

**Millcreek Township Government Study Commission  
Regular Meeting**

**May 12, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Millcreek Township Government Study Commission (GSC) 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 (via telephone) 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, Toby Cordek and Jerry Andree were also present. Absent was Alternate Nancy Shea.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Mr. Vojtek called for public comment on agenda items. Millcreek Township Auditor and Former Supervisor John Groh stated that he supports the manager optional form of government. He also stated that his preference is that elected Supervisors serve as legislators, with their role as administrators being optional, and that the Treasurer be an appointed position.

Millcreek resident Candy Horm opined that there is no chain of command for current Supervisors who are supposed to answer to residents.

On motion by Mr. Schaaf, seconded by Mr. Oligeri, the minutes of the April 28, 2025 regular meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

On motion by Mr. DeDad, seconded by Mr. DiPlacido, the bills from the Recording Secretary, Millcreek Township and WERKBOT totaling \$1,311.78 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 \$65,419.11 before payment of tonight's bills. He reported that his committee has met twice since the last regular Commission meeting, and submitted a report from the April 17, 2025 meeting to be added to the permanent record.

Local Government Structure Committee Chairman John DiPlacido reported that his committee met earlier today and discussed a chart that he created with a summary of the optional forms of government that the Commission will be considering for recommendation. The document was entered into the public record.

Public Outreach, Public Relations, Public Education and Promotions Committee Chairman Art Oligeri reported that his committee met earlier today, and he reported the following: The IT team has both the website and Facebook pages functioning well; the committee's budget is on track; Paul Vojtek will be producing the June social media spot; R.J. Zonna and John DiPlacido will be interviewed on a WICU telecast at the end of May. Mr. Oligeri closed his report by reporting that the school district will be allowing the Commission to hold its townhall meetings in various school buildings with a 45-day notice, and the dates will be announced soon.

Committee of the Whole

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

New Business

Mr. Vojtek reminded everyone that the second meeting in May, scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Vojtek gave a brief explanation about the procedure for tonight's discussion of the various forms of optional government, and asked each Commissioner to give their opinion on what they have learned from their research about the various forms of optional government and what they would recommend. He asked Mr. DeDad to begin with his report from the Budget Committee's meeting with a local Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Mr. James DeDad stated that he had no prior opinion of which form of government would be best for Millcreek, but became much more informed throughout the process. He relayed that he has a B.A. Degree in Business Administration and an M.B.A. Degree, with extensive experience in internal auditing and government compliance. He reported that the financial comparison of Millcreek finances with other Townships was done in conjunction with external auditors, and focused on trends and not individual Supervisors.

Mr. DeDad explained that a part-time Supervisor salary is dictated by the Second Class Township Code at \$8,385 annually, with no benefits. He noted that townships have unique differences and Millcreek has a lower cost of living than many others, but that overall there should be no major financial impact on cost if the Township changes its form of government.

In examining Millcreek's financials, Mr. DeDad observed that the annual audits have been done later each year, and reported that the 2024 audit is still in progress. Looking at 2023, he stated there were three material deficiencies and showed an overall decrease in the General Fund since 2021, with continuous decreases in the General Fund projected through 2024 – 2028 and a projected increase in the Fire Tax to \$5 million dollars. Mr. DeDad also reported that financial analysis was also done on the Millcreek Township General Authority and the Aggregated Pension Plan, and a complete detailed report is being entered into the permanent record.

Mr. DeDad reported that the Council/ Manager form of government was the most popular among the townships that were interviewed, and that this form of government separates the legislative and executive branches, which prevents fraud and protects taxpayers. He noted that a 5-member council was the most popular, with elected council members serving four (4) year terms. His recommendation was the Manager/Council optional form of government with five (5) Supervisors/Council members being elected at large and serving four (4) year terms, and with an appointed Treasurer.

Chairman Paul Vojtek stated that he had no preconceived notion of which form of government is best for Millcreek, but emphasized that a separation of duties, checks and balances are the most important to him. He stated that he has concerns with the Township's recent financial audit and the amount of legal fees it pays and opined that a paid professional Township Manager is most beneficial for municipal operations. His recommendation is an elected Council of five (5) members with a Professional Manager.

Donna Shaw stated that she has a B.S. Degree in Business Administration and Marketing, and is licensed in several states in Health and Life insurance, with over forty (40) years of experience. She recommended the Council/Manager or Supervisor/Manager form of government, with five (5) Supervisors being elected as part-time non-employees. She opined that this provides a better system of checks and balances, and made several comparisons with Lower Paxton Township regarding operation cost, structure and legal fees. She opined that Millcreek Township needs a more defined chain of command.

Bill Schaaf opined that there would be a better system of checks and balances if the Township had part-time Supervisors that were not employees. He stated that no two townships are exactly alike, but noted that the Council/Manager system of government seems to work well in twenty-four (24) similar townships throughout Pennsylvania. He favors the Council/Manager optional form of government, noting that the Commission can only make a recommendation, but the voters of Millcreek have the power to make the final decision.

John DiPlacido stated that under the current form of government, Supervisors are elected and serve for six (6) years as paid employed administrators, with their salaries determined by elected Auditors. He noted that the Commission has interviewed seven (7) different townships across Pennsylvania and learned how they operate. He stated that the most common form of government is Council/Manager, with five (5) elected Supervisors or Council members to represent the township. He opined that this type of government would better separate the legislative and executive forms of government, and could bring more diversity, and checks and balances to the Township. He clarified that he is not talking about revising Township departments, but rather separating the political side from the employee side. Mr. DiPlacido recommended the Council/Manager form of government with five part-time paid Supervisors elected at-large, and a highly qualified, certified professional manager.

Art Oliveri relayed that he has a B.S. Degree in Business and Marketing was a long-time local businessman for over thirty (30) years. He stated that he had no pre-conceived opinions on Millcreek's government, as he has been more focused on County government in the past, but opined that often elected officials focus on re-election. He stated that the GSC has learned about various types of optional government and blames Millcreek's problems on its current form of government and excessive spending. Mr. Oliveri questioned the amount of studies that have been done over the years, and relayed that similar townships, as well as the state and federal governments, have systems of checks and balances and have found other ways to better manage tax dollars. He is also in favor of the separation of legislative and executive power, and feels that townships with the Council/Manager form of government have a greater pool of qualified Supervisors to pull from. Mr. Oliveri recommended the Council/Manager form of government, with five (5) Supervisors elected at large, and an appointed Treasurer.

R.J. Zonna commented that many hours have been spent by the Commissioners to learn about Millcreek's government structure and other optional forms of government. He opined that there is nothing wrong with Millcreek's current form of government, and explained that it typically works well in less populated rural areas. However, Mr. Zonna opined that it is not right for Millcreek, and that this study should have been done many years ago. He stated that he wants the most knowledgeable people running the Township, and therefore recommended the Council/Supervisor form of government with five (5) Supervisors and an appointed Treasurer.

Mr. Wojtek noted that since each Commissioner has come to the same conclusion, a recommendation of Optional Form of Government No. 4: Council (board of supervisors) – Manager Plan, listed on the agenda, it would be appropriate to vote on the recommendation No. 4 to be presented to the voters. After asking if anyone had any objections to voting and hearing no objections, he called for the vote. It was moved by Mr. Schaaf, seconded by Mr. Oliveri and carried by unanimous roll call vote to recommend Optional Form of Government No. 4: Council/Manager Plan.

Mr. Wojtek called for a vote on the number of Council members (supervisors) that should be elected to serve, ie.: Three, Five, Seven, or Nine. It was moved by Mr. Oliveri, seconded by Ms. Shaw and carried by unanimous roll call vote to recommend that five (5) Supervisors be elected to serve as the Council.

Mr. Wojtek called for a vote on how the Council should be elected, ie.: At-large, By District, or a Combination of ward/at-large. It was moved by Mr. DeDad and seconded by Mr. DiPlacido to elect the Council (board of supervisors) at-large. Mr. Zonna stated that he has mixed feelings about how Belle Valley would be represented. Mr. Wojtek replied that he believes that a Professional Manager would make sure each portion of the Township would be represented fairly. Ms. Shaw stated that she would like to know more about how a combination of at-large and ward representation would work. Consultant Michael Foreman explained that the GSC would decide how many "at-large" and how many "by-district" representatives would be chosen, but that all would be chosen for a four-year term, and stated there is a process for this. Discussion ensued with the consultants regarding various scenarios.

Alternate Sue Weber relayed that Supervisors generally want to share in goodwill for the community, and worked together years ago to fundraise the construction of a pool for Belle Valley residents on land donated by the Township.

Mr. Vojtek called for the vote, and the vote carried 6-1, with Mr. Zonna voting no, to recommend electing the Council (board of supervisors) at-large.

Mr. Vojtek called for a vote on how the Treasurer should be selected, ie.: Appointed, Elected, or Abolished. It was moved by Ms. Shaw and seconded by Mr. Oligeri that the Treasurer be appointed. Mr. DeDad asked the Consultants who would be appointing the Treasurer, the Township Manager or the Supervisors? Consultant Toby Cordek replied that either could appoint, but it is more prevalent that the Manager makes a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, and then a majority vote would decide who is to be appointed Treasurer. Mr. DeDad then asked what the procedure would be if there is already someone performing the financial duties. Mr. Cordek explained that the Manager would report to the Board every 30 days for approximately four (4) months and then make a final recommendation on whether or not to appoint that person as Treasurer. Mr. Foreman added that the Treasurer is usually an appointed position in most municipalities. Mr. DeDad noted that Lower Paxton's Assistant Township Manager is also their Financial Officer, but Mr. Cordek opined that it is better to keep those positions separate. Mr. Vojtek called for the vote and it was carried by unanimous roll call vote that the Treasurer position should be an appointed position.

Mr. Vojtek thanked everyone for their efforts so far, and asked them to now work on educating the voters.

#### Other Business

Consultant Michael Foreman stated that his next step is to draft the final report. He will make a presentation at the May 22, 2025 meeting on what is required in the content of the final report, which must be voted on before it goes to the County Election Office at least sixty (60) days before the November election. He also stated that per the statute, the nine-month "life cycle" began the day after last November's election, which means that the final report should be approved by the final meeting in June, but realistically by the final meeting in July. He noted that the Recording Secretary will need to advertise that the final report has been filed for public inspection within five (5) days of the Commission's approval, and one of the Consultants or a member of the Commission will personally file it at the County Election Office.

Mr. DiPlacido asked if the code defines the procedure following the approval of the final report. Mr. Foreman explained that if the referendum is approved at the November election, the Board of Supervisors will have to appoint a Transition Committee to oversee the next steps within ten (10) days of the Certification of the Election, but he will confirm this at a later date. Mr. Cordek added that the Transition Team can consist of GSC members, Alternates, or a mixture of community representatives.

#### Public Comment

Millcreek resident Gerald Servidio stated that he disagrees with the GSC's opinion. He reported that a GSC Alternate has been talking about the Township's finance report publicly to people, and feels that this is wrong. He asked the GSC to explain Millcreek's tax rate – 4%, compared to Cranberry Township's tax rate – 14%, and pointed out that a Township Manager would not be required to live in Millcreek Township. He stated that the Manager may appoint one or more Assistant Managers which would add to the cost. Mr. Servidio informed the GSC that he filed a Right-to-Know request and will have the information soon. He stated that there are many types of people that may want to serve as part-time Supervisors, including union members, and opined that the GSC members were never interested in what went on at the Township until the purchase of the properties on West 8<sup>th</sup> Street. He speculated who will be answering to the people if the Township goes to the Council/Manager form of

government. Mr. Servidio asked the GSC to be forthcoming with all information they learn, and encouraged them to attend the Township Board meeting tomorrow morning and be engaged.  
Good of the Order

Mr. Schaaf stated that perhaps new people could be recruited to run for Council in the future. Ms. Shaw agreed and stated that Belle Valley does need more attention.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:23 pm on motion by Mr. Schaaf, seconded by Mr. Oligeri.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sheryl A. Williams,*  
Recording Secretary

---

Approved May 22, 2025

## **MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION**

---

John DiPlacido, Secretary