HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2025

The Board of Supervisors of Hopewell Township met on May 5, 2025 at 7:00pm. The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman announced that the meeting would be recorded.

Present: Tyler Gamble, John Cover, Dave Elliott, Haileigh Diehl, Jamie Kensinger

Public Comment: Sonny Bender stated that he saw questions about the forensic audit on Facebook and explained that it is not public because a former supervisor owes the township money and there is an open litigation. Sonny asked John Cover if he ever comes in and askes for minutes and materials and John said that he comes in when he is asked to. John said that he does not have Facebook.

Justin Forrester asked how much money it is taking to fight the litigation and if it is more than what is owed. Tyler explained that he was going to be talking about the forensic audit in old business.

Old Business: Dave made a motion to approve of the minutes from the Board of Supervisors Meeting on April 7, 2025. John seconded. Motion carried.

Tyler stated that the forensic audit has no incriminating information in it and that it is strictly information on how financial matters were not being done correctly by previous staff. It gives solutions on how to change those practices so that things are done correctly. All the changes have been implemented by current staff and supervisors and the forensic audit will be available as soon as the outstanding litigation is taken care of.

Justin asked how much has been spent on fighting the litigation. Tyler stated that he did not have those figures in front of him. Justin asked if it is taxpayer dollars paying the litigation. Tyler stated that it was and that it started before he was in office but that it was taxpayer money. Tyler stated that Haileigh would be able to figure out the number spent so far if Justin would like to know. Haileigh confirmed.

Jay Shuman stated that $20,000 was spent. Dave stated that was inaccurate. Jamie stated that there might be some confusion and that the forensic audit was separate from the litigation and that the money spent on the forensic audit was not the same thing as what has been paid toward the litigation.

Sonny stated that past supervisors, Mellinger and Wadel, have paid their money back.

Justin stated that vacation time was paid out to a past supervisor and that should have been paid back. Sonny stated that three supervisors agreed to pay their money back and one has not.

Reports:

Treasurer Report: Haileigh stated that the revenue since April 7, 2025 was $690,239.20. The total expenses were $13,259.27. This resulted in a total revenue of $303,886.62. The three highest expenses were Martin & Martin, Inc. at $4,988.00, Elan Financial Service at $2,693.69, and PMCA, Inc. at $1,958.75. Dave made a motion to approve the revenue and expenditures. John seconded. Motion carried.

Zoning/Permits Report: Dave stated that there were 7 Zoning/Land Use Permits since April 7, 2025.

Fire Company Report: Jamie stated that she was given the report for the Fire Department.

Planning Commission Report: Sue was unable to attend, so Jamie read the minutes from the Planning Commission Meeting on April 24, 2025. Jamie stated that the Tosten & Hinkle Subdivision was the item of business and that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan with Form B Non-Building Waiver request.

John made a motion to accept the waiver and the plan for the Tosten & Hinkle Subdivision. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: Tyler stated that there is an opening on the Planning Commission. Jamie stated that Susan Hoover resigned from the Planning Commission, but is still serving on the Park & Recreation Board. Dave made a motion to accept her resignation and John seconded. Motion carried. Jamie thanked Susan for her time and dedication to the Planning Commission.

Tyler stated that the road work bids would be opened. Jamie stated that the first one was Snoke's Excavating and Paving, Inc. She stated that the total amount for the work would be $162,259.68. Jamie then opened a bid from Pennsy Supply, Inc. Their bid was for $143,639.04, The board looked over the bids. Dave stated that they were to provide what cost it would be for Zion Church to have their parking lot done, as a courtesy, but both bids did not include it. Dave made a motion to accept Pennsy Supply, Inc.'s bid. John seconded. Motion carried. Dave asked Jamie to send letters to both bidders.

Dave said that some money would be left over so they may look at tar and chipping some areas. Jamie stated that there is also bridge work to be done. Justin asked when the bridge project will be complete. Tyler stated that the permit application is currently with PennDOT.

Haileigh read the monthly highlights:

- The first application of lawn treatment at the park was completed.
- Mulching is almost complete at the park.
- Had a successful Easter Event at the park.
- Firehouse properties were surveyed, and we are working to resolve a driveway encroachment on one of the properties.
- Hometown Hero Banners have been printed, and the hardware has been purchased to hang them by Memorial Day.

Jamie read the upcoming meetings & events:

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Parks & Rec. Board Meeting – May 14 @ 7:00pm - Canceled**
- **Planning Commission Meeting – May 15 @ 6:30pm – Canceled**
- **BOS Meeting – June 2 @ 7:00pm**

Upcoming Events:

- **Fire Company Cash Bash @ Britton Park – May 24 (Must have ticket)**

Jamie stated that the office would be closed on May 20th for Election Day and May 26th for Memorial Day.

John made a motion to adjourn, but Kristin Shetler asked if she could speak. Tyler permitted her. She stated that she had 142 kids registered for youth football and cheer, 33 of which were from Newburg. She had planned to use the Hopewell Township Park for their practices. She asked if this would be allowed. Dave stated that he had spoken to her and informed her that it was not approved. She asked questions as to why. He explained that there were multiple groups that had also asked and if it is no to one group, then it is no to all and that the park cannot accommodate all.

Mark Hoover asked if John has keys to the township building. John said that he does not. Tyler said that John can have keys if he wants and that they were never withheld from him.

Jay Sharpe stated that his neighbor has not cleaned up his property and that his fence is falling apart. Tyler stated that Andrew, the Code and Zoning Officer, stated that they had cleaned up the property. Jay Sharpe said there is a vehicle without doors.

Jay Shuman stated that Ashley Branoff was not a working supervisor. Jamie explained that being Treasurer made her a working supervisor and that people can be a Secretary, Treasurer, and other positions and that counts as a working supervisor. Jay Shuman disagreed. Jamie stated that this is straight from PSATS and Haileigh gave examples of other townships that have supervisors in these roles. It was brought up again about Ashley's vacation time being paid out. Jamie explained that there was no policy in place, so Ashley had a right to that time. Tyler stated that the auditors made the decision. Haileigh stated that the auditors checked with PSATS and that was how it was to be done since there was no policy in place. Sonny confirmed.

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Dave seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm
Minutes completed by Jamie Kensinger

Chair Signature______________________________

Vice Chair Signature______________________________

Roadmaster Signature______________________________