**UPPER FREDERICK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
**Business Meeting – April 9, 2026 - 7:00 PM**

**Minutes**

*Executive Summary:*
*The meeting opened with a PennDOT update on the Perkiomenville Road bridge replacement over Scioto Creek, covering the bridges poor existing condition, the proposed precast box beam design, environmental permitting, detour plans, and a target letting in November 2026 with construction likely in 2027. Public comment was dominated by a tense discussion over fire company funding and township record requests, with township officials saying an audit or investigation is needed before releasing funds while fire company representatives disputed that and said they had already provided required financial information. The board also approved advertising two ordinances, a trial of Yoga in the Park, and an operation and maintenance agreement for a septic system, while receiving routine reports on finances, police calls, fire services, public works, engineering, and reviewing upcoming meetings.*

*Attendance: Chair Bill Landman (Joined Late), Vice Chair Lisa Fischer, William Karaffa*
*Staff Attendance: Manager Aaron Walizer, Solicitor Vicki Kushto, Engineer Norm Urlich*

- Call to Order -*The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm*
- Pledge to the Flag

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

*PennDOT Bridge Replacement Update:*
*Connor Shelley of PennDOT presented the current status of the Perkiomenville Road (SR 1028) bridge replacement project over Scioto Creek, project MPMS No. 110762. He explained that the existing 1932 reinforced concrete arch bridge is in poor condition, with undermining at the foundation and a posted weight limit of 36 tons, and that the replacement is needed to safely carry existing and future traffic while maintaining hydraulic capacity.*

*Existing and Proposed Bridge Details*
- *Existing structure: 1932 reinforced concrete arch, 28-foot span, two 10-foot lanes, 4-foot shoulders.*
- *Current traffic: approximately 1,535 vehicles per day with 1% truck traffic.*
- *Projected traffic by 2048: approximately 1,733 vehicles per day.*
- *Proposed structure: precast box-beam bridge with two 11-foot lanes and two 4-foot shoulders.*
- *The new bridge is expected to be wider than the current bridge by about 2 feet.*

- *Guide rail will be replaced with current-standard rail and end treatments, with exposed metal painted brown.*

*Detour, Environmental, and Regulatory Status*

- *The official detour will be about 5 miles long, using state routes between Little Road, SR 29, and Big Road.*
- *Perkiomenville Road will remain open to local traffic except at the construction site.*
- *Environmental review under NEPA has been completed, including a bog turtle survey and review of cultural resources.*
- *The project was determined to have no effect on the Conrad Group Homestead and no impact to the nearby Phillip Group House.*
- *The bridge lies in a FEMA AE study area, but the project is not expected to increase the 100-year flood elevation.*
- *PennDOT stated the project will likely require Chapter 105 Waterway General Permit 11 from DEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*
- *Scioto Creek is classified as a trout-stocked and migratory fishery under Chapter 93, but not as a wild trout or improved trout-stocked stream by the Fish and Boat Commission.*

*Schedule and Construction Timing*

- *Final design activities began after environmental studies concluded earlier in 2026.*
- *Geotechnical work is wrapping up this quarter.*
- *Remaining work includes right-of-way acquisition, utility conflict resolution, permitting, and final design.*
- *Project letting is scheduled for November 2026.*
- *Construction is currently estimated to last one construction season after notice to proceed.*
- *PennDOT said the schedule is aggressive and unlikely to move up significantly, though minor acceleration could occur if permitting and utility work proceed quickly.*

*Questions Raised During the Discussion*

- *PennDOT confirmed the new bridge will not have a posted weight limit.*
- *The structure is designed to pass the 25-year storm; the 100-year overtopping status was not immediately available, but no increase in the 100-year flood elevation is expected.*
- *The horizontal road profile will remain the same, and the vertical profile is intended to remain approximately the same.*
- *The bridge deck will be concrete, with asphalt approaches and full-depth reconstruction up to the bridge surface.*
- *Township representatives raised concerns about emergency evacuation routing related to the nearby nuclear facility; PennDOT said it would coordinate with the township on that issue.*

- Public Comment Period

*Road and Truck Traffic Concerns:*
*A resident, Chris Ford of Clover Meadows, raised safety concerns about tractor-trailer traffic on township roads, specifically noting that large trucks have difficulty navigating sharp corners on a township road and may cut across lanes. Township officials responded that the issue had already been*

*raised with PennDOT and the state senator for the area and that further study requests had been made to remedy the issue.*

*Fire Company Funding and Records Discussion:*
*A lengthy and contentious discussion followed regarding Upper Frederick Fire Company funding and the township's request for financial documentation.*

- *Township officials stated they received what had been described as "audited" reports but determined they were actually compiled statements, not audits.*
- *The township said it had asked the fire company to obtain an audit at the fire company's expense and had also indicated that a criminal investigation could be pursued if warranted.*
- *Township leadership said the information they have concerns 10 years of records and that additional information requested over recent months still have not been answered*
- *Fire company representatives responded that they had already supplied annual itemized expenditure lists and multiple years of financial statements, and that they had attempted repeatedly to meet with township officials.*
- *The fire company argued that township funds should be released because annual reporting requirements had been met and said they were willing to cooperate with an audit, but believed the township should pay for it.*
- *The township explained that fire company tax funding is held in a dedicated account funded by real estate tax receipts and that money collected for that purpose remains in that fund.*
- *The township noted that the fire company agreed to give monthly financial statements starting in 2026 but none of those have been delivered*
- *The Township Solicitor stated that the fire company needs an independent audit or criminal investigation and Chief Jeff Steigelman stated that the fire company would like a criminal complaint submitted at the fire companies request*

## MEETING MINUTES

- Approval of the BOS April 01, 2026 Meeting Minutes -*Minutes adopted 2-0, Mr. Landman was Tardy*

## REPORTS

Treasurer's Report/Bills to be paid

- *Revenues were slightly behind expectations, which the Manager said is normal early in the tax cycle.*
- *Expenditures were on pace at roughly 21% of budget.*
- *The township is pausing road projects this year while evaluating asphalt pricing and winter-related maintenance needs as costs have increased 30% or more for oil products*
- *The board approved payment of bills totaling $88,577.68.*
- *The report noted 21 volunteers receiving volunteer tax credit in accordance with township ordinances.*

Emergency Services

PA State Police Report

- *Pennsylvania State Police calls increased to 34 for the month, up from 21 previously.*
- *Animal strikes increased, with seven reported incidents.*
- *Welfare checks were another major activity area.*
- *Plymouth Ambulance responded to 26 calls in Upper Frederick, including 18 at Fred Living.*

Plymouth Community Ambulance -*There were 26 calls for service and 18 of those were for Frederick Living*

Fire company activity, current events

- *7 calls for the month.*
- *941.5 volunteer hours for the month.*
- *2,442.75 year-to-date volunteer hours.*
- *53 yearly calls so far and 27.5 in-service fire hours.*
- *Ongoing firefighter training, including Firefighter 1 and fire instructor certification.*
- *An upcoming "Meet Your Firefighter" / pizza night event with St. Luke's on Thursday, April 16.*
- *A resident asked about an uncashed donation check sent in February; the fire company said it would be tracked and likely deposited. The Fire Company Treasure said she does not know about it as some else deposits the checks*

Fire Marshal's Report

- *An open-burn letter was issued for an incident in the 3200 block of Little Road.*
- *He submitted the origin-and-cause report for the Snugger Road incident.*
- *The township's grant application to Montgomery County for an Emergency Operations Center grant has been submitted, with follow-up underway.*
- *He reminded residents to review open-burning regulations and noted that most of his job is education.*

Water/Sewer Plant Report: Perkiomen Crossing & Ivy Ridge

- *The plants are operating well.*
- *Preparations are underway for mosquito inspections as weather warms.*
- *Staff will need to address stagnant water in empty tanks by using pumps or circulation measures.*

Public Works/Road Report

- Road-swell maintenance and reshaping were completed on Yoast Road and Kratz Road.
- Pothole and road-edge work continues.
- Mowing season has begun, including edge mowing.
- Equipment maintenance and preparation are underway for spring operations.
- An inlet repair was completed on Buck Road.
- Monthly meter readings were completed.

- Fleet maintenance was performed on the F-350, the F-350 utility vehicle, the Dodge 5500, and the zero-turn mowers.

Civil Engineer's Report

- *Big Road was discussed at the March Planning Commission meeting; the applicant is expected to revise and resubmit plans.*
- *Frederick Living Campus expansion may return to the township with a full plan set in the next month or so.*
- *The 3DOG project is moving forward with building construction; the permanent basin will be dry, though a temporary condition may include about a foot of standing water.*
- *The applicant requested to remove topsoil from the site, but the township ordinance does not allow topsoil export without a waiver; the engineer indicated that if the waiver is requested, mosquito mitigation should also be addressed.*
- *The engineer recommended the township consider a stronger process for keeping recorded plans returned to the township, citing long-running items like Albert Stratt and Dix Minor subdivision.*

Building Inspector and Zoning Report/ZHB

- *Parking Hill Road: a replacement attorney has submitted correspondence to the township solicitor, and an update is pending.*
- *Becker Road: an attached garage inspection failed, corrections were implemented, and the owner received an UNO for the addition.*
- *Yoast Road, 2746: the owner is making progress, with a memo and photos sent describing corrective actions.*
- *3415 Salford Station Road: a notice of violation was issued due to vehicles, parts, trash, and burning; no cleanup had occurred, and citations are being prepared.*
- *1646 Gravel Pike: another notice of violation is being prepared for a recurring junk/vehicle issue.*

CPVRPC -*This months meeting was canceled and the next meeting will be in may at Lower Frederick Township, all are welcome, May 18 at 7pm*

Parks & Recreation Board

- *Community Day planning has begun.*
- *Mighty Manatees and Perkiomenville Valley Brewing Company were secured for the event.*
- *A second annual bake-off is planned.*
- *Sponsors were acknowledged for donations.*
- *Yoga in the Park was proposed for the first and last Saturday of each month starting in May, at 9:00 a.m.*

## **BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

- New Business

- Approval for Advertising of Ordinance 2026-07 – Environmental Adjustment Factors

- *The Manager explained that the ordinance uses updated county maps and helps evaluate how environmental features affect development potential.*
- *The intent is to protect natural resources and township character while giving developers better tools for land assessment.*
- *Gravel Pike was used as an example of land where geology makes development much less suitable.*
- *Vote to Advertise passed 3-0*

- Approval for Advertising of Ordinance 2026-08 – Landscaping Standards

- *The ordinance adds automatic adoption of the state invasive species list.*
- *It strengthens tree replacement requirements for developers who remove trees.*
- *It reduces the threshold for when a full permit is required for clear-cutting.*
- *The board discussed whether nuisance plants are listed and clarified that the ordinance will reference the state's periodically updated list rather than a fixed township list*
- *Vote to Advertise passed 3-0*

- Approval for Trial of "Yoga in the Park"

- *The township will be secondarily insured, has received a certificate of insurance, and its liability carrier approved the arrangement.*
- *Participants will sign liability waivers.*
- *The classes will take place on the first and last Saturday of each month starting in May at 9:00 a.m.*
- *The township will have no cost; participants will pay $15.*

- 3351 Big Road O&M Agreement

*The agreement will be recorded and bind future owners to maintain the system. Vote to accept pending solicitor revisions passed 3-0.*

- Old Business
  - Discussion and Update on Use Regulations from the Workshop BOS Meeting

- *Additional review is needed before any action is taken.*
- *The matter will continue at the next workshop in May.*
- *If resolved, the board expects to consider advertising at a future business meeting.*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Parks & Rec Board – 4/21/2026 at 7:00 pm**
**Planning Commission Board – 4/16/2026 at 7:00PM**
**Open Space – 04/16/2026 at 7:00PM**
**BOS Workshop Meeting – 05/06/2026 at 7:00pm**
**BOS Business Meeting – 05/13/2026 at 7:00pm**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*-None*

**Adjournment** *-The Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm*

ATTEST:

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Aaron Walizer, Manager

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
UPPER FREDERICK TOWNSHIP

Signed Copy On Record
_____
William Landman, Chairman

_____
Elizabeth Fischer, Vice Chairman

_____
William Karaffa, Member