

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 via webinar and in-person at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with President Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners ROSENBAUM, ROTHMAN, BROWNE, WINEGRAD, HENRY, ZAPPONE, YOUNG-GERTZ, SPIEGELMAN, PURTELL, BOWMAN, VAHEY, HECKER
Excused: Commissioners DiPLACIDO, LANEY-MARTIN, SCHREIBER

Also Present: Township Manager Christman
Township Solicitor Heleniak

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Hecker announced that the Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session earlier this evening to discuss real estate matters.

Environmental Advisory Council Report:

Ms. McGarry-Rosen, Chair of the EAC, said we celebrated 51 years last year and Commissioner Spiegelman created our logo that is shown on our shirts tonight. The EAC has seven appointed members, four associate members, and a student associate member. We advise the Township on resources and promote education about management on protecting resources and conservation. We work with staff, other Township committees, and collaborate with environmental groups. We also participated with statewide EAC networks last fall.

2025 accomplishments included energy, climate, and sustainability; water quality/stormwater management; resource protection; and public education.

We supported municipal energy benchmarking and Township building energy audits. Advanced feasibility discussions for a solar canopy and renewable energy initiatives. Used PADEP grant funding to have SCS Engineers conduct an online food scrap/composting survey, which showed strong resident interest in composting services. Supported STC tree giveaways at Crestmont Park. The EAC participated in a multi-municipality composting coalition, and supported passage of the Abington School District referendum for a new middle school while advocating for sustainable design considerations.

Regarding elevated salt impacts in Baederwood Creek, we advanced Township discussion of road salt reduction for best practices. Stream monitoring was performed at several Abington sites. Abington Township earned the Bird Town's Golden Eagle recognition for the second consecutive year. The EAC conducted successful native plant sales and educational outreach events at the library. We developed and advanced the Township's Invasive Plant Management Plan through partnership with the Shade Tree Commission and Natural Lands, and we expanded native plant gardens at the Abington Library and Roslyn Park and supported additional plantings townshipwide.

The EAC participated in the SE PA Single Use Plastic Coalition – single use plastics ban was approved by the Township on 8/20/25.

Completed four land development reviews; worked jointly with the STC on reviewing and preparing our comments that are provided to the Planning Commission for consideration.

Hosted recycling education and youth environmental service programs through the Abington Library and participated in Garden Fest, Earth Day, and library events.

Supported Township Electronic Recycling and Paper Shredding events and collected approximately 1,900 lbs. of food and \$4,810 cash/gift card donations for Family Promise.

Distributed information via Township and EAC social media, e-newsletters and Township newsletters throughout the year including articles on topics such as stormwater management, native plants, reducing lawn, healthy lawn and yard practices, recycling details and tips, and reducing road salt use.

2026 Goals – support the Township to improve energy efficiency through grants. Use Energy Star Portfolio Manager to benchmark and assess energy and water management to reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Develop a Township Salt Management Best Practices Plan. Advance the implementation of Invasive Plant Management Plan. Continue to coordinate with SPS and STC to support environmental and landscaping commitments during redevelopment. Support new native plant garden installations and habitat restoration projects. Complete a Climate Action Plan and advise on sustainable development to expand best practices.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that the EAC is doing an incredible job in so many areas. Last month, \$3 million dollars of our money was spent with no explanation, no prior notice, no opportunity for public input, and we still have no idea what you are thinking. Is it appropriate for ARPA funds to be spent without having to be committed in advance? Please discuss the ARPA money and what you have in mind about the expansion of our municipal facilities.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve Items a. – c. as listed under Consent Agenda as follows:

To approve the minutes from the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of May 14, 2026.

To hire the top seven eligible candidates from the 2026 Civil Service Eligibility list who successfully complete the Background, Physical, and Psychological exams and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission to fill current police officer vacancies.

Proclamation designating July as Parks and Recreation Month.

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item BOC-04-061126:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the lot line adjustment for SD-26-01 – 344 & 354 Cadwalader Avenue Minor Subdivision.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Item BOC-05-061126:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bowman to authorize advertisement of an ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 85 – “Fire Prevention,” in its entirety, repealing Chapter 65 – “Burning,” and repealing all inconsistent ordinances.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Winegrad said there are appendices that are not included in the materials, so before this is voted on next week, can they be part of them?

Mr. Platz replied the appendices are listed within the IFC, and it is not necessary to include them in the ordinance; however, he will offer them to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Winegrad replied they are something we can show the residents.

Mr. Platz said they are all within the document. The issue is when you adopt the ordinance, you must enforce the appendices specifically and adopt them individually.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that we are adopting them. Is that correct?

Mr. Platz replied a variety, but not all of them.

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Item BOC-06-061126:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Henry to reject all bids for the Abington Township Electric Vehicles (EV) Charging Stations Project Bid and authorize advertisement to rebid the project.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Rosenbaum asked for further explanation.

Ms. McIlvaine replied we received the bid results and the lowest bidder exceeded the available funding, so we revised the bid to have alternate options. The base bid will be the Township building and Crestmont Club House, and we recommend removing the charging stations at the library, and when and if a new building is built, we will be able to put charging stations in at that time. We will rebid the project today or Monday to meet our obligations of the funding, which expires by the end of the year.

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Item BOC-07-061126:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to approve a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Plus Program for the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary Wooded Wetlands project and to authorize the Township Manager to execute required documentation for submission.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Item BOC-08-061126:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the April 2026 expenditures in the amount of \$3,315,551.63 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,458,703.59 and authorizing the proper officials to sign and approve bills and contracts as they mature through the month of July 2026.

Roll call resulted in motion being passed 12-0. Commissioners DiPlacido, Laney-Martin, and Schreiber were absent during roll call.

President Hecker asked Manager Christman to clarify the matter regarding the purchase of the property across the street and the revenue exception from the ARPA funds.

Manager Christman explained that when Abington Township received its share of the state and local fiscal recovery funds that was part of the ARPA Act, the U.S. Treasury provided guidance on the \$10 million dollar exclusion.

Every community can use up to \$10 million dollars that is covered under the exclusion, which means those dollars can be recommitted and reassigned to any project that the Township sees fit. These dollars were committed at a time to be used for park projects in the Township, and those projects were not coming to fruition, which kept them available for use in the budget.

As we have opportunities to purchase land before the dollars are committed to park projects, we can use those dollars as cash on hand to pay for out-of-pocket expenses to purchase property. If at such time this Board decides to float a bond, we have the right to use the proceeds of the bond to reimburse those dollars that were taken from the \$10 million dollar exclusion. This was done per the guidance of the U.S. Treasury.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cakky Evans, Associate Member of the EAC, acknowledged Ms. McIlvaine, who is worth her weight in gold, silver, diamonds and platinum, and we would not be a LEED city if not for her. She thanked Chief Molloy for allowing her to remain on the Police Chiefs Advisory Council even though she now lives in Cheltenham Township. Cheltenham is good, but you guys are the best. Thank you.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about two agendas, and she wrote to the Township about getting it resolved. She was also concerned about reduced speaking rights and the speaking policy.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Recording Secretary