

Rush Township Building
Hometown, PA 18252

Minutes of the Rush Township Board of Supervisors

A meeting was held at the Rush Township Municipal Building on **Sept 22, 2025** at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Chairman Shawn Gilbert, Vice Chairman Robert Leibensperger, Supervisor George Gerhard, Becky Coccio-Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer, Bill McMullen, zoning, and Rick Weaver, Chief of Police.

Chairman Shawn Gilbert called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Police Report – A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the Police Report for the month of August 2025. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Fire Company Report – A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the Fire Company Report for the month of August 2025. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the previous meeting minutes of August 2025. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve month of August 2025 bills. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Approval of municipal reports (sewer, road, Arro)- A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the municipal reports for August 2025. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Correspondence –

Attorney's Business –

Old Business – Gas pumps can be accessed after hours as long as the nozzle meets safety standards; a sign posted that a person shall remain within 10 feet and within plain sight of the fueling point.

New Business-

- 1. A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to adopt Resolution 2025-11, Setting Lake Hauto Sewer Fees to \$124.00 a Quarter beginning October 1, 2025..** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert and Vice Chairman Leibensperger voted in favor, Supervisor Gerhard voted not in favor, motion carried.

2. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to adopt Resolution 2025-12, Setting Hometown Sewer Fees to \$148.00 a Quarter beginning October 1, 2025.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert and Vice Chairman Leibensperger voted in favor, Supervisor Gerhard voted not in favor, motion carried.
3. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to execute the Mutual General Release, Settlement and Agreement relating to the North Schuylkill Landfill Association, to approve any changes thereto of a non-substantial nature as the signatory member of this Board, after consultation with the Solicitor shall deem appropriate, the execution and delivery thereof to be conclusive evidence of authorization.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried.
4. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to execute the Mutual General Release, Settlement and Agreement relating to the North Schuylkill Landfill Association, to approve any changes thereto of a non-substantial nature as the signatory member of this Board, after consultation with the Solicitor shall deem appropriate, the execution and delivery thereof to be conclusive evidence of authorization. The money to be applied to the Tub Grinder loan to Mauch Chunk Bank as required in the loan agreement.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried.
5. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the purchase of 3 Speed Alert 18-ATS Trailers from All Traffic Solutions in the amount of \$32,181.00.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert and Vice Chairman Leibensperger voted in favor, Supervisor Gerhard voted not in favor, motion carried.
6. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve a Change Order in the amount of \$13,499.30 from Ronnie C Folk Paving for the 2025 Oak Street, Birch Street and Grant Street Reconstruction Project.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried.
7. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve payment in the amount of \$193,906.05 from Ronnie C. Folk Paving for 2025 Oak Street, Birch Street and Grant Street Reconstruction Project contingent on final review by the engineer.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried
8. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve Ordinance No. 221 which requires certain properties in Rush Township to connect to the Water System of the Tamaqua Area Water Authority.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried
9. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve Ordinance No. 222 which replaces Ordinance 199 as the new Parking Ordinance of Rush Township.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried

10. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve 12 Grinder pumps for Lake Hauto sanitary sewer from Site Specific for \$32,593.32.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried
11. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the Hometown Fire Company providing traffic control on September 27, 2025 from 8:45am to 10:15am.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board, Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried
12. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the Month of October's meeting change from October 16 to Monday October 20th at 7pm.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried
13. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the Hometown Fire Co. to block off Center St. between Mahanoy Ave. and Chestnut St. on the following days Oct 7, Oct 31 or Nov 1, Dec 13 or Dec 14.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried

Public Comments-

- Vice Chairman Leibensperger explained that he negotiated with the railroad to lesson the cost for Nejma due to closing Bernhard.
- Supervisor Gerhard questioned why Gilbert and Leibensperger were lowering the Sewer rates for Hauto and Hometown and was it in the budget to reflect this.
- Vice chairman Leibensperger explained that yes it was budgeted, he accounts for everything and with the better-quality grinder pumps and the bank accounts carrying an excessive profit it was in the best interest to lower the rates.
- Supervisor Gerhard questioned the reasoning behind purchasing 3 speed signs for the township and said Gilbert and Leibensperger are just spending too much money. Why buy 3. He also asked if PennDOT approved and if they already had been purchased.
- Chairman Gilbert said if it saves at least one life it's worth it and Vice Chairman Leibensperger agreed and said they would move them around. Gilbert and Leibensperger said they weren't ordered but would be ordering them the next day then get PennDOT approval. George said they were breaking the sunshine law as they argued back and forth, they were not ordered. A few other residents, Ed, just wanted to know if they were ordered.