Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the township building. In attendance were Jim Waugh, Rob Kellogg, and Shari Nelson, Supervisors, and Christine Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer.

Call to Order

Jim Waugh called the meeting to order.

Pledge

Moment of Prayer

Jim Waugh led those in attendance in a moment of prayer.

Public Comment

Greg and Yvonne Michaels, of 1116 Trout Run Road, expressed concern regarding ongoing noise from a commercial business located across the road (1081 Trout Run Road and 1095 Trout Run Road) from their home. Greg Michaels told the Supervisors that he filed a formal complaint with the township a month ago and the problem has not been resolved, but is now actually worse. According to the formal complaint, there is excessive noise (chainsaws, trucks, loading wood) coming from the business at all hours. Additionally, the complaint states that the commercial business is operating in the Rural Residential (R/R) District, which is not permitted, according to the zoning ordinance. Both Greg and Yvonne Michaels played recordings of the noise for those in attendance. One recording was an example of the chainsaw noise that they are experiencing 77 yards away from the business, one recording was an example of chainsaw noise that they are experiencing 101 yards away from the business (on their deck), and one recording was an example of the noise that they are experiencing inside their home. Greg Michaels said that he and his wife have had to go into their basement to escape the noise and that they cannot have guests, fires outside, etc. He read several messages/emails between Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer, and himself, regarding the complaint. Greg Michaels said that he notified Tim McGrath that a commercial business was operating in the Rural Residential (R/R) District on August 16, 2026. On August 19, 2026, Tim McGrath told Greg Michaels that he had talked to the owner of the business and made him aware of the fact that he might have to move to another location. Greg Michaels filed a formal complaint with the township on August 25, 2026. He then received a message from the business owner that said it would not be a problem to move to another property because he owns several properties in other locations. On September 8, 2026, Tim McGrath notified Greg Michaels that he had left a message with the business owner stating that the property could be used for the storage of equipment, but could not be used to operate a commercial business. Greg Michaels told those in attendance that the noise briefly stopped, but then started again. He said that 51 days have passed since he first made a complaint and that nothing has been done to resolve the problem. He asked the Supervisors to enforce the zoning ordinance. Yvonne Michaels noted that she and her husband would have never purchased the property if they had known that a commercial business would be in operation across the road. She said that she and her husband have talked to the business owner about reducing the noise, but have been unsuccessful in their attempts to resolve the issue. She told those in attendance that she sometimes works nights as a nurse and cannot get rest due to the noise coming from the business across the

road. Tim McGrath noted that he addressed each complaint within one day. He said that he had spoken with the business owner the same day of the meeting (October 5, 2026) and was told that the business owner was just finishing cutting the last bit of wood that he was unable to load onto trucks. The business owner told Tim McGrath that he would try to finish cutting all of the wood by Tuesday, October 6, 2026 or Wednesday October 7, 2026. Tim McGrath noted that he does not send letters to people in violation of the zoning ordinance if they are cooperating with enforcement measures. He said that he would visit the business the next day to check on the remaining wood piles. Tim McGrath also said that the business owner would get written notice if he fails to comply with the zoning ordinance by Thursday, October 8, 2026. Jim Waugh said that the township would take legal action if the business owner fails to comply. Tim McGrath noted that there are only so many things that he can do legally and that he tries to work with people first. Yvonne Michaels suggested that the township pass a noise ordinance. Jim Waugh told Greg and Yvonne Michaels that the situation could turn into a civil case, at some point, where they would need to hire a lawyer to resolve issues with their neighbor. He stressed that he understands Greg and Yvonne Michaels' concerns, but that it is very difficult for the township to quickly resolve issues like theirs. He noted that the township has been at odds with certain property owners for many years trying to resolve similar issues (excessive junk and garbage, etc.) and that it can be a very lengthy process. Ron Stewart asked Tim McGrath how much time the business owner would be given to respond to a written notice and Tim McGrath said that the business owner would most likely have 15 days to respond. If the business owner fails to respond or comply within 15 days, a cease and desist order will be delivered by a constable or the sheriff's office. Greg Michaels said that he would send emails to the township officials every day to update them on the situation.

Tim McGrath told the Supervisors and Lew Staub, Roadmaster, that the spreaders that were sent out for repair are almost finished and should be returned later in the week or early next week.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Shari Nelson, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report, for September of 2026, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General – 2026 Distress Determination

The PA Department of the Auditor General has notified the township that the score of the 2026 distress determination for the township's pension plan is zero. According to the letter, "to obtain a distress score of zero, the funded ratio of all your municipality's pension plans combined must be 90 percent or greater". Cherrytree Township's funded ratio is 107 percent.

Sucevic, Piccolomini & Kuchar Engin. – Act 14 Not. – WOEP – Bridge on Buxton

The township has received notification, from Sucevic, Piccolomini & Kuchar Engineering (as required by Act 14), of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT's) intent to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit needed for an upcoming bridge project. The project involves performing bridge protection measures (concrete lining and rock replacement) on a bridge that carries Buxton Road over Prather Creek (near 1023 Buxton Road).

PSATS News Bulletin

Construction Code Inspectors (CCI) – Notice of Retirement – Business Closing

The township has received notification, from Construction Code Inspectors (CCI), that Mike and Pauline Grill are planning to retire and close the business. CCI will only accept new applications until December 31, 2026. Chrissie Kurelowech told the Supervisors that she has started contacting other companies in an effort to find a new building inspector. The township will need to appoint a replacement at the annual reorganization meeting (Monday, January 4, 2027), if not sooner.

Zoning

Permits

None

Zoning Report

Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer, reported that he has had a complaint about noise coming from a commercial business that is operating along Trout Run Road in the Rural Residential (R/R) District and that he has been trying to resolve the issue. See "Public Comment".

He also reported that he recently met with Jason Daugherty, the owner of Cross Creek Resort, and Jenna Dillion, of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission, to discuss future subdivision and development of the Cross Creek Resort property. Jason Daugherty would like to build several short-term rentals near some of the borders of the property. Tim McGrath said that Jason Daugherty is in the process of getting a plan together.

Administrative Action

Fuel Bids – Approximately 8,000 Gallons – Vote to Advertise

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Shari Nelson, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to put approximately 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel out for bid. Bids will be received until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2026, and will be opened and reviewed during the regular monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Five Star Equipment – Extended Warranty – 2024 John Deere 670G Grader

The warranty on the 2024 John Deere 670G grader will expire on October 25, 2026 and Five Star Equipment has contacted the township with information regarding several extended warranty options that can be purchased. Three warranty levels, ranging from $6,692.00/year to $9,552.00/year, have been offered. Each warranty covers one year or 1,000 hours, whichever comes first. There are no deductibles. The Supervisors asked Lew Staub, Roadmaster, for his opinion and he said that he would purchase an extended warranty, if it were based on hours alone, but because an extended warranty would expire in a year, regardless of the hours that were put on the grader, he would not recommend purchasing an extended warranty. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Shari Nelson, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted against purchasing an extended warranty for the 2024 John Deere 670G grader.

Committee Reports

VFD

Austin Armstrong, VFD Fire Chief, reported that there were 22 calls since the last meeting. Of the 22 calls, 6 were EMS, 3 were structure fires, 3 were fire alarms, 1 was an MVA, and 9 were public service.

The VFD will hold its annual gun raffle at Cross Creek Resort on Saturday, January 16, 2027, and the VFD members all have tickets to sell. The fall shoots are ongoing and take place every Tuesday evening (doors open at 5:00 p.m., sign-ups begin at 5:30 p.m.).

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew spent 2 days ditching spots on roads, mowed the yard 3 times, spent 6 days grading roads, spent 14 days mowing berms, and pushed 3 trees off of roads. They spent 2 days putting salt in the shed, spent 1 day throwing limbs off of roads, and ordered the antiskid.

As for equipment, bearings and a new hydraulic line were put in the boom mower. A flat was repaired on the left rear tire of the 2017 Massey Ferguson tractor.

The spreaders are out for repair. According to Tim McGrath, they should be finished and returned soon (see "Public Comment").

Old Business

There was no "Old Business".

New Business

Complaint Submitted to PA DEP – 4487 State Route 8

Chrissie Kurelowech told those in attendance that she had been recently contacted by Rainie Smith, of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), about a complaint that the township submitted regarding 4487 State Route 8. As authorized during the regular monthly meeting that was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, Chrissie Kurelowech sent a letter to PA DEP describing the complaints that the township has recently received from residents who live in close proximity to the trucking terminal that is operated by Pro Waste Services at 4487 State Route 8. An electronic complaint was submitted as well. Issues in the complaint include: noise, vibration, sediment in water wells causing filters to clog, potential for contaminated ground water, explosions, and full dumpsters being left on the premises overnight and during weekends. Rainie Smith said that she stopped at 4487 State Route 8 and talked to Alex Pol, of Pro Waste Services. According to Alex Pol, loaded trucks are only left on the premises in the evenings and on weekends if there is not enough time to take them to the landfill. He said that Pro Waste Services is not currently accepting waste at 4487 State Route 8 and is in the process of obtaining permits for a waste transfer facility. From Rainie Smith's perspective (loaded dumpsters being left on the property), Pro Waste Services is in compliance with PA DEP regulations. However, the complaint includes several other issues as well. Rainie Smith said that the conservation district would be investigating the noise complaint. She was unsure as to the way in which PA DEP would handle the other issues included in the complaint.

2026 Pension State Aid

Chrissie Kurelowech told those in attendance that the township recently received $765.20 in state aid to be used towards meeting the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO), which is $6,708.00 (difference of $5,942.80). Last year, the township received $4,031.77 to put towards meeting the 2025 MMO, which was $6,267.00 (difference of $2,235.23). The 2027 MMO is $2,814.00.

2026 Foreign Fire

Chrissie Kurelowech told those in attendance that the township recently received $8,228.10 in foreign fire money from the state and that the money has been given to the Cherrytree Township VFD. This is a decrease of $164.46 from last year, when the township received $8,392.56.

Liquid Fuels Audit Report – 2022 Through 2025

The township's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, for the years of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, was recently audited by the PA Department of the Auditor General and there were no audit findings. A detailed report has been filed in the township office and is also available online at www.PaAuditor.gov.

Roof Repair

Jim Waugh told those in attendance that he recently contacted a company, regarding the leaking roof on the township garage, and was quoted $20,000.00 to check the roof and spray with rubber. He said that the Supervisors will need to discuss fixing the roof at the budget meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer