PULASKI TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2025

The Pulaski Township Supervisors held their regular meeting in the Pulaski Township Fire Hall, 3401 Sunflower Road, New Brighton, PA 15066. Casey Zachodni, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Those present at the meeting were Casey Zachodni, Ralph Flara, Mark Wagle, Attorney Joseph Budicak, Peggy Griffith, Connie Wagle, Brian Matheny, Gary and Kathy Pavlinich, Deb Hickman, Mike Zachodni, Tim and Linda Breem, Candy Landman, Mary Denise Feroce, Tom Vukich, Sharon Kovach, Joe Guarino, Jewell Colwell, Terry and Donna Hughes, Andrew Gaul, Candace Surgalski, Scott Sullivan, Ed Stang, Doug Margetic, Carrie Lofaso, Robb Hartwick, Rich Morrell, Rhonda West, Alaina Teets, Jim Bobins, Matt Makowiecki, Jerry Glough, Rob Harwick, Donna Becket, Dawn Mohrbacher, Andy and Heidi Pauvlinich, Don Beegle, Nancy Sheets, Chris Ceratti, John Ludwig, George Hage, Matt Montagazzi, Wilma Paglisotti, Kate Onsci, Eric Bracken, and Samantha Bloom.

A motion was made by Mr. Zachodni and seconded by Mr. Flara to approve the Treasurers Report for August 2025. Vote on the motion: Mr. Zachodni – yes, Mr. Flara – yes, Mr. Wagle – yes. The motion is carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Zachodni and seconded by Mr. Wagle to accept the meeting minutes for the August 11, 2025 meeting. Vote on the motion: Mr. Zachodni – yes, Mr. Flara – yes, Mr. Wagle – yes. The motion is carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Per Mr. Zachodni, this evening's meeting will be run a little differently with public participation at the end of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

There is no correspondence for tonight.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Department: There is no report at meeting time as Chief is ill tonight per Officer Pisano. Report was received via email and will be placed on file in the office. There were 53 calls in August 2025
Fire Department: There were 2 calls in Pulaski and 0 calls in Daugherty. The report will be placed on file in the office.
Code Enforcement: Peggy Griffith is present at the meeting with report for August and she has nothing to add. The report will be placed on file in the office.

Road Department: There is no road department report due to no employee.
Recreation: The report was received via email, and the report will be placed on file in the office.

A motion was made by Mr. Zachodni and seconded by Mr. Flara to accept the Committee reports and place them on file in the office. Vote on the motion: Mr. Zachodni – yes, Mr. Flara – yes, Mr. Wagle – yes. The motion is carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2024 Paving Project and 2025 Paving Project – this paving should be starting in mid-September.
Cemetery Bridge – Per Tom Albanese, we are waiting for Penn DOT to be placed on the TIPS list which usually takes 3-5 year wait. Widmere to contact Penn DOT.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mr. Zachodni and seconded by Mr. Wagle to hire Gerald Knowlton as Full Time Road Department Employee at $24/hour with 90-day probation, after 1 year will receive 1 paid vacation and 5 paid PTO days. Vote on the motion: Mr. Zachodni – yes, Mr. Flara – abstain (has not met Gerald and couldn't be at interview), Mr. Wagle – yes. The motion is carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buring to resume September thru May. Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 – 6:00 PM. Fire must be contained and be out by 6:00 PM. NO burning on Sunday and Monday and Holidays.

Farmers Market every Tuesday 3:00 – 6:00 PM 313 5th Avenue

NB Night Mart 2nd Tuesday of each month on Third Avenue – 5:00 – 9:00 PM

The Townships website is pulaskitwp@comcast.net and the email is pulaskitwp@comcast.net.

The next regular meeting is October 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Zachodni announced there will be Tom Albanese and Officer Pisano representing NB Police Department and Scott Levinson, Steve Anthony, Andrew Gaul, Kim Fanori, Dawn Singleton. School Resource Officer – Scott Sullivan.
Mr. Albanese started off. Pulaski Township has been in Intergovernmental Police Contract with New Brighton Police Department since 1995 and at that time the cost was

$60,000/year. In the last 30 years numbers have obviously changed. In 2015 Pulaski paid $109,421/year and 2025 is $135,093 which is an increase of 1.95%. This is equal to an annual increase of approximately $16, 522/year. NBPD would like to move forward to removing contract and would like to form a regional agreement with Fallston, Daugherty, NB & Pulaski. All the costs are calculated based on road miles, number of calls, population and assessments. Pulaski is 12% miles, 9% calls, 13% population and 11% assessments averaging 11%. 2026 would be no increase and moving on 2027 the increase would then be 11% to equal $154,800/year. Under the NBPD Regional there would then be a Public Safety Board formed with 2 representatives from each community to voice any ideas, concerns, opinions, there would be collective bargaining, and Pulaski would retain any fines and forfeitures (currently little under $3,000/year). New Brighton has good mutual aid with utility billing, joint zoning ordinance, Recreation Board and Public Works. Corporal John Pisano is here for Chief Walton who came down with fever last evening as could not be here tonight. The relationship with NB is there are a lot of business owners who are like family – NB has had good repour with police department when a call is made with quick response times? The increases in cost are mostly about the cost of living. When on duty they may stop at a business in township Mr. Montagazzi has a business and Officer Pisano states he will pull in and check the doors at night, the relationship with business owners is family. Officer Pisano would like to see the 4 communities become 1. New Brighton will still be working with the school district, no matter who has police contract when there is anything at the schools ALL departments are dispatched. NB will be covering football games and Middle School which is NB. The department has experience, knowledge, hands on training, hands on homicides the best they can, they have LPR in every car, they have in house cell at the station, shields, rams, use of cell phones, residents can speak with officers directly within 5 minutes at station or home. NB Police enjoy the relationship with all departments, manpower, garage, zoning.

-Scott Levinson with Beaver Valley Regional starts off with he is Chairperson of Freedom Council as well and when he was approached by Pulaski to give some comparison figures he was honored to do so. BVR has a great relationship with the County and State as well as with the NBPD. Being new to area they have developed relationships with communities served and will do just that with Pulaski area. BVR employs 18 full-time officers with ranks: Chief, Lieutenant, Sergeants, Corporals within the department. BVR does not go looking for business. Schools are always backed up by BVR, they have a new Canine Dog- Drex which is relatively new this year and is multi use dog. BVR maintains 14 vehicles with one canine vehicle. There are 5 officers who are also involved with the SWAT team. Policing is very important and Beaver Valley Regional first started planning in 2022 and put into action in 2023. Northern Regional has been operating for 40 years. Beaver Valley Regional covers Baden, Rochester Township, Freedom areas. There is a substation in Rochester Township with an office and cars. Mr. Levinson states that traditional policing just doesn't work anymore for some, due to the country, life changes, there are no part-time officers, all the officers are full-time. When BVR started they had 10 full-time officers and presently there are 18 full-time officers. The distance from Sheetz in Baden is 10-15 minutes without sirens/lights, with sirens/lights it is 5-6 minutes with distance of 6.2 miles. A trip from Baden is very unlikely, they are divided into Northern and Southern Zones. BVR runs 3-man

minimum per shift with hopes of hiring to go to 4-man shift. BVR covers Baden Academy, Freedom, and Rochester School Districts when there is anything happening at any school Regional is always there. They provide 24-hour patrol, full investigation services, reports, meetings. The contract with BVR would be 60 months, Pulaski is also able to pull out after 1 year. Initially the cost would be $125,000 for 2025. Moving forward each year there would be 4% increase for 2027 and 2028, by 3.75% for 2029 and 2030 if the optional 5 years is exercised.
Kathy Pavalinch asked when the supervisors would be voting on this. Mr. Zachodni replied with next meeting or November. She also is concerned that 3 officers covering 4 municipalities with Regional does not seem like a lot and saving money the first year with big increases in future would cost more in the long run. Gary Pavalinch understands now that Regional stated that Pulaski reached out to them with Mr. Zachodni speaking with them. Mr. Pavalinch claims Mr. Zachodni lied to him, saying that regional reached out to him. Mr. Zachodni replies with there were some issues the township were having concerns with and Mr. Flara advised him to call Rochester Township, he did call them and that is when he found out that Regional was already negotiating with Rochester Township, which is then how this started. He suggests checking with Bridgewater, Rochester & Conway as to what the issues are as to why they did not go with regional. Mr. Pavalinch states he works at Craigs Hardware, and his house alarm went off and NBPD responded quickly.
Brian Matheny has nothing for meeting. Deb Hickman has nothing for meeting.
Michael Zachodni has nothing for meeting. Cindy Lindeman has nothing for meeting.
Don Singleton states he was born and raised in Pulaski Township, and he has nothing negative for either department. The functions and events held in NB the officers are always present, and he advises us to think this over more. Mary Denise Feroce has nothing for the meeting. Tom Vukich asked if the substations are staffed 24 hours. BVR replied every car they have is equipped with office supplies, phone, computer etc., officers are always informed of everything. Mr. Vukich personally feels the distance would be a longer response time. BVR Andy responds with: If NBP has an officer in Fallston, how long would that response time be? Mr. Vukich wants to know if everyone in Pulaski Township was notified of this situation and the meeting. Mr. Zachodni replies with, "I personally walked the township and placed in every door." Sharon Kovach is questioning the way residents signed in to speak. She is also concerned about the 50% Pulaski would owe Regional for provisional services and wants supervisors to consider that. Ralph Flara is concerned if a large event occurs at in Conway and at the same time something occurs at the school? BVR responded that at any school ALL departments are dispatched.
Jewel Colwell from the NBSD school board concerned if something occurs in the school and BVR is in Baden? BVR Chief explained that every police officer from all departments are dispatched, response time from Baden with lights on is 5-6 minutes. She is concerned with the response time.
Terry and Donna Hughes would like to know what SRO means. Mr. Zachodni explained SRO is the School Resource Officer, Scott Sullivan, which is employed by the school district.
Joseph Guerino NBSD Superintendent states there is always a need for officers during school with bus times and it is not unusual to call NBP for coverage at football games and with students for police issues, with athletic coverage with part of the district in Pulaski

Township and part in New Brighton. BVR Chief assured us that in these situations they would then figure out and assign officers for functions, anything can be figured out. Dr. Guerino would like to know where the line is between NB and Pulaski. He also asks that the supervisors discuss this further with him. Samson Levoich states with his observations BVR are doing great things. He would like to know where the line is between Northern and Southern Regional? BVR Andrew replies as of right now it is Crows Run. He is concerned with response times. Officer Pisano adds that with Pulaski Township being in the middle, it seems more of a natural cross with NBPD. Scott Sullivan introduced himself as the SRO for the NBSD, NBPD knows all the buildings and the staff and the kids. Are BVR officers willing to learn the buildings, staff and kids? BVR Chief replied with building new relationships takes time and will be done. BVR also states the computer shows where every officer is. Alaina Teets who is home health aide, states when she is driving, she sees a lot of cars just parked along the side of the road heading to Cranberry, is this normal? BVR explains with everything in the car, they may be doing computer work or working on reports.
Candy Surgalski has nothing for the meeting. Ed Stang would like to know when this will be voted on and whether it will be a public vote. Can we do an informal vote? What kind of tax increase will there be? Mr. Zachodni responds with the vote will be either October or November meeting, leaning more to November. The vote will be with the Supervisors only. He states he would remiss if he did not inform everyone of the choice available. There will be no tax increase for this. Tom Albanese adds that this is not permitted on ballot. Doug Margetic states that there is a strong relationship with NBPD and he respects ALL police officers. Regional seems new still and sounds good but over time what could happen? Daugherty has a lot of farmlands. Mr. Margetic takes informal vote with residents at the meeting. Carrie Lofaso has nothing for the meeting.
Bob Harwick has nothing for the meeting. Rich Morell, former Fire Chief in Pulaski states there is an excellent relationship with NBPD. The fire department struggling and he wishes the fire department would join together. Rhonda West would like to know what prompted this concern. Mr. Zachodni replies that there have been complaints from residents about coverage in the township and with the contract up 12-31-2025 we were just comparing. Mr. Flara states he does see the police in townships and this decision seems big to be made in one month. Tom Albanese – NBPD states that not seeing an officer in community is ok with him because that means they could be putting more attention on the problem areas.
Andrew, BVR states either way Pulaski is in a win win system. Jim Bobbin has nothing for meeting. Matt Makowiecki has nothing for meeting. Jay Glover points out that NBPD gave the formula for figuring out the costs for coverage and would like to know what formula BVR uses? BVR Andrew explained it is based on road mileage and population. BVR needs to do this. BVR also considering hiring another officer. Rob Harwick has nothing for meeting. Donna Beckart has nothing for meeting. Dawn Mohrbacher would like to know if BVR has a goal to overtake all the departments. BVR answers with bigger departments that there are more resources available. Andy and Heidi Pavlinch are just wondering why mess with something that works? Mr. Zachodni adds that it is his job to present this information to the residents. Don Beagle states that everyone is thinking saving $10k. There is no child's life that is worth $10k. He has worked at Baden Academy and knows travel times mean a lot.

Nancy Sheets would like to know how many calls are in Pulaski Township. Officer Pisano replies there are 25-50/month with average o404/year and average 1,456/3years. Chris Ceratti with NBSD School Board respects all officers and being a schoolteacher, she knows response time is crucial. John Ludwwig agrees that all police officers/departments respond in event olarge emergency, his concern is 4% increase over 4 years and 5 years. Why fix something not broken? Everyone here knows everyone. Assuming the 3 SWAT officers are called to the SWAT team or situation, you are now down 3 officers, there are 1200 students in NBSD. Regional people need to think logistically. NBPD knows where everything is and knows everyone. George Hage has nothing or meeting.
Matt Montagazi states NBPD knows the area and the people. Saving money - is it worth it? Wilma Paglisotti has nothing or meeting. Kate Ensci has nothing or meeting.
Eric Braken has nothing to meet. Samantha Bloom asks ithis is sole about money and what prompted this decision. Mr. Zachodni replied it is his job to present the township with complaints as well and when we were given these options he presented this to the residents. We need to address complaints as well. Ms. Bloom worried about all the resources Pulaski has with NB, zoning, road department, what about the paving, Sheetz Road is terrible and what about the water breaks with the paving. Mr. Zachodni assures her that Pulaski's resource with NB will not change. As ar as paving, Sheetz is not on the paving list this year, with a small amount omoney we cannot do all the roads every year. BFMA is responsible or any roads which are torn up due to repairing a water break.
Tom Albasnese states that the timing othis decision is based on NB Budget, Mr. Zachodni is hoping or decision or the November meeting. Mr. Zachodni asked Mr. Albanese iwe could vote in November? Mr. Albanese replied that November should work but he needs to do their budget. Cathy Pavlinich would like to know where all the people who voiced complaints were.

A motion was made by Mr. Zachodni and seconded by Mr. Wagle to adjourn the meeting at Vote on the motion: Mr. Zachodni – yes, Mr. Flara – yes, Mr. Wagle – yes. The motion is carried.

Respectully submitted.

Connie Wagle