

MINUTES
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 6, 2026

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 7:03 pm. Present were Chairman Arnold, Commissioners Heiland, Baile, Elksnis, and Rice. Also present were WWTP Superintendent Lank, Township Manager Sweeney, and Assistant Township Manager Klinefelter. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the December 2, 2025, Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: *James Papoutsis, 513 Meade Avenue:* Mr. Papoutsis said he has been a resident of Penn Township since 1974. He lives by himself and does not make a lot of trash. He explained that his income is very limited. He is hoping the board will make exceptions for the residents in his position that cannot afford the trash service.

Mike Swartz, 5167 Grandview: Mr. Swartz is not a fan of the new trash service. He was suggesting that Penn Township try to sell the current bags to residents. Mr. Swartz wants to see the recycling center stay open because he believes it is a benefit to the residents to have this service.

REFUSE AND RECYCLE CONTRACT: WWTP Superintendent Lank said the new trash services have started in the Township with only a few issues. Anthracite waste has been creating a list of missed carts, wrong sizes, and any other issues and having these corrected the week of January 12th. The trash company has been responding to missed pick-ups in the Township.

TIMBER LANE UPDATE: No further work has been completed due to the holidays and the weather. The crew is hoping for colder weather so they can get better access for the [bv](#)ac truck for some hydro-excavation in that area.

DISCUSS SEWER RATES: WWTP Superintendent Lank, at last month's meeting gave the committee a lot of data, including income verses expenses for the Sewer Department, current local rates, and the department's projected needs for the future. Due to the holidays and board reconfiguration, he suggested more time before they jump into actual numbers concerning a proposed rate increase.

NEW EQUIPMENT INSTALL UPDATE: Prior to the end of 2025 three additional projects were completed. The new control at the Penn Village Pump Station was installed, the return sludge pump #2 was rebuilt, and the aeration blower at the High Pointe pump station was completed and is in service.

OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: Bill Bowman, 123 Oak Hill Dr: Mr. Bowman asked if there were any provisions for people who are less fortunate and are struggling to pay the trash bill. If not, he believes there should be some kind of exception. Mr. Bowman said he loves the recycling center and said he didn't realize a portion of the bag sales funded the operation of the recycling center.

Jack Corriere, 114 Oak Hill Dr: Mr. Corriere believes there should be help for people struggling to pay the trash bill as well. He also would like to see the recycling center stay open.

Mike Swartz, 5167 Grandview: Mr. Swartz said if people are upset, they should be coming to the meetings. There are a lot of rumors on social media platforms like Facebook. He believes there should be accommodations for people who can't afford the trash service. Mr. Swartz discussed the history of Penn Township and how they used to collect their own trash.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Klinefelter
Township Secretary