

January 5th, 2026 at 6:00p.m. the Board of Supervisors of Orwell Township met at the township building for the Annual Reorganizational Meeting. The first order of business was to nominate a temporary chairman. Jeff Robbins nominated Chad Cooley as temporary chairman. John Strope seconded the nomination and Chad Cooley was nominated as temporary chairman. The second order of business was the election of officers: Jeff Robbins nominated Chad Cooley as Chairman. John Strope seconded the nomination. Chad Cooley nominated Jeff Robbins as Vice Chairman. John Strope seconded the nomination. John Strope is the third member. The Supervisors recommended to the Board of Auditors that the meeting fee remain at \$100.00 per meeting for the supervisors according to Ordinance 98-1 passed in January, 1998. Chad Cooley nominated John Strope to act as Road Foreman. Jeff Robbins seconded the nomination. John Strope made the motion to have any one of the Supervisors acts in the position of Building Maintenance Superintendent as the need arises. Chad Cooley seconded the motion. John Strope made the motion to have Chad Cooley act as permit officer and Jeff Robbins as alternate. Jeff Robbins seconded that motion.

The Board appointed Mia Beebe as Secretary/Treasurer. Chad Cooley made a motion to increase the Secretary/Treasurer's wages to \$23,200.00 a year paid to her monthly for taking care of all 5 accounts. Jeff Robbins seconded that motion and John Strope made it unanimous. The motion passed.

Resolution #2026-1 was signed concerning the appointment of delegates to the TCC Authority. Chad Cooley will be the primary voting delegate with Jeff Robbins as the alternate and John Strope as the second alternate.

Wage rates were the next order of business. Jeff Robbins made a motion that all wage rates will be as follows and to be effective as of this date, upon the auditor's approval. The Supervisors recommended to the Board of Auditors that the pay rate for the Road Foreman's be \$20.75 an hour. The pay rate for the Senior Laborer & Equipment Operator will be \$17.50 an hour. The Board further recommended to the Board of Auditors that the pay rate for the Building Maintenance Superintendent position shall remain the same at \$14.00 an hour. The Regular Laborer and Equipment Operator shall start at \$12.00 an hour. Overtime pay will be set at an hourly rate of time and a half per hour for hours worked after a 40 hour week. Vacation schedule shall be as follows: after the 6 month probation period, full time employees - - 1 week vacation; At the beginning of the 2nd year, full time employment - - 2 weeks' vacation; at the beginning of the fifth year, full-time employment - - 3 weeks of vacation to be taken at any time with the Supervisors' approval. This vacation time comes with the stipulation that it may be carried over to the next year with a maximum of a two-week carryover per year and can't be accumulated. The wage rate for Temporary Laborers shall be \$7.50 an hour and the wage rate for Temporary Equipment Operators will start at \$12.00 an hour. The Supervisors recommended to the Board of Auditors that the Supervisors pay shall remain the same at \$14.00/hr. plus \$.72.5 cents per mile as of January 1, 2026 for township related business with the use of a personal car. Chad Cooley seconded that motion, John Strope made it unanimous, and the motion passed.

Following the enactment of Act 10 of 2024, **Resolution 2026-2** was passed to increase township auditor compensation to \$18.00 per hour.

Chad Cooley made a motion to appoint Justin McCarthy as township auditor for a four-year term, effective immediately through 2029. Jeff Robbins seconded this motion, John Strope made it unanimous, and the motion passed.

Chad Cooley made a motion for a \$300.00 "Christmas" bonus be paid to the Secretary/Treasurer and to each full-time employee, after one-year's full-time employment. This will be paid to each employee in the month of November. Jeff Robbins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Employee benefits shall include Workmen's Compensation to all employees and short-term disability insurance for full-time laborer and equipment operators and the Road Foreman. Each full-time employee will be allowed 3 days' sick leave with pay (not to be carried over into another year), and 2 days' personal leave with pay (not to be carried over into another year) with the Supervisors' approval and 7 holidays per year with pay. A bonus in lieu of health insurance in the amount of \$100.00 a week paid biweekly following our payroll schedule, to each fulltime employee after the 6 month probation period. A 401a retirement plan will be offered to all employees after the 6 month probation period, working no less than 35 hours a week. Under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Pension Trust 457b Plan, Orwell Township will match up to 3% of contributions per payroll period, following a 3 year cliff vesting schedule.

The elected Tax Collector shall be paid 5% commission on taxes collected.

The EIT Collector will be on a TCC Board approved pay schedule. Berkheimer Tax Administrator was appointed as Earned Income Tax Collector. Earned Income Tax will remain at ½ of 1%.

The millage rate will remain at 5.96 mills. The 5.96 millage rate is designated for General Purposes.

The Treasurer's Bond will remain at \$500,000.00.

Upon advice of our insurance carrier, we will not "rent" out our equipment.

The Board appointed Milt Robinson to serve as Chairman of the Vacancy Board. Attorney Christopher D. Jones was appointed Solicitor for the Township. Curtis F. Ferris was re-appointed Emergency Management Coordinator, paid a \$250.00 retainer once a year. Township business office hours will be by appointment, Monday through Friday.

The next order of business was the decision about time and dates of monthly meetings. Chad Cooley made a motion to have the meetings at 7:00 p.m. at the township building on January 21st, February 18th, March 18th, April 15th, May 20th, June 24th, July 15th, August 19th, September 16th, October 21st, October 28th (special budget prep. meeting), November 18th, and December 16th. John Strobe seconded the motion and Jeff Robbins made it unanimous.

The board of supervisors filled out their ethics statement forms.

All bills on hand were paid.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Mia M. Beebe, Secretary

Approved