

BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP

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BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP Board of Supervisors Work Session Agenda November 12, 2025 5:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Executive Session

5:30 p.m. Deer Management / USDA Programs

6:00 p.m. ~~Buckingham Room~~ — ~~Audio/Visual Proposals~~ *Re-scheduled to a future date*

Manager's Items

Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors
Work Session
Minutes

The work session of the Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors was held November 12, 2025 in the Township Building, 4613 Hughesian Drive, Buckingham, Pennsylvania.

Present:	Maggie Rash	Chairman
	Jon Forest	Vice-Chairman
	Paul Calderaio	Member
	Dana S. Cozza	Township Manager
Not Present:	Daniel Gray	Township Engineer
	Craig A. Smith, Esquire	Township Solicitor
	Luke Rosanova	Bucks County Planning Commission
	Gary Weaver	Township Water/Wastewater Consultant

The work session began at 5:00 p.m. with Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation – Froehlich, Lykon, McArdle and Feeney - and police personnel.

Deer Management / USDA Programs

Tom Trycieki, Paist Road, was present along with Nathan Spence and Ryan Schilling of the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services (USDA), to discuss deer management and USDA programs.

Mr. Spence explained their applications are goal driven and would be catered towards the farmers in Buckingham Township. He said one option is they could apply for Agricultural Deprivation Permits for farmers who want and need help with crop management, which would provide extra doe tags for the hunters and a Crop Shooter Permit for USDA staff to remove deer in the “shoulder months” of the growing season (outside of hunting season). Mr. Spence said this could not be done immediately as the township wide permit takes two years to obtain.

Mrs. Cozza asked what the township wide permit involves. Mr. Spence said in Solebury Township, which has implemented the program, they used a third party (Warrington College) to establish a benchmark by using a drone survey to catalog quadrants, which set their goal to cut the population in half, which was 1000 deer. He explained to receive the township wide permit the PA Game Commission requires the township to have a hunting program involving sport/recreational hunters for at least 2 years leading up to that permit. Mr. Spence said that would be a huge undertaking in such a large township as Buckingham but it is achievable at a price. Mr. Trycieki felt the long term plan was feasible, but in the short term we need to do something else.

Mr. Spence said at the moment, they could work with smaller agreements, where for example, a farmer gives them \$2000, and he and Mr. Schilling as employees of the USDA Wildlife Services would shoot as many deer as they can until the budget runs out.

Mrs. Cozza asked how the Agricultural Deprivation Permit works. Mr. Spence explained that for every 5 acres the property owner would be provided with 1 deer tag (Ag Tags), for the property owner to give to their hunters, and in addition, he and Mr. Schilling would get a different permit and would hunt at night with infrared scopes.

Mrs. Cozza asked if Solebury Township allows their employees to hunt on their township owned properties. Mr. Spence replied yes, the hunters sign a waiver and signs are put up in the parks when active hunting is going on. He said it is mostly archery hunting in the parks. Mrs. Cozza said the township has very large sprayfields adjacent to some of the farms, and Mr. Trycieki said hunting in them would be helpful as the deer are migrating from the sprayfields into his farmfields.

Mr. Trycieki explained the goal is not to eliminate the deer population, but rather to have a population that the land can support and be sustainable. Mrs. Cozza said it may also help to reduce car/deer accidents. Mr. Spence said that Solebury Township's data shows that car/deer accidents have decreased by 60% since the program's inception.

Mr. Calderaio asked how current hunters in Solebury Township have felt about this, and Mr. Spence said it's a delicate balance, but in Solebury they had public meetings with the hunters, and they let the hunters know they will get extra deer tags.

Mrs. Cozza asked if they recruited other hunters to assist. Mr. Spence explained if they are targeting farms that have crop damage, they are likely to already have hunters. The farmer would get the extra tags to split up between their hunters and then the USDA would conduct supplemental hunting after sport hunting season. Mr. Forest said they aren't hunting, it's deer removal. Mr. Schilling confirmed that the hunters will say they will see less deer.

Mr. Calderaio asked how this program fits financially for Buckingham Township. Mr. Spence said that based on catering to the farms first, he could provide an a` la carte proposal including the Agricultural Deprivation Permits with tags to hunters and USDA shooting in the off season and also provide a quote for hunting in parks and on township property. He said that Solebury Townships' budget has changed drastically since they started the culling project. Mrs. Cozza said they had put money into the 2026 budget based on Solebury's accounts.

Mr. Forest asked if Solebury Township posted information on their website about the program. Mr. Spence said yes and explained there is an enrollment program. He said they usually have one working meeting a year with the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors to review the program, and that last year they saw car accidents tick up so they added a couple more hunting nights to cull a couple of hundred deer. He said that evidence shows the results.

Mr. Spence explained that the meat from the culled deer is ground into burger and provided to food banks. He said processing costs add an extra \$100 per deer. Mrs. Rash added that in Solebury the township is reimbursed ½ of the processing costs and Mr.

Spence confirmed that “Charitable in PA” has programs for the state to reimburse the township. Mrs. Rash noted that 11,000 lbs. of meat was donated in 2024-2025 to food banks, and Mr. Spence added that in southeast Pennsylvania there were 30,000-40,000 lbs. per season. Mr. Spence said they currently process the deer with a guy in Montgomery County but was sure there would be local processors glad to help out.

Mrs. Cozza suggested that Buckingham could do a newsletter article to introduce the topic and then put more information on the website. Mr. Spence said he would provide fact sheets. Mrs. Rash said to preserve the farms, you must preserve the farmers. Mr. Calderaio said just to prevent car accidents would be a big thing.

Mr. Trycieki thanked the Board for their time and efforts going forward.

Route 202/263 Roundabout

Mrs. Cozza said plans are moving ahead for the Route 202 & 263 roundabout, and PennDOT is requesting feedback on lighting and the area around the roundabout. She showed the Board photos that Dan Gray had taken at a roundabout in Skippack as an example of lighting samples, and the Board agreed on one of them.

Mrs. Cozza also requested if the Board preferred plain or stamped concrete for the roundabout surround and overrun, adding that the area of grass will be smaller than usual roundabouts and more concrete needed for the overrun area. Mr. Calderaio said he saw the red concrete in Lower Moreland and liked it, adding that he didn't have a preference on stamped or not. Mrs. Cozza said the red color would be in keeping with the trails and handicapped paths which will be marked in red.

Mrs. Cozza explained that landscaping decisions are not yet needed and would be discussed in the future.

6:30 p.m. The Work Session adjourned.

7:26 p.m. The Work Session resumed.

Police Services

Mrs. Cozza explained Chief Scirrotto had provided a Memorandum of Understanding proposing a voluntary agreement between the Police Departments of Buckingham Township, New Hope Borough and Solebury Township and the County of Bucks Human Services Division to consider agreeing to partner in addressing the social services needs of individuals contacting 911 for emergency response through the Human Services Co-Responder Initiative. She said this would be in addition to the current Victim Services that has funding through 2028.

Mr. Forest asked the cost of the program, and Mrs. Cozza said that Bucks County pays for the first 2 years, with an estimated cost of \$101,000, and then that would be split three ways so would be approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 per year going forwards.

Mrs. Cozza questioned how often Buckingham Township would have the social services worker and how that evened out. Mr. Calderaio felt it would not be safe as there would be another person the police officer has to protect. Mr. Forest requested statistics on how many times other comparable townships use this service, adding there are at least four programs people can use now once they are arrested. Mrs. Rash thought the service sounded supportive and helpful. Mrs. Cozza said she would get more information based on the Boards' input.

7:45 p.m. The Work Session adjourned.

Approved by the Board of Supervisors on the 17th day of December, 2025.

Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Attest:

Dana S. Cozza, Township Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori Wicen.