



HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA Regular Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2026

The Board of Supervisors of Hopewell Township met on May 4, 2026 at 7:00pm. The meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the meeting would be recorded.

Present: Ed Hoover, Ted Diehl, John Cover, Bedrudin Becirovic, Jenny Hart, Jamie Kensinger

Agenda Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Minutes: John stated that he had reviewed the April 6, 2026 minutes and initially moved to approve them as written. Before action was completed, Harold Bender raised objections and requested revisions to the minutes. Harold alleged John should have recused himself from a prior vote regarding a public gathering permit because of an association with his car show at the motocross property, and also alleged that an ethnic or religious slur had been made by John during the prior meeting in connection with a discussion about obtaining a better price on township equipment. Harold demanded that the matter be investigated, that an apology be made, and that the alleged statement be reflected in the minutes, as well as John's personnel file.

John responded that he was invited to put on a car show at the motocross site, but that the motocross handled the permit aspect of the preparations. He stated that he did not know what alleged slur was being referenced and said that if he had said something improper, he apologized, but he did not know what statement Harold was referring to.

Jamie noted that minutes are a summary and not a word-for-word transcript. Ted then requested several specific amendments to the April 6 draft minutes, including clarification that the public gathering permit fee discussed was \$100 per day rather than per event; inclusion of his concerns about the Mahindra tractor as a safety risk; clarification regarding a reference to firehouse funding and tires; more detail on options presented for bleachers and benches; clarification that a discussion about chaining off an area referred to the end of the walking trail near the sewer treatment plant; and use of first and last names where individuals were referenced.

Following discussion, the Board agreed that the minutes could be tabled so the requested revisions and review could be looked into before approval. Bedrudin noted that the draft minutes would remain accessible under Right-to-Know rules even though not approved as they had been spoken about.

Ted motioned to table approval of the April 6, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting minutes until the June meeting so updates, review, and any investigation could be completed. Ed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Boat Launch: Ted reported on the proposed boat launch on East Creek Road. He explained that a trust owning approximately 15 acres had approached conservation partners about donating approximately one acre to the Township for a boat launch. The Board of Supervisors had visited the Bridgewater Road launch for comparison and met with representatives from the Cumberland County Conservation Organization, county planning, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Ted stated that the project appeared to meet the criteria for grant funding. The anticipated structure was that the Fish and Boat Commission would fund approximately 50% of the cost and another county/conservation grant source would cover the remaining 50%, leaving little or no out-of-pocket cost to the Township. The land itself would be donated. The Township would, however, be required to enter into a 25-year maintenance agreement for the launch, which was described as roughly the expected life of the facility. Maintenance would include mowing, weed trimming, general upkeep, and similar responsibilities, likely through the Township's Park.

Because the proposed parcel would be approximately one acre and the Township generally requires at least 1.5 acres for subdivision, Ted explained that a conditional use process would be needed. The goal was to have the Planning Commission review the matter in May and return it to the Board of Supervisors in June so grant deadlines could be met.

Several residents discussed concerns. Gary Gates asked about liability insurance. It was explained that the township was not at that point yet, but they would utilize EMC for the insurance, as it would be similar to the park. Todd Beam asked the board to consider that the space may turn into a drug activity spot and if the space would be monitored. Tim Madeiros asked about where the boat access would be in reference to the bridge that will be worked on. Ed said that they were not sure at this time. Tim asked about parking. It was stated that parking access would be added. Jay Shuman asked how many feet from the road the boat launch would be. Ed said it would be around 80ft. Ed stated that there would be 2-4 parking spots. Ted explained that the property is being donated by a trust. Marilyn Zinn asked what would happen if the grant was not awarded to the township. Ted stated that they have all the markers for it to be approved.

The Board explained that the proposed facility would be a small, low-impact launch for canoes and kayaks, similar to Bridgewater Road, with only a few parking spaces, signage, and a launch mat or stabilized access area. Larger rocks and engineered features were discussed as methods to reduce washout and improve habitat. Ed noted that, at this stage, the Township had no financial investment and that the project was being brought forward by experienced conservation partners who had completed similar launches elsewhere. If grants were not approved, the Township would not be obligated to proceed.

Some attendees expressed reservations about the location and possible misuse, while others stated that the project would be a positive amenity and should be pursued, especially because the proposed launch would extend the Conodoguinet water trail and provide a western access point. Abner Zook stated that he may not use it, but he is in favor of the boat launch being pursued.

Ted motioned to move forward with the boat launch process, including the necessary conditional use and Planning Commission paperwork. John seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rosenberry's Biofilter Tank Replacement: John reported that the Township's septic/biofilter system at the shed was not functioning properly and had been operating in a limited condition. He explained that internal components intended to fill and tip were broken, causing overflow issues. The Township had received one bid from Rosenberry's Superior Septic Systems in the amount of \$17,804.

John stated that he had attempted to obtain additional bids but that other contractors either did not perform this type of work or would only install new systems rather than remove and repair an existing used system. He noted that once the sewer pipe leaves the building wall, many contractors will not work on it, and the removal process can involve DEP-related contamination and soil handling requirements. The Board also noted that Rosenberry's would need to pump the system regardless.

John stated that the matter had previously been discussed with DEP and that DEP had allowed the Township time to address the issue, but the repair needed to proceed. The expenditure was described as budgeted rather than emergency spending.

John motioned to accept the bid from Rosenberry's Superior Septic Systems for the biofilter tank/septic repair in the amount of \$17,804. Ted seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Treasurer Report – Jenny reported revenue of \$342,024.01 and expenses of \$253,702.49, leaving net revenue of \$88,321.52 for the reporting period. She noted that the financial report might appear to show a duplicate \$43,000 expense to EMC Insurance. She explained that the original check had been lost in the mail, and the Township learned of the issue after receiving notice that insurance coverage could be canceled. A bank transfer was then made. The Township did not pay the amount twice; the prior reporting reflected the original expected payment, but that had been voided.

Jenny also reported a successful resolution with BrightSpeed. The Township had been charged tax despite being tax exempt since March of 2025. Jenny stated that after she and Jamie's repeated calls and emails, they reached the company's tax director. BrightSpeed agreed to refund \$487.00 in taxes paid to date and provide approximately two months of service credit, estimated at about \$400, for the inconvenience. The Board thanked Jenny and Jamie for pursuing the matter.

Jenny provided a budget update, noting that the Township had spent approximately 23% of its budget, up from 17% the prior month. Most large equipment purchases had been completed, with approximately \$8,000 still expected for a broom attachment. The Board also clarified that "WillyGoat" on the report referred to bleachers and musical equipment for the park.

John reported that General Tree Service had removed 34 stumps and a dead oak tree near the maintenance shed and park area, improving mowing and safety.

John motioned to approve payment of the bills and the accounts of revenues and expenditures for the month of April. Ed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jenny then recommended transferring funds back into savings. She explained that \$160,000 had previously been moved from savings to checking for equipment purchases. Of that amount, \$141,258 plus change had been spent, with approximately \$8,000 still expected for the broom. The remaining amount from that transfer was approximately \$9,741.06. In addition, due to recent revenue, the checking account balance was approximately \$399,000, while the Township typically keeps about \$150,000 in checking. She recommended moving \$249,059.62 from checking back to savings.

John motioned to transfer \$249,059.62 from checking into savings. Ted seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning/Permits Report – Jamie reported that 10 zoning and land use permits had been issued for the month.

Fire Department – Noone Present

Shippensburg EMS – Noone Present

Park & Recreation – Susan Hoover reported that Park and Recreation was finalizing the inaugural Family Fun Run scheduled for May 31 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the park. As of the meeting, 32 families had signed up. The event will include a one-mile fun run or walk, face painting, food trucks, and small treats for participants who finish. Registration is available online, but participants may also register on the day of the event.

Susan also reported that Park and Recreation was working with the supervisors and park personnel on placement of the new musical equipment purchased for the park. The group was also deciding where to place the gaga pit planned as an Eagle Scout project. Ted identified the Eagle Scout as Lucas Stahlman and thanked him for his work. The project is expected to begin in early June.

New Business:

Ed announced that an executive session had been held on April 10, 2026 with legal advisors regarding legal matters.

Road Bid Advertisement: John stated that the Township needed authorization to prepare and advertise for road bids, primarily for tar and chip work. He said he intended to have measurements prepared and to consult Rick Levan to finalize bid quantities.

Roads discussed included Fox Hill Road from Ridge Road down toward the bridge area, a section from the bridge project area toward Booz Road, and a short section of Three Square Hollow Road near the Mountain Lane/Clay Hill area. John explained that Fox Hill Road had significant cracking, especially toward Ridge Road, and that tar and chip could help preserve it before more costly paving became necessary. He also noted that the Township had many culverts needing attention, so the road program needed to be balanced against culvert work.

A resident asked about the bridge replacement schedule. The Board stated that the project was expected to begin soon and be completed by approximately October 1. There was discussion that school buses would need to be rerouted, but that one lane might remain open for vehicles, although residents were advised to avoid the area if possible.

Another resident raised concern about a deep hole in the road near the Hart property. John said the Township was aware of it, had filled it multiple times, and would continue working on it.

John motioned to obtain prices and advertise for tar and chip road bids for the summer road work program. Ed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Matters: John recommended moving Eric Hockenberry into a full-time park lead role. He stated that Eric had taken ownership of the park work, proactively identified needs, rebuilt restroom fixtures, performed electrical and mechanical repairs, handled welding and maintenance work, built trash can structures, serviced equipment, and contributed to planning for new park amenities. John stated that the Township had spent months looking for someone capable of taking responsibility for the park and that Eric had proven to be reliable and valuable.

The Board discussed whether the position would remain active during winter months. John and Ed stated that the role would not be limited to mowing and would include township-wide work, maintenance, repairs, picnic table construction, equipment service, park inspections, possible snow work in non-CDL vehicles, and other projects. Ed emphasized that the goal was to treat park employees as township employees and to use their skills across Township needs.

Ted asked about hours and overtime. John stated that full-time status would require at least 32 hours per week, with current needs likely closer to 40 hours during the growing season. He stated that overtime was not intended except for unusual circumstances such as major snow events and would require approval by the Roadmaster.

Melvin Beam asked whether it would be cheaper to hire a contractor for park work rather than pay benefits. John responded that the Township already owns significant equipment and that a contractor might mow but would not address daily restroom cleaning, trash removal, repairs, inspections, equipment maintenance, cemetery mowing, sewer plant mowing, bridge cleaning, banner and flag installation support, and other recurring duties. The Board stated that doing more work in-house also reduces outside maintenance costs. The Board and residents discussed the value and cost of maintaining the park, with several comments noting that the park is heavily used and that maintaining its reputation requires investment.

John motioned to designate Eric Hockenberry as full-time park lead, moving his status to full-time at his current hourly rate. Ted seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

John recommended moving Jenny from her 90-day probationary period to full-time status. He praised her work, including her financial reporting, grant work, and coordination with office staff. Ted also thanked Treasurer Hart and stated that her grant work and financial skills had been very valuable.

Ted noted that she had reviewed wage information from other townships and believed Treasurer Hart might be undercompensated compared with similar municipal treasurer positions. The Board agreed not to adjust wages at that moment but stated that compensation would be discussed at an upcoming workshop and revisited for possible action at the June meeting.

John motioned to remove Jenny from her 90-day probationary period and move her to full-time Treasurer status for Hopewell Township. Ted seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jenny confirmed that she accepted the position and wished to remain with the Township.

John stated that the remaining personnel matters, including Sondra, Greg, and the cost-of-living adjustment, should be tabled for further discussion. The Board stated that it would discuss wages, part-time positions, and related personnel matters at a workshop and bring the items back in June. A resident asked whether any eventual wage adjustment would be retroactive since the issue had been tabled since January; the Board said that would be part of the upcoming discussion.

John motioned to table the matters involving Sondra, Greg, and the cost-of-living adjustment until the June meeting. Ted seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Highlights: John provided monthly highlights for April. He reported that the splash pad had been power washed multiple times and would be sealed with a non-slip coating because of prior slipping concerns. The pavilions, including tables, had been power washed and cleaned. He stated that the restrooms were being maintained to a much higher standard.

The musical equipment had been delivered and would be installed once placement was finalized. The park tractor was scheduled to receive the broom attachment. The Township had used broom equipment to sweep stones from the walking trail and intersections, reducing loose stone at road intersections, though rain can bring additional material back onto the roads. General Tree Service removed the dead tree behind the maintenance shed and ground 34 stumps around the walking trail and park areas. Four pussy willow trees donated by a resident were planted. Crabgrass control was applied at a cost of approximately \$1,400, significantly less than prior costs. The Township also continued to develop a list of culverts, trees, and brush needing attention.

For Bulky Waste Day on April 11, Jamie reported that tire disposal cost \$280.94 and scrap metal produced \$171 in income, nearly offsetting the tire cost.

John also reported that new disc golf flags had been installed. Mr. Sensenig volunteered to install the flags at no charge, with the Township paying approximately \$201 for the flags at cost. The Board expressed appreciation for the volunteer work.

General Public Comment:

Todd asked whether sewer authority representatives could attend the Board of Supervisors meetings and provide monthly reports. Ed stated that regular updates would be helpful. Discussion followed about sewer authority operations, the need for public transparency, potential future costs for sewer plant upgrades, unpaid customer accounts, municipal liens, and the difficulty and expense of collection actions. The Board stated that it would contact the sewer authority representatives.

John also reported that the sewer tanks at the park had recently been pumped and that they had not been pumped since approximately 2021 or 2022. He stated that the Township would ensure they are pumped annually going forward.

Residents also discussed concerns regarding biosolids, food processing residuals, and agricultural spreading or storage of such materials. Nikki Urban reported that a video meeting was being arranged with Barb Gleim's office and possibly Senator Rothman to discuss these issues and asked whether the Township could publicize the meeting. The Board agreed that once a date and flyer were available, the meeting could be posted on the Township website and Facebook. Residents expressed concerns about odors, runoff, seasonal streams, and the limited authority of townships under state agricultural and environmental regulations. The Board encouraged residents to continue communicating with state representatives because local authority is limited.

Ed announced upcoming meetings and events:

- Parks & Rec. Board Meeting – **June 10 @ 7:00pm**
- Planning Commission Meeting – **May 21 @ 6:30pm (Pending New Business)**
- BOS Meeting – **June 1 @ 7:00pm**
- Gun & Cash Bash – **May 23 @ 11-6:00pm**
- Fun Run – **May 31 @ 4-6:00pm**
- OFFICE CLOSED: **May 19 – Election Day**
- OFFICE CLOSED: **May 25 – Memorial Day**

Adjournment

John motioned to adjourn the May meeting. Ed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Minutes compiled by Jamie Kensinger & ClerkMinutes

Chair Signature_____

Vice Chair Signature_____

Roadmaster Signature_____