HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA
Workshop Minutes – March 23, 2026

The Board of Supervisors of Hopewell Township met on March 23, 2026 at 7:00am.
It was noted that the meeting would be recorded.

Present: Ed Hoover, John Cover, Jamie Kensinger
Public Present: Jay Shuman, Susan Hoover, Harold Bender

Workshop Purpose: Ed explained that the board decided to hold workshops in order to discuss business outside of the monthly evening meetings. He said that they will not be making decisions at the workshops and that it would be more of a fact-finding time, but it allows for them to have more transparency with the public.

Discussion Items:

Public Works:

- **Equipment/Repair Needs:** John stated that the Mahendra tractor is on its last leg, so they have been searching for different options. Some of the options were Forresters at $48,898.64, Bob Cat at $57,056.00, John Deere at $56,154.87, and Kubota at $55,825.00. John spoke about Sourcewell and how they provide the township with the lowest price and eliminate the need for bids, similar to Costars.

  John said that the board is also looking at Small Articulating Loaders (SAL). The options he presented were Bob Cat at $79,326.00 and Avant at $112,340.80. He explained that this would be a great addition for cleaning gutters, clearing stones, etc. John stated that the Bob Cat with the mower and broom has been budgeted for. He spoke about the attachments and the benefits and how long it takes to get the equipment.

  John stated that Hometown Heroes is coming up soon and that he also was looking into safety cages that attach to forklifts. He showed the pricing for those and there were options under $900.00. He said that they have to rent one twice a year and purchasing one would save money. He explained other tasks that will be easier due to having the safety cage.

  Jay asked questions about the horsepower for the tractor. John said it would be 55 horsepower.

  John and Ed explained that the Mahendra will be used at the park. John explained that everything is maintained.

Planning & Zoning:

- **Subdivision/Land Development Applications:** Jamie said that the Kalb Property Subdivision is ready for next steps. Ed said they will need to sit down with the lawyers. Jamie said that Jenny did pay the Planning Commission bill and let the Kalb's know how much they owe.

  John stated that Mr. Duncan passed away so that property will be cleaned up.

  Ed said there have been complaints in the Village Residential Area about people having farm animals.

  Jamie said there were two Zoning and Land Use permits the prior week.

  Jay asked about the 500+ acres in Village Residential and stated that there are less acres in the borough. He asked questions about the sewer authority and their grant(s). He said there is no follow up with the sewer authority. Jay said that the township will need to meet certain obligations if the sewer falls short. Ed said he would like to have them come in to have a discussion some Monday morning.

- **Planning & Zoning Updates -** None

Administration:

- **Secretary/Office Manager Updates:** Jamie told the supervisors she had trash toters that needed to be delivered.
- **Treasurer Updates:** Jamie said that there were some checks that needed to be signed.
- **Supervisor Updates:** John stated the Mr. Sensing recommended bicycle flags for the Disc Golf course. Mr. Sensing said he would figure out how to put numbers on them and volunteered to put them up at the park. John also said that the office is working on ways to allow volunteers. John said that the splash pad has been pressure washed,

cleaned up, and will be sealed. He said that they are working on fertilizer for the park, buying stakes for the culverts, and they will be replacing and repairing signs. Jay said there are bridges that need attention. Ed and John both agreed. Jay said that guardrails are needed. Ed stated that he met with the township engineering firm about the findings on the bridges during the inspections.

Susan said she is happy about the Disc Golf being addressed as they are used. John provided more details on the improvements.

Ed provided details on working with the solicitor and the insurance company on permitting volunteers by utilizing waivers.

Harold asked if electric bikes were addressed because people are using them on the walking trail.

- **Public Gathering Permit:** Ed stated that the board has been looking into the Public Gathering permits and found the original ordinance that addressed anything over 750 people. He said that they are looking into going back to the original ordinance.

- **Pay Analysis:** Jamie presented the pay analysis. She reached out to second class townships around Hopewell Township. She went over the multiple roles at the township and showed percentile rank, median gap, average gap, range (min and max), and interquartile range (IQR). The findings were that Hopewell lands between the 25th-40th percentile, many positions fall below both the average and the median, and several peer townships offer substantially higher wages for identical roles. Jamie noted that adjustments make sense when looking at retention, recruitment, consistency & equity, and future proofing. She stated that proactive adjustments prevent future problems. Ed thanked Jamie for her time and effort in doing the pay analysis. (PowerPoint is included).

- **Park Business:** Jamie said that she knew that the Park and Recreation Board is interested in musical playground equipment so she put together some options for them. The set the Park & Recreation Board presented at their meeting was $25,102.35 for 5 pieces. Jamie presented other options based on budged constraints. Jamie stated that the Park Development budget category had $22,414 remaining. She explained that this amount was for all park development – Gaga Pit, Bocce Ball, upgrades to the ball fields, benches, bleachers, etc. Susan stated that she thought there were great options in what Jamie provided. She asked for Jamie to send her the slide so she could share it with the Park & Recreation Board. Ed and John agreed that it would be better to get less and see if it is used. Susan agreed.

  Jamie presented the options for benches and bleachers for the park. John presented the idea of building benches to save money. The moveable bleachers would be used for the ball fields.

  Susan was asked where the Park & Rec. Board wanted the Gaga Pit. She said that they would be doing their yearly park walk soon and they would discuss it. They would also discuss placement for the musical playground equipment. Ed stated that their priority to figure out the accurate property lines of the park.

  John mentioned that new swings may need to be ordered. Ed agreed that this is something that may need to be looked into.

  Susan asked if Lucas and Kristi should be invited to the Park & Rec. meeting since Lucas will be doing the Gaga pit. Jamie said she would get Susan Kristi's contact info.

  Ed asked Jamie to look into companies that could move the backstop for the baseball field because it needs to be moved. Jay said that it was put in probably 40 years ago. Harold said that the organization was from somewhere near Philadelphia. Jay said that they probably are not in business anymore. John said that Jenny is working on grants and maybe there is a grant that could go toward that.

  Harold said that there has never been an open discussion with supervisors before. John complimented Eric for the work that he is doing at the park. Ed and John explained that there is a lot going on in the office and Ed went on to say that everyone in the office is working together well. Ed said the responsibilities in the township are growing. He said people asked if they really need two people in the office and he said that they actually need three some days because of all the growing responsibilities. He said that they are surrounding themselves with people that do good work without constant direction. John agreed.

- **Handbook –** Tabled

Public Comment: None

Ed adjourned the meeting at 9:06am
Minutes compiled by Jamie Kensinger

Chair Signature_____

Vice Chair Signature_____

Roadmaster Signature_____