

The Re-organization and Regular January meetings of the Board of Supervisors of Independence Township were both held on Monday, January 5, 2026, at the Independence Township Community Center social hall. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the Solicitor, Curt McMillen, and the assembly stood for the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Supervisors Daniel McLaughlin and John Fratangeli; Police Chief Lance Malobabich, Secretary Debra Shaffer and Solicitor Curt McMillen. Absent was Supervisor Wayne Potts.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on Agenda items.

RE-ORGANIZATION**CHAIRMAN**

Daniel McLaughlin was re-appointed Chairman with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

At this time the gavel was handed to Chairman McLaughlin.

VICE CHAIRMAN

Wayne Potts was re-appointed Vice Chairman with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Debra J. Shaffer was appointed Secretary/Treasurer with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S BOND

The Treasurer's bond was set at \$750,000.00 with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR

Curt McMillen was re-appointed as Solicitor with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR RETAINER

The Solicitor's retainer remained at \$500.00 per month with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

ENGINEER

The firm of Eads Group was appointed as engineer with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mike Price was re-appointed to the Planning Commission for four-year terms with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

ZONING HEARING BOARD MEMBER

There were no terms up on the Zoning Hearing Board.

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

J. Fratangeli made a motion to re-appoint Jeff Winkle as principal SEO; seconded by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

ALTERNATE SEOs

Dylan Winkle was appointed alternate SEOs with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

UCC BLDG. INSPECTOR

Code.sys Code Consulting, Inc. was re-appointed UCC Building Inspector with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

ZONING OFFICER

Deb Shaffer and the Eads Group were appointed as Zoning Officers with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Independence Township Police Department was appointed Code Enforcement officers with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF

Lance Malobabich was re-appointed Police Chief with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

ROADMASTER

Jeffrey Sweitzer was re-appointed Roadmaster with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

WORKING SUPERVISOR COMPENSATION

The hourly rate for working Supervisors was increased to \$24.15 per hour in accordance with the Township Supervisor's Handbook that states that the auditors are required to set a rate comparable to wages in the locality for similar services. This is pending Township Board of Auditors approval, motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin.

Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR COMPENSATION

The R.E. Tax Collector compensation for the next election year was set as 5% of taxes collected with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

VACANCY BOARD CHAIRMAN

Victor Potts was re-appointed Vacancy Board Chairman with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Mark New was re-appointed Emergency Management Coordinator with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

PENSION CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Debra Shaffer was appointed Pension Chief Administrative Officer with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

COG REPRESENTATIVE

Dan McLaughlin was appointed COG representative with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

ALTERNATE COG REP.

Wayne Potts was appointed Alternate COG representative with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA REP.

Wayne Potts was appointed ASA representative with a motion by D. McLaughlin and second by J. Fratangeli. Motion carried.

RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER

Debra Shaffer was re-appointed as Right to Know Officer with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

STATE CONVENTION VOTING DELEGATE

Debra Shaffer was appointed as the State Convention Voting Delegate. Therefore, if she attends the convention, she can vote on behalf of the Township with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

MILEAGE

The mileage amount was set at 72.5 cents, which is set by the federal standard, with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

DEPOSITORY FOR TOWNSHIP FUNDS

J. Fratangeli made the motion to retain Wesbanco Bank as depository for all township funds, seconded by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S MONTHLY MEETING SCHEULE

The Supervisor's monthly meeting schedule was set for the second Wednesday at 4 pm to be held at the Independence Twp. Community Center. Th exception will be the February meeting, which will be the first Wednesday of the month. J. Fratangeli made the motion with a second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

BEAVER COUNTY TAX COMMITTEE DELEGATE

Debra Shaffer was appointed as the Beaver County Tax Committee Delegate with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

DEPUTY REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR

Diane Palsa, Hopewell Twp. RE Tax Collector, was again named as deputy RE Tax Collector with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

REGULAR JANUARY MEETING**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the December 10, 2025, meeting was approved with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report, including payment of bills and payroll, was approved with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Road and Police monthly reports were accepted with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. The Fire Department report was unavailable and two will be provided at the next meeting. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**RATIFY PURCHASE OF NEW REFRIDGERATOR FOR COMMUNITY CENTER**

The refrigerator at the Community Center quit working last month. There were rentals and a new one needed to be purchased. It was agreed by the Board to purchase a new refrigerator from the same place where the new freezer was purchased, Allegheny Refrigeration. The cost was \$5,575.00. Because it was an emergency, it was purchased and that purchase is hereby ratified with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS**RESOLUTION #1-2026~FEE SCHEDULE**

Resolution #1-2026, the fee schedule for 2026 was approved with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin. Motion carried.

APPOINT CPA FOR 2025 AUDIT

Mark Turnley, CPA, was appointed to complete the 2025 audit with a motion by D. McLaughlin and second by J. Fratangeli. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2-2026~LIND CONSOLIDATION PLAN**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following public announcements were made:

- Auditors Re-organization Meeting – January 6th at 5:00 p.m.
- Recycle February 6th & 7th
- Next Supervisor Meeting February 4th at 4:00 p.m. at Community Center (Fire Hall)
- Chili Cookoff will be held February 28th

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Brunton wanted to thank the Road Department for a great job on the roads over New Years from the snowstorm.

The Planning Commission 2025 annual report was given to the Supervisors by Secretary/Treasurer Debra Shaffer.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Shaffer, Secretary/Treasurer