

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OCTOBER 5, 2026

PRESIDENT PAUL CZAPRACKI, CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:02 PM AND STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THIS MEETING WAS LEGALLY ADVERTISED IN THE CITIZENS VOICE NEWSPAPER ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 TO BE HELD AT THE GREATER NANTICOKE AREA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM.

ROLL CALL:

THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS ATTENDED MR. DAVE SARAKA, MR. MICHAEL ROKE, MR. RONALD JONES, MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI, AND MR. JOHN ZYLA. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY CHRIS SLUSSER, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER JASON HUMENANSKI AND ZONING OFFICER SUZANNE POPKO.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

SCOTT JASKULSKI COMMENTED ON THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE WVSA.

BRENDA GRABOWSKI QUESTIONED THE SEPTEMBER MINUTES REGARDING THE DATA CENTER PERMITS.

JENNIFER LOBB COMMENTED ON THE SEWER AUTHORITY ORDINANCE.

KATHERINE POHLIDAL QUESTIONED IF THE CURRENT SEWER SYSTEM COULD HANDLE THE FLOW OF THE PROPOSED NEW DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT.

RICK RINEHIMER COMMENTED ON THE EAST MAIN STREET EMERGENCY ROAD, REQUESTING A SECOND GATE AT THE ENTRANCE NEAR ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY.

CORINNE PEGARELLA COMMENTED ON THE SEWER AUTHORITY ORDINANCE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS' MEETING FROM SEPTEMBER 8TH BE APPROVED. MR. JONES SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. NAYS" NONE. MR. ROKE ABSTAINED.

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(PSBT)	\$327,050.63
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$765,974.96
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$44,640.52
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$126,813.15
REFUSE FUND	(PSBT)	\$46,901.08
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$56,865.62

TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 \$1,368,245.96

MR. ROKE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS. MR. SARAKA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, ROKE, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING SEPTEMBER 2026:

MR. HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER TOTALING \$39,608.16. MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. SARAKA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, ROKE, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN OCTOBER 2026:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN OCTOBER TOTALING \$114,854.40. MR. JONES MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, ROKE, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

a. STREET DEPARTMENT	MR. CZAPRACKI
b. POLICE DEPARTMENT	MR. ZYLA
c. CODE ENFORCEMENT	MR. SARAKA
d. FIRE DEPARTMENT	MR. ROKE
e. PARKS & RECREATION	MR. JONES

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: ATTORNEY SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

- A. ON SEPTEMBER 16TH NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM SENATOR LISA BAKER AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE ALEC RYNCAVAGE THAT WE WERE AWARDED A \$298,1787.00 GRANT FOR THE EAST MAIN STREET GLEN LYON EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD.
- B. ON SEPTEMBER 24TH. THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP EMA RECEIVED A \$500.00 DONATION FROM THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB. THIS DONATION WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES FOR THE EMA EVACUATION CENTER. A LETTER WILL BE SENT TO THE LIONS CLUB THANKING THEM FOR THE DONATION.
- C. THE 2026 LSA GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE GLEN LYON AMERICAN LEGION HOME, STREET PAVING, WEST RAILROAD STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND THE RIDGE STREET WALL, WEST ENTERPRISE GUIDE RAIL PROJECTS WERE SUBMITTED ON SEPTEMBER 24TH.
- D. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP EMA AND TALEN WILL HOLD A FEMA MONITORED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DRILL ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 20TH BEGINNING AT 5:00 PM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.
- E. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT PHASE 2 UPDATE: HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMITS HAVE BEEN SECURED. THE PROJECT WILL BE ADVERTISED FOR BID DURING OCTOBER. BID OPENING WILL ALSO BE ADVERTISED FOR OCTOBER 30TH AT 2:00PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$7,848.75 FROM THE REFUSE ACCOUNT AND \$14,687.25 FROM THE RECYCLING ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT TO COVER EXPENSES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2026. MR. JONES SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, ROKE, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. SARAKA MOVED TO PASS A CONTINUATION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH LUZERNE COUNTY TO COLLECT THE MUNICIPAL TAXES THROUGH THE CALENDAR YEAR 2027. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, ROKE, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. JONES MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE NO.6 OF 2026 AN ORDINANCE OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO.2 OF 2024, NO.2 OF 2019, NO.4 OF 2018, AND NO.6 OF 2017, CONSOLIDATING ALL PRIOR

PARKING REGULATIONS ON STREETS AND ROADWAYS IN THE TOWNSHIP AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS. MR. SARAKA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, ROKE, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE NO.8 OF 2026 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE BY THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY OF ITS SANITARY COLLECTION AND CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND RELATED FACILITIES TO THE WYOMING VALLEY SANITARY AUTHORITY. MR. JONES SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, ROKE, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WAGES FOR THE DPW RETROACTIVE FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 LABORER #3, \$20.00 PER HOUR, LABORER #2, 21.00 PER HOUR, LABORER #1, 22.42 PER HOUR, SUPERVISOR \$25.64 PER HOUR. MR. SARAKA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSER'S. JONES, ROKE, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS: THE FOLLOWING CITIZENS ADDRESSED THE BOARD WITH VARIOUS CONCERNS WITH THE PROPOSED DATA CENTER PROJECT: BRENDA GRABOWSKI, CHERYL CHONKO, JENNIFER LOBB, KATHERINE POHLIDAL, JUDITH GUMINA, COREY LOBB, LORI GRABOSKI, JESSICA LETTEER, JOANNE MCCARTHY, SALLY MAKAVENSKY, MICHELLE STASHAK, SCOTT JASKULSKI, MATT ZIMMERMAN, DAN KOWALSKI, JUDY PAZGAN, SCOTT SPENCER, SOPHIA PAZGAN, LAURA RIECHERS, DAVE MCGOVERN, CHARLOTTE SANTRY, DENNIS RABIDA, KAREN SAMUELS, CORINNE PEGARELLA, PAUL SHIPTOSKI

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

THERE WERE NO COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR. CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:05 PM

JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

PAUL CZAPRACKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS