

BOS MINUTES

Dickinson Township Board of Supervisors

May 7, 2025, Dickinson Township Meeting Room
6:00 pm

Attendance

Board Members:

Chairman Rob Kole, Vice Chairperson Jennnifer DeGaetano, Robert “Bob” Line III

Absent:

Jason Reichard, Engineer

Staff:

*Jill Lovett, Glenn Kelso,
Matthew Boyer, Solicitor*

Visitors: *Harold Cooney, Charley Westcott, Barry Shughart, Michelle Line, Judy Brough*

Call to Order

Chairman Kole called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Opening Announcements

- The Dickinson Township Park & Rec Committee is holding a Buy, Sell, Eat Spring Event on May 10th. This event includes a yard sale, food truck, fire truck display, fly fishing demonstration, horseshoe tournament, ice cream vendor and you can meet the Friends of Barnitz Mill Group. The event is held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- To receive important information from the Township, residents can sign up for the mass text alert system on the Township website.
- A reminder that more information about our community can be found on our website at www.dickinsontownship.org

Agenda Approval

A motion was made by Chairman Kole and seconded by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano. The motion carried 2 in favor with Supervisor Line opposed. Supervisor Line stated his opposition is due to the Public Comment on agenda items are not with the agenda items.

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only - None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Chairman Kole and seconded by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and unanimously passed to approve the minutes for the April 2, 2025 meeting, to ratify the April 14, 2025 bills and to pay the May 7, 2025 bills, 2025/2026 Insurance Renewal, acknowledge Nicholas Nagy acceptance letter and the Fire/EMS Contracts.

Board of Supervisors Report

Vice Chairperson DeGaetano reported she attended an event hosted by Local Government Advisory Committee that toured Adams/Franklin/Cumberland region waterways. It was a 2-day tour to learn what initiatives other communities were doing to clean up their waterways. She participated in the Carlisle Borough tour and heard what the Borough is doing in their clean water projects. It was a great event to be able to share ideas and to work together with the Local Government Advisory Committee and other municipalities for clean water initiatives and grant opportunities. Vice Chairperson DeGaetano reports the FPR bill is still sitting in the House and as information is provided it will be related.

Supervisor Line wanted to recognize Laci Hockenberry for her years of service to the Township. The auditor's comments speak volumes to her professionalism and asked if there could be a letter of recognition provided to her for her resume. Manager Lovett will prepare a letter for the Board to share with her.

Public Hearings- None

Plan Review/Conditional Use Hearings - None

Boards, Committee, and Authority Reports

- a. Planning Commission – Supervisor Line reported the committee did not meet.
- b. Parks & Recreation – Manager Lovett stated the final details were being completed for the Buy, Sell, Eat event for Saturday, May 10, 2025. The committee is focused on growing this event and will include fundraising for Barnitz Mill through the Friends of Barnitz Mill.
- c. Zoning Board – Nothing to report
- d. Municipal Authority – Nothing to report.

Staff Reports

Managers' Report – Manager Lovett reported that trash hauler contract changeover issues have calmed down. The Secretary/Treasurer position is currently vacant; Manager Lovett has received several resumes and will be scheduling interviews in the upcoming weeks. In the meantime, Manager Lovett will be filling in. She also attended the Government Finance Officers Association PA conference in which she contacted several vendors for social media, website design and IT services. The Lindenwood grant application has been submitted and staff will not be notified of an award for approximately 18 months. Manager Lovett mentioned the tour at Barnitz Mill on April 11, 2025 with Senator Rothman, aide from Representative Ecker's office, Cumberland County Commissioner Kelly Neiderer; it was well attended. Chairman Kole stated the exchange of information on State and County collaboration on getting grant monies for that project.

Treasurer Report – Chairman Kole mentioned reviewing the Township’s banking options. It appears the Township has not been maximizing the current interest rates. Manager Lovett reported there are opportunities in that area. She spoke to PLGIT representative at the PSATS conference and will look at options there to capture higher interest rates. Nothing additional to report.

Emergency Services Report – Charley Westcott provided the board with the March 2025 report. Citizens Fire Company – 15 calls, Union – 8 calls, Penn – 5 calls, Yellow Breeches EMS – 26 calls, Cumberland-Goodwill EMS – 9 calls. He noted that on a recent incident on interstate I-81 where a car went between the North bound and South bound lanes and landed on Shag Bark Lane on March 14, 2025. On March 26, 2025, the Ames warehouse had a tractor trailer fire caused by lithium-ion batteries. Barry Shughart provided the Board with the update of the Thompson Hollow & Hammond’s Rock fires that started April 23, 2025. The Thompson Hollow fire was at 2,248 acres with 100% containment. The Hammond’s Rock fire was at 470 acres and 100% containment which occurred in the Township and was the biggest fire in the last 20+ years. Mr. Shughart explained how DCNR handled the fire and released local fire companies from the mountain. He also mentioned how containment levels are provided on a conservative level from DCNR due to risk factors such as weather. Vice Chairperson DeGaetano asked the cause of the fire and Mr. Shughart responded it is still under investigation. Mr. Shughart also reported during the transition of command teams there was a failure in communications. To address that situation and avoid future issues, Cumberland County Emergency Operations Center, DCNR and the local chiefs are to improve emergency action plans going forward. Vice Chairperson DeGaetano stated she was glad to hear that and wanted to make sure we are prepared for the future. Mr. Shughart stated using the mass text system that the Township has would be helpful in these situations. Chairman Kole commented that the newsletter would be great to promote the mass text capabilities to get residents to sign up for it. Mr. Shughart mentioned this fire and the potential safety issues would be a good promotional idea to make residents aware of the Township program. Supervisor Line asked if DCNR is leading the investigation and Mr. Shughart confirmed. Supervisor Line asked if DCNR is paying for all the expenses such as helicopter air drops, Mr. Shughart could not confirm.

Public Works Report – Mr. Kelso stated there were stormwater pipes that were burnt from the Hammond’s Rock fire that the crew had been repairing over the last week. Nothing additional to report.

Zoning Officer’s Report – Mr. Kelso mentioned there is an increase in complaints. The new Zoning Officer starts on May 12, 2025. Nothing additional to report.

Engineers Report – Nothing additional to report

Solicitors Report – Chairman Kole asked the Solicitor if the situation would arise that he or Vice Chairperson DeGaetano would not be able to attend the Board meeting and the voting of the agenda is a split vote, would the meeting need to be cancelled. Mr. Boyer reported that virtual attendance is permitted and is an option. Mr. Boyer stated he will review that situation and report back to the Board. Supervisor Line interjected to clarify his objection to the agenda is not to disrupt business and if there are only 2 Supervisors present; he would approve the agenda. Nothing further to report.

New Business/Request for Board Action

- a. Acceptance of the 2024 Dickinson Township Financial Audit completed by Hamilton & Musser

A motion was made by Chairman Kole and seconded by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and passed unanimously to accept the 2024 Dickinson Township Audit completed by Hamilton & Musser. It contained a clean opinion.

- b. Appointment of Zoning/Codes Enforcement Officer

A motion was made by Chairman Kole and seconded by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and passed unanimously to appoint Nicholas Nagy as the Zoning/Codes Enforcement Officer upon his start date of May 12, 2025.

- c. Appointment of Interim Secretary/Treasurer

A motion was made by Chairman Kole and seconded by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and passed unanimously which appoints Manager Lovett as the interim Secretary/Treasurer until one can be hired and appointed.

Old Business - None

Closing Announcements – None

Public Comments - Non-Agenda Items Only – Harold Cooney mentioned Elizabeth Grant did a great job on the Barnitz Mill presentation from the Friends of Barnitz Mill to the Rotary Club. Mr. Cooney mentioned the trash hauler information on the website is very helpful.

Executive Session - None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Chairman Kole and seconded by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and passed unanimously to adjourn at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Lovett
Interim Secretary/Treasurer