accepting donations for the Weona Park pool/winter ice rink project, and it was requested by Joseph LeDonne (Pen Argyl Borough Council) that the Township please put a link on the Township website to help facilitate the collection of these donations.

3. **Donald Moore-** Supervisor Moore mentioned that the Board of Supervisors had previously received an email from Terry Kleintop concerning a potential Growing Greener grant opportunity. Specifically, Mr. Kleintop had inquired if the Township had any interest in partnering with the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Program to implement an environmental stewardship program to assist local farmers with the planting of cover crops, installing buffer crops, and implementing no-till procedures. Following discussion, the Board of Supervisors directed Supervisor Moore and Township Manager Petrucci to attempt to hold a meeting with Mr. Kleintop and Maria Bentzoni (Administrator for the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Program) to hold a preliminary discussion this potential program in order to obtain additional information.
4. **Randy Heard-** Not in attendance.
5. **Glenn Borger Chairman-** Not in attendance.

**IX. SOLICITOR'S REPORT- DAVID BACKENSTOE, ESQUIRE:**

No report was provided.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, **a motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Donald Moore to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci  
Township Manager/Secretary  
Plainfield Township  
Board of Supervisors