

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 21, 2026

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Township Council held on January 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Building located at 27 N. Pennell Road.

Present: Leslie Campo, Carissa Ciuca, Steve D'Agostino, Bibianna Dussling, Garrett Fails, Susan Powell, Christopher Stump, John McMullan, Mark D. Damico, Esq., Erik Janetka, Kelly Engineers, Vince Visoskas, Chief Bill Rigby.

1. OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Christopher Stump called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. DRAFT Council Minutes

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Stump reported the Township has not received an application from the school district so there is no update on the proposed K-1 learning center. No Public Comments.

4. REPORTS

A. Chair:

1) Certificates of Achievement - Vo-Tech Volunteer Firefighters.

Chief Bill Rigby acknowledged the Vo-Tech Volunteer Firefighters who are part of a program with DCIU (Delaware County Intermediate Unit). The program has Emergency Service training as part of the curriculum. The students ride with the crews from Middletown during the day. The program runs from September through June. Four young men from the program are, in his opinion, very outstanding individuals. He stated they all have a home station, when they are not running with the Middletown crew, they run with their home stations. Two run with Manoa Fire Company, one with Oakmont Fire Company, and one with the Ardmore Fire Company.

Chief Rigby recognized Chief Larry Howard from Haverford Township. He also recognized Dr. Acosta, Director of the program who unfortunately was unable to attend. Christine Marshall, Class Coordinator, who recently retired, and Kesten (no last name) the instructor of the program.

Mr. Stump read the certificate; "This Certificate is awarded to James Travaglini in recognition of participation in Middletown Fire Company's Volunteer Service Enhancement Program in service of the residents of Middletown Township and surrounding communities." Mr. Stump read the Certificate to Charlie McCartney, Caleb Kilbride, and Emory Delis.

Chief Rigby stated James, Charlie, and Caleb run on the fire trucks while Emory runs ambulance with Chief Johnson and Chief Gruber. Chief Rigby stated this is the second year for the Volunteer Enhancement Program. The fire engine is in station and staffed 7:00 – 3:00 during peak hours. This program has made a difference in the Township.

Chief Rigby called Assistant Chief Mike Johnson to the front. Councilwoman Ms. Dussling stated Chief Johnson has been instrumental in building up the ambulance program to the fully functional program it is today. This prepared the Township for the closure of the Crozer Health System.

Ms. Dussling read the Certificate of Appreciation. "This Certificate is awarded to Mike Johnson, Assistant Chief in recognition of his efforts and dedication to the revitalization, modernization, and launching of the Emergency Medical Services Program of Middletown Township." Chief Rigby stated two years ago, Mike said he would make the program happen and he has.

There were approximately 3,000 calls in 2025 and they are prepared to do approximately 4,000 plus calls in 2026. They went from a fully functioning BLS to now, an ALS unit. They, along with their partners from Brookhaven and Media Fire Companies have made a big difference in the ambulance service in Middletown Township. Chief Mike Johnson stated it is not "me," it is a group. He said it was a tough struggle, going through COVID and the Crozer Health System crisis. He thanked Chief Cairns of Rocky Run Fire Department. Chief Johnson said he has a great team and could not have made the program happen without the support of the Township.

2) Proclamation - Middletown Fire Company No. 1, Chief Duke Nasino.

Chief Rigby stated the Township has an outgoing Fire Chief who served 25 plus years at Middletown Fire Company No. 1 and 15 years as Chief. Chief Rigby stated Chief Nasino has been there countless nights and weekends. He thanked Chief Nasino for his service.

Councilman Mr. Stump read the Proclamation; "This Proclamation recognizing Duke Nasino, Volunteer Firefighter. "Whereas, Duke Nasino, joined Middletown Fire Company No. 1 in February 2005 and quickly rose through the ranks and, Whereas, Duke Nasino was elected Captain in 2008 and in 2009, was Assistant Chief in 2010 before acting as Deputy Chief from 2011 through 2014 and, Whereas, Duke Nasino quickly gained the respect and confidence with the membership and became Chief of Middletown Fire Company No. 1 in 2015 through 2025.

Having served in this role for 11 years and Whereas, he now serves as a member of the Board of Directors and will continue to have a voice in the future of the company that Duke Nasino has helped lead for more than 20 years and, Whereas, Duke Nasino has been there for its members in every aspect of their lives inside and outside of the fire company. He has attended every training graduation milestone for members that went on to become career members and has attended many of their weddings. Duke Nasino was always willing to offer assistance to provide sound advice and more importantly, he was always willing to listen to the members and what their needs and opinions were and, Whereas, Duke Nasino has been a force for good and a positive influence to all those around him, Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that Middletown Township Council and residents do hereby deem it an honor and pleasure to extend their Certificate of Recognition to Duke Nasino on the occasion of having served the

community for over 20 years, with sincere thanks for the contributions he has made do Hereby, Proclaim this 21st day of January, 2026.”

Chief Rigby stated Chief Nasino also served with the city of Chester and has over 60 years of fire service. He was a volunteer in the city of Chester for many years and became a paid driver for the city, and when he moved to Middletown Township he continued his service. Chief Nasino stated it has been an honor to serve the residents of Middletown Township and appreciates all the firefighters in attendance.

Chief Rigby thanked the residents and the mutual aid partners. He updated Council on some accomplishments for 2025. He spoke of the upgrade from BLS service to ALS service. They have hired additional advanced EMT's and Paramedics. He thanked the support from the Brookhaven Fire Company. He reported that in 2025 there were 830 plus calls, 725 calls in 2024, and 630 in 2023. The EMS division in December 2025 made 320 calls; and the ambulance made 2,963 calls in 2025. He stated in 2026, they anticipate making 4,000 calls. He thanked all the officers attending tonight's meeting, Deputy Chief Bill Cairns, Deputy Chief Phil Mills, Assistant Chief Mike Johnson, Assistant Chief Mike Gruber, Assistant Chief Chris Epps, and Assistant Chief Rob McLaughlin. He said Assistant Chief Rob McLaughlin is the coordinator for the Vo-Tech program.

3) Third District Council Vacancy.

Mr. Stump stated this vacancy will be effective March 1, 2026. Mr. McMullan stated no motion is required for this item. The meeting after the vacancy occurs, which will be the first meeting in March, March 4, 2026, is when Council has the requirement to fill that seat within 30 days. Mr. Stump asked when the Township will be posting the vacancy, and Mr. McMullan stated now that the vacancy is made public by Ms. Dussling he can post it next week. Mr. Stump added he would like to see the seat filled as soon as possible as Council will be facing some critical items in the next few months.

B. Committees: N/A

C. Manager:

1) PSP - Lieutenant James Holstein.

Lt. Holstein reported he is the station Commander at Troop K. He started his career in 2004 as a patrol trooper in Media. He said he grew up in Springfield; his parents still live in Springfield. He is very familiar with the area. He is now in his 21st year with the PA. State Police. He worked both on patrol and as criminal investigator in Media. He was transferred to Philadelphia then to Skippack as a criminal investigator and a crime supervisor with Internal Affairs, was transferred back to Philadelphia then to Media Barracks. He reported for the month of December there were a total of 678 calls in the Township. Property crimes, including criminal mischief, trespassing, theft, including retail thefts, identity thefts, forgery, and credit card thefts totaled 25. Crimes against a person including assaults, harassment and threats totaled 16. Lt. Holstein stated in the report Council has before them, the redacted lines are internal calls that do not affect the call volume. Mr. Stump asked how sensitive the redacted

information is. Lt. Holstein replied it is not very sensitive. It is basically building maintenance or internal issues such as vehicle inspections. Mr. Fails asked if it would be fair to say these items are administrative, and Lt. Holstein said this is exactly what they are. Ms. Dussling asked if there is any particular area in which the numbers are trending upward or remaining steady. Lt. Holstein reported obviously, with the closure of Crozer Health System, there have been a lot more calls at Riddle Hospital but other than that the numbers are pretty steady.

Mr. John Kolicious, Environmental Advisory Committee, reported the committee met last night. The meetings for 2026 will be on the third Tuesday of each month. They had previously been on the third Thursday. The meetings start at 7:00 pm. Jennifer Nichols has taken over as Chair for 2026 succeeding Stacy Tegan who resigned. Pauline Thompson is the new Secretary succeeding Jeff Arbogast whose term expired. They welcomed Dr. Trevor Penning to fill the remainder of Stacy Tegan's term. He noticed the vacancy has been advertised on the Township website, and they are looking for qualified candidates.

Last night they heard a presentation from Rick Tralies of the Natural Lands Trust on a preliminary report on an evaluation done on the Darlington tract to look at ways to improve the site and stewardship of the area such as possible removal of invasives and improving the meadowlands. The study was funded by a grant from the DCNR (PA Conservation and Natural Resources) no Township funds were needed. The final report should be available sometime in March or April. The study was funded through a grant but anything they propose will have the cost estimate attached to see what is feasible. Finally, the first educational presentation for the committee will be Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the Roosevelt Community Center on the topic of Bluebirds, nesting, and habitat. This event will be at 1:00 pm and will be posted on the website.

D. Engineer: NO REPORT

5. PUBLIC HEARING: N/A

6. OLD BUSINESS: N/A

7. COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEMS: N/A

8. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL:

A. Consideration for Approval: Resolution 2026-01, Middletown Township Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. McMullan stated for Council's consideration is Resolution 2026-01, which was workshopped two weeks ago at the January 7, 2026, Council meeting. This is the Township's Emergency Operations Plan which is updated annually to make sure it conforms to the PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Authority) regulations and the Delaware County emergency planning requirements. This resolution provides support in the event the Township has any catastrophic events or weather events so that there is a plan prepared to address these events. It does open up the potential for funding

if the Township is in one of those events. Mr. D'Agostino asked if there were changes from the previous plan, and Mr. McMullan stated there were minor changes or updates as far as contact information at some of the facilities or businesses in the Township.

Mr. D'Agostino made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01. Ms. Powell seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

B. Consideration for Approval: Resolution 2026-02, 2026 Enhanced Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Program.

Mr. McMullan stated for Council's consideration for approval is Resolution 2026-02. This resolution was workshopped with Council at the January 7, 2026 meeting. As Chief Rigby alluded to earlier, this Enhanced Volunteer Firefighters Incentive Program has been in place for two years. It enables both fire companies to partner to get a volunteer duty crew out the door seven days a week, minus holidays. It has been a very effective program. It has engaged quite a few volunteers and sparked interest in volunteer service in Middletown Township. They would like to continue the program in 2026.

Ms. Campo made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02. Ms. Dussling seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

C. Consideration for Approval: Resolution 2026-03, 2026, Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Program.

Mr. McMullan stated for Council's consideration is Resolution 2026-03, the Volunteer Firefighters Incentive Program. This is considered the "Legacy" program and has been in place since 2022. This was the first incentive program put in place that addressed an incentive for training and volunteers responding to calls. They still feel there is a need to continue with this incentive program as it gets volunteer firefighters to satisfy the requirements to get them on an engine and out the door. This program has been successful, and he asks for consideration for 2026.

Ms. Ciuca made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-03. Mr. Falls seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

D. Consideration for Approval: Resolution 2026-04, extending the existing Emergency Declaration due to the closure of Crozer Health System, expiration April 1, 2026.

Mr. McMullan stated for Council's consideration is Resolution 2026-04. This was discussed in detail at the January 7, 2026 meeting. Council made a motion to extend the Emergency Declaration to January 21, 2026, and at that meeting suggested extending it to the first Council meeting in April. This Emergency Declaration continues to address the emergency crisis created by the closure of the Crozer Health System.

Ms. Powell made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-04. Mr. D'Agostino seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

E. Consideration for Approval: Appointment of an Ad Hoc Council Committee to review applications for resident board appointments.

Mr. McMullan stated as noted at the January 7, 2026, Council meeting, there are still existing vacancies on some of the boards and committees. The Township advertised on the website, the weekly e-newsletter, and the Township Facebook page. In order to start processing some of those applicants, the citizen policy for boards and committees went into place in October of 2025 and to appoint a three-member Council Ad Hoc Committee. Tonight's request is for Council to identify three members to make up the Ad Hoc Committee to review the applications for vacancies that still exist. This can be decided tonight, or people interested can send e-mails and the formal motions to appoint can be made at the February 4, 2026, Council meeting. Mr. Stump decided this would be the best form of action. Ms. Dussling asked what vacancies still exist. Mr. McMullan reported on one vacancy on the Environmental Advisory Committee, a one-year term that needs to be filled on the Zoning Hearing Board, and three vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Dussling made a motion to create the Ad Hoc Committee (members to be appointed at the February 4, 2026 Council meeting). Ms. Campo seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

F. Consideration for Approval: Citizen Committee Appointment:

- 1) Ms. Jennell Williams-Zahir - Senior Citizen Advisory Exploratory Committee, term expiration May 1, 2026.

Mr. McMullan stated Ms. Jennell Williams-Zahir has expressed interest in serving on the exploratory committee. This is the committee that was appointed at the Re-organization meeting on January 5, 2026. This is a committee of three to explore the existing powers and to share with Council how they feel the committee should move forward. The request tonight is for a motion to approve Ms. Williams-Zahir as a third member of the exploratory committee.

Ms. Campo made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Jennell Williams-Zahir to the Senior Citizen Advisory Exploratory Committee. Ms. Powell seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

G. Consideration for Approval: Appointment of an Ad Hoc Council Committee to review proposals and conduct interviews for Township Solicitor.

Mr. McMullan stated this could be similar to the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee for vacancies that exist on the Boards and Committees. The request is for a motion tonight to approve appointing members to the Ad Hoc Committee. They can be appointed tonight or return on February 4, 2026, identifying the members of Council to the committee. This is a follow-up to the Re-organization meeting where the current Township Solicitor was appointed until the end of the first quarter which is March 31, 2026. Mr. Stump asked if the RFP (request for proposal) has been sent out or what the status is. Mr. McMullan stated it is very close to being sent out as he wanted to align it with this committee. If Council decides to move forward to February 4, 2026, he will make the recommendation to e-mail the RFP this Friday and have a response back in three

weeks.

Ms. Dussling made a motion to create an Ad Hoc Committee (members to be appointed at the February 4, 2026 Council meeting). Ms. Campo seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Ms. Stump adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Browne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind the text.

Sharon Browne