

Board of Supervisor Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

Washington Township, Lehigh County

Emerald, PA 18080

October 15th, 2025

Chairman Josh Friebolin called the budget workshop meeting for Washington Township, Lehigh County Board of Supervisors to order at 3:30 PM at the Washington Township Building, 7951 Center Street, Emerald, PA 18080.

Members Present- Shawn Wanamaker, Tom Dengler, Josh Friebolin

Roll Call: Shawn Wanamaker-Yes; Tom Dengler-Yes; Josh Friebolin-Yes

Also present was Manager Wade Marlatt-Yes

NEW BUSINESS: Budget discussion for 2026

Wade Marlatt, Manager gave a high-level overview of the 2026 Budget. He went over key points within the General Fund. He briefly went over the Sewer Account, Recreation Fund, State Highway Fund, and the Streetlight/Fire Fund. The radios for the fire departments were discussed. Josh questioned if we were still looking at getting relief from a grant that the fire departments. Joel Merkel (public) stated that they did make it to the second stage but have not heard a definite one way or another. He asked what we would do with the money budgeted for the radios if the grant is received. It was explained that for now we will need to budget for that expense and it can be determined later what will happen with that money. He asked why some of the COVID money wasn't used for the radios and it was explained that the money from that had to be spent by the end of last year or we would have had to give it back. Joel asked about giving more money to the fire departments. It was suggested that we give an additional \$2000.00 to each department from what was donated in 2025.

SUPERVISORS COMMENT:

- Supervisor Tom Dengler asked what we are going to do about the brush/mulch and getting rid of the mulch. We currently have a farmer that will take it but we are delivering it. Tom is concerned what will happen if that farmer doesn't want it anymore and we are also paying fuel and wages. He asked about cutting back and only being Washington Township residents dropping off brush. There is a contract in place with Walnutport and Slatington. Once that is over we can look to change. He also said there are a lot of contractors that drop off brush. Without paying someone to monitor it it is difficult to control.
- Shawn Wanamaker asked how many roads we are looking to do and how many miles have we been doing over the last several years. Wade went over the mileage and projects that have been done since 2020. We have 9.3 miles that have been identified that need to be paved. Using just liquid fuels money that would take 5-6 years. Shawn asked about Trout Road. It would be about \$5000 to chip and seal and maybe \$30000 to pave since a base would have to be put down.

- Tom reminded that Lehigh Street needs to be looked at. It is believed that there are springs under the road that has caused it to sink over the years. It isn't something the Township could handle on their own. We would need to put some sort of drain system in through the road. Engineers and contractors would need to be involved. It will not be a cheap fix.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joel Merkel asked if we were going to give the extra \$2000 to the fire department. The proposed Budget will reflect an additional \$2000 donation to each fire department.

Marilyn Snyder asked if anything was going to be done with the road that goes over the Mountain. Wade explained that he met with Penn State and LCCD to look at it and they are looking at a grant. He has not heard anything back. In the meantime we do need to go back and grade it some more to help get rid of the ruts.

Mildred Kistler asked why we are involved with the sewer and not just handled by LCA. Josh explained that we need to own it for now, but LCA handles all maintenance etc.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10/15/25 @ 4:03 PM

A motion was made by Shawn Wanamaker for adjournment and seconded by Tom Dengler.

Roll Call: Shawn Wanamaker-Yes; Tom Dengler-Yes; Josh Friebohn-Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Wade Marlatt

Manager
Washington Township, Lehigh County