

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 **Oct 20, 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 Sept 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 Sept 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 Sept 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 Sept 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 Sept 2025. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

**Correspondence** –

**Attorney's Business** –

**Old Business** –

**New Business-**

1. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to DENY a driveway permit for 39 Lynwood Avenue, parcel 25-8-27(3).** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard voted in favor, motion carried.
2. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve changes to the Aug. 20, 2025 meeting minutes making it clear on the Motions who voted against, using George Gerhards name and not just being brief.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard voted in favor, motion carried.

3. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve November's meeting change from November 20, 2025 to November 10, 2025.** 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 approve the PHRC Mediation Settlement Agreement and the Additional Agreement and Release with Kristin Woleslagle in the form presented.** 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 PHRC Mediation Settlement Agreement and the Additional Agreement and Release with Sydney Woleslagle in the form presented.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard voted in favor, motion carried.
6. **Motion to approve the purchase of the Backhoe through Medico for the \$138,899.81 with a trade in of the old backhoe for \$34,500.00 financing through Mauch Chunk Bank.** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert and Vice Chairman Leibensperger voted in favor. Supervisor Gerhard voted against the Motion, motion carried.
7. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve a lease of a new Case 580 Super N Wide Track Loader Backhoe through Mauch Chunk Trust Company in the amount of \$138,899.81, for a 5 year term, \$31,320.00 annually, at 4.75% interest, and to approve any required Resolution to effectuate the same, and to authorize the Chairman and/or Secretary to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the same..** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert and Vice Chairman Leibensperger voted in favor. Supervisor Gerhard voted against the motion, motion carried
8. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to authorize ARRO to prepare an individual NPDES Permit for the Rush Township 54 Progress Avenue site..** 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 authorize Northeastern Hydroseeding to temporarily stabilize the 54 Progress Avenue site at a cost estimated at \$1,600.00** Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. Chairman Gilbert, Vice Chairman Leibensperger, and Supervisor Gerhard all voted in favor, motion carried

#### **Public Comments-**

- Scott Major asked to see the Road, Sewer, Arro reports. Robert said he could see anything and needs to pay \$.25/copy.
- Vice Chairman Leibensperger read his letter of resignation. He will resign as of 12/31/2025.

- Shelley Sassaman spoke up for Mrs. Scott regarding the driveway on 39 Lynwood Ave.
- Carly Bednar explained on Mrs. Scott's behalf that the driveway has been moved closer to Mrs. Scott's property, meaning they widened it. She is sending Bill McMullin pictures of the previous driveway.
- Mrs. Scott is not happy about the driveway.
- Mr. Dering was not present, Chairman Gilbert, Leibensperger, and Gerhard all agreed to deny the permit.
- Scott Major questioned the Agreement and Release for Sydney and Kristin Wolesslagle and the Mediation Settlement Agreement. It confused him because the names were similar. If they want to see the agreements, they can request a Right to Know.
- Ed Titus asked if the settlement was paid by the Ins. Co.
- Chris the Solicitor explained about the driveway owner may have to pay the rip his driveway up.
- Vice Chairman Leibensperger wants to adopt on Nov. 10 the mills at 2.5.
- Barb Morgans stated we should just completely get rid of the 54 Progress Ave. project as it's costing us way too much money.
- Ed Titus asked when the Organic Site will be available to the public.
- Vice Chairman Leibensperger went on to explain that it cannot just go away and that for the grant to pay we must put signs up, prove the use of the grinder pump and it could take years yet.
- Lori Kane asked if we got bids on the Backhoe. Chairman Gilbert and Leibensperger explained Costars is a Government agency and we don't need bids.
- Barb Morgans asked what the NPDES Permit is for. Bill McMullin explained it's going to cost 25,000 to 30,000 paid over a year.
- Gerhard and Leibensperger argued over having the Permit vs. not having the permit. Bill McMullin explains DEP won't let us use the site, but permit is done. But work must be done until the land can be touched.
- Ed Titus asked why we are putting money into the Organic Site, 54 Progress Ave. Leibensperger said we have residents taking them now, but we need a site that is legal to dump.
- Kim Kobach asked what else can be done for her neighbor with the dead animal on Crest St next to her home. The Solicitor asked Bill M to start another round of citations. Nothing much more can be done.

- Scott Major asked why the address is even when the 54 Progress is on the odd side. That is just what the post office assigned it. No other reason.
- Chris R. gave the parcel# of 54 Progress Ave.

**Supervisors Comment; Trick or Treat will be Oct. 25 from 5pm to 8pm.**

**ADJOURNMENT – Have a great night! Meeting Adjourned!**



Schuylkill County Board of Elections  
420 North Centre Street  
Pottsville, Pennsylvania, 17901  
570-628-1467

To Schuylkill County Board of Elections;

It is with a heavy heart and deep respect for Rush Township that I am resigning from my position as Township Supervisor of Rush Township as of December 31, 2025.

Spending the last 16 years as a Township Supervisor, I have strived for the quality of living for all residents of Rush Township. Along with fellow Supervisors, Jeaninne Motroni, Shawn Gilbert, I am proud of the progress we have made, the challenges and obstacles we have conquered, and values we have upheld. We have secured over \$7 million in grants for the Township, allowing us to make improvements without raising taxes, saving the residents money. From recycling grants for equipment, Recycling performance grants, Sanitary sewer and Storm water replacement grants, Road improvement and most importantly Recreation grants for the benefit of both children and adults in Rush Township

Many people seem to think this is a part-time position, consisting only of sitting at monthly meetings. In reality, the time commitment to this position is much more than part-time. I've attended classes on how to secure grants and spent countless hours implementing this knowledge in successful grant writing. I've also attended inter-municipal, county, and state meetings, ensuring Rush Township was represented.

I have prided myself on my commitment to this position, and on running the Township smoothly with the least amount of financial impact on residents. However, the climate has shifted. The ultimate insult was the 2025 election, where some residents felt the need to spread inaccuracies and lies on social media, trying to taint public opinion and my reputation. I feel that I've been personally targeted by another Township Supervisor, with his lies to win at any cost. I foresee a raise in taxes in the near future because of the personnel gains this Supervisor is looking for, which would contradict the fiscal responsibility I have strived for all these years.

Robert Leibensperger

104 Mahanoy Avenue

Tamaqua, Pa. 18252