

Lemont Township Board Meeting – July 14, 2026

The Lemont Township Board meeting was called to order by Michael Shackel on July 14, 2026, at 7:02 p.m. at the Township offices at 16300 Alba Street. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll was called by clerk Christine Zielke; Blatzer, Labno, Lemming, Molitor, Wilk, Shackel - present.

A motion was made by Wilk, 2nd by Lemming to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2026 board meeting. On roll call: Blatzer, Lemming, Molitor, Wilk, Shackel - ayes. Motion passed.

Matters from the Public:

Ken Chlebick, 11801 Hillcrest Drive, is wondering if the washed-out roadway on his street is being taken care of. Mark Labno assured him that it would be added to the schedule, in addition

Terry O'Connor 16532 132nd Street - After the recent rains, the water created a river across 132nd St near the new 4 houses being built and asked if that could be addressed going forward. Mark Labno assured him it would be looked at as well as the wood pile that is sitting nearby.

Patty Martin 20 Horseshoe Ln- wondering if the Road Commissioner position will be full-time. Patty's husband talked to Mark and is looking at a camera being installed to see how the water is affecting the sinkholes in the area. Mark Labno said a concern of his was the large slope that is behind their house.

Charles Martin 20 Horseshoe Ln- thanked the board for their time serving. He also asked if there is a plan for fixing the roads in their subdivision.

Dan Merrion, HOA President of Equestrian Estates asked how the department decides on what roads are fixed and when. Commissioner Labno explained they conduct a pavement evaluation assessment, and the report ranks the roads by repair need. He also shared that the township spent over \$700,000 in paving and repair needs for their subdivision last year.

Maryann Bachelor 2 Split Rail- Thanks for repairing stone wall. There is a street sign on the ground on Horseshoe. Mark will address that. Mark will also address an issue on the south entrance to Horseshoe/Equestrian Estates and getting a "No Parking from here to corner" sign near a large house right at the south entrance. Mark Labno said he will look into this.

Dan Merrion, 5 Buckskin - HOA President of Equestrian Estates- requested for a timeline for road paving and repairs and for more communication.

Mayor John Egofske addressed the Board regarding the proposed Copper Ridge West development and the Village's approximately 30 acres of potential sanctuary land that would be managed by Lemont Township.

The Mayor discussed potential legal options under which the Township would maintain the property through a long-term lease agreement, referred to as an Evergreen Lease, between the Village and Lemont Township. He stated that if both parties fulfilled their commitments, the Township could continue operating and maintaining the property as a shared goal between the Village and the Township.

Mayor Egofske noted that, if the proposal is approved, the attorneys could move quickly to prepare the necessary agreements. He also stated that he would seek to have the developer help fund improvements to the property. He explained that, in concept, impact fees could be used to enhance the trail system that would connect to the Beechen Hill development. Proposed improvements include a parking area near the existing beehives to serve as a starting point for a looped trail system.

Both Mayor Egofske and Supervisor Shackel agreed that the area is currently underutilized and expressed confidence in the Beechen Hill developers, describing them as experienced developers with a history of quality projects.

The Mayor also shared that the developer is proposing to construct sidewalks to allow children to walk safely to school while connecting neighborhoods to the Township's walking path system. The proposal would require easements to provide residents with pedestrian access to the trails and designated parking areas. Mayor Egofske emphasized the importance of having the developer contribute impact fees while encouraging collaboration among all parties to achieve the project's goals.

Approval and Payment of Bills and Salaries:

General Fund	\$	122,101.71
Road & Bridge	\$	29,930.50
General Assistance	\$	4,997.85
Family Assistance	\$	0.00
Total:	\$	157,030.06

Motion to approve payment of bills made by Blatzer, 2nd by Lemming. On roll call: Blatzer,

Lemming, Molitor, Wilk, Shackel -ayes. Motion passed.

Staff Reports:

Road & Bridge Commissioner (Mark Labno) –

Commissioner Labno said the crew was busy with the recent storm damage. He gave kudos to his team and said that they rented a chipper for about \$2500 along to pick up all the fallen branches and tree limbs for the Township. A recent meeting with Strand and their awarded contractor for 132nd Street is happening, and Mark will sit down with the residents to share next steps once it's finalized. Strand Associates is working on Maple and 132nd St. and planning to do this in the fall. They might be trying to add more projects to this bid project. Projects South of 131st will be coming out to bid soon. We will be addressing more paving concerns so we can have them ready for spring. Mark also shared that he is finalizing a draft with the Township attorney to help Mr. Banks, Oak Court, so they can move forward.

Clerk (Christine Zielke) – We are currently working on a major records organization project that we anticipate will take several months to complete. We are also in the process of moving older files from an off-site storage to the Township office to improve accessibility and efficiency. We are also preparing a records disposal request for the Illinois Local Records Commission as well as establishing a more systematic approach to managing both historical and current records. We have received a handful of deceptive or questionable FOIA requests from organizations using ambiguous or unfamiliar business names these requests often seek broad volumes of records and require careful review to ensure we meet our legal obligations while protecting confidential or exempt information. We are carefully reviewing each request and working closely with our Township attorney to ensure we are covered, and our responses comply with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

Another important project will be reviewing the meeting minutes and documents posted on the Township website to ensure that we are ADA Compliant. We are in the initial stages to evaluate the requirements and determine the best process moving forward. Our initial focus will be to ensure any upcoming meeting documents that are posted on our website is in an accessible format.

In addition, Commissioner Labno and Supervisor Shackel were presented with awards from the Township Officials of Cook County (TOCC) for outstanding service, leadership and commitment to the mission of TOCC.

Assessor (Mario Mollo) Property tax appeals are delayed for 2 months. Appeals are pushed back until further notice. The Assessor's office will share more once they have more information.

Human Services (Diana Kunickis - absent) – The New Human Services employee, Melanie Grzesik-Duffy is currently onboarding in her new role.

Facilities (Cindy O'Malley) – See Attached Report for additional information. She reported on dog registrations for the month. She is continuing to work with our website developer to ensure ADA accessibility. She updated the board on the license plate reading proposal and said it was more expensive than expected. Will look into other options.

Transportation (Marybeth Nunzio - absent) – See attached report.

Administrator (Mario Mollo) – Mario will forward the Forge report to the Board. Collecting school supplies for the Bethany Lutheran project. Compliant for accepting Credit Cards. New copier in August. Alerted everyone to Notary scams currently happening and because of this we are putting in new Notary restrictions.

SALT Update (Terry Lemming) – June's SALT meeting was Mark Pawlak, beekeeper. Next week is the SALT picnic, all welcome.

Woodland Sanctuary Advisory Committee - (Jeanette Virgilio) – Many of her questions were answered by Mike Shackel and John Egofske, just looking for updates to provide to her committee. She also said she received a proposal from Pizzo for the township land at the Forge and the cost to renew the neglected areas and the gazebo area would be about \$70,000.

Supervisor Update (Mike Shackel): Supervisor Shackel moved his report to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate the Mayor's attendance. Both Supervisor Shackel and the Mayor discussed the approximately 30 acres of the Copper Ridge West development adjacent to the Woodland Sanctuary.

He also informed the Board that he would send an email to those members interested in serving on the Family Assistance Committee.

The Board then discussed the PUD Planned Unit Development agreement with The Forge regarding Township property. Supervisor Shackel stated that he would like to bring the matter to a conclusion with a clear plan demonstrating progress on the maintenance of the property. Trustee Monitor asked whether the Township should consider committing additional funds or instead establish more stringent expectations for activities and maintenance. Supervisor

Shackel invited the trustees to share their thoughts. Trustee Wilks said he would like to see specific improvements made to the property and expressed interest in touring the site. It was noted that most of the areas of concern are located on Township property.

Trustee Lemming shared that he had helped clean up the property the previous fall and expressed disappointment that some issues had not been addressed. He stated that The Forge should be held accountable for completing agreed-upon work, noting that large concrete structures remained on the property despite plans to remove them when The Forge relocated its climbing towers. Jeanette confirmed that those structures were expected to be removed. Trustee Molitor commented that some Township funding may be necessary to help maintain the area. The trustees also asked whether The Forge had been providing progress reports. Mario responded that several reports had been received directly from The Forge and said he would follow up with the trustees. The discussion continued regarding what additional funding for the property might entail and whether grant opportunities could help offset future costs.

The Board also discussed future Township paving and road repair needs. Conversation included the potential need for a tax levy increase and whether that would be feasible. It was noted that if a referendum were required, Village residents would also need to vote on the measure, which could present challenges if they did not perceive a direct benefit. Supervisor Shackel concluded by stating that the Township would need to continue exploring available options. Commissioner Labno estimated that approximately \$10 million to \$12 million would be needed over the next four to five years to place the Township in a stronger position to stay on schedule with paving projects.

New Business –

- A. Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-2027-03 Road and Bridge Budget and Appropriation made by Blatzer, 2nd by Wilk, On roll call: Blatzer, Lemming, Molitor, Wilk, Shackel -ayes. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn meeting made Molitor, 2nd by Lemming. On roll call: Blatzer, Lemming, Molitor, Wilk, Shackel -ayes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm

Christine Zielke, Clerk