

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025, 7:00 P.M.
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Presiding Officer – Zachary Haigis, President, Board of Commissioners**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Haigis called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Hempel - Present
Commissioner Atwood – Present
Commissioner Gray - Present
Commissioner Zona - Present
Commissioner Bevan - Present
Commissioner McHugh – Present
Commissioner Haigis - Present

Also Present:
Manager Harry Faulk
Assistant Manager Ryan Fonzi
Solicitor Chelsea Dice
John Hochlinski
Bob Robinson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

CITIZENS INPUT

Nick Carrozza – NHT resident – states he is here tonight to place a complete documented record before the Board regarding the allegation that a firearm was brandished towards police and first responders during the July 7, 2024 crash and the Township's subsequent public handing of that allegation. Everything he is about to state is grounded in official meeting minutes, right to know filings and the office of open records final determination. On January 9, 2025, during a duly advertised public meeting, he stated that his family had been involved in a serious crash in which a weapon was brandished allegedly towards first responders. That statement is memorialized in the Township's official minutes on January 9, 2025, Work Session minutes, so according to the Township's sworn submission to the Office of Open Records, after his public statement Commissioner Eric Gass called for an investigation into whether Nolan Patrick Mullen brandished a firearm toward police or emergency responders. He states on January 13, 2025 the Board met in Executive Session with police leadership to review witness statements and discuss the incident. At the January 15, 2025 Regular Meeting, the Township publicly stated that the allegation was unfounded. This is not only a characterization but the Township's own description of events. The official June 18, 2025 meeting minutes reflect a public statement that after Commissioner Gass called for an investigation, received a phone call from Chief Rizzo during which the Chief used profanities and this was told to him by Commissioner Gass. That statement he made appears in the June 18, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. After the Township publicly declared the allegation unfounded, a Right to Know Request was submitted seeking three separate categories of records and the Office of Open Records ruled on each part independently. Part One sought all documents

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into whether a firearm was brandished towards police and first responders. The Office of Open Records ruled that it lacked jurisdiction over criminal investigation because it was tied to the car accident. He states there was and never have been merits determining the records do not exist or that the allegation was false. The request sought records showing what documentation the Board relied upon when it was declared unfounded. The Township denied the portion invoking the Executive Session exemption. The Office of Open Records ruled that the Township failed to meet its burden of proof and did not adequately justify withholding the records. The Office of Open Records ruled that the Township did not demonstrate that all such records were exempt and this portion of the request was granted in part subjective to lawful redaction. Despite the rulings though the Township has continued to rely on the single word unfounded as though it conclusively resolves the issue, but the public record shows that police investigative records were never adjudicated, the Board Executive Session jurisdiction was not proven and the administrative records were partially releasable. He states what he is placing on the record tonight that he possesses internal incident report documentation and eyewitness accounts stating that Nolan Mullen did in fact brandish a firearm. He states he has the email that Skip Cook sent to Harry Faulk the day after the investigation and also emails from some of the first responders on scene. He reads that on July 7th 13:25, North Huntingdon EMS Rescue was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident at Clay Pike and Brokers Lane. Two ambulances and the rescue truck went enroute, once on scene identified three patients. There is a redaction, a name assuming, made contact with the male driver of the vehicle. The male driver had blood covering his face and substantial damage to the front of his vehicle. When attempting to assess the patient on the side of the road and with the police present, appeared to be irate and pulled a pistol out of waistband and started to flash it toward the police officer. He addresses each Board member and states he has built a hardcore presentation to give to the public.

John Batis – 11957 McKee Road – states as a proud North Huntingdon resident for nearly twenty years, thanks the Board for giving opinions on the tax increase to plan for the future. He feels they all gave their opinions gallantly and explained very well. He thanks Commissioner Gray for stopping by his house and will be in contact in the future to discuss his personal matter. His next question is are there bylaws where specific instances or is this a court room that we are in here litigating open cases or here for taxpayer, homeowner, or zoning issues. He states this gentleman (Carrozza) is free to talk all he wants and says a lot, scriptures, quotes but a lot of the conversation sounds like a legal battle rather than Township business. He is more than willing to share his tax records for the past eighteen years and also asks if there is another reason there is a camera in here recording live when the meeting is being recorded live on the website and YouTube. He feels the meetings are about Township business, the taxpayers and does not feel it should be a platform for likes, clicks, social media, etc.

Dawn Hoffman – thanks the Public Works Department for a fantastic job in decorating the building and looking festive for the holidays for the kids. She states as Christian continues to heal and progress is learning things from when he was in a coma and the first responders that came to her house and witnessed probably one of the most horrific scenes any of them will ever see. Early on, when Christian was in the PICU, Forbes Hospital had honored them with a medal of excellence and what was very strange to her was the Township did not. What she wants from the Township is to recognize Rescue 8 and the first responders who are out saving lives for the residents every day. She addresses the Board and the oversite committee and how the police are being handled.

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On December 25, 2023, when her life was ripped upside down and inside out, Ted Kukich was the first person that she saw to pick up the broken pieces of her life. He served this community for twenty-eight years with honesty and integrity.

William Gulassa – 13741 Mike Road – states the reason he and his neighbors are here tonight is the issue with the Norwin Soccer Club and how they installed extremely bright lighting that shines directly on the back of their homes. He states Commissioner Gray, Manager Faulk and Mr. Fonzi have been there to witness it and invites any of the Board to come there to see the lighting. He states it has been a very difficult journey, he is a reasonable man and since August he has attempted to contact the president of the Norwin Soccer Club, went twice to discuss face to face to an employee who was to relay their concerns to the President with no response. He also went to another employee who called the President and didn't get anywhere that way either. He presents over three months of emails with the President and is still an issue and haven't done anything to alleviate the issue. Mr. Baker adds that he has spoken with the President and at first went kind of rough and he explained the light is shining directly into the back of the houses. The President said it was resolved in which it was not. Mr. Baker states the lights are extremely bright and nothing has been done. Another issue is that the storm drain is too small and he has tried to work with Rich Albert, who is now retired, since 2008 and the water overflows and floods his garage during every heavy rain.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT

Nick Carrozza – Commissioner Bevan states she never said what he said and will have to prove it to her. She states Mr. Carrozza has no respect for anybody be it the Commissioners, be it the audience, or anybody. (Mr. Carrozza continues to be argumentative with Commissioner Bevan). Commissioner Atwood adds to the let public know that he has been receiving phone calls on behalf of Mr. Carrozza threatening to rape his wife and six-year child and kill his ten-year-old son. They specifically invoke Mr. Carrozza's name and call on his behalf from all over the Country. He wants the public to know they are getting personal threats from people all over the Country. (Mr. Carrozza is continuously argumentative and is escorted out of the meeting).

John Batis – Commissioner Haigis addresses Mr. Batis' questions about public speaking at the meetings as far as having to do with public business and being a resident to speak. He refers to Solicitor Dice that the public is allowed to speak about any concern, residents and non-residents. Solicitor Dice addresses his comment about the second camera and states citizens are allowed to bring in their own cameras and record. Commissioner Gray adds that he did stop at Mr. Batis' house and he was not home and also watched the last meeting where he sort of called him out for not calling him or stopping at his house, but reminds him that when Mr. Batis brought the stop sign matter on McKee approximately two years ago they had a discussion and Commissioner Gray explained that the Township's position that we can't put in a four-way stop sign and also told about the history of having to remove other stop signs because they were not legal. Commissioner Gray explains why he has said nothing since is because Mr. Batis comes to speak about the same matter and had professionals that have spoken about this matter, so he felt if Mr. Batis didn't take his word maybe he would take the professional's word. He states Commissioner Zona is working with the State that would permit a four-way stop sign, but doesn't see that going anywhere too

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soon. Commissioner Zona states this topic is on the agenda and can be discussed later, but did meet with Senator Ward for a good while and will have PennDot take a look at it too, but their words were we can't put a stop sign there because then we would have the liability on it if something would happen or somebody would have an accident. He states they really concur with everything we have done and in the follow up there is nothing else they can do on their level.

Dawn Lewandowski – Commissioner Haigis recognizes Public Works and staff decorating for the holidays. He apologizes that the Township did not recognize the Rescue 8 employees that handled her situation. He adds that Rescue 8 helps serve the community between themselves, the police department, fire departments and would be awarding them at every meeting. He understands her situation was outside the normal and should have taken the opportunity to recognize them. He thinks they all do a great job and the Board greatly appreciates the first responders. Ms. Lewandowski states there seems to be some confusion of what happened with her son and is there an ongoing investigation or is it tabled because she found a Right to Know involving some other things and is this one threatening to be closed on behalf of the Right to Know she filed and if that plays a role in why North Huntingdon would not want to honor those because Chief Rizzo led her to the impression that Christian's story was an embarrassment, not one that should be publicized, however it has been publicized in the Trib. She states she did not ask to honor them for every call because you will probably never see another call like Christians. She states whether the Board responds or not, Forbes did your job two years ago and she feels it is a stain on the community that you wouldn't promote your own people. She states she wouldn't be leaving this community if she thought the Board was worth anything, but she doesn't and wouldn't want to pay taxes for anything because the services she has received, except for Ted Kukich and Rescue 8, she would not recommend anyone come here and pay a dime for the schools or the Township. Commissioner Haigis states no one has ever asked this Board to recognize anybody with her situation. Commissioner Zona adds that he definitely concurs with Dawn and being a first responder do see horrific things and her situation is beyond horrific. He believes the first responders went above and beyond to save the young man's life and he would be all for recommending them to receive an award.

Soccer Field Lights – Commissioner Bevan asks who installed the lights. Commissioner Haigis states there is a light pollution ordinance, and it sounds like these are replacement lights that are brighter. Assistant Manager Fonzi states the challenge is that Norwin Soccer Club does not have an active land development approval for the buildings and the site. So, through Commissioner Gray's and the residents' emails, learned the soccer club put some flood / security lights on the concession stand building. Mr. Fonzi states he was in email conversation with Mr. Bonovich and agreed to have the lights redirected towards the ground this weekend. Commissioner Gray thanks the residents for coming out because he was down there and it is like a freight train coming into the living room. He states these lights were put up over the summer when the trees had leaves and once they fell off, the lights are directly at the houses and is obnoxious. Commissioner Haigis states public works can reach out to the resident with stormwater issues. Mr. Hochlinski states it is on their project list and he was there to look at it. He states it is a challenging project the way the pipe is laid out.

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Work Sessions Discussion Topics

1. 2024 Audit Presentation*

Manager Faulk states Chris Robertson from Turnley Robertson & Associates is here to present the 2024 Audit and states the overall analysis is a steady healthy fund balance and has grown over the years. There were no Board comments.

2. 2026 Road Improvement Program*

Bob Robinson the Board has a spreadsheet before them that shows the scope of work that is proposed for 2026. Most of the work will be in Wards 3, 4, & 5 with exception of Norwin Avenue. The first thirteen roads from McKee down to N. Whitmore are related to the Columbia Gas 2025 project and have a project agreement with them and received \$328,000.00 in the paving escrow that will cover approximately half the project in paving one lane. The next group of roads are FiberMat projects. He states Norwin Avenue has to be addressed this year and plan to do that at night and by chance if there is additional funding for Ronda Court. Also, Five Pines Road from Colonial Manor to Roberta Drive as an add alternate but doubts if that will get done. He states the plan is to be back in Wards 3, 4 & 5 in 2027 because there are a lot of candidates that need addressed plus there is a second Columbia Gas project on the other side of Robbins Station Road including Roth, Adams, Herold and approximately twelve other roads. He states there is a project agreement and received a check for \$390,000.00 in our paving escrow. These agreements with the utility companies are a win-win for the Township. Mr. Robinson states any road improvement program cannot only look at the roads in worst shape, but look at methods to keep the better roads in good condition. This year we are adding pavement rejuvenation and can only put on newer roads which is a liquid product that penetrates into the asphalt surface, softens it up and helps cracks pull back together extending the useful life. He states there will be three contracts, Milling & Resurfacing, FiberMat, and Rejuvenation Contracts. There were no Board comments.

3. Solar Ordinance*

Assistant Manager Fonzi states he reformatted the ordinance from last month and left out the wind systems that was part of the other one, so this is just dealing with freestanding solar panels in a yard or roof and also the large-scale solar farms like the one proposed on Schade Hill Road. He states he likes the minimum fifty acres for the large-scale solar farms and two hundred fifty-foot setback from any property line giving it a large buffer. The other draft referenced the operating sound with decibel levels and he would like to take that out and to state it must not be in violation of our noise ordinance. Commissioner Atwood states he is glad the wind sections were taken out as he did some research from the Department of Energy and the wind tower needs to be thirty feet higher than any obstacle within three hundred feet so that would be quite tall in a neighborhood and he feels this draft looks much better than the last. Commissioner McHugh states he pulled some ordinances from other Townships, and he doesn't see any verbiage in the draft that protects putting them on easements or right of ways. Mr. Fonzi states that should be with the general zoning if they are getting a permit and have to obey all setbacks. Commissioner McHugh states on the bigger systems, a rapid disconnect, in case there was an emergency. Mr. Fonzi states he can take a look at that. Commissioner McHugh states in Mt. Pleasant's ordinance it states at the time of the application the facility will provide the Township with an estimate of cost performing

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the decommissioning and the Township will hold ten percent of the cost and reevaluate it every five years. Commissioner Atwood asks with the solar panels will anything be addressed regarding non-pervious surfaces. Mr. Fonzi states the proposed solar farm will have to have stormwater management.

4. McKee Road and MacArthur Drive Intersection*

Mr. Robinson states a stop sign is a traffic control device and any traffic control device in Pennsylvania should have an engineering study and for any enactment in placement have applicable warrants. There are three basic warrants, one being traffic accident history in the last five years, secondly is volume warrants and how much traffic is on a major road and a minor road. McKee Road is a major road and MacArthur is a minor road and the volume warrants on the major road need to be a minimum of three hundred vehicles per hour for an eight-hour period. On the minor road would need to have two hundred vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. He states there is more than sufficient site distance on both directions, so really there are no warrants and would be illegal for the Township to install multi-way stop signs for speed control. He states PADot did an LTAP study and recommended the push button signs for pedestrian crossing. One of their recommendations was to consider a raised crosswalk which will be like a speed table which would slow traffic down, however it doesn't fit. A raised crosswalk would not fit in the intersection. He also adds to consider night-time lighting and could add an additional streetlight be installed for light at dusk. Commissioner Zona asks if there is any lighting out there. Mr. Robinson states he just came through there tonight and it is pretty dark. He states there is a pole at MacArthur and McKee and could consider putting a light there. Manager Faulk states we could outfit the posts with the flashing yellow lights so when you press the button to cross the street not only will the yellow lights flash but a spotlight will turn on at each end. Commissioner Zona states the LTAP report also says No Parking signs should be considered for both approaches to McKee Road. Mr. Robinson states that would be redundant to put No Parking signs. Mr. Batis clarifies he never used the term speed ever in any of his public statements and has read the warrants as well. He would prefer the Township not spend a nickel if we are all in agreement that this is just how it is going to be. To deem that intersection safe and God forbid something ever happens. Commissioner Atwood asks what #8 Road Diet means. Mr. Robinson states he has never heard that term before.

5. Axon Taser Purchase Agreement*

Manager Faulk states each officer is assigned a taser and those taser models are no longer manufactured and if something malfunctioned would not be able to replace it. The police department has a capital project fund to replace the tasers along with training devices and warranties for the price of \$134,000.00 being billed \$25,000.00 per year for five years. He states these models are able to shoot approximately twenty-five feet further than the original tasers. Commissioner Zona clarifies how many tasers are to be purchased. Manager Faulk states twenty-five tasers are to be purchased. Commissioner Gray asks if what the Board has in front of them is accurate. Manager Faulk states it is accurate and twenty-five tasers will be purchased. Commissioner Zona states the item he was looking at was listed as add-ons and is thinking that may be cartridges. Manager Faulk states Lt. McCurdy can speak more on this once it's placed on the agenda. Commissioner Haigis states the additional five are battery packs. Commissioner Zona states the tasers use a battery. Commissioner Haigis suggests this can be put on the agenda and to clarify before the vote.

6. Tax Collector Office Lease*

Manager Faulk states there is currently a lease with the tax collector that dates back to 2002 and under this agreement the Township leases five hundred thirteen square feet of office space to the tax collector at a rate of \$156.25 per month totaling \$1,875.00 annually. The current market rate for office space is approximately sixteen dollars per square foot totaling \$8,208.00. Due to space constraints the Community Development Department plans to expand into part of the existing tax office. He states the annual cost will be \$4,096.00. There will be a new tax collector sworn in the first of the year and would like to have her office at the municipal building. He states the Township pays for the electric, gas, water and sewage. The current tax collector pays for their own internet service and phone line. He does not have an issue adding another phone line as it will make it easier on the front office to transfer the call instead of calling another number however the internet will be kept separate and do not want to share an internet service or servers. The Board will need to decide on how much to charge per square foot. Commissioner Haigis states he is not as concerned about the cost but more so the open office hours. Commissioner Zona agrees and asks if she is aware of the reduced space she is going to have. Manager Faulk states she is aware. Commissioner Atwood asks if the Board is allowed to dictate the open office hours. Solicitor Dice states if you are leasing a space, could mandate the office hours, and be part of the lease. Commissioner Atwood states he would like to see something in the lease about public hours. Commissioner Hempel states he has spoken with Dorothy Dombrowski and stated verbally that she is going to have some evening hours so definitely an improvement for the residents. Commissioner Zona spoke with her too and doesn't feel there will be an issue with office hours.

7. 2026 Salary Scale Resolution*

Manager Faulk states this is a copy of the 2026 Salary Scale Resolution for non-union employees and there is no change to this resolution and is the same as last year. He states this will be on the agenda next week for consideration.

8. 2026 Salary & Wage Schedule*

Manager Faulk states this is the resolution setting forth the salaries for 2026 budget and are budgeted according to the evaluations that were performed. He states the Director of Community Development and Chief of Police will be added later in 2026 once the positions are filled.

9. Advertise for Reorganization Meeting

Manager Faulk states the ReOrg Meeting will be held on the first Monday of January. This year we have some flexibility as there is no Planning Commission Meeting and would the Board prefer 6PM or 7PM. He states the newly elected Commissioners, Tax Collector and Solicitor will be sworn in and no other business will be discussed. Commissioner Hempel and Atwood are ok with 7PM to keep it consistent. Commissioner Haigis states it will be Monday, January 5th at 7PM.

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10. 2271 Timothy Road Street Light Tax Assessment*

Assistant Manager Fonzi states as you recall last month Mr. Albert spoke to the Board about his abnormally high tax assessment for a streetlight. He does have more frontage than anyone does on Timothy Road. He states for a corner lot, a fifty percent discount on the assessment but was still paying over three hundred dollars per year whereas some of the neighbors were paying around one hundred dollars per year. Mr. Fonzi states there are only four streetlights for nine properties on Timothy Road so he took the average frontage of the other eight properties and divided that and got the average cost per foot, so essentially that gives Mr. Albert a fifty percent discount. Mr. Albert seemed satisfied with the outcome and if the Board feels the need to reduce it more to make it more equitable.

PLANNING / ENGINEERING TOPICS:

There are no discussion items.

OLD BUSINESS

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Atwood states a couple of months ago, he asked for some reports from the police regarding the targeted speeding areas and asks if it can be sent over. The other thing is at the intersection of Brokers Lane and Clay Pike, there has been discussion about putting a stop sign there. He states he spoke with County Commissioner Ted Kopas and he said there are some concerns from the North Huntingdon Police Department about putting a stop sign in and is wondering what the delay is and why we are apprehensive. Manager Faulk doesn't recall there being a delay but the concerns were there will be stopped vehicles with vehicles coming around the corner or up over the hill rear ending the stopped vehicles. Bob Robinson adds that there is plenty of sight distance and was not one of the warrants. He feels the accident history is really not definitive for the types of accidents. Commissioner Atwood states the comments he got from the County engineer indicated the delay was on our end and they were all for it. Commissioner Zona states Clay Pike is a County road and if they decide to put a stop sign there, the Township cannot hold them up. Bob Robinson states that is correct and if the County installs stop signs, there should be warrants. Commissioner Zona states we cannot go out there and say we don't want it and if we are really the ones holding this up. If it is a County road and they feel it fits one of the warrants and are legally allowed to put it up, they can put it up. Bob Robinson states that is correct.

Commissioner Gray states going back to the taser issue and asks if this is something we bid. Manager Faulk states he will check with the police department and if it is a COSTARS vendor, then no we do not have to bid for it. Commissioner Gray is wondering about the unit cost and the other concern is do we know exactly what we are getting, how many, and is it all needed. He recalls we bought cameras for the parks with grant money and the total number of cameras did not agree with the itemized list of cameras. He states there was a difference of four cameras. He wanted to raise this issue again to be certain of the bids and exactly what it is. Commissioner Haigis states Lt. McCurdy will be here next week and can clarify the details. Commissioner Zona

agrees he will give us more details and knows when you have tasers is prudent to have a couple extra. He states Axon is the leading company for tasers and bodycams.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Gray

Motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0 (8:28PM)

Executive Session to follow to discuss legal matters.

- Special Meeting minutes of December 11, 2025, were approved by the Board of Commissioners on January 21, 2026.

Zachary Haigis, President

Harry R. Faulk, Township Secretary

/jjh

