

## **JULY 14, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

Formally approved July 28, 2026 meeting

FULL BOARD PRESENT; Also present: Chuck Jenkins, Treasurer; Bill Waltman, Sharon Waltman, Beth Goldman, Tom Benfer, Cathy Kelley, Kit Kelley, Public; Drew Mumich, Press Enterprise.

Ms. Dressler asked those so inclined to rise for a prayer by Assistant Solicitor Robert Marks Jr.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. The meeting was then opened.

|                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| General Account Disbursements         | \$1,031,736.72 |
| General Account Receipts              | \$329,906.93   |
| General Account Checking              | \$3,720,178.90 |
| Capital Reserve Fund                  | \$99,441.74    |
| Operating Reserve                     | \$73,849.95    |
| Total Checking                        | \$3,893,569.59 |
| Act 13 Highway-Bridge                 | \$207,282.19   |
| Act 44                                | \$137,191.38   |
| Act 89                                | \$312,376.12   |
| Agland Escrow                         | \$38,515.45    |
| Children and Youth Checking           | \$1,113,013.19 |
| Debt Service Fund                     | \$1,475,276.40 |
| Flood Mitigation                      | \$2,912.43     |
| Hazardous Material Account Checking   | \$10,680.73    |
| Human & Community Services Checking   | \$115,530.70   |
| Improvement Fund Checking .01%        | \$15,809.92    |
| Liquid Fuels Checking                 | \$159,952.28   |
| Offender Supervision Account Checking | \$67,887.49    |
| Opioid Settlement Fund                | \$363,743.49   |
| Storm Water Ordinance Escrow          | \$1,257,378.27 |
| Uniform 911 Surcharge                 | \$1,254,258.39 |

Mr. Lynn moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mrs. Dressler called for public comment. Mr. Kelley said he is concerned by no acreage limitations for data centers under the County ordinance. He also voiced concern over the possibility of potential pollution from diesel fuel. He suggested a

recommendation to the Northern Montour Regional Planning Commission to accept the County's data center ordinance for its own ordinance with some changes as a way to get everyone on the same page. Mr. Kelley also mentioned the current Comprehensive Plan

update as a concern. Mr. Finn said plans, of which the County has many, aren't law but a guideline.

Mr. Benfer said he has been involved in zoning for 25 years through the County's Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, and the Chillisquaque Limestone Watershed Association. The watershed association spanned four counties, all with divergent zoning regulations, which can be problematic. For property owners who have land that spans two townships, it causes complications. He said the County should bring planning groups together to centralize rules.

Mrs. Waltman said she would like to see a portion of the realty transfer taxes collected in Montour County given to farmland preservation. She questioned where that money went. Mr. Finn explained fees are put into the General Fund for general operating purposes. Diverting funds for a different purpose could cause the need for a tax increase. Mr. Finn told Mrs. Waltman that there was no Agland Preservation program in Montour County until he and former Commissioners Jerry Ward and Jack Gerst enacted it.

Ms. Goldman, speaking as a resident of Danville Borough, said she should not have to pay for zoning services twice – once to the Borough and once to the County. She suggested charging the municipalities for services rendered.

She also commented on the success of the recent garden party fund-raiser at the DeLong House to benefit the Montour County Historical Society. She further noted that TV meteorologist Joe Snedeker will stop his bike tour in Riverside on July 22 to talk about historical events and continue on to discuss Christopher Sholes' contributions.

Paul Kloberg offered to volunteer his services to spearhead the application process for the TACER (Technical Assistance for Community Energy and Resilience) pilot program under the Department of Environmental Protection. The program offers free technical assistance to help non-profits and community-based organizations develop energy affordability, energy efficiency and community resilience projects.

Mr. Finn moved to add the TACER program appointment to the agenda. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to add a discussion on zoning under old business. The motion died for lack of a second.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Mr. Finn moved to approve a Mitigation Program application and financial assistance agreement with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project with EMA Coordinator Ed Burkland as signatory. Mr. Lynn seconded. The grant of \$532,243.06 will be utilized for an early warning system for such events as flooding and tornadoes. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Lynn moved to draft a letter to the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority stating Montour would not support the rechartering of the Authority until previous issues, including ongoing litigation, are resolved. Ms. Dressler seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler moved to approve purchase of service agreements on behalf of Children & Youth Services as follows: Berks County Youth Center, The Clock Tower Schools,

Diakon Family Life Services, George Junior Republic, GJR Preventative Aftercare, Pure Lux Homes. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Lynn moved to affirm the promotion of Daniel Strailey from part-time to full-time Deputy Sheriff effective August 1 at his current hourly rate. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all vote in favor.

Ms. Dressler moved to affirm the resignation of Stevie Benner as Deputy Register & Recorder effective July 7. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to appoint Paul Kloberg as the County's liaison for DEP's TACER program. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Lynn moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$258,863.23; Children & Youth, \$77,617.75; Liquid Fuels, \$413.16; Human and Community Services, \$1,801.40; Operating Reserve, \$13,478.75; Other Funds, \$24,371.70. Ms. Dressler seconded. On called vote, Ms. Dressler and Mr. Lynn voted in favor. Mr. Finn voted against.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted By:

Holly A. Brandon, Chief Clerk