

Milford Township Board of Supervisors' Work Session Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025 - 7:00 a.m.

Attendance: John Mininger, Chair; Christian Haberle, Vice Chair; Member Charles Strunk was absent. Staff present: Jeffrey Vey, Township Manager; Devan Ambron, Assistant Manager/Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Winkler, Director of Public Works.

Call to Order: Mr. Mininger called the November 10, 2025 Board of Supervisors Work Session meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Consideration to Adopt 2026 Proposed Annual Budget:

Mr. Vey stated this meeting is in part to review and adopt the 2026 Proposed Annual Budget along with discussing the Capital Program. Mr. Winkler stated Old Plains Road is in need of repair as it is coming apart and there is no road base. Mr. Vey asked how to proceed with drainage. Mr. Winkler stated we need a few right of ways and some owners may not be on board. Some residents want payment for the right of way, tree replacement, and the portion of the property given removed for tax purposes. The focus in 2026 should be to obtain all the needed right of ways and trees removal. This can be done in two phases as we do not have complete engineering. Mr. Haberle noted our options for obtaining the right of way are to get the owner to sign or condemn and take. Mr. Winkler said he did talk to the residents a year and a half ago. Mr. Vey stated it all starts with the engineering. Mr. Haberle said we should be compensating for the taking. Mr. Vey stated he is happy to talk to the residents. Mr. Haberle asked how much the project would cost. Mr. Winkler said between \$500,000 - \$600,000. Mr. Mininger asked where we get the valuation to start the negotiations. Mr. Vey said through an appraisal. Mr. Haberle asked Mr. Vey to start the appraisal process on the right of ways so we have a general idea of where the dollar value is. Mr. Vey stated he would, and a right of way appraisal is different, but we can get a ballpark idea. Mr. Haberle asked if we only have one side of the road in that section. Mr. Winkler said yes, we are missing two right of ways. Mr. Winkler stated 2026 will be focused on obtaining the right of ways and tree removal and 2027 will be replacement of the Weiss Road Bridge. Mr. Vey noted the replacement of the bridge conflicts with the Allentown Road/Route 663 project and he has a call into PennDOT regarding the detour. Mr. Mininger stated he does not want to bump the project if it messes up the funding. Mr. Vey noted there is two years of construction for the Allentown Road/663 project and they haven't bid yet, 2028 would be the earliest to finish and construction won't happen over the winter, so the best is 2029. If we push hard enough, we can get ahead of the Allentown Road/663 project. Weiss Road Bridge will have to be completed in 2028 to get the funding. If the project sticks to the schedule that was put out 3-4 months ago the detour will conflict with the Weiss Road Bridge detour. A decision needs to be made if the township is going to bid the Weiss Road Bridge job or do in house. Mr. Winkler said the Rosenberger Road Bridge replacement was done in house. Mr. Haberle said we first need a start date from PennDOT for the Allentown Road project. Mr. Vey put a phone call into Mr. Tim Stevenson of PennDOT. Mr. Stevenson stated there is a possibility of the project pushing out another year. PennDOT is in the process of acquiring right of way and one property owner has filed a preliminary objection. They cannot amicably acquire this property for the project. The project has been halted for the acquisition process; there will be a hearing on the matter. This is currently a wild card with the schedule. Mr. Stevenson further noted bids should be received sometime in April of 2026. Mr. Vey stated the township is in a contract for time performance for the grant for the Weiss Road Bridge replacement and asked what sort of jeopardy that puts the township in. Mr. Stevenson stated there are no federal funds, they are state funds, the risk is to the township. Mr. Vey stated the township has put our funds for the design and won't get reimbursed until the project is finished. It's a timing issue not a reimbursement issue. Mr. Stevenson said once the project is finished the invoices are sent to PennDOT and restrictions can be put in the schedule related to the project. Mr. Haberle noted the biggest concern is a potential emergency response to a school with two detours for the Weiss Road Bridge and PennDOT's Allentown Road/663 project. If we stay on schedule with the detour, it could tie in on Weiss Road. Mr. Haberle said the phasing will depend on how much work the crew will be doing and the construction of Weiss Road should be 2027. Mr. Mininger asked Mr. Winkler if he has a preference of the township doing the work or if he prefers it being bid out. Mr. Winkler said it could go either way.

Mr. Haberle stated Mill Pond Road should be added in the Capital Program. The project should be put on it two phases which extends the timing. Mr. Vey stated Mill Pond Road has a county bridge. Mr. Winkler stated the road has been patched over the years, and the project will need engineering as the road is narrow, there are rocks, and hill that will need stormwater. Mr. Mininger noted the road is good west of the bridge. Mr. Winkler said the road is heavily used by people going to the vet. Mr. Haberle said if we start with engineering and right of way that will likely be all of 2026 with acquiring right of way in 2027, and construction in 2028. Mr. Vey noted engineering should be able to figure out the limits of the property.

Mr. Winkler said Fels Road from Doerr Road to Trumbauersville Road has been on the list for a long time. The project will need right of way and engineering. This will be the last section of Fels to be widened. Mr. Haberle stated it may be reasonable to obtain quotes from other engineers to do some of the design. Mr. Winkler said in regard to the Walnut Lane Bridge, the last report notes issues with the steel and in the next few years the limit will be dropped. Repairs we have done there in the past kept things okay, but the steel beams have issues. Mr. Haberle said if it is steel, you can get an engineer to look at a single span steel alliance. There has been a lot of effort in funding as well as grants to get them done and there may be some resources to get help. He has also seen a lot of advance and accelerated design. Mr. Mininger asked if Nursery Road Bridge would be a candidate. Mr. Haberle said it will have to be looked at and asked if it was single span with only one abutment. Mr. Winkler said yes, and it is 120' along the abutment. Mr. Haberle said a single span steel bridge is its own group and asked how wide Walnut Lane is. Mr. Winkler replied over 20'. Mr. Mininger asked if the sediment has calmed down, Mr. Winkler said it has and it should be widened if we are going to replace it. Mr. Haberle said there are companies that can install a road deck, build abutments, then set it in place. Mr. Winkler asked if it is coated. Mr. Haberle said yes, three coats, then epoxy, then aggregate into epoxy. Mr. Winkler said that sounds like a great idea.

Mr. Haberle asked if line painting was put in the budget for 2026. Mr. Winkler said it was and the whole township will be done with water bourn paint. A fifth of the township will be done with double yellow lines. On the narrower roadways only a fog line will be put in. Single yellow lines are typically not used as it gets vehicles to close to one another.

Mr. Mininger asked if there was any sentiment to open Mill Road between Hillcrest Road and Allentown Road. Mr. Haberle asked what the problems are with the road and asked why it was closed. Mr. Vey said it was closed due to a County Bridge project and there were concerns that it would become a detour. Mr. Haberle asked if the road were to be reopened if it would have to be reengineered. Mr. Winkler said it could be paved. There was no further discussion at this time.

Mr. Haberle made a **MOTION** to approve the 2026 Preliminary Budget and advertise its availability for review before final adoption in December. Mr. Mininger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vey stated the Airbnb covers Capital Improvements and it is not a huge revenue generator. Recently the fees have been upped and discounts put in place for longer stay. Mr. Vey stated it may be time to make this a yearly rental. If a monthly rental the reoccurring bills and lawn maintenance would be on the renter. Mr. Mininger said he thinks long term is the way to go. Mr. Haberle said he would much rather see a public use of the whole property. Mr. Vey asked how the house gets protected and what should be done with it. The property is not agricultural or farmed. Mr. Haberle said he does not mind a yearly rental and would much rather find a way for the Park Board to figure out what to do with the entire property for the public.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: No public comment was received.

Adjournment: With there being no further business Mr. Haberle made a MOTION to adjourn the November 10, 2025 Board of Supervisors Work Session meeting at 8:46 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mininger and passed unanimously.