

KISKIMINETAS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2026
7 pm

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Supervisors Long, Hilliard, Birch, and Ross-Present
Supervisor Tardivo-Absent

Also Present:

Solicitor Fritz, Township Manager Murray, Sgt. Tessmer, Austin Kepis (on behalf of Engineer Lenhart)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Motion)

Motion to approve-Supervisor Birch
Second- Supervisor Long
Approved-Unanimous

TREASURERS REPORT

Motion to approve-Long
Second- Birch
Approved-Unanimous

PAYABLE VOUCHER LIST

Motion to approve-Long
Second- Birch
Approved-Unanimous

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR FRITZ –

No report

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER LENHART:

Austin Kepis on behalf of Engineer Lenhart reported that LSSE performed an inspection on the Martin Rd. Bridge to approve Eastern Gas' exemption of the weight restriction for their gas line work. Will be followed up with a post-inspection. Road Bonds were closed out for Troyer Timbering and pre-inspections were done for applications submitted by Windstream. LSSE will also be inspecting a property on Sawyer Lane for it's stormwater mechanisms and accordance with the property owner's approved stormwater plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Comments for Agenda Items Only. All comments limited to 3 minutes)

No public comment was given on agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Township Manager Murray reported the following:

Bridge inspection was conducted for Martin Rd Bridge. Concluded that Eastern Gas would be allowed to use bridge for its gas line project by adding steel plates. A post-inspection of the bridge will also be conducted once Eastern Gas' work concludes.

Agreements have been signed with CNX in regards to private property that they acquired for Right of Way and intersection improvements along the haul routes for their MAM17 and 18 well pads. Improvements include work done on a number of intersections, ROW expansions, and culvert discharges.

A consultant for CNX sent out letters and surveys regarding water testing for properties near the location of the planned MAM29 gas well and water tank storage sites, which will be off of Ross and Edmon Rd. CNX is in the process of submitting plans to the DEP for review and approval.

The Kiski Valley Water Pollution Authority has notified the Township of their boards approval of a new expanded rate resolution for 2027. This includes an increase to treatments costs of 35 cents per thousand gallons of usage. Rates will increase from \$5.50 per thousand to \$5.85 per thousand. The new rates will begin on October 1, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS:

North Apollo Police Coverage Committee

The board discussed members availability to attend meetings to negotiate a new contract. Manager Murray assured the board that he would work with them to make sure meetings accommodated the schedules of the supervisors appointed to the committee.

Supervisor Ross motioned to appoint Supervisors Hilliard and Birch to the Committee

Second: Supervisor Hilliard

Approved-Unanimously

Fall Clean-Up Days

Supervisor Ross announced that Public Works will be hosting Fall Clean-Up Days at the garage on Brownstown Rd on Friday, September 25 from 8-4 and Saturday, September 26 from 8-12. It was announced that no electronics or hazardous waste would be accepted.

No motion was needed

Boom Mower Bid

The board discussed soliciting bids for the trade in of the Township's Kubota M6-111 tractor toward Purchase of a used 2022 John Deer 6105E with a Joystick controlled 50" Rotary Tiger Brute Boom Mower attachment or it's equivalent.

Supervisor Birch asked about purchasing a different attachment for the Kubota instead of buying a new tractor. Supervisor Ross explained that because of the way that the Kubota is constructed, it would not accept the attachments necessary to adequately mow the roads and that township official have investigated making such a purchase in the past. It was stated that it could still be looked into further.

Supervisor Hilliard motioned to approve the advertisement for bids
Second-Supervisor Long
Approved-Unanimously

REPORTS:

Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Codes

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Comments on Agenda or Non Agenda accepted and limited to 3 minutes.

Bob Kneppshield of 472 Kings Rd made comments regarding unauthorized ATV use on Township roads and private property owned by absentee landowners. He accounted several interactions he had with riders and expressed frustrations with the Townships response, including one such incident where there was a delayed follow-up to a non-emergency 911 call that he had made.

Doug Sproat of 1010 State Rd. 56 discussed work that the planning commission had been entertaining regarding zoning ordinances addressing data centers. He mentioned several cases around the area and across the state where municipalities were facing difficulties with data center developments. He expressed an interest with wanting to make sure that the township had something on the books in the instance it was face with a development proposition, but needed to know that the board was interested in such efforts. Mr. Sproat mentioned that the Planning Commission would be meeting again sometime in September where further discussion could be had on the matter. Mr. Sproat also indicated that he knew of mower attachments that may work for the Township's Kubota tractor.

Jeff Hammond of 1137 Stoney Lonesome Rd expressed frustrations with the lack of maintenance on Township roads, specifically Stoney Lonesome and Blacks Hollow, which he uses to get to his home. He claimed that the ditches need to be cleaned out to handle water so that it doesn't wash out the road and allow mud to accumulate. He mentioned that he met with a PennDOT representative to report the lack of maintenance in accordance with state standards for receiving Liquid Fuel funding. He claimed that the representative stated that the minimum standards were not being met. Jeff blamed the management of Public Works employee Ron Baker for the lack of road maintenance. He wants the Public Works crew to mow along the roads and clean the ditches.

John Otto of Penn Township in Westmoreland County attended the meeting as a representative of Citizens Energy Council, an advocacy group for oil, gas, and energy development. Wanted to make himself available to the Township and help to advocate for farmers and land owners who may want to accept royalty checks from energy producers.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

Announcement-Canceling of August 26 Meeting

Supervisor Birch mentioned that he would drive Blacks Hollow and Stoney Lonesome Road to investigate Mr. Hammond's claims.

Supervisor Hilliard expressed an interest in continuing to develop a maintenance plan for Township roads now that the township has a full-time manager.

Supervisor Ross explained that the Township Manager is new and has only had a couple of weeks to acclimate to the job.

Supervisor Ross initiated a discussion about the police departments use of an unmarked vehicle. Hilliard and Long mentioned that they thought all police vehicles would be marked. Sgt. Tessmer stated that the department has always had unmarked vehicles. Before the township sold the two vehicles at auction last month, there were three unmarked vehicles. The department needs an unmarked vehicle for surveillance operations and for the transportation of high-profile subjects. The current plan is to only have one unmarked vehicle. It will be used for the supervisor car during patrol to respond to calls for assistance. Marked cars will be used for traffic detail and regular patrol. Sgt Tessmer also mentioned the County's requirements for municipal vehicle to be used for surveillance and drug work as another reason for needing an unmarked vehicle.

Sgt. Tessmer and Manager Murray discussed the development of a vehicle plan for the board to adopt as policy for giving guidance on police vehicle life and to make the vehicles last as long as possible. Placing new vehicles into lower stress roles such as being used as an unmarked vehicle could help to make them last longer. Supervisor Birch agreed with the proposition and also mentioned that it could help to get the most of the vehicles limited warranty. Sgt. Tessmer mentioned how hard regular patrol is on vehicles since they are required to be constantly idling and are driven hard when responding to calls.

Supervisor Ross commended Public Works on their work on the dirt road project on Clarks Hollow. Expressed as a desire to invest in more equipment for public works, particularly chainsaws, so that they can accomplish more tasks.

Supervisor Birch expressed a need for more public works employees, particularly summer help. Supervisor Ross indicated that the public works crew needs "funding, direction, and accountability". Manager Murray also expressed concern with the size of the public works crew mentioning that the nearly 60 miles of township road is a lot for 3 employees to handle in addition to their other responsibilities. Supervisor Hilliard mentioned potential opportunities with neighboring communities for shared equipment and mutual aid between public works departments and indicated that Young Township had previously expressed interest.

Supervisor Ross asserted that he presumes that the ATV activity mentioned during public comment was from non-residents. Hilliard asked if there was anything the department could do if the ATVs were being used on private property. Sgt. Tessmer indicated that the police cannot take action unless a complaint is made by the property owner. This was confirmed by Solicitor Fritz. Sgt. Tessmer mentioned that he has interacted with riders and that they were Township residents. Stated that if it was the will of the board, that his officers could be stricter regarding on road and improper ATV use, but that police action would have to be taken against all those participating in the nuisance activity, not just those who were not township residents. Board members Ross and Hilliard expressed that they don't want to punish anyone who is being respectful while they are riding.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Long
Second-Supervisor Hilliard
Unanimous-Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 PM