

A. OPENING

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the Richland Township Board of Supervisor's was called to order on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. with Tim Arnold, Chairperson presiding.
2. **ROLL CALL: Present:** Tim Arnold, Chairperson; Chris Vanelli, Vice-Chair; Kathie Doyle, Member; Leslie Huhn, Township Manager; Rich Ficco, Police Chief; Linc Treadwell, Township Solicitor; Mike Schwartz, Township Engineer; and Vicki Schuller, Administrative Assistant.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Stainless Steel Associates has been tabled.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS

E. ZONING HEARING BOARD APPLICATIONS

F. DEVELOPER MATTERS

1. **Richard & Arlene Baringer Consolidation Preliminary/Final Plan 1845 California Road – TMP Nos. 36-009-069 & 36-009-169-001**

The proposal is to consolidate TMP 36-009-169-001 (2.2178 acres) with TMP 36-009-169 (21.4226 acres) in the RA – Rural Agricultural Zoning District. TMP 36-009-169 has access to California Road and contains a single-family dwelling and accessory barn and pole building (A1 General Farming and A8 Farm Unit) TMP 36-009-169-001 is vacant with no improvements.

Motion to approve the preliminary/final Baringer Consolidation Final Plan subject to:

- A. Compliance with the Gilmore & Associates review letter dated July 2, 2025.
- B. Compliance with all Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance requirements.
- C. Compliance with the regulations of all municipal and governmental agencies having jurisdiction.
- D. All fees owed to the Township being paid in full.

MOTION BY: Kathie Doyle

SECOND BY: Chris Vanelli

MOTION CARRIED

G. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS – NEW

1. **Approve Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the July 14, 2025, Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY: Chris Vanelli

SECOND BY: Kathie Doyle

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to approve the July 29, 2025, Board of Supervisors Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY: Chris Vanelli

SECOND BY: Kathie Doyle

MOTION CARRIED

2. **Financial Business – Approve payment of Bills**
Motion to approve payment of the July 2025 bills.

MOTION BY: Kathie Doyle

SECOND BY: Chris Vanelli

MOTION CARRIED

3. **2024 Audit Report**

The 2024 Audit report has been prepared by MVA Tax and Advisors. There were no findings noted.

Motion to acknowledge receiving the 2024 Financial Audit Report as prepared by MVA.

MOTION BY: Chris Vanelli

SECOND BY: Kathie Doyle

MOTION CARRIED

4. MS4 Update – Tohickon and Unami Creek Restoration

Township Engineer Mike Schwartz will present an update on the MS4 stream restoration projects for the Tohickon and Unami Creeks.

Mike Schwartz stated the MS4 is the Municipal Stormwater System so it's soils, pipes, retention basins, any of those systems that are within the census area of the Township. It is not the entire Township, but it is an area defined by DEP. The MS4 permit is the maintenance and protection of the stormwater system. The Township MS4 is in two watersheds, the Tohickon and the Unami Watershed. The Tohickon was first and to satisfy the pollution reduction plan which the Township was required to prepare as part of the last MS4 cycle, each cycle is a 5-year permit timeframe; to reduce sediment to DEP standards for the pollution reduction plan we proposed a stream restoration project on the Tohickon. The project area is along the property line of Old Castle and the new MRP Warehouse facility that is currently under construction. What we did was approximately 1,000 feet of stream bank restoration, which involved removing dead and invasive species, doing slope grading on the edge of the slope, proposed some toe protection of the stream channel, which is putting larger diameter rock to help prevent erosion during higher velocity storms, and replanted those areas with native vegetation which will help reestablish the streambank. All in hopes of reducing erosion and sediment pollution downstream and in the Tohickon.

Tim Arnold asked if that was Phase One. Does the DEP come out and inspect each phase as it's completed?

Mike Schwartz said during the process the Conservation District was there and the Conservation District had a waterways specialist that was in and around the site during construction. DEP Officials have not seen it. They wanted to but the Township had an MS4 Audit on July 17th that Jim Benner and I took part in. That was for the entire MS4 covering the permit in its entirety including the restoration projects. The Tohickon project is very grown in and it was decided they would not tour the area. They were very pleased with the pictures. We took pictures throughout the construction process. My office went out in March and July. We took pictures at the beginning of the growing season and then with vegetation taking.

Tim Arnold said let's talk about the Unami. The Unami is over by Brighton Gardens, correct?

Mike Schwartz said it is right off the Blue Heron Park in Brighton Gardens. That was a much shorter restoration project. It's technically a stream that comes from Brighton Gardens. What we did was similar, we cut the slopes back on the edge of the banks, live stakes with native plantings, took out evasive plants, some large trees and cleaned up some of the dead. Part of the permit, there are six minimum control measures, one of them is public education and that is this. Speaking annually satisfies public education. On the website we include DEP materials that talk about when it rains it drains. Be cautious of where the water runoff goes. It goes into our systems and into the creeks and waters. As it stands, we are waiting to hear back from the Audit. We replied to some initial comments. The Townships obligation is to continue to work towards addressing the 6 minimum control measures and one that I anticipate coming back is doing some inner office, inner Township education like speaking with the Road Crew. That should be done annually. DEP provides programs or my office could sit down and go over it with them.

Tim Arnold said over a half million dollars of taxpayer money was for this. Leslie, was any of this half million dollars reimbursable by the Federal Government or the State? Leslie Huhn said we used some of our ARPA funding to cover this so as not to use tax dollars.

Mike Schwartz referenced pictures and said the Unami is a very small waterway. In his experience, it is constantly running. You can jump over it compared to the Tohickon. Not a lot of people will see the Tohickon project, but it does look good, and you can see the work area on Google Earth. The one thing Leslie is aware of for next year's budget, you will need to budget for outfall screening. So, we will have to do all of the dry flow screenings of all of the outlets in the Township, which we did during the last 5-year cycle and we will have to do during this current 5-year cycle.

5. Tollgate Landing Trail – Approval of Easement Agreement

An Easement Agreement has been prepared between Richland Township, Milford Township and the Tollgate Landing Homeowner's Association. This agreement is required for the Appalachian Mountain Club to secure grant funding.

Motion to authorize execution of the Tollgate Landing Trail Easement between Richland Township, Milford Township and the Tollgate Landing Homeowner's Association.

MOTION BY: Chris Vanelli

SECOND BY: Kathie Doyle

MOTION CARRIED

H. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS – OLD

I. BOARD & STAFF APPOINTMENTS

J. BOARD & STAFF REPORTS

1. SUPERVISORS

Tim Arnold –

- National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 5th. 800 ice cream bars were handed out throughout the community. The ice cream was donated by BJ's.
- Friday, August 8th was the last movie night. All 3 movie nights were able to be held this year.
- Saturday, August 23rd will be Community Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2. TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Leslie Huhn –

- PennDOT brake retarder study update: There has been no response from PennDOT on conducting a study on a portion of Route 663.

3. ENGINEER – None

4. SOLICITOR – None

5. POLICE CHIEF

Chief Ficco –

- Closed acceptance of applications on July 18th. There were 70 applications and resumes. Interviews were held today with applicants from the Police Academy.

L. PUBLIC COMMENT

M. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:28 pm.

MOTION BY: Chris Vanelli

SECOND BY: Kathie Doyle

MOTION CARRIED