

The third joint public meeting of the Adams Township Board of Supervisors and the Mars Borough Council was held on June 2, 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, Darryl M. Brandon, David M. Goodworth, Ronald Nacey, Solicitors Michael & Sean Gallagher, Code Enforcement Officer Joe Julian and Township Manager Michael Tylka. Present for the Mars Borough Council were Mike Fleming, John McWilliams, Jana Snavey, Will Lambert, Eric Pomeroy, Bradford Price, Jim Garrity & Solicitor Chris Reese and Mayor Hartung.

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 explained that we would be discussing the Joint Agreement tonight with a slideshow and ending with a Questions and Answers session. Russell R. Ford, Adams Township Chairman, presented the slideshow which is available on the Mars Borough and Adams Township websites and the Mars Area Public Library website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Cashdollar Jr., Union Church Road, asked about the effect the merger will have on the Postal Service. Russ Ford said there will be no changes to the Postal Services whatsoever.

Gray Weller, 109 Snowcap Drive, commented that building the new library appears to be the priority if the merger is approved. He asked what the 2nd and 3rd projects look like. Russ Ford said that the plans for the library will be a significant project and one we will all be proud of, for example the Fire Department Building. He asked John McWilliams if he had any thoughts on future projects. Mr. McWilliams said there is a lot of road work to be done, he will be collaborating with Adams Township Road Department, John Hock.

Richard Martin, will Mars & Adams July 4th celebrations give out information about the merger. Mike Tylka said that there will be an information booth at the Adams Township 250th Celebration on Wednesday 1st, starting at 5 pm.

William Schmidt, asked about the addresses being changed. It was again reiterated no one's address will change no matter where they live.

Allen Wollerton, Mars Borough, commented that the Mars Soccer is having a tournament this coming weekend and he invited both municipalities to come and use the opportunity to meet and speak with the over 3000 residents that will be attending.

Mike Gallagher, Solicitor, confirmed that many grants will be available to business owners. Mike Fleming explained that Mars Borough has been successful with grants. Often you are waiting for the money.

Mike Tylka stated that he has met with the DCED about the grants that are available.

Sue Stewart, 200 Linda Lees Way, commented that a new road was built across the street from her house and it raised her insurance. Russ Ford said that is not an Adams Township decision.

Chris Reel, 5072 Brahms Court, asked what will happen to the library if the merger does not go through. Russ Ford said that decision has not been made.

Joey Lynn Shaw, Mars Borough, asked if the Post Office Boxes will still be free. Russ Ford said that is a Postal Services issue.

John Cashdollar J., Union Church Road, asked if Gas Well leases are involved in the merger. Russ Ford said he will have this investigated.

Janea Callahan, Mars Library Director, said that hardcopies of tonight's slideshow are available at the library free of charge.

Stacy Nelson, Mars Library Board, invited everyone to participate in the Library's Summer Reading Programs.

Greg Hartung, Mars Mayor, stated that Mars Area Public Library is the 3rd most used library in Butler County.

Russ Ford commented that the new library building is the most important project to invigorate Grand Avenue.

John Newburg, Adams, asked if a new Comprehensive Plan be written if the merger goes through. Russ Ford said Adams Township had a Comprehensive Plan written in 2013, it was very costly and not followed very closely. Mike Fleming stated that Mars Borough does not have a Comprehensive Plan. Future planning efforts will be discussed if the merger goes through.

Pat Hensel, Mars Borough, expressed her concern about demolishing the bank on Grand Avenue to make room for a new library building. Russ Ford said even though the outside appearance looks historical, the building is not. It is made of four separate additions. The old building will not be able to be brought to code.

Heather Turner – Mars Borough, asked what will become of the grass lot across the street from the Animal Depot. Mike Fleming said it will be a parking lot.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer Ford", written over a horizontal line.