

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING                      NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Lisha L. Rowe. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice-President Greg Miller, David J. Batdorf, Andy Donnell, and William B. Miller. Also attending were Fire Chief James Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Asst. Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Kristin Yoder, Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, and Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia A. Wylezik-Pfeiffer. Chief of Police Madison Winchester arrived at 6:40 p.m.

**NOTICE:**

Public comment will be accepted in person. Please include your first name, last name and address for all comments. Any comments without a name or address will not be considered. To accommodate as many people as possible, we request that each person's comments be limited to 3 minutes (resolution no. 301). The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 60 minutes. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Commissioners. While public comments will be given due consideration, immediate responses will be made at the discretion of the Commissioners.

Pledge to the Flag.

**PUBLIC**

Attendance: Ruth O'Leary, Mark Ferrero, and Tonya Campbell.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A.) Meeting advertised on 11/11/25

**DEPARTMENTS**

A.) Fire Department

1) consider approving pay application #17 for Balton, Inc in the amount of \$269,994.47  
**ON MOTION OF MR. DONNELL, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE  
TO APPROVE PAY APPLICATION #17 FOR BALTON, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$269,994.47.**

**2026 BUDGET**

A.) Ambulance Fund – follow up on millage

As a follow up from the last meeting, a chart showing different millages and the corresponding projected end of year balances was provided for discussion.

Mr. Greg Miller stated that there will be two issues to solve next year if the Board doesn't solve one of them now. He recommended increasing the Ambulance tax to 0.50 mil to increase

the fund balance for carry over into 2027. Mr. Donnell asked if that amount was hard and fast. Mr. Greg Miller replied that 0.50 mil would bring the fund balance closer to the 30% carryover that was recommended by the auditor. Mr. Greg Miller also stated that he would not be shocked if the CPI for 911 dispatching is at 3.5% in December. The Board tentatively agreed to the proposed Ambulance tax of 0.50 mil.

B.) Refuse Fund – follow up

Ms. Johnston reported that Mrs. Wylezik-Pfeiffer had created the spreadsheet showing 2026 refuse rates for various municipalities, converted to annualized amounts. The notes section references differences in services. Cumru Township is the lowest, but many of the other municipalities have bid recent contracts which have resulted in cost increases. Cumru Township will have to bid a new contract during 2026 for 2027-2029. It is anticipated that the 2027 rate will be higher, based on the recent experiences of other municipalities.

The Board agreed to keep the current rates for 2026.

C.) Sewer Fund and Sewer Capital Fund

Ms. Johnston explained that there are 2 sewer funds. The 803 fund is the “checking” account and the 809 is the capital “savings” account.

1) 803 fund

The 803 fund is used for the maintenance of the sewer system, the wages of the people who provide maintenance, and treatment costs.

Mr. McNichols and Mr. Yost have established a long term capital plan for replacement of the sewer mains. They use TV and grouting to assess mains and for minor repairs. The assessment identifies mains most in need of replacement. Sewer pipes are composed of different materials that are only effective for so long before they begin to fail. The replacement work pays for itself by reducing the amount of infiltration and inflow (I & I) that enters the system because I&I increases treatment charges. Mr. McNichols stated that an added bonus of sewer replacement is that the roads get paved.

In 2024, the sewer rate was increased to \$145/quarter for the first 7500 gallons. Accounts with well water are assessed at \$200/quarter. Although the Township billed approximately \$1.4 million for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2025, some accounts do not pay. Delinquent accounts are sent to collections.

Tapping fee revenue for new connections goes into the capital fund.

Ms. Johnston reported that the amount listed in line item 8421-810 is a projected amount at best. The 2026-2027 City of Reading treatment and transportation rates have not been received yet. She would revisit this amount once the new City of Reading rates are received. An assumed rate increase of 10% was used.

Ms. Johnston explained that line item 8439-836 is used to transfer funds from the 803 fund to the 809 fund. No funds were transferred yet due to waiting for the decisions from grant applications. There are currently two projects planned, the Angelica Interceptor project and the Ardmore replacement project. Ms. Johnston recommended moving forward with transferring \$500,000 by the end of 2025 and \$574,000 in 2026 for those projects and replacement of sewer department truck 90.

2) 809 fund

Ms. Johnston explained that the revenue amount listed for sewer connections is based on receiving the tapping fees for the first 20-unit building for the proposed Hawthorne Apartments development.

She pointed out the transfer line item from the 803 fund for projects/expenses.

**ON MOTION OF MR. WILLIAM MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO TRANSFER \$500,000 FROM THE 803 FUND TO THE 809 FUND.**

Ms. Johnston reported that the Township is working on the 1st DEP permit for work along the Angelica Creek.

She pointed out that \$3 million of the EOY 2026 balance is seed money for the Angelica Interceptor project.

Ms. Johnston did not recommend increasing the sewer rental rate at this time.

Mrs. O'Leary asked about increased costs listed in line item 8421-370, maintenance of system. The response was that these costs were for an emergency pipe lining project.

Mrs. O'Leary asked about the \$40,000 listed for Flying Hills pump station under line item 8421-372. Mr. McNichols replied that this money is kept in reserve in case anything happens. An electrical issue could cost \$50,000 and a pump replacement could cost \$30,000.

Mrs. O'Leary inquired about the \$500,000 listed under 8480-211 for engineering. Ms. Johnston explained that the Ardmore project grant, if received, does not cover engineering costs. The grant only covers construction costs.

Mr. Greg Miller asked about the decrease in revenue. Ms. Johnston explained that this reflects people not paying. There is a significant number of people paying less via payment plans instead of paying the entire debt. Money paid is applied to the oldest debt, not the current bills, so many accounts never get paid up. Ms. Johnston offered to supply more analysis but Mr. Greg Miller said that there was no need.

Mr. Greg Miller asked about the increase in line item 8420-002 for sewer non-uniformed pension minimum municipal obligation. Ms. Johnston replied that this was partly due to the increase in the number of employees since the firefighters, several of whom were hired recently, are currently covered under the non uniformed plan. It was also partly due to the conversion of the non uniformed plan from the defined contribution plan to a defined benefit plan, as under the collective bargaining agreement.

**D.) State Liquid Fuels Fund**

Ms. Johnston reported that this money comes from the state gas tax. There is a formula that determines the money that is given to the municipalities. The amount listed in line item 3540-030 is expected to decrease slightly. She explained that the amount listed in line item 3540-020 is a constant. Several roads such as Church Road used to be state roads. In 1986, Cumru Township agreed to "take back" the roads so the state gives this set amount every year to the municipality.

Ms. Johnston explained that Liquid Fuels money is used for expenses such as road salt, hot patch, cold patch and road construction. A certain amount can be used for vehicle purchases. It is difficult to predict the amount of road salt that will be needed from year to year.

The amount listed for line item 4390-001 is for the Hunters Rd road construction.

Mr. Donnell asked about using the funds for other uses such as helping to pay for the ambulance costs. The response was that Liquid Fuels money can only be used for approved road related expenses.

Mr. McNichols added that if Liquid Fuels money is used to purchase a vehicle, any money received from the sale of that vehicle must go back into the Liquid Fuels fund.

There was a question about the amount listed if grants are awarded. Ms. Johnston stated that the budget is set up without grant money. If we get grant money, there will be more money to pave more roads. The Board unanimously concurred with applying for a maximum LSA statewide grant for Hunters Road, to be supplemented by up to \$650,000 in liquid fuels funds.

Mr. McNichols stated that the Township could spend \$5 million on roads tomorrow and still not be caught up.

## COMMISSIONERS

### A.) Executive Session

- 1) IAFF negotiations – update
- 2) Teamster grievance

These executive session issues will be addressed at the regular meeting on November 18, 2025.

### B.) Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) List

Mr. Greg Miller requested that the Board discuss an opportunity for RACP that is not on the agenda. This would not be a motion about money. It would be a request to get on the list. There is a short window of opportunity.

Ms. Johnston reported that the first step in the RACP process is to get the municipality's name on the approved list. The RACP request for inclusion in the list would go to State Sen. Judy Schwank's office. She would pass the request onto the next level for consideration. The Governor determines whether and when to open a RACP grant application round.

### **ON MOTION OF MR. DONNELL, SECOND OF MR. GREG MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO MAKE A REQUEST FOR SEN. SCHWANK TO INCLUDE CUMRU TOWNSHIP IN THE LIST FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE RACP GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

Mr. McNichols reported that he had received an email asking about the tree removal in the Montrose mini park. Three large old trees were taken down by a contractor on the Cumru Township property. Two ash trees were dying and falling limbs posed a hazard.

Ms. Johnston explained that vest pocket parks were popular in the 1920s when the Montrose area was developed. This area is accessed through alleys.

Mr. McNichols reported that the trees pose a hazard when they come down on the power lines during storms and cause power outages.

**REMINDERS**

A.) Board of Commissioners meetings for November 2025

1) 11/18/2025 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular meeting

2) 11/20/2025 at 6:30 p.m. – Budget meeting

B.) Planning Commission 12/01/2025 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. DONNELL, A UNANIMOUS  
VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:29 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston  
Manager/Secretary