

# Township Manager's Report

Spencer Cadden, Township Manager

Lawrence Park Township – September 10, 2025

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## Key Wins & Highlights

- **Main Street Turnback:** PennDOT has confirmed a full modernization of Main Street before transfer to Township ownership. Two design options are under review:
  - **Option A:** angled and parallel parking, totaling ~62 spaces.
  - **Option B:** parallel parking with bike lanes, totaling ~53 spaces.Both include upgraded sidewalks, drainage, and traditional street lighting. This project represents more than \$5 million in outside investment. Once completed, Lawrence Park will inherit a completely rebuilt street as a centerpiece for revitalization.
- **Accounting Modernization (Bookminders):** Bookminders provided a quote to handle Township accounting. Costs will be covered under our **STMP grant**, meaning Lawrence Park pays only **10% of the total**. This transition will modernize our financial management without prematurely obligating Township resources.
- **Joint Comprehensive Plan:** In coordination with Wesleyville, we are pursuing a joint plan funded through the **STMP grant**. Lawrence Park's share is capped at roughly **10% of the total (~\$7,500 next year)**. A comprehensive plan is a statutory requirement and opens doors to new grants and funding opportunities.
- **Soudan's Lift Station:** Konzal Construction remains on schedule to complete the station by December 2025, with beautification of the surrounding park to follow in summer 2026. Financing is progressing with DCED and Northwest Bank.
- **Community Partnerships:** Public Works crews worked overnight shifts to complete crosswalk and traffic line painting, minimizing daytime disruption. In addition, the Iroquois High School football team assisted a resident with yardwork, underscoring strong community spirit.
- **MPO Representation Preserved (for now):** The MPO Technical Committee tabled the proposed bylaw change that would have eliminated Lawrence Park's vote. The issue will not return until November at the earliest, giving us time to continue advocating for fairer representation.

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## Additional Topics

### A. Planning & Zoning

- **Golf Course Zoning Variance:** Work continues with the solicitor to ensure all procedural requirements are satisfied. The hearing is targeted for October.
- **Subdivision Request:** Planning Commission will vote on a minor subdivision request at its next meeting.
- **Joint Comprehensive Plan:** Moving forward under STMP grant support, with the Township responsible for only 10% of the cost. This is both a compliance requirement and a gateway to further grants.

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### B. Administration

- Ongoing outreach with Wesleyville, Erie County, Iroquois School District, and DCED.
- Awaiting passage of the state budget for clarity on pending grants, including footbridge funding. Special thanks to Marcus Jacobs (Wesleyville) and the Board for their advocacy.
- Continuing promotion of Savvy Citizen as the Township's official communications outlet, alongside Facebook and YouTube.

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### C. Public Works

- **Main Street Turnback:** PennDOT/County visuals received showing two design options. Both include major upgrades (sidewalks, drainage, lighting, parking reconfiguration, possible bike lanes).
- **Soudan's Lift Station:** On schedule for December completion, with park work planned for summer 2026.
- **Maintenance:** Overnight shifts allowed crews to repaint traffic lines and crosswalks with minimal disruption.

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### D. Planning & Development

- Golf Course zoning variance in process.
- Subdivision review pending.
- STMP-funded Comprehensive Plan underway with Wesleyville; Township cost ~10%.
- Exploring feasibility of a veterans' memorial banner program, modeled after Wesleyville's, pending completion of the Turnback.

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### E. Finance & Grants