

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Monday, August 11, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ksiazek called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2) Roll Call

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Quirple called roll. Supervisors Ksiazek, Hannah, Kane, and Strouse were in attendance. Also present were Township Manager Eden Ratliff, Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla, Solicitor James Esposito, Township Engineer Dominic Cundari, Police Chief Joseph Bartorilla, Director of Building and Zoning Jim Ennis, Director of Finance Laura Hucklebridge, and Director of Parks & Recreation Paul Kopera.

3) Upcoming Meetings

- a) Next Board of Supervisors Meeting – Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
- b) Capital Planning Workshop – Monday, August 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Raymond P. Mongillo Community Center, 2140 Trenton Road, Levittown, PA 19056.

4) Special Items

- a) Summer Recreation Program Charity Carwash presentation benefiting Fostering Hope Lower Bucks

The Summer Recreation Program proudly announced a record fundraising total of \$2,175, raised by campers from all three sites and presented to Fostering Hope Lower Bucks.

Core Creek Park Camp Supervisor Carol Garner credited personal donations, a successful charity car wash, and the "Kids Helping Kids" initiative for making a real impact in supporting local foster children. She noted the program's focus on building friendships, creativity, outdoor exploration, and learning, and described a long-standing tradition where campers receive a penny with a craft to grow through fundraising—benefiting charities such as the Bucks County SPCA, American Red Cross, Ronald McDonald House Camp, Sunshine Foundation, and Fostering Hope.

After visiting Fostering Hope's facility, the program chose to support them again this year, with representatives teaching campers about foster care. Sarah Burstein of Fostering Hope thanked the campers and staff, emphasizing that every dollar directly provides essentials and special gifts for children in foster care.

Mr. Ksiazek also expressed his gratitude to the campers and Parks and Recreation staff for their efforts.

5) Public Comment – Non Agenda Items

Chris Nowakowski, 29 Alberts Way, cited Grover Cleveland's quote, "A public office is a public trust," to accuse Middletown's Tax Collector and Republican Committee chair of breaching that trust by retaining a member alleged to have engaged in hate speech, despite earlier bipartisan condemnation.

6) Consent Agenda Items

- a) Consideration of authorizing payment of August 11, 2025, Bills List in the amount of \$2,419,959.00.
- b) Consideration of approving the July 14, 2025, Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors.
- c) Consideration of approving Change Order #1 for the North Flowers Mill Drainage Project in the amount of negative \$11,620.00 for reduced quantities.
- d) Consideration of approving Payment Certificate #1 (final) for the North Flowers Mill Drainage Project in the amount of \$103,186.40 to James D. Morrissey, Inc.

Action: Ms. Quirple made a motion to approve the consent agenda items A-D, seconded by Ms. Hannah. A motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

7) Consideration of authorizing a contract with Armour & Sons Electric for purchase and installation of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) pedestrian signal at the intersection of Langhorne-Yardley Road and Maple Point Drive.

Nick Valla, Assistant Township Manager, requested authorization for signal components for the "Maple Point Crossing," a pedestrian push-button rectangular rapid flashing beacon—similar to the one at Middletown Community Park—to be installed on Langhorne Yardley Road near Maple Point Drive.

Mr. Valla explained that the Township earned a Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) in 2023 for the purpose of adding a pedestrian signal to the existing crosswalk on Langhorne-Yardley Road near Maple Point Drive in the amount of \$146,283.

He noted that Armour and Sons will handle the purchase and installation of the signal components, and that related pavement work, including curb ramps and markings, was approved in May under the road improvement program.

Mr. Valla noted a missing item for maintenance and traffic protection adding approximately \$3,000, bringing the total cost under consideration to \$133,651.

Ms. Kane asked why the Maple Point Crossing wasn't included with the Briggs Road crossing being installed as part of the new elementary school construction.

Mr. Valla explained that the Briggs Road crossing is part of PennDOT's Langhorne-Yardley Road improvements, which end near Briggs Road, while the Maple Point Crossing lies outside those limits and is therefore a separate project the Township is taking on.

Mr. Ksiazek expressed his personal support for this project, noting that residents have long requested it and he's pleased to see it moving forward.

Action: Mr. Ksiazek made a motion to authorize a contract with Armour & Sons Electric for the purchase and installation of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon pedestrian signal at Langhorne-Yardley Road and Maple Point Drive in the amount of \$133,651.00, seconded by Ms. Strouse. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

8) Update from Township Manager Eden Ratliff.

Mr. Ratliff reflected on his first month as Township Manager, showing appreciation to staff for their warm welcome and teamwork. He emphasized listening and learning about the Township's culture, priorities, and master plans to inform strategic planning and capital allocation.

He highlighted and reported on the following key areas: (1) Oxford Valley Mall: Engaging with Simon Properties to align the board and community's vision for the property's future; (2) Fire and EMS services: Supporting volunteer and career responders, exploring enhanced regional collaboration, and ensuring statutory responsibilities are met; (3) Transparency: Publishing full agenda packets and exploring public workshops, FAQs, and staff presentations to improve engagement; (4) Budget development: Preparing a strategic, balanced budget aligned with comprehensive and master plans, noting the current operational deficit of nearly \$3 million and the need for long-term planning for capital projects.

Next steps include continuing relationship-building, organizing the Township Manager's office developing a work plan, and presenting a budget that reflects the board's priorities

Mr. Ksiazek thanked Mr. Ratliff for his update, expressed appreciation for his work so far, and looked forward to continuing to collaborate moving forward.

9) Other Business.

Mr. Valla reported that about 180 letters were sent to Langhorne Gables residents regarding an upcoming major stormwater project. He noted that an open-house meeting for the public, with Township engineers available to answer questions, will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Raymond P. Mongillo Community Center, 2140 Trenton Road, Levittown, PA 19056.

Mr. Valla congratulated Liz Martin, Township Public Information Officer (PIO), on the birth of her baby girl last week. He announced that Nicole Tener from the Parks and Recreation Department will be stepping into cover her duties during Ms. Martin's maternity leave.

Dominic Cundari, Township Engineer, noted that plans are available for signatures after the meeting.

Mr. Esposito announced that the Board of Supervisors held an executive session prior to this meeting discussing ongoing personnel and litigation matters.

Mr. Ratliff congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department on a successful summer camp for hundreds of children and praised the Police Department for a highly attended National Night Out, the largest in Bucks County.

He acknowledged the resignation of Executive Assistant Ashley Casey, thanking her for her excellent service, and celebrated Fire Chief Don Harris's retirement after over four years of leadership and dedication to the Township and a lifetime dedicated to fire services in Bucks County.

Ms. Quirple shared that she attended National Night Out and noted it was very well attended, with the organizers doing a fantastic job.

Ms. Hannah thanked Ms. Casey for her service, commended the strong turnout at National Night Out, and remarked on Ms. Tener's visible involvement around the township.

Mr. Ksiazek echoed congratulations to Ms. Martin and Mr. Harris, expressed that Ms. Casey will be greatly missed, and thanked her for her contributions to Middletown Township and the community.

10) Adjournment.

Ms. Strouse moved to adjourn the public meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors' public meeting at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Ms. Kane. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.