

The stated meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 via webinar and the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Winegrad presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners WINEGRAD, SPIEGELMAN,
DiPLACIDO, ROSENBAUM
Excused: Commissioner HENRY

OTHERS: Director of Finance Jeannette Hermann
Manager of Finance Monica Embery

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of May 21, 2026.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item FC-01-070926:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the May 2026 expenditures in the amount of \$4,339,587.84 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$3,698,429.16 and authorize the proper officials to sign and approve invoices and supporting documentation in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of August.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about salaries paid from ARPA funds in 2024 and 2025. There was no review of the \$3 million dollar purchase of the property by the Township and the public before it was a “done deal.” The public has a right to ask questions and weigh-in and comment on it.

Joe Broscius, resident, asked how the cash is being invested for the Township. He was an investment portfolio manager for institutional clients and presented an option from the State Treasury Department's program regarding the issue of 40 basis points being forgone of taxpayers' money, and he was informed it is not recommended to use their program.

Funds Act 10 and Act 72 are used by other municipalities and school districts, and he would like to know why it is not being implemented. Also, he asked what the Township's cashflow has been over the last year as well as since March until now, so he can figure out exactly how much interest we have lost.

Commissioner Spiegelman replied that he will share the information with the Board of Commissioners and consult with the Township Manager, so we can provide that information.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about the committee meetings being bypassed, which are a policy of the Township. Also, we don't know what you are planning to do with these buildings and we have a right to understand and say whether we think the \$3 million dollars was a worthwhile expenditure. All the committee meetings are being ignored, and major projects are coming to the voting meeting, and the residents have very little understanding and no opportunity to ask questions or do research.

Commissioner Spiegelman said there are three categorical exemptions to the Sunshine Law that are best practices and need to be discussed (not voted on) but discussed in Executive Session. Those categories are real estate, real estate acquisitions or liquidations, personnel matters, and legal matters.

The example he previously gave of the potential use of those properties for necessary expansion and revitalization are the central Township complex, the Township building, the police station, and the Abington Fire Company are buildings that are at the end of life. There are no projects or plans, and if such plans are drafted, they would absolutely go through the entire public facing process because the properties would already be acquired.

Those properties were owned for a very long time by Jefferson Abington, and in fact, they were Abington Hospital-owned properties that Jefferson inherited when they absorbed the Abington Hospital system.

These properties have a willing seller that is eager to work with the Township, and if the Township waited to figure out how to fund and publicly vet plans for the specific use of these properties, they would be long gone because the seller cannot sit around and wait forever, and not only would they be gone, but very likely sold to a developer wanting to do projects that people always accuse the Board of Commissioners of approving sight unseen, when in fact, we have not approved any apartment-mixed use projects.

Nothing in the Township compares in any way to the Station in Willow Grove in Upper Moreland Township despite accusations except for the Flats at Jenkintown, which were first approved several years before he was on the Board in 2009. There have been no apartment complexes built, but we all realistically know that any developer purchasing the properties between Old York Road, Eckard Avenue and Horace Avenue would absolutely want to build something along those lines.

Now, we will have secured the properties, so we can responsibly plan for them where all the stages and aspects of planning and funding would be 100% public facing. There was nothing illegal or unethical in any way about the acquisition of those properties. We secured those properties for responsible future use for our Township as well as all the residents we serve.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Recording Secretary