

BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2026 6:00 P.M.

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A meeting of the Punxsutawney Borough Council was convened on Monday, January 27, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. in Borough Council Chambers, Civic Center, 301 East Mahoning Street, Punxsutawney, PA, with Council President Jessica Smith presiding.

The following council members were in attendance: Jen Blose, David Burkett, Joe Ferrara, Josh McAfoos, Sharon Murray, Jessica Smith, Eric Story.

Others present included Borough Manager Dr. William Spencer, Police Chief Matt Conrad, Mayor William Clement, Recording Secretary Jessica Yoder, Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito, and media representatives Larry McGuire of The Punxsutawney Spirit. Fire Chief Chris Smith was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough Council President Smith stated there was an executive session held prior to tonight's meeting for legal and personal matters.

APPROVAL OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES—REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2025

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilman Story, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Council minutes for the December 8, 2025, regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES—SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 22, 2025

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Council minutes for the December 22, 2025, special meeting.

APPROVAL OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES—REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 5, 2026

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Story, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Council minutes for the January 5, 2026, regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council approved the Borough Treasurer report for December 2025 with Joe Ferrara abstaining.

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

Lynn Parada-98 Morrison Ave-814-249-3665

Lynn Parada came before borough council to thank those of you on council that have been on it for years and have supported my animal rescue organization and everything, I've done to help the community. However, tonight I'm here to bring awareness that I think we need a small building in this area for a shelter-type setting. I'm asking for help because as a 501c3, I feel it is way past time we have one.

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS CONTINUED:

Jonathan Garczewski-Gateway Engineers, Civil Engineer, and Project Manager with Gateway-122 West Brady Street, Butler, PA 16001

I'm here tonight with Mr. Peffer, Facilities Director of IUP, just to discuss and give you a status update of where we're at with the Fairman Center and the Culinary Building Expansion Project.

Memorial Day Parade

Borough Council President Smith read a letter from Timothy Cooper, Finance Officer, Memorial Day Event Coordinator, American Legion Post 62 John Jacob Fisher asking approval for the Memorial Day Parade and activates scheduled to take place on May 25, 2026.

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved the Memorial Day Parade and activates scheduled to take place on May 25, 2026 pending event insurance and permits from PennDOT.

ENGINEER REPORT

Zac Sansom from EADs went over the engineer report:

Dismore Ave

TerraWorks is scheduled to tentatively start in March, weather pending.

Section 408 Permitting

We've submitted the application for the solar lights in October 2025. The Army Corps had thought they might get a response back in mid-January. We haven't heard anything from them yet, but we should be getting approval for those solar lights here in the coming weeks for that.

RCAP Grant

We submitted the color-coded map, the cost estimate, and the project scope change to the state grant coordinator for revitalizing the community pool and the Harmon Field basketball courts. The state has received that, and they are reviewing the project scope change and will be issuing a response usually in a couple months. Then once the state approves the revised scope, we can put together the engineering agreement to start the design and permitting for the pool and the basketball court upgrades.

Chapter 94

Every year, the DEP requires what's called a Chapter 94 report for wastewater plants. That basically summarizes your flows and your loadings that the plant handles and then any repairs and upgrades that have been made. We've completed that report on behalf of the borough for several years. I did submit a service authorization form for the borough to approve needs to prepare and submit the annual Chapter 94 report.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved the service authorization agreement for completing the Chapter 94 report.

ENGINEER REPORT CONTINUED:

Industrial User Pre-Treatment Permit

The EPA has a permit called the Industrial User Pretreatment Permit, and that's for the Punxsy Finishing Works. That has expired and requires renewal. We have also completed this permit renewal in the past, so I just have another authorization form to complete that permit and get that submitted to EPA. Then what that one does, because Punxsy Finishing Works deals with a lot of heavy metals, they have to treat their wastewater before it gets sent to the borough's treatment plant, and it ties in with the borough's NPDS permit for the effluent discharge to Mahoning Creek. So, I do have another motion to approve the service authorization form for the industrial pretreatment report.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the service authorization agreement for completing Industrial User Pre-Treatment Permit.

Bell and Young Township metering

Solicitor Gianvito asked Zac if they have any updates on the Bell and Young Township metering. Zac stated that Kyle is working on that and has been emailing Dan Carbon but there has been no other direction or anything from that.

LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF GENERAL & SEWER SYSTEM FUND EXPENDITURES—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos, and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the payment of bills (including payroll) from the General Fund for

LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

the month of December 2025 in the amount of \$258,608.52 and the payment of bills from the Sewer System Fund for the month of December 2025 in the amount of \$27,458.87.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT – DECEMBER 2025

General Fund to Payroll Account.....	<u>\$158,498.98</u>
Sewer System Fund to Payroll Account.....	<u>\$76,111.69</u>
Recreation Fund to Payroll Account.....	<u>\$7,544.20</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL FOR DECEMBER 2025.....	<u>\$242,154.87</u>

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved the transfer of funds to the Payroll Account Fund for December 2025.

PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilwoman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Chief of Police for December 2025.

PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

APPROVAL TO REMOVE OFFICER FROM PROBATION

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved to remove Officer Shay from probation due to 1st full year of employment with the force.

APPROVAL OF HEART AND LUNG

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved Officer Renwick to be placed on Heart and Lung.

APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE ANNUAL REPORT—2025

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved the annual report of the Chief of Police for 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Mayor for December 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE MAGISTRATE'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Magistrate for December 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Fire Chief for December 2025.

APPROVAL OF ACTIVE LIST AT LINDSAY FIRE COMPANY

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved to add Jessica Colgan to the active list at Lindsay Fire Company.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRE CHIEF'S ANNUAL REPORT—2025

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved the annual report of the Fire Chief for 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Code Enforcement Officer for December 2025.

WORKPLACE SAFETY COMMITTEE—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Workplace Safety Committee for December 2025.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEEAPPROVAL OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT—
DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray, and seconded by Councilman Story, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Sewage Treatment Plant Supervisor for December 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

No Report from the Public Works Lead Worker due to the snow and prepping for Groundhog Day.

Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated that one of the things that we are getting towards is having a virtual real-time Public Works software that you can see work orders in real time so we can log on, citizens can log on. Matt, how far along the process are you with that software? They're in the process of building it. Police Chief Conrad stated last I talked to them, they were still building it out. That was about a week ago. Dr. Spencer stated so, this is one of the things that we can track and see real time. People will call, where are the trucks, where are this, we'll be able to see this live. And that's part of one of the modules that work orders can get in. Somebody calls, it's not us trying to call or text someone, it's an actual software that can go to the lead workers, they get notified, and then we can start moving assets. So, it's up. The total cost of that, this is like \$2,500 annually. So, a lot of what you're seeing on paper now will be, you know, we'll be able to virtually display and see it in real time.

Borough Council President Smith also stated I just want to remind everybody that we did get like 20 inches of snow and we have Groundhog Day coming up with another storm, four to six inches. So right now, they are all clearing snow out of town and trying to get ready for Groundhog Day. We have received a call from people complaining. Monday, everybody was still cleaning out. We just asked everybody to have patience with town. We have three guys, four guys who can plow and we did hire on two contractors to help us out. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated actually, more contractors. Mayor, feel free to jump in and explain. On Saturday, I got with Mayor Clement. He filed a disaster declaration of emergency that pre-disaster declaration. It coincides with the state's disaster declaration the Governor's Shapiro had filed for the snow. What that allows us to do is to start moving assets and resources that we normally wouldn't have access to as you start this process. A lot of people have just pointed out it's cold. We want to know about alleys and what have you. When you have 18 to 20 inches of snow like this, you start and you work your way. You start working your way out. We have started in the middle. It's the main corridors as I shared with others. Main arteries, access to critical infrastructure, those kinds of things get inferred by working. Then we start working. Everybody, the plan is for all of the major streets throughout the borough to be cleared. If you get snow from your sidewalk to the road, we have crews right now. There should be one down on Pine Street. There should be one up on East End right now working to pull that snow out and move it away. We have six crews that have been contracted. Our DPW staff, plus our sewer back crew, have been working around the clock, in some cases, 15-16 hours, taking shifts since that first snowfall that fell on Saturday. They have been working non-stop the best they can. We've brought in some volunteers to help us clean the park, do different things of that nature. So, we are working hard to get this snow removed. It's not just plowing. You've got a kind of scoop-and-scoop type of operation, where you've got to turn it in. That takes time. In there, we're digging out the best we can. There will be crews working throughout the night. This is not a one-or-two-day operation for us. This is going to take probably two weeks to get all this snow out of here, assuming we don't get more dumped on top of us. This is definitely

WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

something that's both in Bill and I's wheelhouse, and we have to respond to recovery. We just ask that you have patience. We've been talking to the public. We'll get to the side streets and the alleys when we can. We're trying the best that we can. But certain things, like if your car is blocking the road, you've got a 12–15-foot alley, I've got an 8–10-foot snow plow, and you've got your car parked in the middle of the street, guess what? The guys driving by, they're looking to make you go, because they're not going to push it and lock it in. It's got to be open at night. If this is a disaster, this is what happens. It's not ideal. It's not convenient. But this is what you work for. And we're trying the best we can. I've fielded probably 30 very unpleasant calls from people being belligerent and swearing, and let me tell you, that will not get you to help me anywhere. It's going to have the opposite effect. We get there when we can, and we're trying to get there as best as we can, as fast as we can, and we're exhausting resources to get there as fast as we can, but guess what? Everybody else in the Commonwealth has the same 20-inch snow plow too. So, resources are needed, and we're doing the best that we can to do that. We've had people volunteer to help. Yes, we do have a major event coming up. It is Groundhog Day, which supports our economy for the other 364 days out of the year. And so, we were trying, like I said, just to ask for patience in it. I don't want to get called saying, hey, my alley or my side street still needs to go, but do it professionally and politely, and we'll get somebody up there. It's not a problem. Just let them know, and we'll try to get people that way. Councilman Ferrara asked but do you need any more help downtown to get the snow off the sidewalk? I mean, should we try to mobilize some volunteers? So, what we have, do this way and this way? Councilman McAfoos stated, Yeah, that's what we've been doing, Joe. So, I started this morning at 4:30 just to go out and help out with Public Works, and I've been in the tractor since. But we've got three blocks cleared since 4:30 this morning until now. It is insane. We've got every lawn and garden, you know, guys that mow the grass. We've got Davey Weaver hauling dumpsters. He's dropping dumpsters at different locations down there. It is insane, the amount of snow. Councilman Ferrara stated because I did a lot on Findley on Sunday and Monday, and, you know, I've been willing to help out again tomorrow, at least getting the snow off the sidewalk so it can be loaded. Anybody else? Katie, do you know anybody else who might want to volunteer? Because the Groundhog Club used to be really active whenever it was all blocked. Katie Laska stated, Yeah, but they have their goal. They're trying to clean out there. I mean, they're putting on a big event up there, and they have to get theirs cleaned out. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated in fairness to them, they didn't reach out today, and that's how we help out, too. Once we get our spot cleared, we want to come downtown. So, I know they're connected to them. I have, like I said, I have six contractors now working around the clock. They have zones. So, they're plowing now. Between DPW guys and three contractors, I think they have, like, system now. Councilman McAfoos stated, Yeah, we do. We have a group chat, and then we've, you know, mapped it out. You know, you will be here, you will be here. We'll send this truck here, this truck there. It's a big process. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated, Yeah, it's got to be controlled. And one of the things, like I said, Chief and I drove around a little bit ago, we are going to start fanning out. So, once they get it downtown and we're done, then they're going to be branching out. And so, it's just that's the best way to clear it. And to get this done, we have several snow farms going, which will be a lot of fun. You can sled riding. Katie, you're so smart, you've got to have a lot of snow. You can do a lot of efforts in scale out there. But yeah, to Josh's point, we have people working. We're getting there. Different crews are coming in all night, and these guys are just hanging back and forth. I did reach out to Representative Smith to shake the hand-out tree a little bit, see if we can get some help there. Katie Laska stated, I think the biggest problem is the cars, because I know there's like three cars they couldn't remove because the cars,

WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

we couldn't find where they were. That's the biggest problem; to get the cars off the streets so we can clean them. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated, Yeah, and it's very tough because of this. We're not unsympathetic to the idea that, you know, we get these late-night snow storms, but when you've got a lead time warning, and one of the things we're talking about doing is getting some type of alert system software, like a reverse 9-1-1, something of that nature, that you still have to sign up for as a citizen. You've got to sign up. But then if the chief or fire chief or somebody puts out a message, hey, we're going to be clearing this street or we're going to get your cars off the street in the next 24 hours, if you're signed up for it, it's sometimes a more conventional, medium, less harm, like people don't always see them. So, you've got to have multiple secondary, tertiary, what, tertiary, whatever, tertiary, I think it was after that, ways of reaching people so they know. But what I'm doing is trusting citizens. We're not just stopping at, you know, the main street. We are fanning out all, and we are leaving out as best we can, as fast as we can. Yeah, and just again, you know, DPW, they, like, we moved a lot of snow in a very, very short time frame, folks, and I just, I can't say enough about the work those guys did. They've been doing, they've been working long hours, and it's just, it's, this is a disaster. I mean, this is what it is, and it's not ideal. Mother Nature does not make it ideal, but we will get through it, and yeah, that will go on, and we'll deal with the next one. But it is, again, it is, I don't know, really thankful for the work those guys have been doing. By the way, it's sub-zero degrees out there, so that makes it even more fun. A lot of work, a lot of effort, a lot of people will volunteer, a lot of people will help out, and I can't say enough about the work those guys have been doing. Council Ferrara asked what's the width of the alleys, or does it vary? Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated, it varies. Council Ferrara asked is there a minimum, like, 16 and a half feet, or? Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated in theory, there should be 16 and a half feet, but what happens is, those alleys over the years have grown, you know, they've gotten smaller with growth and brush and value, so some of these streets that should normally be a 16-foot alley is now barely an eight-foot single lane. You can't pass two cars, you can't pass a plow, and that's what happens is that, like I said, the guys are rolling, and they see, I mean, they look down, and if they see this narrow alley, and there's a car sitting here, well, they know they can't get through there, so they're not going to plow and lock that in, and so we just keep going, and that's kind of the unfortunate cycle that we're in. To keep going now, one of the major initiatives in the spring that we have is to clear and start widening these alleys out. We have to do that. We've spent two decades of not maintaining these side alleys, not properly addressing drainage issues, not properly milling the roads and stuff before we were going to be able to, you know, car check on top of them, so this is what happens when you do all of this over here. This is what you get bit with, and that's the consequence of it, you know, and that's the unfortunate truth of it, so in the spring, we're going to have to start opening these things back up, getting the roads to the right widths. Some of them are okay, some of them are not. Hey, we got people calling. This is not even an alley from the island, but yet it's been plowed or whatever over the years. It's not even ours, you know. It's a driveway or something that's kind of morphed into something weird out there. So, there's a lot of work on that space, but what we're paying for now is the lack of work that we didn't do before, and this is where we're at, and so, you know, we're going to try to get to it in the spring. It's a major issue. It might be a two-year issue to get it cleared and rewind to where they're supposed to be because, again, when guys drive down, it's not like they look and they're like, you know, I'm going to skip these guys. They look. If they think they can get through it, they go through it. If they don't think they can get through it, they walk, and when you've got 40 miles of broken cover, you're going to find a lot of encroachments on that 16 and a half foot right of way. It's horrible. Just up in the west end, because I don't want to wait for this, but up along West

WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

End, you'll see telephone poles that are four feet into people's yards. Well, that's supposed to be road, you know, between here and there. And that's what I mean. It's just years of not being attentive to it for whatever reason, I don't know, but now we're paying the price for it because we can't get the bodies down through there. It's just, it's what we're paying for. Councilman Ferrara stated you've got to be able to move the snow on the right of way. 16 and a half feet is barely enough road. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated yeah and if you throw something in the way, and then we've got our dumpsters, and we've got a ton of other stuff that needs to be snuck in there. Like I said, they won't, they can't get there, and they move on. And so, we're trying to, that's where we're at with that process. Councilman Ferrara stated and in the emergency declaration, we'll allow for submission for reimbursement for all these additional costs. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated exactly and that's one of the things, it allows you to do procurements as far as contracts, purchases, reimbursements. We've already shared with all our volunteers, fire companies, police, anybody that's out there working the 510 C3s, save all of your receipts, record all your hours, anything that you can go forth towards this operation. We want to collect that, what ends up happening. We take all this information, we compile it, we give a number, it's a PA declaration, it goes to the county, the county that looks across all the different municipalities and townships. They meet their per capita, then that makes us eligible, then it goes to the state, the state meets, it is per capita, this is roughly 21 million dollars and change. Then once they get that number, then Governor Shapiro can then seek to be the administrator to the president for a declaration to seek federal reimbursement. So, that's how that process works. Do you have something else? Mayor Clement stated yeah, I just wanted to say the declaration, it's currently in position, expires in seven days. It's good for seven days, right? Yes, sir. So, you'll have to redo it, I'm guessing it's going to be no question about it by the looks of things, with the new storm coming and the coldness and that, we'll just have to reuse you on Saturday again. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated yeah, to build on to what the mayor said, it's a continual declaration, so these are what we call compounding systems, so this storm compounds to the next storm and it creates one extended operational period. So, everything, that's why it was vital that he got it in back in the beginning, so now these things can be tracked. There's obviously no guarantee, but it certainly doesn't hurt for me to have all this in play for when that time comes, because there won't be a time where the county is going to start asking us for these records and for this stuff and, you know, Andy tracking everything from a time perspective and everybody else. This isn't a time to be just like, don't volunteer anything. You don't have to claim the paper, but at least track it and report it so we can, so we can try to meet our thresholds. So, that's what we're going to do. It's a lot. It's a lot, yeah. Lots of snow. Lots of snow.

APPROVAL OF THE SEWER VACTOR CREW REPORT—NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilman Story, and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Sewer Vactor Report for November and December 2025.

POLICE PENSION REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

There was no report for DECEMBER 2025.

LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the library report from December 2025.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Nick Ginvito stated he has just one item that needs a motion. I need a motion to begin a title search to do due diligence on the purchase of a 40-acre parcel in Young Township of \$116,000. The title search has taken longer that I thought. I'm anticipating it be back this week. So, assuming the search is clean, there's no leans or other encumbrances, I'm looking for a final motion to approval a purchase. This will be parcel number 42-545-0133 in Young Township for a purchase price of \$116,000. Councilman Ferrara asked what's the purpose of the purchase of the property? Council President Smith stated one it would be the property that is the runoff from the farm. So, it would enable us to have a second entrance. Plus, we would be able to expand should we want to. Also, we are a borough that is landlocked. We have nowhere to grow out. So, anything that we can get that adjoins the borough that we can expand onto is a benefit to us. And our dump is on there. Councilman Ferrara asked if it was going to be developed because of it being a steep hillside. President Smith stated there are no plans to development on it. We feel it would benefit for where the area that it is. Councilman McAfoos stated that we are adopting right now where the compost pile is. It's already over the property line of this property. So, from my thoughts, it's going to cost us more to clean up our mess that we're already made than it will be just to purchase the property. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated that the guys had mentioned selling the timber off of there and then making it and outdoor park space also. Councilman McAfoos stated with leaf season and people cleaning their yards we're not going to have a place to put it.

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council approved the purchase of parcel number 42-545-0133 in Young Township for a purchase price of \$116,000 with a vote of 6-1 in favor. Councilman Ferrara voted no.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2025

Mayor William Clement asked council for approval to use Barclay Square on Saturday, July 11, 2026 for "Thunder in the Burrow" motorcycle cruise in. This will be an all-day event with local food vendors, live bands, and a thunderous motorcycle procession. I would like to have S. Jefferson and Union Street closed in the area of Barclay Square for motorcycles to park.

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved the Thunder in the Burrow on Saturday, July 11, 2026.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT—DECEMBER 2025—No Report

OLD BUSINESS—No Report

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman McAfoos stated so over the course of, what, the last 12 hours? 16 hours? So, we talked about the alleys, that was one of the reasons, you know, why we didn't tar and chip it this year, was the plan was to gain back our 16 feet versus the 8 feet. One of the big issues with our alleys, with not taking care of the alleys over these years, and we're running into it right now heavily as we've run through six, as far as I know, six cutting edges so far on the trucks, is our alleys are crowned so high that that's all that those plows are hitting, is the crown of the alley.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

So, they're, they're sagging because of all that traffic and nothing in the center. So, we've actually had issues where, you know, lower cars aren't able to go up the alleys because they are dragging. So, with everything that's been going on, I know the previous council, they sold our grader. The grader we had, they sold it to Young Township. Uh, that was a mistake. They said they didn't, the public works didn't use it. Well, that's because they just kept a lot of tar and chip on the alleys. But that piece of equipment would be huge right now with this snow removal because, like I said earlier, we've done three blocks in 14 hours because everything's just out there spinning. You can't, you know, once you pull that snow off of those sides of those streets, you know, you've got a pile of snow that's 15 feet high and we can't move it. So overnight, last night, me and Bill did find a used grader that had a snow plow on it and it had, I mean, how many hours were on that, Bill? About 2,000? But Bill reached out to them, the company that had the grader. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated So, the final price of that grader is 2003 John Deere 770 CH. It's got with the plow set up on the front, which is that's an extra that you have that hydraulic system with the plow delivered from Berwick, PA would be \$35,600 delivered. I did some research, price maps did, with the plow and the accessories, that is below fair market value for that machine. Now maybe the time to get it, if we're going to get one for a variety of reasons, but definitely be putting the service right away for not only plowing, but also for grading. And industry. Councilman McAfoos stated if we were to rent, we actually talked to a couple of townships about bringing their grader in to help us with the alleys. And it's going to cost us 90 to 100 thousand dollars just to get the grader in here. That's insane. Versus us having the equipment not only to take care of our outings, but to take care of the snow. And hopefully we don't get that snow system that we're going for this weekend, because it's going to be a mess. Councilman Ferrara stated those are great pieces of equipment. They're so versatile, and to maintain roads, they're essential. Do you have anyone to run it? Councilman McAfoos stated so, we have Dave Weaver, which does not work for the borough, but he's helped us out on numerous projects that we've done. Right now, he's down there, like I said, he's done the dumpsters and everything else for us. He knows how to run the thing, and he said that he would help train the guys and get them all to snuff on how to do things. But the biggest thing right now was, if we could get that thing utilized to get it, you know, moving snow, that would be huge for us right now. Borough Manager stated the bottom front of that setup is 1,000 dollars to have a plow on the front. So, they walk right in, hook it up, do all the hydraulics. They don't even use the blade underneath, so they'll do it on the front, like Joe said. When you talk about plowing and maneuvering against them, they're pretty slick for that, which our previous one didn't have that type of setup on it. Councilman Ferrara stated the blade, the middle blade, I mean, if you're talking about moving snow away from a curb, you can go right along that curb and pull it right out of the way from the curb with that middle blade. Councilman McAfoos stated I think that middle blade was 14 feet? Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated Yes, 14. It's pretty much the same for that. And, like, it serves the quality, it's the price is below market value for, and it's a reputable company, you know, like I said, I'm far away from them. Better distance. You know, just something to do, because they have multiple ones. So, if you report on street improvements, you can take it out of your funeral fund, it's not going to hurt you. I'm going to see them, because it has a lot cheaper to buy on a plow truck, or, you know, a cabbie for the disaster, you know. So, it might be coming underneath you in a disaster. Councilman Ferrara asked any warranty with it, though? Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated he said no warranty on it, no, but... He assured me it was great. Councilman Ferrara asked would it be worthwhile having someone, I mean, this is terrible travel conditions, to check it out? I mean, run it before we buy it? Borough Manager Dr.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Spencer stated, yeah, if you approve it, maybe somebody will give you the check, and then you run out. Councilman Ferrara stated Yeah, I mean, somebody has to look at it. Councilman McAfoos stated Oh, yeah, I would agree. Councilman Ferrara stated You know, make sure, you know, if they have maintenance records, maintenance records, if it was a dead stick, make sure there's no antifreeze in the case, yeah.

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara, and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the purchase of the 2003 John Deere 770 Grader for \$35,600 to be paid from the Street Improvement Fund.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated I'm happy to report that we were awarded \$829,000 from the DCED Multimodal Grant for our downtown street scape project. Work should start August 2026 and will line up nicely with IUP construction. A huge thank you to Sen. Pittman and Rep. Smith for their commitment and investment into our community.

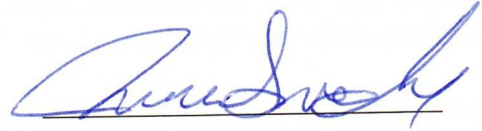
- Thank you to PRG (Punxsutawney Revitalization Group) for their \$5,000 donation for the displays at the Civic Center; a Welcome to Punxsutawney Phil sign and a top hat.
- Thank you to Punxsutawney Area Chamber of Commerce for their donation of 6 groundhog weather vanes that are on top of the tall crosswalk posts in town.
- Numerous levels of government are attending the Pennsylvania Association of Borough's elected officials bootcamp on February 6th and 7th in Armstrong County.
- Elise and Matt from CBDG will be here on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6 PM for bid opening for the fitness center roof.
- **Upon** further discussions among borough council the C-PACE resolution was tabled until further information could be brought to council.
- **Upon** motion by Councilman Story, and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved to accept the DCED blight assessment program.
- **Upon** motion by Councilman Ferrara, and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the hiring of Brandon Krug to the sewer authority.
- **Upon** motion by Councilman Ferrara, and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved to hire Kyle Hupp to the sewer authority.
- **Upon** motion by Councilman Ferrara, and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved to hire Arnie Charles to the sewer authority.
- **Upon** further discussion the PPP grant was tabled until the committee could review the request.

ADJOURNMENT

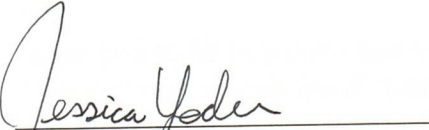
There being no further business to come before Borough Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. upon motion by Councilman Ferrara, seconded by Councilwoman Blose.



Dr. William Spencer
Borough Manager



Jessica Smith
Council President



Jessica Yoder
Recording Secretary