

SOMERSET TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ORGANIZATION MEETING
January 5, 2026

The Organization Meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., at the Township Municipal Building. Mr. Lohr called the meeting to order with the following in attendance:

SUPERVISORS

Mr. James R. Bockstoce
Mr. David Kearns, Jr.
Mr. Mark J. Lohr
Mr. Paul Myers
Mr. David Wiltrout

Pledge of Allegiance

Resignation of Paul Myers from Board of Auditors

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to accept resignation of Paul Myers from Board of Auditors. Motion passed unanimously.

Added Item – Motion to Approve Items on Agenda for Board Action

Solicitor Liekar advised agenda posted late and motion is required to allow Board to act.

Motion Lohr, Second Kearns, to approve Board action on agenda items. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Agenda Items

Bill Pollock stated ZHB Solicitor should be appointed by ZHB, not the Board of Supervisors, asked if 2.7 million will be transferred to CFS Bank as PLGIT is not insured, and asked about hiring of p-t manager as it was not included in budget. Chris Vanderman recommends Jim Liekar to remain as Solicitor.

Chairman of Board of Supervisors

Motion Bockstoce, Second Kearns, to appoint Paul Myers as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to appoint Wiltrout as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to appoint Julie Ann Dotson as Secretary/Treasurer and continue current treasurer's bond in effect until June 2026 at \$100,000. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to appoint Attorney James Liekar as Township Solicitor. On a voice vote, the motion passed. Wiltrout voted no.

Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor

Motion Lohr, Second Kearns, to appoint Attorney John Petrisek as Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 1 of 2026 – Schedule of Fees

Motion Myers, Second Bockstoce, to table item. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2 of 2026 – Emergency Management Coordinator

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to appoint Ron Sicchitano Jr. as EMC at rate of \$1000.00/year as set forth in R2 of 2026. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 3 of 2026 – Fire Protection Agreements (2025 through 2029)

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to adopt the agreements designating Ellsworth VFD, Fallowfield VFC, Valley Inn VFD, North Strabane Township VFD and Bentleyville VFD also know as Somerset Township Fire Protection Group, as the firefighting, vehicle rescue/extrication entity for Somerset Township as set forth in R3 of 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Fire Relief

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to set distribution for Volunteer Fire Relief of 2026. On a voice note, the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of CPA for 2025 Audit

Motion Lohr, Second Kearns, to appoint Turnley Robertson & Assoc., CPA, to perform the annual audit for 2025. On a voice vote, the motion passed. Wilttrout abstained.

Diesel Fuel

Motion Bockstoce, Second Kearns, to authorize bid advertisement for Diesel Fuel. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Anti-Skid, Stone, Pipe, Inlets, and Asphalt

Motion Lohr, Second Kearns, to authorize bid advertisement for Anti-Skid, Stone, Pipe, Inlets, and Asphalt. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Myers stated bids to be opened by committee prior to being awarded.

Update Hard Surface Restoration Requirements for Street Openings

Motion Lohr, Second Kearns, to approve update of hard surface restoration requirements for street openings. The motion passed unanimously.

Amend Employee Policy Manual to Include Update of Office Hours

Motion Bockstoce, Second Kearns, to table item for next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Cellular Phone Stipend

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to approve cellular phone stipend. Motion passed. Myers and Wilttrout voted no.

ORGANIZATION

Director of Building and Grounds (modified from Director of Public Works)

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to appoint Mark Lohr as Director of Building and Grounds. The motion passed unanimously.

Road Foreman (modified from Roadmaster)

Motion by Bockstoce, Second Kearns, to appoint Michael Luketich as Road Foreman. The motion passed unanimously.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to appoint Municipal Consulting Services as Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer. Motion passed. Wilttrout voted no.

Building Code Official

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to appoint Municipal Consulting Service as Building Code Official. Motion passed. Wilttrout voted no.

Animal Control

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to appoint Kym Secreet as Animal Control at the rate of \$450.00 per month. Motion passed. Wilttrout voted no.

Act 511 Tax Collector

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to appoint Joseph G. Malisky as Tax Collector and set Tax Collector bond at \$70,000. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

EIT/LST Collector

Motion Bockstoce, Second by Lohr, to appoint Keystone Collection Group to collect Earned Income/Local Services Tax. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Vacancy Board

Motion Bockstoce, Second Kearns, to appoint Ryan Saltee as Vacancy Board Member. Motion passed unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Board (3-year term 2026 to 2028)

Motion Myers, Second Kearns, to appoint Jacob McNary to a 3-year term to the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion passed. Wilttrout voted no.

Board of Auditors (2-year term 2026 thru 2027 to complete remainder of Paul Myers term)

Motion Bockstoce, Second Kearns, to appoint Christopher Magyar to a 2-year term to the Board of Auditors. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Engineer

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to appoint KLH as Township Engineer. Motion passed. Wilttrout vote no.

Washington County Sewage Council

Motion Bockstoce, second Lohr, to appoint Julie Ann Dotson as representative to the Washington County Sewage Council. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Depository

Motion Bockstoce, second Lohr, to appoint Charleroi Federal Savings and Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust as bank depositories. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Washington Financial accounts to be transferred.

Meeting Dates

Motion Bockstoce, Second Kearns, to approve holding regular monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm and on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm, except for November where one meeting will be held November 18 at 6:00 p.m., and to authorize Public Notice of 2026 meeting dates. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Planning Commission and Recreation Board meetings to be included in advertisement.

WAGES & COMPENSATION

Motion Myers, Second Bockstoce, to freeze wages of the Full Time Employees. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Added Item

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to set Road Foreman wage at \$32.00 per hour. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Added Item

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to approve Township Supervisors to assist the Road Department and work in times of emergency. Motion passed. Wilttrout voted no. The Board of Auditors will be required to approve item.

Added Item

Motion Bockstoce, Second Kearns, to schedule road project workshop January 28 at 1:00 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to set Part Time Employee wage at \$25.00 per hour. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion Kearns, Second Lohr, to set the Zoning Hearing Board Members compensation at \$25.00 per hearing. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion Bockstoce, second Lohr, to set the Auditors compensation at \$25.00 per meeting. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to set the Tax Collector's commission at 4% Discount, 5% Face. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Employee Benefits

Motion Bockstoce, Second Myers, to continue the State Aid Non-Uniform Pension at 9% of gross wages. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Business Mileage

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to set mileage at 2026 IRS rate for use of personal vehicle for Township business(72.5cents/mi). On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Advertise for part-time/full-time laborers, secretary (manager removed)

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to approve advertisement for part-time laborers and secretary. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Checks, Warrants & Transfers

Motion Bockstoce, Second Lohr, to approve the payment of checks, warrants & transfers and to approve payment of invoices due prior to next scheduled meeting. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Non-Agenda Items

Barb Campbell asked who to call for downed trees and stated that there are several tri-axle trucks on her neighbor's property she would like addressed.

Kathy Kennedy asked Board to appoint Paul and Stephanie to Recreation Board as they already have their letters of interest.

Bill Pollock asked for minutes to be read at meeting to allow him to make corrections, asked for budget to be in QuickBooks, and asked about water projects. He said wells are contaminated with arsenic. He also asked for road bonds to be reviewed, inquired about massage parlor, and gambling halls.

Mike Ornot asked for actual credit card charges to be available for view and stated that residents should be informed of promotions a month before the meeting.

Paul Myers stated that he will hold office hours to allow residents to meet and discuss Township concerns on the following dates: first and third Wednesday from 5-7pm and second and fourth Wednesday from 10am-Noon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Lohr, Second Bockstoce, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Ann Dotson
Secretary