

CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
5th TUESDAY MEETING **JUNE 30, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Andy Donnell. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice-President Tonya L. Campbell, Mark Ferrero, Greg Miller and Lisha L. Rowe. Also attending were Solicitor Kelsey Frankowski, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Jr., Asst. Superintendent of Public Works Ben McGuire, Business/Personnel Administrator Kristin Yoder, Interim Manager/Secretary Peter S. Marshall, and Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia A. Wylezik-Pfeiffer.

NOTICE:

Public comment will be accepted in person. Please include your first name, last name and address for all comments. Any comments without a name or address will not be considered. To accommodate as many people as possible, we request that each person's comments be limited to 3 minutes (resolution no. 301). The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 60 minutes. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Commissioners. While public comments will be given due consideration, immediate responses will be made at the discretion of the Commissioners.

Pledge to the Flag.

APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes for May 28, 2026 – Regular meeting will be delayed until next meeting.

PUBLIC

Attendance: Donna Schmehl, Donna M. Smith, Betty Volk, Glenn Emery, Meghan Swoyer, Ron Schmehl, Brad Hartline, Perry Haas, Joe Roland, Beth McGeehad, Lisa Quinby, JoAnn Dowling, Roberta Kennedy, Barbara Nagle, and Tara Lucca.

A.) What'SUP Berks – presentation on plastics and the impact of single-use plastic bags

Deanna Witzel from What'SUP Berks gave a presentation about single-use plastic.

Only a small % of plastics, less than 10 %, are recycled. That number is even smaller for single-use plastic bags with approximately 2.8% being recycled.

Plastics never go away. They just get smaller and smaller with micro plastics becoming nano plastics. The micro plastics and the nano plastics are stored in body membranes and cause many health issues.

She showed a slide depicting 5 large areas of "plastic film" known collectively as the Great Pacific Garbage Patches.

Ms. Witzel also shared information about the cost incurred for plastic cleanup for the past almost 10 years. The City of Reading spent over \$2 million and PennDOT spent approximately \$14 million.

Ms. Witzel asked the Board to consider a plastic bag ban for Cumru Township.

Mr. Ferrero asked about the next steps and Ms. Witzel said she would provide more information.

B.) Animal Rescue League (ARL) – presentation on animal control and rabies; cat management/free-roaming cat problem; and services provided as part of our animal control contract

Ashley Mikulsky, the CEO of the ARL, provided general information about animal management and services provided by the ARL. She explained that there were “gaps” in the system. ARL provides many services and is 1-stop shopping.

Ms. Mikulsky explained 3 non-negotiables:

1. Rabies and Bite Response Management – She stated that Cumru had the 2nd highest rate. She explained that the treatment is a series of 5 shots.
2. Free roaming cats – She gave an estimate of approximately 30,000 to 60,000 cats.
3. Dog management – She explained some options to consider.

Mr. Marshall asked about the cost. Dog management would currently cost \$4/capita.

Mr. Donnell cited budget constraints associated with paying the current cost. He asked for additional educational resources.

Mr. Ferrero suggested that information could be put on the website and survey questions could be generated.

The Township’s current animal control contract is with Safety Net Sanctuary.

Chief Winchester reported that the Police officers are trained and most people call the Police in an emergency.

There was a discussion about rabies in Berks County. This is a rare but serious disease. Bats, raccoons, and rats are the usual suspects. There has been an increase in cats being observed.

C.) Donna Smith, a resident of Tamarack Trail, asked about the usage of the Rec. Building and the possibility of offering programs for the kids in the evening.

Mr. Donnell said that this is an ongoing discussion with no conclusion. The building had been used as a job trailer and for temporary storage during the Fire Station construction.

Mr. Donnell answered that recreation was identified as being important to the residents. He asked for patience while everything is being sorted out.

Mr. Miller added that the Township has applied for grants for a comprehensive recreation plan and playground updates.

D.) Tara Lucca, a resident of Morgantown Road, asked about break out meetings for the Data Center at the old Titus Station. She stated that she is opposed to a Data Center at this site. She urged the Board to put a stop to this. The jobs promised will only be a skeleton crew once the construction is completed.

Mr. Donnell said that is why the Board enacted an ordinance to address Data Centers by providing rules and regulations for the Data Centers.

Atty. Frankowski reminded that there can not be exclusionary use in the Township.

The Township has not received any plans for a Data Center so no process has been started.

PLANNING COMMISSION

A.) Planning Commission Alternate Member vacancy – consider Meghan Swoyer

- 1) Contemporary Resume rec. 6/18/26

Meghan Swoyer addressed the Board and said that the Planning Commission is a great opportunity to get involved.

ON MOTION OF MR. FERRERO, SECOND OF MS. CAMPBELL, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPOINT MEGAHN SWOYER AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CUMRU PLANNING COMMISSION.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A.) Community Days – update

Chief Winchester reported that Community Days are in full swing. The Greater Governor Mifflin League (GGML) Board was very pleased with the Board of Commissioners participation in the parade.

Chief Winchester complimented Lt. Bezner with providing a full staff.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A.) Community Days – Fireworks night

Chief Beane reported that the big night for coverage is the Saturday Fireworks Night. The fireworks begin at 10 p.m. They are lining up all the resources to coordinate everything.

Mr. Donnell asked about fire related calls due to fireworks.

Chief Beane said that enforcement is difficult unless you catch the person in the act.

Chief Winchester added that changing of the laws has made enforcement difficult. Fireworks can't be seized.

ADMINISTRATION

A.) Refuse Contract – discuss contract bidding and options for Flying Hills – draft update and consider advertising for contract bidding

The draft needs review by the solicitor for the legal aspects.

Flying Hills will be a separate section.

Curbside pickup will be included in the regular pickup areas. Other areas will need different manual pickup.

Atty. Frankowski said that she will go over the document and provide a final copy.

Mr. Miller stated that the exhibit for Flying Hills is complete. Single homes and some cottages will be able to have mechanical pickup.

Mr. Donnell said that there had been conversation with Flying Hills.

Atty. Frankowski stated that she does not know all the HOA or Trust regulations.

Someone asked if residents could contract with private haulers. Atty. Frankowski said that she will look at the Ordinance.

ON MOTION OF MR. FERRERO, SECOND OF MS. CAMPBELL, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO CONDITIONALLY AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE THE REFUSE CONTRACT FOR BIDDING BASED ON SOLICITOR APPROVAL.

B.) SMP Overdue Inspection and Malfunction letters – 450 compliance letters were mailed for overdue on-lot septic inspections and noted malfunctions

Mrs. Wylezik-Pfeiffer explained that 450 non-compliance letters were sent to residents with on-lot septic systems. The SMP Ordinance requires that on-lot septic systems are pumped out and inspected every 3 years. The inspection is done by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) or his designee so that everyone gets the same inspection and report. The SEO report contains recommendations to help maintain your system and avoid costly repairs. The SMP system was implemented due to DEP cracking down on on-lot systems due to many of them failing.

There was discussion about Cumru Township having 1000-1200 on-lot septic systems and the large number of letters that were sent out. The letters were sent out based on the inspection information on record. Many properties have different owners from when they were last inspected and many owners have mailing addresses that are different from the property address. Some people have been able to produce inspection reports either from their haulers or from when the property was purchased. An inspection is much less expensive than paying the non-compliance fines. The letters are a gentler approach for getting the inspections completed.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works had nothing to report at this time.

SOLICITOR

A.) Capital Planning & Roadway Policy – consider adopting ordinance

1) Advertised in the Reading Eagle on 6/21/2026

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. DONNELL, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADOPT THE CAPITAL PLANNING & ROADWAY POLICY ORDINANCE.

Atty. Frankowski reminded Administration to get any new ordinances to General Code to prevent delays.

COMMISSIONERS

A.) Agenda Resolution – consider adopting

Atty. Frankowski explained that the resolution was based on Ms. Campbell's presentation.

There was a discussion with some de minimus changes suggested such as eliminating the "workshop" reference for the 5th Tuesday meetings. The latest posted agenda will control.

ON MOTION OF MS. CAMPBELL, SECOND OF MR. FERRERO, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADOPT THE AGENDA RESOLUTION CONDITIONED ON THE DE MINIMUS REVISIONS.

B.) Code of Conduct Resolution – discuss and consider adopting

Mr. Ferrero made a presentation about the proposed Code of Conduct. The purpose is to establish clear expectations and standards. This would protect the public, staff, volunteers, contractors, and the Township itself.

Concerning personal opinion versus official opinion, healthy disagreement is allowed but misuse of an official public role is not allowed.

The Code of Conduct would apply to Commissioners, appointed members, employees, and contractors when acting in an official capacity. Everyone should act professional in a professional environment. Public service carries public trust.

Atty. Frankowski asked the Board for time to thoroughly review to make sure that the document complies with all rights and regulations and does not pose a conflict.

C.) Executive session

1) Matters of Potential Litigation

Executive session began at 8:46 p.m. – To matters of potential litigation.

Executive session ended at 9:40 p.m. – Matters of potential litigation were discussed. No motions were made.

PUBLIC REMINDERS

A.) Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – 7/28/2026 at 6:00 p.m.

B.) Board of Commissioners Meeting for July 2026
Regular Meeting – 7/21/2026 at 7:00 p.m.

C.) Planning Commission Meeting – 7/06/2026 at 6:00 p.m.

D.) Tax Collector - monthly report - Tax Collector page on the Cumru Township website.

E.) Codes Department – monthly report – Codes page on the Cumru Township website

The Administration office will be closed July 3, 2026, for the holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MS. CAMPBELL, SECOND OF MR. DONNELL, A UNANIMOUS
VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:41 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A. Wylezik-Pfeiffer
Assistant Secretary