

## MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

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### *POLITICAL STRUCTURE*

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Center Township has existed as a township of the second class throughout its history, a period of one hundred and eighty-nine (189) years. The Township residents currently elect three (3) at-large supervisors to govern the activities of the municipality. A solicitor is appointed annually to guide and represent the Township in all legal matters.

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### *ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF*

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The Township administrative staff consists of the Director of Public Works/Code Enforcement Officer, Treasurer and Administrative Assistant who are responsible for performing daily Township functions. The position of Public Works Director was created in mid-1998 to oversee Township development activities. The Supervisors meet on the second Wednesday of every month to conduct municipal business at the municipal building, located at 419 Sunset Drive. Additional staff available on a part-time basis to provide assistance to the residents in specific areas include the tax collector, who collects local and county property tax, a dog officer to enforce state laws, a director of emergency services, fire, State Police and three (3) auditors.

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### *PLANNING COMMISSION*

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The Township Supervisors appoint a five (5) member Planning Commission. The term of service is four (4) years. The Planning Commission has been charged with the authority to review all development applications, as well as proposed amendments to the zoning and subdivision/land development ordinance, and to make recommendations for action to the Supervisors.

The Planning Commission was created in February, 1968, and has produced and assisted in the development of several growth management regulations, zoning and subdivision ordinances and amendments, and comprehensive plan updates. The Planning Commission meets on the last Tuesday of the month, also at the municipal building on Sunset Drive.

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***ZONING HEARING BOARD***

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The Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) is a three (3) member board appointed by the Township Supervisors to four (4) year terms. The Zoning Hearing Board is authorized to hear appeals from the interpretation of the Zoning Officer, to grant special exceptions as may be provided in the Zoning Ordinance, and to hear and grant variances from the zoning ordinance requirements, last updated in 1998.

The Zoning Hearing Board's authority has expanded with the passage of Act 170 of 1988 which amended the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) and now permits the ZHB to hear appeals regarding floodplain regulations, erosion and sedimentation controls, transfer of development rights and property owner appeals.

The Zoning Hearing Board schedules hearings, as needed, pursuant to the required public notice.

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***WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY***

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The Center Township Water and Sewer Authority was formalized in September, 1956 as a five (5) member board with the specific duties of overseeing the financing and operation of the public sanitary sewer and water systems. However, the Authority has expired due to changes in service provisions. The Butler Area Sewer Authority has assumed the tasks of financing, operating and expanding the sanitary sewer system in the Township, and currently provides service to approximately thirty percent (30%) of the Township.

Public water in the Township will be provided by the Pennsylvania American Water Company, as of December 31, 1999.

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***MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY***

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In September, 1950, the Township Supervisors saw the need for additional educational facilities in the municipality and created the Municipal Authority of Center Township, with the express purpose of building and manufacturing a school within the Township. Since the Township has become a part of the Butler Area School system,

the Municipal Authority's function has waned and, as of early 1994, was dissolved. All educational expansions will be conducted by the Butler Area School District.