

**Millcreek Township Government Study Commission
Regular Meeting**

April 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Millcreek Township Government Study Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Paul Vojtek in the Assembly Room of the Millcreek Township Municipal Building. In attendance were Paul Vojtek, Art Oligeri, John DiPlacido, James DeDad, Bill Schaaf, Donna Shaw and Robert Zonna; Alternates Bob Enas, Kim Huff, Douglas Krugger, Marcia Terry and Suzanne Weber; PA DCED Local Government Specialist Mary Ammann and Sheryl Williams. ALOM/Public Partner Consultants Michael Foreman and Toby Cordek were also present. Absent was Alternate Nancy Shea.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Mr. Vojtek called for public comments on agenda items. None were offered.

On motion by Mr. DiPlacido and seconded by Mr. DeDad, the minutes of the March 24, 2025 regular meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote with two minor corrections.

On motion by Mr. DeDad and seconded by Mr. Schaaf, the bills totaling \$1,378.27 were approved for payment by unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee Chairman Jim DeDad stated that the budget is on track with a balance of \$75,504 before payment of tonight's bills. He reported that his committee is researching the costs of changing to other forms of government and noted that some comparisons cannot be made due to the differences between Townships. He relayed that he is having a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) assist with evaluating the finances of various townships and will have a report at the next meeting.

Local Government Structure Committee Chairman John DiPlacido reporting that the Commissioners have reviewed the notes from the March 10th fact-finding and educational session and recommended that they be approved. On motion by Mr. DiPlacido and seconded by Paul Vojtek, the notes from the March 10, 2025 fact-finding mission were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mr. DiPlacido also reported that on April 2, 2025, his committee met with Supervisor James Bock and discussed administration management, communication outreach, priorities and accountability.

Public Outreach, Public Relations, Public Education and Promotions Committee Chairman Art Oligeri reported that his committee met earlier today and discussed recent IT team updates, and they will be updating their website and Facebook pages twice per month. He stated that their budget is on target, and that Commissioner Donna Shaw recently presented a social media spot on the Facebook page, which also links residents to their website. Mr. Oligeri thanked Sue Weber for supplying an article for the spring edition of the IN Millcreek Magazine which will be available the first week of May, and stated that another article is planned for the fall edition. He stated that pamphlets on the commission's progress will be distributed during the Primary Day Election on May 20th, and four (4) Townhall meetings are planned for September and October, two during each month. Locations will be at the Belle Valley Fire Department and the Millcreek Township Intermediate School, pending approval. Mr. Oligeri reported that he and Mr. Vojtek were interviewed by WICU TV on the "Blue Couch," and another pair of commissioners will be interviewed each month. He said that the committee has discussed entering the Fourth of July Parade, and more information to follow. Mr. Oligeri closed his report by noting that commissioners will be speaking at the Lions Club, Torch Club and Rotary Club in upcoming months.

Committee of the Whole

ALOM Consultant Toby Cordek gave a presentation on "The Value of a Professional Municipal Manager," stating that he served McCandless Township for over thirty-five (35) years. He relayed the history of how professional managers came about, and asked the Commissioners to share their thoughts on the important qualifications for and qualities of a good manager, and listed them on a whiteboard. Some of the ideas presented were: knowledge of the township code, experience, having a business or public administration degree, or even a Master's Degree, providing a stable work atmosphere, and having good networking and problem-solving skills. The group continued to list more than thirty (30) qualities of a good manager, and Mr. Cordek closed his presentation by stating his rationale for having a township manager vs. an appointed municipal administrator.

Chairman Paul Wojtek asked the Commission to revisit the discussion from the last meeting to distribute a resident survey. Mr. Zonna moved to eliminate the resident survey, seconded by Mr. Oligeri. More discussion ensued and Mr. Schaaf suggested leaving last meeting's vote to table the survey on the table. Mr. Wojtek interpreted that to mean to table Mr. Zonna's motion that was currently on the table, but Mr. Schaaf's motion died for a lack of a second. Mr. Wojtek asked for further discussion on Mr. Zonna's motion, and Mr. DeDad opined that after reviewing the discussion from the last meeting, it seemed pointless to send a resident survey at this point in time. Mr. Cordek added that it could probably save the commission money by not doing the survey now, but added that a survey could possibly be done later. Mr. Wojtek called for the vote to eliminate the survey and it was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

New Business

Mr. Wojtek announced that after checking their schedules, the Commission decided to move the second meeting in May to Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6:30 pm, and it has been advertised.

He asked the Commission to be prepared to publicly discuss the four (4) various government options plus the option of "no change in government" at the April 28, 2025 meeting. Mr. Zonna encouraged residents to attend this meeting as well. Mr. DiPlacido asked the consultants to present an outline of the various optional forms of government at the next meeting first to make sure everyone understands the available options and to provide direction. Mr. Foreman reminded everyone that the discussion must be done in the open, or in the "sunshine," so to speak. Ms. Shaw asked the consultants for a simplified outline with bullet points to prepare for the discussion, and Mr. Foreman replied that he would create an outline of each of the four government options plus the "no change in government" option. Mr. Oligeri suggested that the Commissioners consider the next meeting to be informational, and then take two more weeks to discuss the options before deliberating at the May 12th meeting.

Ms. Shaw suggested that each committee could begin small discussions and share their opinions with each other without violating the Sunshine Act, and Mr. Cordek agreed, but cautioned the Commissioners not to make any decisions privately, and to deliberate openly at the upcoming public meetings.

Other Business

There was no other business to be discussed.

Public Comment

Millcreek resident Dennis McAndrew emphasized that Millcreek residents are the ones who will make the final decision of the type of government the Township will have by voting in November, and opined that the presentation on township managers was premature until after the public decides in November.

Millcreek resident Gerald Servidio emphasized that Millcreek Township has never failed him and expressed concern about the possible higher cost of having a township manager, noting that Cranberry Township pays over \$715,854.82 annually to support their township managers. He emphasized that the cost per resident to operate Cranberry Township is \$800.18 per person compared to the cost per resident in Millcreek Township of \$551.00 per person. He had other concerns about other employees in Millcreek Township who were interviewed besides the Supervisors, the turnover rate of township managers in general, and stated that if Millcreek’s government is changed, Millcreek will be locked into a new type of government for five (5) years before another change in government can be considered.

Millcreek resident Alice Niebauer also stated that she has never been failed by Millcreek and is not looking for a change in government. She added that a Township Manager could still be hired without changing the government. She also stated that she likes having a Supervisor election every two (2) years compared to having a council where several members could hold office for four (4) years and then be replaced by another group with a different agenda.

Millcreek resident Candy Korm thanked the commissioners for serving on the Government Study Commission, expressed support for a change in government, and opined that she feels there is too much spending on real estate.

Good of the Order

There were no further items for discussion.

Chairman Paul Vojtek announced that the commission needed to discuss personnel matters and the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:09 pm.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:46 pm on motion by Mr. DiPlacido, seconded by Mr. DeDad.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A. Williams,
Recording Secretary

Approved April 28, 2025

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

John DiPlacido, Secretary