

BOS MINUTES

Dickinson Township Board of Supervisors

February 4, 2026, Dickinson Township Meeting Room

6:00 pm

Attendance

Board Members:

Chairman Rob Kole, Vice Chairperson Jennifer DeGaetano, Supervisor Robert "Bob" Line III

Absent:

None

Staff:

Jill Lovett, Township Manager, Glenn Kelso, Public Works Director, Grace Hogue, Secretary/Treasurer, Ryan Hoover, Zoning/Codes Officer, Matthew Boyer, Solicitor, Jason Reichard, Engineer

Visitors: *Harold Cooney – 4 Melissa Court*

Charley Westcott – 14 Mackenzie Drive

Jim & Peggy Bower – 290 Stuart Road

Jared Abell – 990 Pine Road

Beth Kikla – 12 N. Thrush Drive

Call to Order

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

Opening Announcements

- A reminder that more information about our community can be found on our website at www.dickinsontownship.org
- Dickinson Township Park & Recreation Family Bowling night is February 5, 2026, contact the Township office to get registered.
- Dickinson Township encourages residents to sign up for the text alerts available to provide urgent communication.

Agenda Approval

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the February 4, 2026 meeting by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano. It was seconded by Supervisor Line and unanimously passed.

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only - None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano to approve the minutes for the January 5, 2026 Organization meeting, to approve the minutes for the January 5, 2026 regular meeting, to ratify the January 16, 2026 bills of \$164,572.64, to pay bills of February 4, 2026 of \$37,739.50, to ratify the Public Officials Liability Insurance, and to approve the Township Manager’s Employment Agreement. Supervisor Line seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Board of Supervisors Report

Chairman Kole reported the purchase option agreement with Carlisle Area School District, which was approved at the previous meeting, to purchase 161 Old State Road parcel was approved by the school district at their last Board meeting. When purchased, this property will continue to be used to store maintenance equipment and to provide land for a park. Chairman Kole stated that during December’s Board of Supervisor’s meeting, the resolution was passed to adopt the Organizational Assessment Strategy and Recommendations. He offered to reach out to South Middleton Township to start the discussion of partnering on a multi-municipal authority for Fire and EMS system in the Strategy 3. He met with them and is waiting to hear back. Another strategy within the study was to establish a Dickinson Township stakeholders’ group and Chairman Kole requested Manager Lovett to have something on the agenda for the next meeting.

Vice Chairperson DeGaetano stated the FPR bills were introduced again, but no other updates at this time. She mentioned she did receive multiple complaints from residents in regard to spreading FPRs on frozen ground. She encourages all residents to continue to complain through the township, herself, or through DEP. She noted that spreading on frozen ground really should not be occurring.

Public Hearings

Stanley & Esther Reinford – Application for an addition to ASA

Chairman Kole opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. to hear any comments on the Stanley & Esther Reinford ASA application for an addition to the Dickinson Township Agricultural Security Area (ASA), which has been advertised.

Glenn Kelso described Stanley & Esther Reinford’s property as 14.22-acre parcel located on Mountain View Road. The owners submitted the application for consideration by the Board of Supervisors for the addition to the Dickinson Township Agricultural Security Area (ASA). This is actively being farmed and does not have any structures on the property. The owner of this parcel owns several parcels surrounding this one as well and they are already in ASA. After staff review, staff reported the property meets all five criteria required for the addition. Glenn Kelso commented that the ASA Committee and Planning Commission did approve this application and this application was reviewed by the County Planning Commission.

Chairman Kole opened the discussion to allow public comments.

Beth Kikla – 12 N. Thrush Drive – Beth Kikla stated this parcel was not included in any previous applications because it had several owners over a long period of time.

The public hearing was closed at 6:10pm.

Plan Review/Conditional Use Hearings - None

Boards, Committee, and Authority Reports

- a. **Planning Commission** – Nothing to report
- b. **Parks & Recreation** – Manager Lovett reported the Family Bowling Night was the next day, February 5, 2026. The Park & Recreation Board did not meet this month due to weather conditions; however, the Board continues to establish details regarding the May Spring Yard Sale event on May 9, 2026. As far as community outreach is concerned, Manager Lovett mentioned the newsletter will be sent out soon and the website overhaul is being considered as she and Vice Chairperson DeGaetano are reviewing vendor products.
- c. **Zoning Hearing Board** – Nothing to report.
- d. **Municipal Authority** – Nothing to report.

Staff Reports

Managers' Report – Manager Lovett reported that the township was awarded the \$1,000,000 grant from Department of Conservation & National Resources through the Land Water Conservation Fund under the National Parks Service. The last step in this process is getting the grant funding under contract with National Parks Service. Chairman Kole commented that receiving this grant is very exciting. This grant can only be used towards a park, which commits to our community that parcel will forever remain a park. Chairman Kole reviewed the location of the park and when the land was purchased by the Township and the amenities coming for the residents. Manager Lovett noted for 2026, there will be multiple grant opportunities, and those grant resolutions will come to the Board in the coming months.

Treasurer's Report – Nothing additional to report. Chairman Kole pointed out the final amount of interest received in 2025 was much greater than it has been in the past.

Emergency Services Report – Charley Westcott presented to the Board the December 2025 incident report. He mentioned the year end report should be completed by next month. Call totals were as follows: Citizens Fire Company – 126 calls, Union Fire Company – 53 calls, Penn Fire Company – 55 calls and Cumberland-Goodwill EMS – he is still working on that number. He commented about the fire companies and ambulance crews worked together to man each station for 3 days and cleared the snow during the storm so there could still be responses. Charley Westcott thanked the Board for the purchase of the service vehicle, which has already been used on a few calls. He reported a bad accident occurred in the Township on Route 34 (Carlisle Road and Peach Glen Road) where the tractor trailer crashed nearly into a house and the vehicle was totaled, but luckily, injuries were minimal.

Public Works Report – Nothing additional to report. Chairman Kole recognized the Public Works crew and their work on the recent snowstorm.

Zoning Officer's Report – Nothing additional to report.

Engineer's Report – Jason Reichard reported there will be discussion on Cold Springs Road Bridge project would be presented later in the agenda. He also reported Alexander Spring Road Bridge Project is also undergoing design and once completed will wait for the Township's implementation of that project. Manager Lovett stated staff are reviewing potential grant funding streams for this project.

Solicitor's Report – Nothing additional to report.

New Business/Request for Board Action

a. Resolution 2026-07 Environmental Advisory Council Appointments

Supervisor Line made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-07 Environmental Advisory Council Appointments of Nathan Merkel, Jen DeGaetano and Jared Abell. It was seconded by Chairman Kole passed unanimously.

b. Resolution 2026-08 Reinford Agriculture Security Area Addition

Vice Chairperson DeGaetano made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-08 Stanley & Esther Reinford Agriculture Security Area Addition. It was seconded by Supervisor Line and passed unanimously.

c. Resolution 2026-09 Appointment of Auditor

Vice Chairperson DeGaetano made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-09 Appointment of Janet Kemp to fill the vacancy on the Auditor Board. It was seconded by Supervisor Line and passed unanimously.

d. Discussion and seeking approval to advertise Ordinance 2026-01 Amending Chapter 205 "Zoning Ordinance" to add regulations for Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers and Relating Definitions.

Beth Kikla, member of the Planning Commission, provided an overview of the amendment of the Zoning Ordinance presented to the Board. Last year, the Planning Commission decided to review the open burning ordinance. Beth Kikla explained the process of removing the outdoor wood-fired boilers from the open burning ordinance and to include it as an amendment in the zoning ordinance as that is where the enforcement of those devices would occur. Beth Kikla reported this is before the Board now and the Burning Ordinance advertisement request will be before the Board at the March meeting.

Solicitor Boyer explained the procedural aspect of the timing. He stated that currently the Outdoor Burning Ordinance includes the outdoor boiler provisions, and the steps needed are a repeal and replacement of the Burning Ordinance. The Burning Ordinance will be replaced where it is in the Dickinson Township codes, while the outdoor wood boilers provisions will be placed into the Zoning Ordinance. He noted that additional steps are required, including review by the County Planning Agency, and that following this process avoids any regulatory gaps. Because of the multiple steps involved, Solicitor Boyer recommended this avenue of staggered advertising and approval of both ordinances at the same time. The Outdoor Burning Ordinance will be requested for advertisement at the March meeting, and both items are scheduled for action and approval in April.

Beth Kikla gave highlights of the types of outdoor boilers and the efficiencies of each type. She reported that the Planning Commission updated the requirements of outdoor boilers such as stack height, setback requirements, and acceptance of types that are allowed to be newly installed. Within the types of outdoor boilers, the installed non-phase 2 boilers would be allowed to remain but new installation or replacement of one would require Phase 2 type boilers.

Supervisor Line commented that the Planning Commission's discussion was brought up in response to the Hammond's Rock fire at Kings Gap in the Township last summer. Supervisor Line thanked Beth for her work on this as it was a long process.

Vice Chairperson DeGaetano made a motion to approve advertising Ordinance 2026-01 to advertise Amending Chapter 205 “Zoning Ordinance”. It was seconded by Supervisor Line and passed unanimously.

- e. Discussion and seeking approval to advertise the Cold Springs Road Bridge Replacement Project for construction bids.

Manager Lovett provided an overview of the background of the project. She stated that in April 2023, the Board had provided approval to participate in the initiative of the Cumberland County Small Bridge Program. Later in 2023, the county engineering firm, HRG conducted an inspection on the Cold Springs Road one-lane bridge. After the entire process of inspections, all applicable County bridges were ranked by condition. Cold Springs Road Bridge was ranked 5th in severity of deficiency. This encouraged looking into the replacement of this bridge. The Township has also qualified for funding for this project.

Jason Reichard, solicited engineer for the Township, proceeded to describe the bridge’s current condition, with being 16.5 feet wide by 13.5 feet span by 3.5 feet high. He mentioned the previous bridge ranking through the small bridge program and described the bridge deficiency as scour-critical structure. The underside of the bridge consists of damage through flooding events and lost integrity in the structure. There were multiple cracks identified as well as other damage and concerns for future flooding events. The Township instituted a weight restriction on the bridge upon structure determination. Mr. Reichard stated an estimate from the County engineer was provided at the time of \$170,000 to bring the bridge back to a stabilized position. The practicality of stabilizing over full replacement was not considered feasible.

Mr. Reichard reported the proposed bridge replacement includes site plans to show the widening of the bridge, but the span and height will remain the same. Mr. Reichard discussed the timeline as it was tentatively planned for the project. He stated the project is ready to be advertised for public bidding. The required permits have been received with all approvals from the Department of Environmental Protection and the County. The tentative road closure is anticipated at the beginning of October and could last 3-4 weeks. Mr. Reichard discussed the difficulty of alternative routes due to this road closure.

Manager Lovett stated there was a public meeting held for this project with 10 out of 16 property residents on that road on January 29, 2026. Manager Lovett stated currently the only route would be to exit on the south side of the mountain via Cold Springs Road, which is a single lane pathway, to Ridge Road. With this route, although not ideal, the Township would do road improvements to Cold Springs Road, such as patching and adding some pull off areas on that road. Manager Lovett stated there would be parking areas available for residents on both sides of the bridge to be able to park vehicles as well as a temporary walkway for pedestrians to cross the waterway. She stated Township staff had a meeting with school district regarding that bus route, emergency services, as well as the Postmaster for that area. Manager Lovett said there are some other possibilities mentioned at the residents’ public meeting that staff is researching alternative options.

Glenn Kelso reported parking would be available at 110 Cold Springs Road and in the Sportsman’s Club parking area. This provides ability for residents to park at one side of the bridge and walk across the pedestrian path provided. This access will be wide enough for ATVs as well. This path would also be utilized by the ambulance and other emergency services to be able to access the residents on that road. The trash company is willing to adjust their schedule to accommodate trash service by sending a smaller truck up the south side of Cold Springs Road to access those properties for service. The school bus stop would be located at intersection at White Oak Road and Cold Springs Road if it is needed for any students during the bridge closure.

Chairman Kole stated he did attend the public meeting for the residents. He said there are many concerns, followed by creative ideas to assist with making it a smoother process.

Manager Lovett reported the cost of the project is \$376,670.00. The County grant provides 50% of the project funding, not to exceed \$200,000.00 award. Chairman Kole commented the County liquid fuels monies which is where the grant funding comes from derives from the \$5.00 registration fee that residents pay when they registered their vehicles with Department of Transportation. These tax dollars are returned to local municipalities to use for such projects.

Manager Lovett reiterated that the authorization for bidding is presented to the Board at this time and the bid awarding would occur at the March Board of Supervisors' meeting. With this being such an impactful project for residents, Manager Lovett stressed the importance of having multiple meetings to support resident concerns.

Supervisor Line inquired about the expected lifespan of the new bridge. Jason Reichard responded that the bridge is anticipated to last at least 50 years.

Mr. Reichard discussed the possibility of adding options of a credit or deduct to the bidding contract. This would encourage the contractor if the construction of the bridge is completed sooner than the targeted timeline or penalize the contractor for extending the project. This will give the contractor the possible push to get the project completed sooner. Mr. Reichard asked the Board to consider implementing this process in the advertisement. He encouraged discussion on this and believed this financial bearing would not sway the project timeline significantly but wanted to address as it was mentioned in the resident public meeting.

Chairman Kole stated this had been to address residents' concerns with the difficulty of the alternate routes, especially for the emergency services response time. He believes Charley Westcott and other emergency companies are reviewing other possibilities as well to help with that concern. Chairman Kole asked Mr. Reichard, based on his experience, how often a project of this nature is completed within the currently projected timeline. He wanted to clarify his understanding of including the incentive or deduction into a contract, the experienced bidders may not entertain the project due to those being included in the contract bid. Mr. Reichard responded that there is importance in finding a contractor with the necessary experience to perform this project accurately and efficiently and the timeline seems appropriate for the project.

Mr. Bower, resident, asked what if a contractor is given an opportunity to earn the incentive with the project to complete it faster, how can the Township be sure there are no shortcuts or items completed inefficiently to do so. Mr. Reichard replied that the engineering representative to observe, monitor and ensure the contractor complies with the contract plan and documents. Supervisor Line shared his concerns about quality control and believes Mr. Reichard and his team have the oversight in place ensure quality control so he would entertain that if it can shorten the timeline for the project.

Vice Chairperson DeGaetano shared her concern would be the emergency response times as well as the increased time of temporary route during the road closure. This would be enough to encourage the project to be finished quicker if possible. She is hopeful the other possibilities that are being explored will alleviate those concerns.

Chairman Kole questioned whether rushing the contracting team might risk a less efficient project completion. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the staff and engineer to closely monitor the project to ensure it proceeds properly. He also stated that, given the alternate routes and plans already in place, he does not believe adding an incentive is necessary. Vice Chairperson DeGaetano responded with her concern of deterring

contractors to bid on the project if the incentive and deduct was included. Supervisor Line indicated that he does not hold a strong position on the matter but expressed confidence that the alternate plans have been carefully considered and are intended to minimize disruption and support a smooth transition during the period when the bridge is inaccessible.

Chairman Kole made a motion to authorize C. S. Davidson to advertise the Cold Springs Road Bridge Replacement Project for construction bids. It was seconded by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and passed unanimously.

Old Business - None

Closing Announcements – None

Public Comments - Non-Agenda Items Only

Peggy Bower – 290 Stuart Rd – Peggy Bower expressed concerns about FPRs being spread within the Township and asked for guidance on the most effective course of action to help advance the issue.

Vice Chairperson DeGaetano responded that contacting state legislators would be the most appropriate next step. She also suggested engaging Senator Rothman as he is very active on this subject, as well as the media to bring additional attention to the matter. She noted that several well-connected individuals have already been working toward a resolution. Additionally, she requested that residents share personal experiences with her directly, if preferred, can be anonymous. These accounts can be used to further support ongoing efforts.

Jared Abell – 990 Pine Rd – Jared Abell stated that he is the newest member of the Environmental Advisory Council and looks forward to working with the other council members. He noted that FPRs are a significant concern and one of the key issues he hopes the Council will further examine in an effort to help address the matter. He also shared his enthusiasm regarding the grants recently received for Lindenwood Park.

Beth Kikla – 12 N. Thrush Drive - Beth Kikla reiterated her concerns regarding the FPRs issues. She referenced legislative challenges and shared information she gathered through her research. She urged the Township to continue pursuing additional action to address the matter.

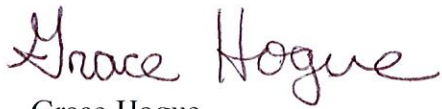
Chairman Kole responded the Township is continuing to take steps to address the issue, including the establishment of the Environmental Advisory Council. Vice Chairperson DeGaetano added that another important action residents can take is to document occurrences in detail, including dates, times, weather conditions, and other relevant factors, to help substantiate the complaints received. She noted that this documentation is forwarded to Senator Rothman.

Executive Session – None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and seconded by Supervisor Line and passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Grace Hogue
Secretary/Treasurer

