

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026, 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	Teleconference
Commissioner Atwood	Present
Commissioner Gray	Present
Commissioner Zona	Present
Commissioner McGhee	Present
Commissioner McHugh	Present
Commissioner Haigis	Present

Also Present:
Manager Harry Faulk
Solicitor Dayne Dice
Asst. Manager Ryan Fonzi
Chief McCurdy
John Hochlinski
Kody Grabiak
Lydia Kinkaid
Thomas Bonidie

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPENING PRAYER

CITIZENS INPUT –

Rescue 8 Rob Leuthold – Executive Director North Huntingdon EMS Rescue – 11259 Center Highway – states he wants to provide an open and transparent update of how North Huntingdon EMS performed over the last year, both where we succeeded and where challenges remain. He states in 2025 two new ambulances of a cost of one hundred eighty thousand dollars each were put in use. These vehicles are critical in maintaining reliable, safe, emergency response for the residents and only turned over 2.2% of their call volume to other services to reflect the dedication of the staff, consistently responding to calls from the hospitals, manage call stacking the very low acuity calls. Last year, EMS handled fifty-one hundred calls and forty-five hundred of those were EMS related calls and of that forty-five hundred, thirty six hundred resulted in transport, so nine hundred EMS calls to where the insurance companies did not pay or paid for little for those costs of services. He states the majority of their revenue comes from insurance reimbursements, unfortunately those reimbursements do not reflect the true costs of providing EMS. He states last year with 4,441 billable charts generated approximately 1.7 million dollars, an average of \$383.00 per call and the expense for the exact same call was 2.1 million dollars, an average of \$474.00 per

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call which is approximately \$91.00 per call short of making a profit resulting in approximately \$400,000.00 at a loss. The lack of adequate reimbursements from insurance companies is the cause. Additionally, there are approximately \$800,000.00 in unpaid medical bills owed to the service. Recovering a portion of that would allow to provide an increased salary for staff, purchase advance medical equipment and make operational facility improvements. Despite the losses alternative sources of funding, grant funding through the Commonwealth and private foundations, a subscription program where 37% of the residents partake in, donations from local businesses and municipal allotment. He states they have developed a strategic plan to replace a vehicle every year, expand grant funding activity, increase participation in the subscription program, work with legislatures to improve EMS insurance reimbursements and encourage timely payments for medical bills. North Huntingdon EMS remains committed to providing high quality, dependable emergency care with continued community support and meaningful funding reform can ensure the service remains for years to come.

Nick Carrozza – NHT resident - states he handed Commissioner Gray a packet to which he will be discussing. He states he received a response from Harry Faulk as to the submitted Right To Know request and went through what information was able to be provided and what was denied. One of the documents is a policy that was enacted on October 19, 2005 pertaining to visitors in the workplace. Also, the bill from Lattiumus Communications Security which is a company from West Virginia and a bill with Greg Arendas' name on it with a quote summary and a purchase authorization of \$5,838.00 to the taxpayers with Harry Faulk's signature on it. When he asked about the buzzer system at the last meeting, was met with complete silence and is unacceptable. He states he would like to speak about the public lobby in which he is facing criminal prosecution by the Pennsylvania Attorney General right now because of being in the public lobby. So, what has occurred with respect to the public lobby access, security changes and enforcement actions is not policy disagreement or a misunderstanding, but a matter of Federal Constitutional compliance, statutory limits on municipal authority and due process obligations that were not followed based entirely on the Township's record. He states several facts are undisputable, first there is no dually adopted ordinance or resolution authorizing the restriction of public access to the lobby, second there is no policy adopted or approved that lawfully converts this space from a public form into a restricted one, third there is no record of public vote, hearing or legislative process supporting enforcement actions taken against members of the public, fourth security installations and access controls were implemented first with legal justification attempts afterward. He states this is not about safety, disagreement or technology, this is about who governs the Township. If the Township enforces restrictions first and seeks legal justification later through courts litigation or defense, then governance is shifted away from elected officials and into judicial oversight. He states the Township must acknowledge the procedural failures, not as an admission of wrongdoing, but a recognition of legal reality.

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RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT

Rob Leuthold – Rescue 8 EMS – Commissioner Atwood thanks him for giving the briefing and to please let the Board know what they can do to help. He states they all do an awesome job and to please relay to everyone that the Board appreciates their services.

Nick Carrozza – Commissioner Gray states the comment he made to Mr. Carrozza 1 ½ years ago on the phone to seek legal council was made in relation to his dissatisfaction with the handling of the accident on July 7, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve (Special Meeting 12/11/25)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner McHugh

Motion to approve (Regular Meeting 12/17/25)

Commissioner Gray has two corrections. The first on Page 4 with the motion to approve an appointment, it states Commissioner Gray is abstaining from this because he believes the issue is not right, when it should be “ripe”. Also, the last page under adjournment the motion carried 6 – 0 – 0 and should be 7 – 0 – 0.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner McHugh

Amends his motion to include those corrections.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve Voucher No. 46530 through Voucher No. 46911.

Commissioner Gray asks what Voucher No. 46867 to Sprague Energy for the Parks Department for year 2026. Coordinator Kincaid states that is for diesel fuel for the parks. Commissioner Gray asks if there is a contract for diesel fuel. Director Hochlinski states we have our own storage tanks at Public Works for the Parks Department where diesel fuel is kept for the equipment.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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STAFF REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Director Hochlinski asks for the public's cooperation this weekend as a major snow event is coming and implores the residents to not park on the streets. He states it makes it a lot easier for the crews to clear the roads. Commissioner Zona states last month there were two residents complaining about the bright lights from the soccer fields and if it was taken care of. Commissioner Gray states it was taken care of and the soccer club turned off the lights right after the meeting and he has not heard anything about them being turned back on. Commissioner Haigis states he had a resident reach out to him on Forest Drive and asked about the storm inlets being lower than the road. Director Hochlinski states they have addressed a couple of them and have to wait until hot mix asphalt is available.

PARKS REPORT

Commissioner Haigis thanks Coordinator Kincaid for all her work on the grant that was received and really appreciates that. She states it is very exciting and thanks Adam from DCNR and all the staff at North Huntingdon with their help with the application. It was definitely a team effort.

POLICE REPORT

Chief McCurdy recognizes the dispatchers and officers who took immediate action to keep our Township safe on January 3, 2026. The officers recognized and apprehended an armed transient violent criminal who mistakenly entered the borders of North Huntingdon Township. In the early morning hours, this criminal was at a local business when he was observed acting suspiciously. The initial officer took action, conducted a traffic stop when the criminal fled in this vehicle which was later confirmed to be stolen from Jeannette. He states the criminal made multiple rapid U-turns in attempt to elude apprehension when he realized his erratic maneuvers didn't work, he intentionally accelerated towards another police vehicle crashing head on and disabling it. The officer sustained soft tissue injuries but despite his injuries and without hesitation was able to exit his vehicle and hold the criminal at gun point alongside the initial officer. The stolen vehicle, even though sustained catastrophic damage, deployed airbags, pouring smoke from the destroyed front end, fled again, traveling through multiple municipalities and over County lines. He states the officer continued to pursue knowing that the stolen vehicle would soon fail, which it did in Wilkinsburg. The criminal bailed out of the vehicle, armed with a handgun equipped with an extended magazine. The officers chased the criminal, jumped a fence, running towards an apartment building. The violent criminal was ultimately taken into custody after resisting arrest. The subsequent investigation recovered a stolen firearm, stolen vehicle, quantity of cocaine, prescription opioid medication, digital scale, cash and addition paraphernalia. The arresting officer sustained a torn pectoral muscle which needed surgery and is currently recovering. The dispatchers and officers during this stressful and dangerous situation maintained exceptional discipline and situational awareness through determination and unwavering self-control provided

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a consistent, detailed communication that created a favorable outcome. Chief McCurdy states our community and citizens are safer now that this criminal is behind bars awaiting trial at Westmoreland County Jail. He commends all the officers involved. He adds that the Road Department has been doing an excellent job, over the holidays, nights and long hours and states our roads are very safe and maintained very well. Commissioner Zona states police officers, Federal, State and Local are under assault in this Country right now and this was great action where it could have turned out tragically and to please pray for our officers.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Coordinator Mahinski states this weekend we can receive anywhere from ten inches to twenty inches of snow and to please use common sense when shoveling and try to keep the roads open so emergency vehicles can get through

ENGINEERING REPORT

Commissioner McGhee asks when we will have timelines on the upcoming projects. Engineer Grabiak states it depends on the project. The Roth Drive Culvert project is a joint permit with DEP and takes approximately two years and the MS4 projects are usually designed in Winter/Spring and started late Summer / Fall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT

There were no Board comments.

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

There were no Board comments.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Dice

- 1) Action to adopt Ordinance No. 2317, repealing the Per Capita Tax.

Solicitor Dayne Dice notes that any Per Capita Taxes and interest in penalties that are outstanding are still due right now. This ordinance repeals it in the future.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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TOWNSHIP MANAGERS REPORT

1. Action to approve December check register.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner McHugh

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

2. December Budget Report.

3. Action to approve Resolution No. 101, adopting and submitting to DEP for its approval as a revision to the official sewage facilities plan for the Cleaveland Price Expansion Project.

Motion: Commissioner Gray
Second: Commissioner Zona

So moved.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

4. Action to appoint _____ to the North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority Board to serve a term that will end on December 31, 2028.

Motion: Commissioner Gray
Second: Commissioner McGhee

Motion appoint Randy Pedder.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

5. Action to hire Thomas Bonidie to the position of Director of Community Development.

Motion: Commissioner Zonna
Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

6. Action to approve Resolution No. 102, setting forth salaries and wages for 2026.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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7. Action to approve Resolution No. 103, providing reciprocity for Act 172 Volunteer Service Credit Program for North Huntingdon Township residents who serve as active volunteers with the Irwin Volunteer Fire Department and Manor Borough Volunteer Fire Departments.

Motion: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

8. Action to award the bid to Lutterman Excavating for the demolition of 3031 Paintertown Road in the amount of \$14,700.00. (General Fund)

Motion: Commissioner McHugh

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

9. Action to award the bid to Schade Landscaping for the demolition of 7716 Route 30 in the amount of \$11,000.00. (General Fund)

Motion: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner McHugh

Commissioner Gray states he doesn't feel the bids are spelled out enough. He feels Lutterman's bid is, but Schade's bid does not mention some things that Luttermans does and thinks we need clarification on what is excluded in the price and what is included in the bid. He asks if there are standards and could we see the bid specs. Manager Faulk states Josh Andrykovitch did this before he left and will look to see if we have the bid specs from him, but for something like this does not have to be put out for bid and can take the quotes. Commissioner Gray states Lutterman's bid mentions hazard permits, hazard survey, asbestos survey, remediation of any hazards are not included and those items are not addressed in the Schade bid. Manager Faulk states the Board has approved Schade on multiple occasions for demolitions and have not had any issues or surcharges for the amount that they charge. Commissioner Gray verifies Schade is the low bidder on this particular job. Yes. Mr. Fonzi adds that the asbestos test came back negative and there is no asbestos as KU Resources performed the test. He states the hazardous equipment mentioned is an old XRAY machine in there and Adam Hoffman reached out to estate agency asking about the serial number and what had to be done to the machine to make it safe. He states we have the steps for that and Fred Schade has a connection that is used to dealing with those types of machines and is able to be disconnected and disposed of properly before demolishing the building. Commissioner Zona agrees with Commissioner Gray and would like to see more information in their quote and states they have the wrong address and to also include a date and more detail. He

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states all their quotes look identical just written on a little piece of paper. Commissioner Haigis suggests using a standardized form for quotes moving forward.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

10. Action to advertise for Summer Help Positions.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Zona

Commissioner Atwood asks if this is for Public Works and Parks positions. Manager Faulk states for Parks will be opened up to possibly counselors and Coordinator Kincaid has a plan together because the summer help we've been getting for cutting grass and Public Works has dwindled over the years as nobody wants to do this kind of work, so we are going to write some job descriptions and bring to the Board for approval. Commissioner Atwood states he would like to see the job descriptions before we advertise for it.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to table.

Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion carried to table 7 – 0 - 0

11. Action to enter into a lease agreement with Dorothy Dombrowski for \$83.95 per month for office space at the North Huntingdon Township Municipal Building.

Motion: Commissioner Gray

So moved.

Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

12. Action to request proposals for Auditing Services.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

13. Action to request proposals for Professional Legal Services.

Motion: Commissioner Gray

So moved.

Second: Commissioner McGhee

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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14. Action to purchase a Backhoe from Groff Tractor and Equipment in the amount of \$131,118.86. (Capital Reserve Fund, CoStars Contract #4400028105)

Motion: Commissioner Atwood
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion to adjourn. (7:35 P.M)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

Executive Session to follow to talk about personnel matters.

- 1) Regular Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2026 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on February 18, 2026.

Harry R. Faulk, Township Manager
/jjh

Zachary Haigis, President

