

**HICKORY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
May 4, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Hickory Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Christopher J. Fabian.

Supervisors Present: Christopher J. Fabian
Michael E. Hall
Randy L. Brown

Staff Present: Lisa Schlemmer - Secretary/Treasurer

Other Attendees: Mark Barnes Kathy Abranovich
Tom Houston Wayne Patterson
Gary Finley

Supervisor Brown made a motion to accept the April regular meeting minutes without correction. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

The April Treasurer's Report was read. Supervisor Hall made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay all regular bills, incoming bills and payroll. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried.

Building Permits: None.

Announcements: Supervisor Fabian announced that the Board of Supervisors held an execution session directly after the April 6, 2026 meeting from 7:28 to 8:00 PM, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, to discuss litigation and personnel issues. No official action was taken during the executive session.

On May 7, 2026 People Gas will begin a gas line replacement project. Areas involved include Eastbrook Road from the Township building to Sunview Drive, Rodgers Road, Taylor Road and Cutoff Road.

Public Comments: Tom Houston asked the Township to hound PennDOT about replacing the bridge on Eastbrook Neshannock Falls Road. He lives beside the bridge and said that there are large chunks missing from the bridge structure. He said that PennDOT put off replacing the SR 168 bridge until they had to shut it down and inconvenience the entire Township. The bridge has been on the repair list since at least the SR 168 bridge replacement. Supervisor Hall has stopped PennDOT representatives multiple times and physically taken them to view the deteriorating condition of the bridge. The last update the Township had on the bridge was that it was on the list for engineering review and planning.

Kathy Abranovich voiced her concern about certain Supervisors fulfilling their duties. They are never seen working in the Township or at Township buildings, and are only seen once a month at the monthly meeting. She asked them a number of questions: 1) Who has read the Second Class Township Code?; 2) Who has attended the PSATS Boot Camp?; 3) What are they doing to deserve the \$60,000.00 in annual health insurance that the Township pays on their behalf? She said that Mike Hall cannot do everything by himself and that they should be stepping up. If the other Supervisors are not available, then they should hire someone to help Hall out with the work. Supervisor Brown said he agreed. Abranovich said that as a previous Supervisor she knows that there is not much to do, but they need to be doing it. Supervisor Fabian said that the Township shopped around for comparable insurance premiums.

Mark Barnes inquired about creating another access point along Eastbrook Road that would be easier for farm equipment to get in and out of fields. Mr. Barnes was directed to contact PennDOT to obtain a Highway Occupancy Permit to create any new access point along a state owned roadway.

Mark Barnes asked what the zoning regulations are regarding discharging firearms in the Township. He complained about people shooting all types of guns saying that he feared for people's safety. He believes that the perpetrators are multiple homeowners along Eastbrook Road spanning from Jon Sweet's old schoolhouse building down to Hickory Drive. Mr. Barnes was not comfortable specifically identifying the shooters. He claims that there are a number of people shooting all the time, even after dark. He has warned the farmer that if he hears gun shots he should exit the property expeditiously. Mr. Barnes was informed that this is not a zoning issue and is a matter for the Pennsylvania State Police to investigate. Mr. Barnes said that he contacted the PSP years ago and they came out to investigate.

The shooting stopped for 2 weeks, but ramped back up thereafter. There are multiple shooting ranges in and around the Township. There is no reason that people cannot explore and use safe shooting ranges. Mr. Barnes thinks that the Game Commission put in a free fun gun range in Wexford and asked if the Township could ask the PA Game Commission to construct a shooting range in Lawrence County. Supervisor Fabian said that he would look into it.

Mark Barnes asked if the sewer authority could put something up on their sewer line to stop the four wheelers from riding through fields and trespassing on his property. A gate was put up at one point, but trespassers cut the gate posts to the ground. Mr. Barnes was informed that gating along the sewer line right-of-way has to be addressed with the Lawrence Hickory Municipal Authority. Naturally, any trespassing or property damage claims should be reported to the Pennsylvania State Police for investigation and enforcement. A short discussion continued about the problematic area referred to as "the caves" and ongoing enforcement efforts.

New Business: The Final Plan No. 2 Subdivision and Lot Consolidation for Proch and Kirkwood was reviewed as submitted. DEP form *Request for Planning Waiver and Non-Building Declaration* accompanies this plan for the lot identified as Lot 191-3-A which shall expressly be used for agriculture purposes. The Hickory Township Planning Commission reviewed said Plan and attached documentation at their April 16, 2026 meeting and recommended approval. Supervisor Hall made the motion to approve the Plan. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Hall made a motion to approve the payment of two (2) Bill McCandless Ford invoices totaling \$2,748.05 for service of the 2020 Ford F-550 truck. Said services were required for the truck to pass inspection. Motion seconded by Supervisor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried.

Culvert pipes along Lakewood Road were found to be clogged again this Spring with stones and leaf debris. The Township had to have a vacuum truck come out to clear the pipes. Supervisor Hall made a motion to approve the Wilson Excavating & Utility Construction, LLC invoice in the amount of \$2,400.00 for the vacuum truck service. Supervisor Fabian seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Residents are reminded not to push stones, leaves, sticks, and any other debris into the ditch line along the road.

Supervisor Fabian made a motion to accept the resignation of Jason Medure, Esquire as Township Solicitor. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried. Attorney Medure has served as Township Solicitor since April 2, 2018. The Township thanked him for his service and wishes him well in all future endeavors.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to appoint James W. Manolis, Esquire as the new Township Solicitor. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Lawrence County Fair requested Special Occasion Permit approval letters to sell alcohol at 2026 events held at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. Supervisor Hall asked if the Lights Fest had paid the delinquent amusement taxes for 2023, 2024 and 2025. The Secretary confirmed that the delinquency was cured in February. Supervisor Hall made a motion to issue approval letters for the following events: Lights Fest on Saturday, May 30th; and the Annual Lawrence County Fair week from August 17th-22nd. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Coachmen Club requested a Special Occasion Permit approval letter to sell alcohol at their 34th annual gun raffle event at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds on June 27, 2026. Supervisor Hall made a motion to issue the approval letter as requested. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Hall made a motion to pass Resolution #2026-10 appointing Township agents for PennDOT ECMS/RAS administration and authorizing those agents to electronically sign various forms, clearances and agreements, upload supporting documentation and operate the PennDOT ECMS and RAS systems. Motion seconded by Supervisor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Hall made a motion to pass Resolution #2026-11 authorizing either Supervisor Hall or the Secretary to sign PennDOT Reimbursement Agreement #R26110010 for NBIS Bridge Inspections for 2026-2031 as well as any supporting form(s), document(s) or certification(s) as may be required by PennDOT. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received a resident complaint in late April about tractor trailers using engine brake retarders along SR 108 from Laurel High School to Croton. The Township requested PennDOT view the area and/or to perform traffic studies along SR 108 in 2018 and 2019, and readdressed the matter in 2020 and 2022. SR 108 was deemed ineligible due to road grading and bends given the topography, speed limits and crash history. Kathy Abranovich said that she recalled PennDOT rejecting the Township's requests for no jake brakes along SR 108 when she was a Supervisor. Supervisor Fabian said that he had requested PennDOT traffic studies along SR 108 for the City of New Castle. He was advised by a PennDOT representative that SR 108 is not eligible for engine brake retarder approval from SR 19 all the way through the City of New Castle.

Supervisor Hall made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 P.M. Motion seconded by Supervisor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried.