

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Danielle A. Duckett, Chairman
Michael Twersky, Vice Chair
Janine Martin
Andrea Brockway
Jimmy Chong

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Office Manager
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works
Melinda Haldeman, Finance Director
John Farrell, Project Manager/Emergency Management Coordinator
Jim Hersh, Gilmore and Assoc., Township Engineer

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:06pm at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building and virtually on Zoom and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Board of Supervisors met in executive session on August 31, 2026, and prior to tonight's meeting to discuss matters of real estate related to the Public Works garage, personnel related to police, and potential litigation related to emergency management and parks.

Fall Fest is Saturday, September 19 from noon to 5 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of fall fun on Houston Road by Wissahickon Middle School and High School.

A special Board of Supervisors' meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00 pm in the Township Building to discuss a proposed zoning ordinance amendment regulating data centers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Stormwater Permitting 101 - an overview by the Township Engineer of the Clean Water Act permitting requirements for Lower Gwynedd's storm sewer system

Township Engineer Jim Hersh presented an overview of the Township's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and its required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which is federally mandated under the Clean Water Act, with EPA enforcement delegated in Pennsylvania to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Mr. Hersh explained that the program is built around six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs): public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site stormwater runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping. He noted that the Township's Environmental Advisory Council supports the program through the Going Green awards, and that the Township's website includes a stormwater page with resident resources. He highlighted that the Township has approximately 100 stormwater outfalls, which are screened on a five-year rolling cycle for illicit discharges. DEP conducted an audit of the program and expressed satisfaction with the Township's compliance efforts.

Mr. Hersh described how residents can contribute by directing carwash runoff onto lawns rather than into storm drains, cleaning up after pets, minimizing fertilizer use, and properly disposing of hazardous materials. He encouraged residents to report any suspicious discharges through the Township's citizens request portal.

He then addressed Lower Gwynedd's Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP), a layer of the program triggered by the presence of impaired waterways within the Township. Lower Gwynedd has two impaired watersheds — the Wissahickon, covering approximately 90% of the Township, and the Little Neshaminy, covering the remaining 10% — both impaired for sediment and nutrients. The Township's initial five-year PRP was required as part of our NPDES permit for 2020 to 2025 and was extended to 2030. Improvements completed under the plan included a rain garden at the Township building, basin retrofits at Spring House Farms (replacing concrete low-flow channels with native plantings and river rock to reduce thermal impact), and stream bank restoration along Willow Run behind the Township building in conjunction with the recent Old Bethlehem Pike culvert replacement. One additional project remains to be completed before 2030, targeting stream bank stabilization along two creeks on the Johnson & Johnson campus within the Little Neshaminy watershed. A grant application for that project was submitted but not awarded; staff indicated they will continue to pursue grant funding.

Mr. Hersh noted that DEP is expected to issue new regulatory guidance before the 2030 NPDES permit term ends, and that finding locations for future improvement projects will become increasingly challenging given the Township's limited available land, likely requiring creative partnerships with other entities.

Regarding the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) of the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership (WCWP), Mr. Hersh explained that approximately 10 to 12 years ago, DEP released a draft Total

Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standard for phosphorous levels in Wissahickon Creek, with required reductions of up to 95% — a target widely regarded by municipalities and engineers as unachievable. A coalition of 13 municipalities formed the WCWP to negotiate with DEP and EPA for approval of the WQIP as a watershed-wide alternative TMDL plan focusing on stormwater management projects to improve water quality. Lower Gwynedd is a member of this coalition. Ms. Gleason added that DEP recently issued comments on the alternative TMDL, and that a management committee meeting of the WQIP was scheduled for Thursday. She noted that earlier this year, EPA questioned the foundational premise of the watershed-wide stormwater management approach to adequately reduce phosphorous in the creek, and that DEP's comments acknowledged both those concerns and the years of work invested in the WQIP. Gleason characterized the situation as likely requiring years of additional work before the alternative plan reaches adoption.

Discussion among the Board and staff touched on several key uncertainties: whether stormwater management projects completed under the PRP would count toward future WQIP obligations; whether the alternative TMDL's watershed-wide approach would be sufficient to achieve the targeted phosphorus reductions; and whether obligations under a future DEP permit term and the WQIP would overlap or be treated as separate requirements. Ms. Duckett expressed concern that the Township may face a "double dip" scenario — being asked to address both watershed-wide stormwater improvements and phosphorus reduction simultaneously — and questioned whether municipalities are equipped to meet both sets of requirements at once. Mr. Hersh acknowledged the uncertainty on all fronts, noting that DEP has not yet provided clear guidance on how future requirements will interact, and that the WQIP's projected costs and measurable water quality outcomes remain to be fully defined.

Ms. Worman noted that because the WQIP is focused solely on the Wissahickon watershed, the Township would remain independently obligated to address the Little Neshaminy TMDL — which is impaired for nitrogen rather than phosphorus — regardless of the outcome of the WQIP process.

Consider authorization of a change order to the contract with G&B in the amount of \$11,850 to add landscaping for the Old Bethlehem Pike culvert replacement and streambank restoration

Ms. Duckett stated that Township staff and Gilmore had met with nearby residents who expressed concerns about the visual impact of the newly reconstructed bridge on Old Bethlehem Pike. In response, a landscaping plan using native plantings was developed and sent to the bridge contractor, G&B, for pricing. The resulting quote of \$11,850 was determined by staff and the engineers to be reasonable and fell within the overall project budget. Ms. Brockway confirmed that all plants on the plan schedule are native plantings. No public comments were received.

A motion to approve the change order to G&B in the amount of \$11,850 to add landscaping for the Old Bethlehem Pike culvert replacement and streambank restoration was made by Ms. Duckett and seconded by Mr. Twersky. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider appointing Thomas J. Anderson & Associates, Inc. as actuary and pension administrator

Ms. Duckett presented the recommendation, noting that the selection was conducted in accordance with Resolution #2023-20 governing the selection process for professional consultants. Ms. Gleason clarified that while the Township has previously retained an actuary, the addition of pension

administration services is new and is intended to relieve administrative burden from Township staff and places that function with a specialized professional. The RFP was included in the board packet for review. A motion to appoint Thomas J. Anderson & Associates, Inc. as actuary and pension administrator was made by Ms. Duckett and seconded by Mr. Twersky. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider approval of Ordinance #558 authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement between the Township and Verizon Pennsylvania LLC

The current franchise agreement for Verizon is up for renewal. This agreement continues cable TV services in Lower Gwynedd and requires Verizon to pay the Township 5% of the cable revenue as an annual franchise fee. Ordinance #558 allows for the adoption of this agreement. A motion to approve Ordinance #558 authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement between the Township and Verizon Pennsylvania LLC was made by Ms. Duckett and seconded by Mr. Twersky. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider authorizing advertisement of a legal notice for an ordinance authorizing execution of a renewed cable franchise agreement between the Township and Comcast of PA, LLC and Comcast of Southeast PA, LLC

The Comcast cable franchise agreement is up for renewal. A public hearing was held on May 12, 2026, to solicit public comments. Staff are asking for authorization to advertise a legal notice for consideration of an ordinance executing a renewed franchise agreement at the September 22, 2026, meeting. A motion to authorize advertisement of a legal notice for an ordinance authorizing execution of a renewed cable franchise agreement between the Township and Comcast of PA, LLC and Comcast of Southeast PA, LLC was made by Ms. Duckett and seconded by Mr. Twersky. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of invoice Report for September 8, 2026

The BOS received the invoice report for checks dated September 8, 2026, totaling \$210,855. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky, to approve the invoices dated September 8, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes for the meeting on August 25, 2026

The BOS received the minutes from the August 25, 2026, meeting. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

There were no reports provided to the BOS.

STAFF UPDATES

There were no updates or comments from staff.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

There were no comments from the BOS. Ms. Martin and Ms. Duckett encouraged people to attend Fall Fest on the 19th.

Adjournment

Ms. Duckett made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm, seconded by Mr. Twersky. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Farzetta".

Michelle Farzetta
Office Manager