

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
February 4, 2025 – 9:30 A.M.
Solebury Township Hall/Virtual - Hybrid Meeting
MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, Hanna Howe, Vice-Chair, Kevin Morrissey, John S. Francis, Christy Cheever, Christopher Garges, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Township Manager and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor, was also in attendance.

The recording device was turned on.

I. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Bills Payable – January 30, 2025

Res. 2025-28 – Upon a motion by Ms. Howe, seconded by Ms. Cheever, the list of Bills Payable dated January 30, 2025 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2025

A motion was made by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Howe to approve the January 21, 2025 meeting minutes as prepared and posted.

Mr. Francis requested a change to the minutes to include additional discussion under the *Solebury Green Master Plan – Authorization to Approve* topic. Mr. Morrissey expressed support for the amendment.

Res. 2025-29 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to amend the motion on the table to include the following amendment to the January 21, 2025 meeting minutes:

- **Under Solebury Green Master Plan – Authorization to Approve: *Mr. Francis notated areas for improvement in the next phase of the project. These improvements include an enhancement on the appeal and safety of the center community area, as well as, the development of connections to adjacent trails, particularly to Logan Square and up to Aquetong Spring Park.***

Res. 2025-30 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Howe, the Minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved with the amendment and posted.

IV. Announcements / Resignations / Appointments

Executive Session

Mr. Baum Baicker announced that an Executive Session was held January 28, 2025 dealing with Property Acquisition and an Informational Session held February 4, 2025, prior to the meeting.

V. Supervisor Comment – There was no Supervisor Comment.

VI. New Business

Tax Collector Salary – 2026-2029

The Tax Collector salary for the next four year elected term must be set by February 15, 2025.

Res. 2025-31 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to set the salary for the elected Tax Collector term of 2026-2029 as follows, representing a 2% annual increase:

2026	\$25, 247.76
2027	\$25,752.72
2028	\$26,267.77
2029	\$26,793.13

Environmental Advisory Council – Request for Electronic Waste Recycling Event 2025

Res. 2025-32 - Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Ms. Cheever, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Environmental Advisory Council to host an electronics recycling event at the New Hope Solebury High School Campus on May 10, 2025 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. The event will not be restricted to Solebury residents only. The Township will cover the cost of the event and seek reimbursement from Bucks County E-Waste Collection Recycling Grant Program (BCERG). Participants will be responsible for fees for individual devices such as TV’s, etc. as determined by the vendor, eForce Recycling.

Resolution in Support of Solebury’s Inclusion in The Federal Highlands Boundary

Congress passed the Highlands Conservation Act in 2004 to “recognize the importance of the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational, and cultural resources of the Highlands region and the national significance of the Highlands Region to the United States.” The Act expired at the end of 2021, but the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act (HCRA) passed at the end of December 2022 authorizing the program through 2029 at \$10 million/year. Funding is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

One of the updates to the reauthorized program is the opportunity for municipalities in an expanded opportunity boundary to petition to be added to the federal Highlands boundary. Inclusion in this boundary is required to apply for Highlands Conservation Act funding.

Res. 2025-33 – Upon a motion by Ms. Howe, seconded by Ms. Cheever, it was unanimously agreed to approve the resolution supporting Solebury Township’s inclusion into the Federal Highlands boundary, as maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Highlands Conservation Act grant program, thereby qualifying for financial and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Congress.

Gateway Trail III Project – Ply-Mar Construction Company, Inc. – Payment Request No. 5

The Township Engineer has reviewed the Application and Certification for Payment No. 5 and recommends the Board approve the payment of the requested items in the amount of Eighty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and Seventy Nine Cents (\$88,238.79).

Res. 2025-34 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to approve the payment of the requested items in the amount of Eighty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and Seventy Nine Cents (\$88,238.79).

VII. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-33

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOLEBURY, BUCKS COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, IN SUPPORT OF SOLEBURY'S INCLUSION IN THE
FEDERAL HIGHLANDS BOUNDARY

WHEREAS, the Highlands region, encompasses more than three million acres of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands region is an area of national significance, possessing substantial natural beauty, containing contiguous forest and productive farmland, numerous cultural and historic sites, plentiful recreation opportunities, and the protection and supply of important drinking water sources for over fifteen million people; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress, in bipartisanship, passed the Highlands Conservation Act, Public Law 10-421 that was signed into law by the President of the United States on November 30, 2004, designating the Highlands as a significant national conservation priority region; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Conservation Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to Highlands States to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highlands region; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages a voluntary grant program to assist Highlands States, local units of government, and private forest and farm landowners in the conservation of land and natural resources in the Highlands region in coordination with willing sellers; and

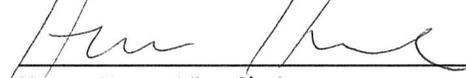
WHEREAS, land preservation efforts in the Highlands region should link the parks, historic sites, wetlands, wildlife habitats, streams, rivers, reservoirs, watershed, trails, scenic and natural lands and other protected areas unique to the region for the enjoyment of future generations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Solebury Township Board of Supervisors supports being officially included in the federal Highlands boundary, as maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Highlands Conservation Act grant program, thereby qualifying for financial and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Congress.

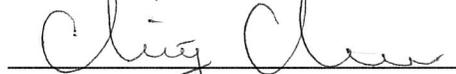
RESOLVED this 4th of February, 2025.



Mark Baum Baicker, Chair



Hanna Howe, Vice Chair



Christy Cheever, Member

Attest:



Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary

John S. Francis, Member

Kevin Morrissey, Member