**JANUARY 2025 MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Muncy Township Supervisors met in the Muncy Township Fire Hall on January 6, 2025. Gary Harmon, Heath Ohnmeiss, Denise Artley, Gwen Pidcoe, and Scott Williams were present. The meeting was called to order by Gary Harmon at 7:35 p.m.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Heath Ohnmeiss motioned to approve November Minutes. Denise Artley seconded the motion. Gary Harmon agreed. The motion carried.

Make changes to what Terri Lauchle stated about talking not the county about going back to them about zoning. Heath Ohnmeiss motioned to accept the minutes with the change. Denise Artley seconded the motion. Gary Harmon agreed. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**: Denise Artley stated that she couldn’t review the bills because when she came in all the bills were moved to back room and she needs a key to that filing cabinet.

Gary Harmon stated that we will talk to the attorney after the meeting about it.

Gary Harmon motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report for December. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Denise said she will after she reviews the bills. Motion carried.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES:**

**Review Josh & Amy Phillips convenience store on lot 41-353-169.**

Larry Spatz stated that they looked over the review from Dan Vassalo the engineer and they have some things to address. We have a question on the runoff if the property is sold because they share between partials the stormwater.

Scott Williams stated that they would need an agreement on place on sharing the stormwater and the agreement would follow the deed. The storm water that is approved will have to handle both properties in the land development plan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS**:

Gary Jones from 2394 Route 220 Hwy. resolution 2025-01 tax collector wages change for 2026. Mr. Perry is handing out summaries on township wages. This is a target on our current tax collector Ann Smith. I sent a RTK for resolutions for tonight’s meeting yesterday and of course was denied. He read the response that was given to him. I would never have put this on social media because I feel it is confidential, but I felt it needed to be known. There has been a veil of secrecy in this township for the last year. Resolution 2025-01 lowers that rate of the wage of the tax collector by 1% for 2026. It is currently 4% and will go to 3% about a 25% decrease. This was brought to the supervisors Gary Harmon; heath Ohnmeiss and Gwen Pidcoe and the attorney did the work that will cost money. Two of the three supervisors will vote to approve this, and Ms. Artley will vote no. Ann smith does not get health insurance like the other employees of the township. This is retaliation. This is not even party lines you are just out to get Ann. They may say that the tax collector gets raise with assessment but that will be false. The fire company believes I am an anti-fire co, but I am not. This resolution will only save the Township $5,000. This is not a good idea.

Gary Harmon stated that the tax collector is an elected position not an employee so cannot have township health insurance.

Jim Smith asked if the supervisors wages are being cut. With the subpoena issues and with lower wages I think she needs to hire an attorney.

Gary Harmon stated that this is nothing against the current tax collector. This is for the newly elected tax collector for 2026. Denise you were on board with this when we sent it to the attorney. It was after you saw it on Facebook that you changed your mind.

Nick Palmatier so the tax collector is up for election.

Gary Harmon stated that yes it is.

Denise Artley stated that the only time the township can change the collectors’ wages is the year of election.

Gary Harmon stated that we are sitting down next month to go over other ways that the township can save money. It is not just the tax collector.

Donnie Reese stated that he was the tax collector for years in the 80’s. It was a part time job. When my wages were cut by $15,000. I decided that I was not running again.

Nick Palmatier if she doesn’t like the new was she doesn’t have to rerun for the position.

Genie Wines when Covid hit did you not decrease fire company, police, and the budget for Sid?

Gary Harmon stated that yes we did cut budget for the fire company police and roads during covid.

Genie Wines did any of them go back to pre-covid budget?

Gwen Pidcoe stated that only the fire company did last year. The police and road have not.

Genie Wines are the supervisors covered under the health insurance.

Gary Harmon stated that we do not.

Genie Wines is our tax collector paid hirer than other townships in our area.

Gary Harmon stated that we are.

Ann Smith stated that we are a growing township. I have been getting more employee lst tax turned in.

Nick Palmatier that is because someone bought the old Gander Mountain and moved several businesses to our township is the only reason.

Ann Smith stated that you have Geisinger.

Gary Harmon stated that Geisinger doesn’t pay property taxes the employees only pay taxes.

Ann Smith if money is being affected why are they getting raises? I don’t get paid for my supplies.

Gwen Pidcoe stated that Ann yes you do, we pay for your ink for printer, envelopes, stamps, paper.

Ann Smith you don’t pay for paper for the reports I print for you.

Terri Lauchle I just looked up on my phone that PA tax collector average makes $50,000.

The crowd went nuts.

Gwen Pidcoe stated that township tax collectors do not even make close to that.

Genie Wines stated that I just looked that up as well and the average township tax collector in PA makes $4,178.

Gary Harmon stated that I had Gwen call neighboring townships similar to ours to see what they pay Muncy Creek Twp pays 2.5% and Wolf Township pays $1.50 per ticket.

Gary Jones the mall has the Lerta and will not pay anymore with the assessment.

Gwen Pidcoe stated that yes they will. It is in the contract.

Gary Jones said no where did you get that.

Scott Williams stated that Gwen is correct in the contract.

Gary Jones Gary if you approve this tonight we will do the same to you that we did to Matt Harmon.

Genie Wines questioned who Matt Harmon was.

Gary Jones Matt Doyle sorry you are not listening to the residents we do not want the decrease. We will get rid of you just like we did Matt.

Gary Harmon stated that we are looking at other ways to cut costs and we are listening to residents. We have to look at everything.

Gary Jones you are not being frugal. Especially with payroll and overtime. You bought a bunch of equipment last year, yes it was needed but have you even looked at the budget I bet it is over.

Genie Wines When taxes were raised did Ann get a pay raise?

Gary Harmon stated that yes she did because it is a percent of every dollar she brings in.

Genie Wines Gary Jones, I have been wanting to ask you this for a while, so I am just going to ask. Why could you not run for elected auditor?

Gary Jones well, because I have a felony conviction.

Crowd crazy saying that is vindictive.

Genie Wines stated yes, I am vindictive. I have listened to this man run number and criticize the board and employees for years. I apologize for bringing it up, but people have the right to know.

Crowd loud.

Gary Harmon shouts enough

Heath Ohnmeiss shouts that is enough

Terri Lauchle Chief McKibben how did you get to $130,000?

Gary Harmon stated that it was all done from a pay scale that previous boards put into place.

Denise Artley We went with a 50 cent raise for the employees and they came back with 60 cents instead.

Terri Lauchle why can’t employees not get a raise?

Gwen Pidcoe stated that it is in our employee handbook that employees get a cost-of-living raise. The employees for the last five years have not gotten a cost of living raise and we have not complained. In 2021 the cost of living was 10% and we received a 2% raise we did not complain because we felt that was unfair to the taxpayers. We could have demanded what the employee handbook stated we were entitled to, but we did not. We were looking out for the residents.

Denise Artley read what the handbook says which is the board of supervisors shall set the compensation for employee at the annual re-org meeting. The salaries/wages of each employee shall be communicated to them prior to commencement of each budget year. It shall be the policy of the board of supervisors, to the extent possible, to hold employees harmless for the cost of inflation by annual cost of living adjustment increases. Merit increases shall only be given as productivity increases by an employee justifies as such action. It does not say they get cost of living correct Scott.

Scott Williams stated by what you just read the intent of the board that wrote to manual was to give the cot of living increase to employees.

Bill Davis what is the budget for police?

Gary Harmon stated the budget is 137,500 plus payroll.

Bill Davis then why do we need police force. Why not go with the state police?

Gary Harmon stated that as a resident i want a police officer in my township.

Bill Davis The state police can be here quickly.

Gary Harmon stated that I disagree with that statement. It takes 45 minutes or longer for the state police to show up to make calls. I am a fireman, and we wait on the state police all the time.

Bill Davis I would like to see a decrease in officers.

Terri Lauchle what do the police bring in if their budget is $300,000?

Gary Harmon we will have to check don’t have those numbers. Chris do you?

Chris McKibben no I do not.

Terri Lauchle, so you don’t have the numbers you think you would those numbers when the employees asked for a 60-cent raise.

Chris McKibben stated he wanted to set a few things straight. Denise you are not being truthful. You offered a 2% raise when these wages were brought up for the budget. We felt that wasn’t right because we each make something different, and we would all be getting a different raise. The more you make the bigger the raise. We suggested a flat rate instead to make it fair. Then you came back with 50 cent raises. We looked at the numbers and asked if we could meet in the middle with a 60-cent raise. You are still paying us less than if we would have gotten the 2% raise that was first proposed by the supervisors.

For my pay for 2024 I worked 180 hours at little league in which little league pays back the township for. So that should be taken out because the taxpayers do not pay that little league does. I have 25 years of service as an officer, with this number of years and the title I have with the state police my salary would be around $170,000 a year.

Terri Lauchle we as residents didn’t know anything about little league. Do other police do this as well?

Chris McKibben stated that yes Muncy, Hughesville, South, Williamsport, sheriffs’ office all works for little league.

The average officer in my position makes between $100,700 to $165,400 a year.

If anyone of you want my job, I will resign today. You can put my gun on and get shot at. If you don’t think that is possible think again. Look at all those gun shops in our area that are being broken into. Thee punks are coming into our communities from Williamsport. Ask Larry what he made at a police office in New York City.

John Iseley We need things broken down so that we can understand. We need to know what exactly our money is being spent on. We always have to put in RTK. We want to know what is under each line heading.

Terri Lauchle we need to know what is under each line item.

Bonnie Harmon stated that the budget is itemized a certain way for a reason correct.

Gary Harmon stated that yes it is this way for DCED.

Denise Artley stated that Gen has an itemized sheet in her office.

Gwen Pidcoe stated that I do have an itemized sheet in my office. You guys always say you don’t understand what things are and want to know but not one of you comes into my office to talk with me to help you understand. You just ask questions in a meeting and then get mad when we don’t have the answers.

Ann Smith questioned after last month’s meeting you questioned Gwen about if there was extra in the budget to pay for EMS why?

Genie Wines stated that the decrease in volunteerism. We are trying to find out if townships could afford to put on a 24-hour Ems service. We are trying to project the future. We are not saying it will come to this, but it could. Volunteers are dwindling. Pennsdale and Picture Rocks are the only two stations that do not have 24 our EMS service because we still have volunteers, but we are not young anymore. So, if your supervisors are looking ahead coodos to them. They don’t want to raise taxes.

Denise Artley will this be through Ella.

Genie Wines stated that it could be, but we are looking into other avenues as well. We are trying to plan for our future.

Gary Harmon stated that is Gwen’s job to do the budget. That is why we were talking about it with her.

Denise Artley when I volunteered it was much less time-consuming.

Jim Smith are you billing insurance companies for fires and accidents. In know you didn’t bill my insurance for the fire at my house.

Nick Palmatier that is because you were a member.

Jim Smith you still should have billed.

Donnie Reese it amazes me that the people in this room attack the fire company that will be there to save your property if there is a fire or save your family members or yourselves if you are in an accident. What is wrong here?

Larry Spatz we just need to look at other forms to make money other than just the taxpayers. You need to write more summons or tickets. Chris does a great job. I like having him around. The numbers here are more like 3% cost of living.

Gary Harmon we are looking at other ways to save money.

Chris McKibben stated it is not 3%. Tom Schaech built into our pay longevity pay. After so many years of service you get 1% then 5 more years 2% then so on. This is on top of our raises. He wanted to keep employees.

On the pay scale that was mentioned earlier I would like a few changes:

1. Corporal should be Sargent.
2. I would like to give back my 60-cent raise.

Nick Palmatier stated that was embarrassing that he had to do that because of a few people.

Chris McKibben stated and another thing a citation is $174. Do you know what we get out of that $12.50. not a big money maker. Retail theft Lycoming County get the money not the township. So no money to be made there either. Pa townships are not. e to make money. I will arrest you guys for speeding through Village Road.

Larry Spatz what about illegal parking?

Chris McKibben we use to make $15 at the mall. But in Pa you can’t just do that on private property you need to have a contract with them. The only way we can make money on a retail theft is if we write it as a summary offense.

Denise Artley Sam’s club doesn’t call the police for retail theft they say not worth it.

**FIRE REPORT:** no report.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Report on file.

**ROAD MASTERS REPORT**: report on file

Larry Spatz I am not happy with the tax collector decrease.

Gary Harmon as far as I am concerned this is a way to cut expenses that you guys asked us to do. WE are looking into other ways as well.

Brenda Dapp I volunteer from New Berlin to Woodward. Why don’t you guys have chances to raise money?

Tom Croucher is way too time consuming and we don’t have enough members.

Kim Croucher this is the fire company right here or at least the ones that do the work. We would love your support. Our biggest fundraisers are the car show and the haunted barn.

Donnie Reese we have chanced everything. We even had a car one time and still only made about $5,000 just not worth the time it takes. Chances do not work for us.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**PERMIT OFFICER REPORT:**  2 permits for December.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Denise Artley gwen did you hear back from Sam’s club.

Gwen Pidcoe no I have a phone call waiting to hear back.

**Resolution 2025-01 Tax Collector Wages; currently** the wages are at 4% per $ brought in and will go to 3% per $ brought in in 2026 when the new tax collector gets elected whoever that may be. Heath Ohnmeiss motions to adopt the resolution. Gary Harmon seconded the motion. Denise Artley disagrees. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2025-02 PLCB Transfer:** This a liquor license transfer that we will have to be advertised twice. We are looking to see who will have to pay for the advertising. Hopefully, the business that is asking for the transfer. Tabled until next month.

**Resolution 2025-03 Paid Holidays for 2025:** 11 paid holidays for 2025. Heath Ohnmeiss motioned to approve paid holidays. Denise Artley seconded the motion. Gary Harmon agreed. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2025-04 Payroll:** This is so that we can pay employees between meetings because they get paid every two weeks. Denise Artley motioned to approve payroll. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Gary Harmon agreed. Motin carried.

**Resolution 2025-05 Fire Co Events**: lists the different events for the fire co so they will be covered under workers comp if something would happen. Any other events that arise will be brought to the public by resolution as needed. Haunted barn, parades, car show, 9-11 ride, banquet heroes to helpers and all Muncy home football games for the ambulance. Denise Artley motioned to approve of the events as they are written. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Gary Harmon agreed. Motion carried.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE**:

* **SAFETY MINUTES**:

Gary Harmon motioned to accept the safety minutes for December. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Denise Artley agreed. Motion carried.

**REVIEW MONTHLY BILLS:** Gary Harmon motioned to pay the monthly bills. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Denise Artley agreed. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Nick Palmatier stated that his family has lived in this township for 4 generations and I should not have to say that I am embarrassed to say that I am buying my parents’ house in this township. This township has become a laughingstock. I am a fireman, and I am embarrassed to live here. Why are we ruining this township. Why can’t people just get over the past whatever happened and move on?

John Iseley if you would stop snickering about us maybe we could.

Mr. Fry what is the population of the township?

Gary Harmon answered around 1100.

Mr. Fry in 1980 it was 1159. Why do we keep spending money. All anyone talked about was population increase, and it has not happened.

Terri Lauchle I am a farmer’s wife with 360 acres and have 10 children. I am glad to live here. I am not against the fire company or the police, but I am against the money that is spent. Everyone wants to change the historical Pennsdale. First it was the highway change, and we are going to get all this extra truck traffic and then famvest with the changes at the mall. We are changing people will come to our township. Mr. Sortman our commissioner can’t answer who is paying for all these changes. Why are paying for health insurance. My own family doesn’t even have health insurance. You feel obligated to have health insurance paid for by us. Then we hear you were going back to the county. Then you say you are attacking us.

Donnie Reese Lerta has no effect on the Township. They are paying the same taxes that they always have been paying. Just the new buildings that will go in they are asking for the break. This is to draw businesses to want to build here and bring jobs. This is to help the future of Muncy Township.

Terri Lauchle yes it is true it does hurt us. Mr. Sortman said they never gave Lerta to businesses in Loyalsock Township. I am disappointed in this township.

Donnie Reese well back in the day a lot of businesses got KOZ in this township and others and a KOZ they pay no taxes at all for 10 years.

Gary Harmon they are locked in for 10 years to pay the taxes they have been paying.

**Adjourn**. Gary Harmon asked for a motion to adjourn. Denise Artley seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Heath Ohnmeiss agreed. Motion carried.