

**Millcreek Township Government Study Commission
Regular Meeting**

June 23, 2025

The regular meeting of the Millcreek Township Government Study Commission (GSC) was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Art Oligeri in the Assembly Room of the Millcreek Township Municipal Building. In attendance were Paul Vojtek (via telephone), Art Oligeri, John DiPlacido, Bill Schaaf, James DeDad, 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 Toby Cordek, Michael Foreman and Jerry Andree were also present. Absent was Alternate Nancy Shea.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Mr. Oligeri called for public comment on agenda items. No public comment was offered.

On motion by Mr. Schaaf, seconded by Mr. DeDad, the minutes of the June 23, 2025 regular meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

On motion by Mr. DeDad, seconded by Mr. DiPlacido, a bill from ALOM/Public Partners in the amount to \$7,836.20 was approved for payment by unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee Chairman James DeDad reported that the budget is on track with a balance of \$52,389.79 before the payment of tonight's bills.

Local Government Structure Committee Chairman John DiPlacido stated there is no report from his committee, as it did not meet this past month.

Public Outreach, Public Relations, Public Education and Promotions Committee Chairman Art Oligeri reported that his committee also did not meet this month.

Mr. Oligeri reported that the Executive Committee met on June 16, 2025 to review the draft of the final report, and that work will be continuing on the report, with an additional meeting scheduled in the near future.

Committee of the Whole

Mr. Oligeri announced that a draft of the final report has been sent to the Commissioners for review, and that comments may be submitted to Mr. DeDad, Mr. DiPlacido and Mr. Oligeri.

New Business

Mr. Oligeri announced that the Commission has responded to a Right-to-Know Appeal and hired Atty. Timothy Wachter of the Knox Law Firm to assist with the appeal. Mr. Vojtek explained that he contacted Atty. Wachter for legal services on an emergency basis regarding the appeal, because the response to the appeal was due June 19, 2025, which was prior to today's meeting. On recommendation of Mr. Oligeri, it was moved by Mr. Schaaf, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried by unanimous roll call vote to retain the legal services of Timothy Wachter, Esq. to assist with a Right-to-Know Appeal, retroactive to June 12, 2025.

Other Business

Mr. DeDad reminded viewers and audience members that information on the GSC's recommendation to the voters can be found on the GSC's website, and also by watching the May 12, 2025 meeting on YouTube. This is the meeting when each commissioner explained the reasons why he/she made the recommendation. He also noted that Township budget and audit information can be found on the Millcreek Township website. Mr. DeDad added that the Commission's recommendation was not based solely on financial analysis, but rather on Millcreek Township's current form of government.

Commissioner Donna Shaw read a statement regarding her reasons for supporting the Council/Manager optional form of government at the May 12, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner William Schaaf wanted to clarify the election cycle rotation if the Council/Manager optional form of government is ratified by the voters. In 2027 and 2031, there would be three (3) candidates running for part-time Supervisor/Council positions, and in 2029 and 2033, there would be two (2) candidates running for part-time Supervisor/Council positions. Consultant Michael Foreman concurred with this clarification.

GSC Alternate and Former Supervisor Sue Weber stated that the GSC is a non-partisan group of elected volunteers, and relayed each Commissioner's list of qualifications, opining that it was necessary to revisit a Government Study since the last study was done thirteen (13) years ago.

Public Comment

Millcreek resident Grant Filbeck stated that he supports a study, but not this Commission's study. He is concerned about \$100,000 of taxpayer funds being spent on the study, with \$78,000 being paid to Pittsburgh consultants, noting that only \$3,200 was spent on the GSC in 2012. Mr. Filbeck opined that having part-time Supervisors will create chaos, and worries that if they are on good terms with the Township Manager, it may allow the Manager to forward his/her own agenda. He also opined that the literature distributed by the GSC at the election was political, and that unless Supervisors are voted in by district, certain areas of the Township, such as Belle Valley may not receive adequate representation.

Millcreek resident and Township Auditor Kathy Fatica opined that more thorough research and investigation should have been done by the GSC regarding all available optional forms of government before making their recommendation.

Millcreek resident Candy Horm opined that Millcreek needs a new type of government because the current Supervisors are not listening to the residents and addressing the infrastructure needs of the Township.

GSC Alternate Marcia Terry stated that the GSC has studied, interviewed and researched other forms of government since December 2024, and noted that of the twenty-five (25) most populated Townships in PA, 92% operated under a Council/Manager optional form of government.

Millcreek resident, former Auditor and 2012 GSC Commissioner Robert Praetzel stated that a current Township employee asked him why another government study is being done again, when it was studied in 2012. He explained that when he served on the GSC, they did an in-depth, comprehensive study, and interviewed townships all over Pennsylvania and over sixty (60) employees. He asked the GSC if they have reviewed this study.

GSC Alternate Kim Huff reported that two separate studies were done in 2012 with two separate results, and they can be found on the GSC website. She also assured residents that the current GSC members have spent hundreds of hours on this study and encouraged citizens to read Title 53.

Planning Commissioner Doug Prozan emphasized that the current Board of Supervisors can hire a Township Manager now without changing the current form of government and spending a lot of money in the process. He emphasized that he prefers a form of government that provides options rather than no options.

Millcreek resident Jim Gloekler questioned the Township's finances and why the audit results from 2024 have not been completed. He was also surprised that the most recent financial report shows a projected surplus of \$1.9 Million when the financial report in December 2024 projected a deficit of <\$1.3 Million>, and opined that nothing seems to have changed in the facts and trends of the Township finances since he reviewed the Township's financial reports with the GSC Finance Committee and has concerns about this dramatic shift.

Millcreek resident Carol Pfeifle supported the GSC, stating that she has learned a lot and encouraged voters to choose the type of government that they want.

Millcreek resident Gerald Servidio stated that he did not run for the GSC because he was biased against any study being done, and noted that in past meetings he has said that the GSC is biased toward one form of optional government. He encouraged the voters to read Title 53, Chapter 29 regarding GSC protocol. Mr. Servidio is against using taxpayer funds for political advertising, and emphasized that the GSC should make a recommendation, but not advocate or campaign for a "yes" vote.

Millcreek resident Linda Trohoske stated that she is a single parent, business owner and the head of the Millcreek Democratic Committee, who was unable to run for the Government Study Commission due to her busy schedule. She explained that she moved forward with a "no vote or say no" campaign (against changing Millcreek's form of government) because she and her committee had talked with community members who were hearing that candidates for the GSC were already planning to recommend the Manager/Council optional form of government. Ms. Trohoske relayed that during the campaign she received a threatening call and email from someone she had never met, telling her to stop doing what she was doing, and then in February 2025, after the election, there was another email asking to help educate the Commission on how a Manager/Council form of government works. She questioned how the GSC could possibly have already completed their study and made a decision in that short amount of time.

Millcreek resident Dennis McAndrew encouraged residents to be respectful of those who disagree with their opinion, and reminded voters that they have the power to vote "no" on the referendum. He again asked the Commission for a comparison of the pros and cons of the various optional forms of government and how they came to their decision to vote for a change.

~~Millcreek resident Ann Silverthorn refuted some of the statements made earlier regarding the cost of the 2012 Government Study Commission, and how one person received "insider information" about the current study. She also stated that the previous study report only had twenty-three (23) pages of original content and hopes that the new study will contain much more original content.~~

At the July 14, 2025 meeting, Ms. Silverthorn amended her previous statements from the June 23, 2025 meeting regarding the cost of the 2012 Government Study Commission, clarifying that the amount budgeted was \$29,000, but the actual amount spent was only approximately \$3,000, and that this amount was for the entire study and not just for the Recording Secretary's stipend. She then offered an apology to both Mr. Grant Filbeck and Mr. Doug Prozan, who had correctly reported the 2012 expenditures of the Study Commission at the June 23, 2025 meeting.

Good of the Order:

Commissioner R.J. Zonna encouraged residents to watch the May 12, 2025 meeting and to listen to the reasons why the Commissioners made their recommendation. He noted that he did not have any preconceived notions and learned a lot about Second Class Townships in the process.

Mr. Oligeri added that the Commission spent a good deal of time studying several different townships, and encouraged residents to visit the GSC's website and Facebook pages where there is information posted about the various types of optional governments that the Commission researched.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:51 pm on motion by Mr. Zonna, seconded by Mr. Schaaf.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A. Williams,
Recording Secretary

Approved as Amended - July 14, 2025

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

John DiPlacido, Secretary