

March 4, 2026

East Lampeter Township held a Special Forecast Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Lafayette Fire Company, 63 Lafayette Way, Lancaster, PA 17602. Board Chairman Mike Thornton called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. In addition to Chairman Thornton, Supervisors also present were Vice Chairman, Ted Gallagher and Supervisors Mr. Roger Rutt and Mr. Robert Hayward, Jr. Staff present were Township Manager, Ms. Tara Hitchens; Assistant Township Manager, Ms. Kim Piestrak; Chief of Police, Mr. Stephen Zerbe; Public Works Director, Mr. Charlie Thomas; Sewer Superintendent, Mr. Larry Frankford; Planning/Zoning Director, Mr. Jacob Bowen; and Finance Director, Mr. Kevin Hostetter

Township Officials Present:

Mr. Ryan Martin, Planning Commission
Mr. Jansen Herr, Planning Commission
Mr. Richard Robinson, Sewer Authority
Mr. Caleb Ringelberg, Zoning Hearing Board
Mr. Christian Chretien, Park Board
Mr. John Blowers, ICDA
Mr. Nick Wagner, ICDA
Mr. John Petersheim, Emergency Services

Mr. Scott Enterline, Zoning Hearing Board
Mr. Alex Reedy, Zoning Hearing Board
Mr. Nate Church, Emergency Services
Mr. Dave Buckwalter, Board of Auditors
Ms. Diane Tyson, Park Board
Mr. Paul Fisher, Emergency Services
Mr. Rob Patterson, Emergency Services

Public Present:

Mr. Dave Keens, Lafayette Fire
Ms. Suzi Sutton, Lafayette Fire
Mr. Will Clark, Lancaster County Planning
Ms. Adele Huntzinger, CV School District
Mr. Terry Trego, Office of Senator Scott Martin
Mr. Stephen Rank, Office of Rep. Lloyd Smucker
Ms. Millie Womble, Economic Development Corp.
Mr. Ezra Rothman, Economic Development Corp.

Mr. Don Boyer, Hand-in-Hand Fire
Ms. Alice Yoder, County Commissioner
Mr. Joel Cliff, Discover Lancaster
Mr. Bob May, LEMSA
Mr. & Mrs. Cody, residents

Public Comment (non-agenda items only): None

Mr. Thornton thanked everyone for their attendance.

Presentations:

Bob May, Executive Director of LEMSA reviewed information regarding the organization and service to East Lampeter Township. LEMSA's main office recently moved to former the AmVets building. The location at 1829 Lincoln Highway East will be renovated with RACP

funding in 2026. LEMSA responded to 167 calls per day in 2025. A major challenge is provider assaults. They are working with local police to address this concern. Most of the calls LEMSA responds to are for mental health and substance use issues. Commissioner Yoder added that the county oversees 911 and 988. They are piloting a system for mental health call screening and hope to take more calls soon. Other challenges are insurance reimbursement and staffing.

Representatives from Hand-in-Hand, Lafayette, and Ronks Fire Companies spoke about membership, programs and calls they responded to.

Mr. Don Boyer noted Hand-in-Hand has 52 members and responds to 200 calls per year. They have a duty vehicle implemented during Covid and are ordering a traffic unit.

Ms. Suzi Sutton noted Lafayette has 56 members and responded to 714 calls in 2025, an average of about 2 calls per day. Lafayette Fire is procuring turnout gear at \$4,700 per person.

Mr. Nate Church noted Ronks Fire has portable radios arriving later this month. They hope to obtain 2 EV charge plugs for accidents.

There was no one present representing Witmer Fire Company.

Mr. Kevin Hostetter provided a 2025 Financial Recap. Board and staff saving has resulted in a healthy general fund currently, despite deficits. Savings efforts reduced the deficit from \$1.4million at the start of 2025 to \$600,000 at the end of the year. Revenues were generally higher than budgeted while staff work to keep expenditures in line with proposed revenues. The Sewer Fund had a \$400,000 surplus due to a delay in billing from the City of Lancaster. The Taxable Assessed Value for real estate is finally above the 2018 value. The Board raised real estate taxes over the last 2 years to address the deficit, while charging staff to match the amount of anticipated tax revenue in expenditure saving. Capital Reserve Funds are higher than in previous years due to grants and public private partnerships.

Chief Zerbe provided a 2025 Police Department Recap. East Lampeter Police Department responded to 19,000 calls in 2025 across East Lampeter and Upper Leacock Townships. This was 500 more calls than 2024. The East Lampeter Police Foundation 501(c)3 was created 2 years ago. It is managed by non-profit and has raised \$15,000. East Lampeter Police Department is one of 3 premier accreditation departments and was re-accredited in 2025 for the 6th time. To prepare for 9 upcoming retirements, the police department is actively hiring. Trending police issues are commercial vehicle enforcement, substance use and mental health calls, and the Nuisance Hotel Ordinance. In 2026 the police department is looking forward to continuing their relationships with CVSEEDS and Connection Village, who connect those in need with social services.

Mr. Charlie Thomas provided an overview of the Public Works Department. The department is comprised of 13 staff, with three department supervisors, all cross-trained. In 2025, the department responded to 2,093 PA1 (811) calls. In 2026 Creek Hill and Millcross Roads will be paved. Mill Creek Road will be oil and chipped. Some roads will have ADA ramps installed for future sidewalks. A Green Light Go grant will fund controllers, timers, and electrical outlets for generators at 3 intersections along Old Philadelphia Pike. The Willow Road culvert replacement project is underway and will hopefully be done by April 2026. Hempstead and Greenfield Road intersection upgrades continue and should be completed by May 2026. The Strasburg Pike sewer extension is moving forward. The I&I Program is investigating inflow and infiltration into sewer lines. A pavilion will be built at Lafayette Tower Park with Township staff installing water at the site. Gibbons Park has received Fish & Boat Commission as well as CFA funds which will go towards improvements at the park.

Ms. Hitchens provided an overview of Stormwater/MS4. Video inspections of stormwater pipes will continue into 2026. Extensive repairs to pipe lining will be completed at a cost of \$2.4million. The lining will last approximately 50 years. A DEP audit was conducted on February 10, 2026. The Township awaits the report. In cooperation with Exelon and the Lancaster County Conservation District, the Township is working on a stream bank restoration project at Flory Park that has removed 75,000lbs of sediment, earning MS4 credit.

Mr. Jacob Bowen provided an overview of Zoning/Planning. Progress on projects at 458 Mt. Sidney Road, Greenfield North, and Rockvale will add 770 residential units. The project at Rockvale will add another 380 residential units as development continues. Commercial projects include the Sheetz at 2100 Lincoln Highway East, the expansion of Lancaster Archery, and Gish Furniture's new retail location with additional tenant space. The Comprehensive Plan is anticipated to have a final draft ready in the next few months.

Ms. Kim Piestrak reported on the Recreation Program. The program launched in 2024 and introduced 12 programs that year. In 2025, programs grew to 47. So far in 2026, recreation programming has 851 active members. The Playground of Possibilities program will offer expanded enrollment in 2026, following a successful 2025 season. The Recreation Program hopes to expand program offerings for all ages.

Ms. Piestrak also reviewed the Business Improvement District, which was approved in 2025. The Articles of Incorporation were recorded in December 2025, and the first meeting of the Business Improvement District Authority will be held on March 10, 2026.

Ms. Hitchens provided an overview of staffing changes. The administrative office completed AFSCME negotiations in 2025. Police department negotiations will take place in 2026.

Ms. Hitchens also reviewed the Route 30 Streetscape project. Progress is currently happening in Phase 3 of the project taking place from Dutch Wonderland and Tanger, east to Bowman Road. Work includes narrowing lanes and moving curb lines. The Township is working with PennDOT on the intersections of Lincoln Highway and Route 896 and the Westen Gateway, extending to the Harvest Drive and Route 30 intersection. A multi-use trail will extend from Strasburg Pike to the Greenland Drive entrance of Flory Park. Completion of the trail is planned for spring 2026.

Ms. Hitchens offered closing remarks.

Mr. Rutt moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hayward. The motion carried.