

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

PRESIDENT PAUL CZAPRACKI, CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM AND STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ROLL CALL:

THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS ATTENDED MR. RONALD JONES, MR. DAVID SARAKA, MR. JOHN ZYLA AND MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN AND ATTORNEY JOHN SOLT. MR. MICHAEL ROKE WAS ABSENT.

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO REMOVE ORDINANCE # 6 OF 2026 (PARKING ORDINANCE) FROM THE AGENDA. MR. SARAKA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MESSER'S JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

THERE WERE NO CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MR. SARAKA MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING FROM AUGUST 3RD 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

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR. HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF AUGUST 31, 2026 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(PSBT)	\$392,720.45
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$763,535.62
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$49,259.43
REFUSE FUND	(PSBT)	\$46,134.81
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$171,349.58
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$63,958.07
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF AUGUST 30, 2026		\$1,486,966.96

MR. HILLAN REPORTED THAT THE INCOME YEAR TO DATE IS \$2,294,693.80 AND EXPENSES ARE \$1,851,411.01.

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS. 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

APPROVAL OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING AUGUST 2026:

MR. HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST TOTALING \$342,516.70. MR. SARAKA MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" Messer's JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2026:

MR. HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN SEPTEMBER TOTALING \$113,216.73. MR. JONES 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, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

SOLICITOR IS REPORT:

ATTORNEY SOLT HAD NOTHING TO REPORT.

TOWNSHIP MANAGERS REPORT:

- A. THE 2027 MMO'S FOR THE THREE PENSION PLANS ARE COMPLETED AS REQUIRED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 205 AND ARE AS FOLLOWS: POLICE-\$103,641.07, NON-UNIFORM \$20,641.42, FIREMAN'S \$00. A LETTER IS ATTACHED TO THE WORKSHEETS INCLUDED IN EACH COMMISSIONERS MEETING PACKET.
- B. WE WILL BE APPLYING FOR FOUR LSA GRANTS: 1. SPONSORING THE AMERICAN LEGION IN GLEN LYON FOR REPAIRS TO THE LEGION HOME ON NEWPORT STREET. 2. INSTALLATION OF STORM DRAINS ON WEST RAILROAD STREET IN ALDEN. 3. RETAINING WALL ON RIDGE STREET AND GUIDE RAIL ON WEST ENTERPRISE STREET. 4. THE PAVING OF NINE ROADWAYS.
- C. ON AUGUST 27TH ALBERT MACKAREY FROM THE STATE AUDIT GENERALS' OFFICE COMPLETED A FOUR-YEAR AUDIT OF THE THREE PENSION PLANS. ALL WERE IN

COMPLIANCE, EXCEPT FOR THE POLICE WITH ONE FINDING. PENSION BENEFITS NOT BEING IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 600. THIS WILL BE ADDRESSED WITH THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #15 OF 2026.

- D. ON SEPTEMBER 1ST SIXTEEN HEARINGS WERE HELD AT MAGISTRATE WHITTAKER'S FOR RESIDENTS THAT FAILED TO PAY THE 2026 REFUSE AND RECYCLING FEE. ALL WERE FOUND GUILTY.
- E. EAST KIRMAR AVE ROAD CLOSURE UPDATE: SINCE AUGUST 19TH KAITLYN DRUMHELLER, PENNDOT DISTRICT 4 MAINTENANCE SERVICES ENGINEER HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE TOWNSHIP WITH WEEKLY UPDATES THAT WE ARE POSTING ON OUR WEBSITE. CONSTRUCTION IS ANTICIPATED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK. UPDATES WILL CONTINUED TO BE PROVIDED TO THE TOWNSHIP THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PROJECT.
- F. FOUR SOLAR RADAR SPEED SIGNS WERE RECENTLY INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP BY THE DPW. THE PURCHASE OF THESE SIGNS WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A GRANT SECURED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE ALEC RYNCAVAGE.

NEW BUSINESS:

MR. SARAKA MOVED TO APPOINT COMITZ LAW FIRM, LLC, 82 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701, AS SOLICITOR TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD AND PLANNING COMMITTEE, WITH ATTORNEY MYER MESSINGER CONTINUING TO SERVE AS SOLICITOR, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 17, 2026, UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND COMPENSATION CURRENTLY IN EFFECT, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP TO EXECUTE AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER CONSISTENT WITH THOSE TERMS. 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. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE A SALES AGREEMENT WITH RICE TOWNSHIP TO PURCHASE FOUR AXON TASER 7'S IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4000.00. 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. ZYLA MOVED TO PASS RESOLUTION #15 OF 2026 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICERS TO THE POLICE PENSION FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 600. MR. SARAKA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MESSER'S JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. SARAKA MOVED TO PASS RESOLUTION #16 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR SINGLE APPLICATION GRANT FUNDING (AKA GAMING SHARE FUNDING), LUZERNE COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$382,050.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENOVATIONS AT THE GLEN LYON AMERICAN LEGION LOCATED AT 62 NEWPORT STREET GLEN LYON PENNSYLVANIA. 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. ZYLA MOVED TO PASS RESOLUTION #17 OF 2026 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR SINGLE APPLICATION GRANT FUNDING (AKA GAMING SHARE FUNDING), LUZERNE COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$89,397.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE REPLACEMENT OF A RETAINING WALL ON RIDGE STREET AND A PLACEMENT OF A GUIDE RAIL ON WEST ENTERPRISE STREET IN GLEN LYON. MR. SARAKA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MESSER'S JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. SARAKA MOVED TO PASS RESOLUTION #18 OF 2026 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR SINGLE APPLICATION GRANT FUNDING (AKA GAMING SHARE FUNDING), LUZERNE COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$181,335.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE INSTALLATION OF SIX STORM DRAINS ON WEST RAILROAD STREET IN ALDEN. 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. ZYLA MOVED TO PASS RESOLUTION #19 OF 2026 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR SINGLE APPLICATION GRANT FUNDING (AKA GAMING SHARE FUNDING), LUZERNE COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$517,270.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE PAVING OF NINE ROADWAYS IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. 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. JONES MOVED TO PASS RESOLUTION #20 OF 2026 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT, APPROVING A FIVE-YEAR LEASE TO PURCHASE WITH 1ST EQUIPMENT FINANCE FROM, TASCA FORD A 2026 FORD F-250 AND WITH POWELLS EQUIPMENT FOR THE UPFITTING OF THE VEHICLE BASED UPON COSTARS PRICING. MR. SARAKA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MESSER'S JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. SARAKA MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE #4 OF 2026 AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT OF ON LOT SUBSURFACE SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT, LUZERNE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MESSER'S JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. SARAKA MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE #5 OF 2026 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, PENNSYLVANIA NOISE ORDINANCE. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES Messer's JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE.

MR. SARAKA MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE #7 OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP A SEWER CONNECTION AND USE ORDINANCE. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MESSER'S JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE.

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WOMEN'S ACTIVITY GROUP FOR THE USE OF THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE FOR A COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 31ST AT 1:00 PM. 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. SARAKA MOVED TO ADVERTISE THE SALE OF A 2015 FORD F550 DUMP TRUCK. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MESSER'S JONES, SARAKA, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

MR. SCOTT JASKULSKI ASKED WHY THE LAND ACROSS THE STREET FROM HIS HOME ON COLLEGE HILL WAS BEING SURVEYED.

MS. PALMIRA MILLER THANKED THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE USE OF THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE FOR THE MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE. MS. MILLER ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERNS WITH THE HIGH GRASS AND WEEDS AT CERTAIN PROPERTIES ON RIDGE STREET.

MR. JOHN JARECKI QUESTIONED THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COMITZ LAW FIRM AND THE ACT 600 COMPLIANCE.

MS. LAURA RIECHERS QUESTIONED THE DATA CENTERS AND THE EFFECTS ON OUR COMMUNITY.

MR. HILLAN READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

THE FOLLOWING ZONING PERMITS WERE ISSUED BY OUR THIRD-PARTY ZONING OFFICER FROM BH&W, IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE ON AUGUST 10TH 2026:

IN A MIXED-USE ZONE, 2 GAS GENERATION FACILITIES, 1 SIGN AND EXTERIOR FENCING, 7 CLOSED LOOP DATA CENTER STRUCTURES.

IN AN INDUSTRIAL ZONE :1 GAS GENERATION FACILITY, 1 SIGN AND EXTERIOR FENCING, AND 8 CLOSED LOOP DATA CENTER STRUCTURES.

THIS IS THE ONLY INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC AT THIS TIME. AS THESE APPLICATIONS PROGRESS THE PROJECTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE TOWNSHIP LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AND PROCESS. THAT PROCESS WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT EACH STEP OF REVIEW.

MS RITA TOCKET EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK FROM ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

MR. JOHN WILDE COMMANDER OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 539 THANKED THE BOARD FOR SPONSORING THE LSA GRANT FOR REPAIR OF THE LEGION HOME.

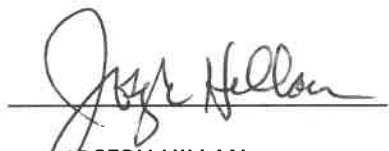
MR. PAUL SHIPTOSKI PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF DATA CENTERS.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

THERE WERE NO COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:45 PM


JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY


PAUL CZAPRACKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS