

RUSH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 5, 2026

A Re-Organization meeting was held at the Rush Township Municipal Building on January 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM. In attendance were Chairman George Gerhard; Vice-Chairman Jim Stewart; Becky Coccio-Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer; Christopher Riedlinger, Solicitor; Rick Weaver, Chief of Police. Absent was Bill McMullen, Engineer.

Chairman George Gerhard called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gerhard to Appoint George Gerhard as Chairman. And Vice-Chairman to Jim Stewart. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to Appoint Chairman Gerhard as Temporary Secretary. Becky Coccio-Robe polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

CALL NEW BOARD TO ORDER

Announcement

Historically, the Board of Supervisors at prior Organization meetings have used the occasion to reappoint several persons as employees of the Township or to certain positions. It is not legally necessary for all persons employed by the Township or holding certain positions within the Township to be reappointed at this meeting. The failure at this meeting to reappoint, for example, the Township sewer workers, the road crew, the police officers, or fire police does not mean they no longer serve the Township. Any person not reappointed as an employee or to an appointed position at this meeting is considered still in said position at the rate they were receiving one month ago. If any person retained this way wishes to have a different rate for 2026, they should inform the Township, and the request may be placed on a future meeting agenda. Also, historically, the public comment legally required prior to agenda items being voted on was handled per Motion when the Chairperson would ask for comments under the question. At this meeting at least, due to the large number of motions, there is a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting for all items on the agenda. There is also a public comment period at the end of the meeting for the public to raise any general matter.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint **Becky Coccio-Roberts** as the Full-Time Secretary/Treasurer. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to accept the resignation of Supervisor Leibensperger. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to solicit and check availability and rates from Jones and Company, Pottsville to perform an audit of financial records required by section 901 (b) of the 2nd Class Twp. Code and perform the annual audit required by section 917 of the 2nd Class Twp Code. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to adopt as official policy that, at the request of any one Supervisor, the Secretary shall place any item on the agenda for the next scheduled public meeting scheduled at least 24 hours later. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to adopt **Resolution 2026-01** to establish a public comment/public participation policy for meetings. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to authorize the Rush Township Secretary, at either the direction of our with the permission of one Supervisor, to spend up to \$200.00 per month on items or services deemed beneficial to Rush Township, followed by a report of items or services purchased at the next regular Rush Township public meeting. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to authorize the Rush Township Secretary/Treasurer to pay all regular recurring bills upon receipt and within the non-penalty payment period provided the amount of the bill is within the reasonable range of the normal amount based on prior months' amounts for that bill, and provided that the bill is subsequently included on the bill-to-be-paid list at the next regular Rush Township public meeting. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to adopt **Resolution 2026-2** naming Township Depository for 2026, Mauch Chunk Trust. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint Arro Consulting as Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer for 2026 (New rate Schedule Exhibit A). Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint Arro Consulting as Engineering Firm for 2026 (New Raet Schedule Exhibit A) Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint Engineer and/or Consultant for 2026, for the Planning Commission **Arro Consulting** (New Rate schedule Exhibit A) Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint Bob Ritsick of the Rush Township Planning Commission to Serve as the Township Representative for the Regional Planning Board. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to retain ADP to perform payroll services for Rush Township employees and authorizing the Board Chairperson to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the same. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to authorize use of the Fire Police for safety purposes with the approval of the Board Chairperson at the request of the School District for an event whose scheduling precludes placing the request on the agenda of the next Board of Supervisors meeting. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to Set the Treasurer's Bond Limits. (Three (3) Million Dollars). Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to authorize the Chairman and Secretary to sign the Recap Sheet & Bond for the Tax Collector when Due. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to authorize the Board of Supervisors & an employee to attend the 2026 PAHRA Conferences & include Mileage, Room, Food Allowance & Pay at Regular Rate. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to authorize Elected Officials to attend the Schuylkill Co. Convention & pay them as permitted by the Second-Class Twp. Code. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint One Registered Elector to Serve as the Chairman of the Vacancy Board for 2026 – Steven Roetz. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to schedule all regular monthly meetings in 2026, including a meeting on January 15, 2026, on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM, and direct the Secretary to publish notice of the same. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to use the Standard Speaker as the Newspaper of the Township for all legal notices. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to Adopt **Resolution 2026-03** Signatures for Bank Accounts. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to Adopt **Resolution 2026-04** setting UCC Permit Fees Schedule. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to adopt **Resolution 2026-05** appointing TCC Voting Delegates as Follows: Primary Voting Delegate-George Gerhard, First Alternate Voting Delegate – Jim Stewart. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to adopt **Resolution 2026-06** appointing Chris Hartz as the Emergency Management Coordinator conditioned upon him meeting all county and state requirements. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint Jim Stewart as Road Master for 2026. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint George Gerhard and Jim Stewart Representatives for COG (Council of Governments). Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint George Gerhard to Represent the 504 Plan. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to appoint Secretary/Treasurer as Right-To-Know Officer known as Open Records. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

An announcement/disclosure was made by Chairman Gerhard regarding conflicts-of-interest pursuant to Section 1103(j) of the Public official and Employee Ethics Act for all votes relating to the Fire Company. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gerhard to adopt Resolution 2026-07 adopting Schuylkill County November 2025 Management Plan as Rush Townships Emergency Management Plan and authorizing completing of the promulgation letter. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Adjournment.

Next Meeting January 15, 2026 @ 6PM

Public Comments:

- R. Leibensperger stood and stated that the reason why the employees and wages were listed on the Re-Org was because of the military if they were away. They can look them up on the web. He asked if we would change it.
- R. Leibensperger asked if we were keeping the webpage because there is a server just for that, which holds all of the Resolutions and Arro documents.
- Steve Rimbey asked if we could change to the Times News.
- R. Leibensperger asked if we were setting mileage.
- Scott Major asked if the Resolutions would be on the web and if the wages would also be listed.
- R. Leibensperger asked if an ESRC representative was going to be appointed.