

**Millcreek Township Government Study Commission
Regular Meeting**

April 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Millcreek Township Government Study Commission was called to order at 5:32 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 Consultant Michael Foreman was also present. Absent was Alternate Nancy Shea.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Mr. Vojtek called for public comments on agenda items. Auditor and Former Supervisor John Groh asked Consultant Michael Foreman whether an elected Treasurer is permitted under a Mayor/Council optional form of government, to which Mr. Foreman replied yes, an elected or appointed Treasurer is permitted, as well as no Treasurer at all. Mr. Groh asked if a provision will be put into any new recommended plan of government to prohibit the purchase of property. Chairman Vojtek reminded Mr. Foreman and Mr. Groh that this is the Public Comments portion of the meeting and not question and answers.

On motion by Mr. Schaaf and seconded by Mr. DeDad, the minutes of the April 14, 2025 regular meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

On motion by Ms. Shaw and seconded by Mr. DiPlacido, the bills from ALOM/Public Partners and WQLN totaling \$8,706.94 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 \$74,126 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 the Budget Committee met twice since the last Commission Meeting. The first was with a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) to assist with evaluating the revenues and expenses, financial health, trends and deficiencies of Millcreek Township. The second meeting was a follow up to the previous meeting as well as discussing Lower Paxton Township, a township very similar in salaries, organizational structure and demographics to Millcreek Township.

Local Government Structure Committee Chairman John DiPlacido reported that his committee did not meet formally since the last regular GSC meeting, but that they have been individually reviewing the highlights of previous regular meetings in preparation to voice their preferences on a recommendation at the upcoming meetings of the Commission. Mr. DiPlacido reiterated that the ALOM Consultants and his committee have interviewed seven (7) townships, and the Millcreek Township Supervisors, one of them twice.

Public Outreach, Public Relations, Public Education and Promotions Committee Chairman Art Oligeri stated that his committee met earlier today and reported the following updates: The IT team has both the website and Facebook pages functioning well, there are no irregularities in the committee's budget, and that tomorrow R. J. Zonna will be producing a new social media spot to direct residents to the website and Facebook pages. Mr. Oligeri reported that they are scheduling people to man all twenty-five (25) polling places on Election Day, May 20, 2025, that handouts will be distributed to update voters on the progress of the GSC, and that signs have been ordered. He noted that the Townhall meeting schedule has been altered somewhat to hold two (2) meetings in September and two (2) meetings in October, with the dates to be determined. Meeting locations will be at Millcreek

Intermediate High School (West), J.S. Wilson Middle School (South-Central), Belle Valley Fire Department (East), and West Lake Middle School (North). Mr. Oligeri reported that Donna Shaw and Bill Schaaf will be interviewed on WICU-TV tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm, and that various members of the Commission will be speaking at upcoming civic organizations, as follows: August 12 – Marcia Terry and John DiPlacido at the Lions Club at 12 Noon at the Shrine Club; September 16 – Donna Shaw and Art Oligeri at the Presque Isle Rotary Club at 7:00 am, and October 1 – Sue Weber and R.J. Zonna at the Torch Club at the Erie Yacht Club at 6:00 pm. He closed by noting that the Commission has decided not to participate in the Fourth of July Parade.

Committee of the Whole

Chairman Paul Vojtek noted that there was no Committee of the Whole report this evening.

New Business

Mr. Vojtek stated that there was no new business, but reminded everyone of the second meeting in May, scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Vojtek commended Mr. DiPlacido for summarizing the interviews with the various townships and thanked everyone for their reports and for their contributions. Mr. DiPlacido commented that it has taken a long time to get to this point, and Mr. Schaaf added that no two townships are the same, so it takes time to analyze and compare them. Ms. Shaw explained that the Commission is a group that began as concerned citizens and that they are non-political. Mr. Vojtek agreed and thanked the consultants and Mary Ammann for their assistance in this process as well. He reported that each committee has had discussions about the various types of optional governments and tasked the committees to bring their comments to the public at the next meeting. Mr. Zonna stated that he had no idea how much time would be required to be a Commission member, but relayed that he has learned a lot about local township government in the process, and assured residents that the Commission is taking its job seriously to do the best job for Millcreek Township citizens.

Mr. DiPlacido asked what should be brought back to the next meeting from the committees, to which Mr. Vojtek suggested bringing a summary of comments and observations, which direction they may be leaning toward, and a possible recommendation if the committee has a consensus. Mr. DiPlacido stated that he would like more information on how different types of government would affect Millcreek Township financially. Mr. Vojtek replied that the Budget Committee plans to share that information at the next meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Vojtek reported that the Township received two (2) Right-to-Know requests and they are determining whether information regarding personnel is responsive to the request. Mr. Schaaf asked Recording Secretary and Right-to-Know Officer to confirm that they are on a 30-day extension, which Ms. Williams did confirm.

Public Comment

Millcreek resident Gerald Servidio noted that there are meetings planned for October, and asked Mr. Oligeri what happens if the Commission decides not to move forward with an optional government. Mr. Oligeri replied that the Commission would use that time to explain why that decision was made. Mr. Servidio asked what types of signs will be made, and if there will be any recommendations on the signs, to which Mr. Oligeri answered that the signs would indicate who to ask if the residents had specific questions, and stated there would be no recommendations on the signs. Mr. Servidio thanked the Commission for their work, but opined that he still feels there is bias, and reiterated that Millcreek Township government has worked well so far. He asked the Commission if they have read the 2012 Government Study Commission report, noting there were a lot of notable commissioners that served

on that commission, and closed by suggesting that the Commissioners read the 2012 Government Study Commission report.

Alternate Sue Weber answered Mr. Servidio’s comments by stating that the Commissioners have read the 2012 study, and expressed her thanks to the Commissioners, noting that their combined backgrounds and experience is exemplary.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Donna Shaw invited residents to the upcoming public meetings, which will be information sharing in an open forum setting, and stated that the Commission wants citizens to be involved.

There were no further items for discussion.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:05 pm on motion by Mr. DiPlacido, seconded by Mr. Schaaf.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A. Williams,
Recording Secretary

Approved May 12, 2025

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

John DiPlacido, Secretary