

The second joint public meeting of the Adams Township Board of Supervisors and the Mars Borough Council was held on March 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Twelve Oaks Mansion, 160 Scharberry Lane, PA 16046.

Present at the meeting for Adams Township were Supervisors Russell R. Ford, Ronald J. Shemela, David M. Goodworth, Solicitor Michael Gallagher, Parks & Rec Director Brian Perry, Code Enforcement Officer Joe Julian and Township Manager Michael Tylka. Present for the Mars Borough Council were Mike Fleming, John McWilliams, Jana Snavely, Will Lambert, Eric Pomeroy, Bradford Price, & Solicitor Chris Reese. Mayor Hartung arrived later at the meeting.

Mars Borough Councilman John McWilliams opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Tylka introduced the Mars Borough Council members, Adams Township Supervisors and municipal staff. Mr. Tylka introduced the DCED representatives Terry Cunkle, George Newsome and Brittany Williams. Ms. Cunkle began her presentation of the process that will take place to complete the merger. She explained the process of the merger can be found in the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (PaCS), Boundary Change, Title 53 Chapter 7. Ms. Cunkle then took questions from the residents.

### **PUBLIC'S QUESTIONS TO THE DCED**

Herman Reedy, 8032 Appleridge Court, works with the Historical Society, asked what will happen to the name "Mars". Mr. Ford answered that it's been decided the new name is going to be Mars Township.

Clint Colpo, Hazel Avenue, asked how representation will be divided up between Mars and Adams. Ms. Cunkle stated this will be decided by the two councils and will be written in the joint agreement.

Renea Pomeroy, 528 Cherry Street, asked what would be written in the joint agreement. Ms. Cunkle explained many legal items will be included. She advised everyone to stay active, go to the meetings to be aware of what will be part of the agreement. Ms. Pomeroy also asked if Mars residents can have their own meeting about the merger, Ms. Cunkle encouraged residents to have a lot of meetings and talk with each other to keep informed.

Ernie Kuhs, 139 Grand Avenue, asked what the time frame for the merger would be. Ms. Cunkle stated Mars and Adams will have 4 years after a successful vote to complete the merger. Ms. Cunkle said that if the residents vote against the merger, the merger will not be allowed to be considered again for 5 years.

Deborah Ruzomberka, 201 Providence Court, asked if property owners will have to have legal documents such as deeds changed to the new name. Ms. Cunkle explained that no changes will be required, changes will be noted and recorded in Butler County.

Jen Bainbridge, 151 Broadstone Blvd., asked what the qualifications were for funding and if anyone had been refused. Ms. Cunkle said that no one has been refused and there is money set aside for this purpose.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Fleming, Mars Borough Council President, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Fleming said there are endless details to work out but feels it makes fiscal and community sense.

Russell Ford, Chairman, Adams Township Supervisors, asked that everyone help to spread the word to neighbors who are not aware of the merger. Mr. Ford said both councils are unified and no one person is pulling the strings. Mr. Ford said the plan is to have the joint agreement ready by August for the question to appear in November's ballot. Mr. Ford did a quick run through of the slideshow presentation from the first merger meeting.

Kim Geyer, Butler County Commissioner, commented that she grew up in Mars Borough. She is happy to see the two groups of leaders planning for the future of our community. She asked everyone to vote thoughtfully and

thanked both councils for coming together. Ms. Geyer also thanked the DCED for coming to the meeting tonight with their input.

Ernie Ramella, 615 Stanton Avenue, asked if Mr. Ford could read the question, from the slide show, that would be on the ballot because he could not see the words. Mr. Ford read the question as follows: "Shall the Borough of Mars, a Pennsylvania municipality organized under the Borough Code, be merged into the Township of Adams, a Pennsylvania Township of the Second Class, and with the Township renamed Mars Township, a Pennsylvania Township of the Second Class, effective January 1, 2028?"

Fritz Bear, 410 Lincoln Avenue, asked when the joint agreement will be ready. A draft will be ready by May 2026.

Ar Avi, 404 Lakeview court, asked what a 2nd class township means. Ms. Cunkle explained that it is determined by the amount of people per square mile.

Sally Trugan, 328 Arch Street, asked if the Mars Borough Staff will join Adams Township Staff. Mr. Ford said the staff will be combined.

Bob Pappa, 803 Independence Court, asked if Valencia goes bankrupt, would Adams, then consider joining with Valencia. Ms. Geyer explained that a municipality going bankrupt will be accessed by the state. An action plan is made to help them back from the brink. Ms. Geyer said there are many municipalities struggling in Butler County.

Anatasia Nelson, 338 Clay Avenue, thanked everyone who is saving the Mars Area Public Library and allowing the library to stay on Grand Avenue. Ms. Nelson is on the Library Board and stated the merger slideshow will be posted on the Mars Library website to help get the word out to the public.

Russ Ford explained the old bank will be torn down because of the expense of bringing it up to code.

Tim Stack, 240 Forsythe Road, stated the merger of the Emergency Services makes sense. Mr. Stack does not want the over development of Mars Borough as Adams Township has done, he asked what the plan for Grand Avenue will be.

Mike Fleming, Council President, said the closing of the grocery store on Grand Avenue created a loss of foot traffic. There is a plan to make Grand Avenue a destination, they want to present it in the best light.

Ed McCaul, 727 Pine Avenue, asked if all five Supervisor positions would be open on the ballot. Mr. Ford explained that 1 seat will be open in 2027. Mr. McCaul said that Mars Borough would not be represented fairly.

Tina Wilson asked when the Joint Agreement is finalized, will there be a Public Hearing or Public Meeting. Terri Cunkle said it will depend on the code of the municipality. Mr. Gallagher said it would likely be a Public Hearing.

Clint Colpo, 801 Hazel Avenue, asked if the architecture of the library would blend into the small-town feel. The plans of the library are not available currently. Mr. Colpo suggested that mailers are sent out to all residents to ensure that everyone knows about the merger.

John McWilliams, Mars Borough Council, stated the Mars Borough Water bills will contain some information on the merger.

Renea Pomeroy, 528 Cherry Street, asked for clarification of available council seats. It was verified that 1 seat will be available in 2027.

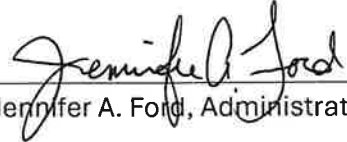
Ar Avi, 404 Lakeview Court, asked if infrastructure will be paused in the Adams Township while they are working on the merger. Mr. Ford said everything will continue to run as usual. Mr. Avi said that sidewalks and cell signals need addressed in the Township.

Dave Goodworth, Adams Township Supervisor, gave his closing remarks. Mr. Goodworth sees the mutual benefit of both municipalities. There is already a sense of unity.

Ron Shemela, Adams Township Supervisor, said he is encouraged by the number of people attending the merger meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Future meeting T.B.A.

  
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Jennifer A. Ford, Administrative Assistant