

# DAUPHIN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2026

Council meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m.

## COUNCIL

Council President	Brian Cuddy
Council Vice-President	George Bechtel
Councilman Pro Tem	Steve Harris
Councilman	David Grbich
Councilman	Christopher Smith
Councilwoman	Kathryn Burton
Councilman	Travis Rosmus
Jr. Council Member	Jocelyn Long
Mayor	Michael McKenna
Treasurer/Acting Secretary	Cindy Long

## Public Comments

- Kathy Fisher, representing the Dauphin Middle Paxton Historical Society, was present to formally request to lease the current Borough building when Borough Council vacates it. A letter was provided to Borough Council with the intent to lease, along with reasons the Historical Society would be good tenants.  
Solicitor Statler will review lease requirements for government property. Council President Cuddy confirmed that the garages would not be included in a lease at this time.
- Pastor Mark Barninger from Freedom Bible Fellowship Church of 409 Allegheny Street discussed the abandoned cars on Market Street. The Church is petitioning Council to have the cars removed. The cars affect off street parking capabilities for service on Sunday mornings and additional events in the Borough. They have been out of inspection for several years, and restrict the sightlines of parishioners, especially after snow. The cars are in violation of Pennsylvania State Law as seen in code 37.12 - Abandoned Vehicles. Pastor Barninger is formally making a motion to have vehicles removed within a reasonable amount of time. Mayor McKenna has been discussing the struggles of the removal of these vehicles with Council for the last two and a half years. Mayor approached the owners of the vehicles when they lived there, sent a letter to the property owner, Pennsylvania State Police tagged the vehicles and

then removed the tags, contacted 50 tow companies who would not tow them, and contacted Representative Kerwin's office and has not received any assistance. As of December 4<sup>th</sup>, Mayor McKenna started a conversation with a towing company, and as of February 3<sup>rd</sup> he is hoping the cars will be gone within a week. Mayor has contact information to keep the Pastor informed.

### **Acceptance of Minutes**

- A motion made by Councilman Bechtel and seconded by Councilman Harris to accept the Minutes of the January 5, 2026, Borough Council Meeting was passed unanimously.

### **Dauphin Borough/Middle Paxton Township EMC Report**

- Mayor McKenna filled out a new Emergency Contact list for the county to include himself, Council President Cuddy, and Council Vice-President Bechtel.
- Mayor declared a snow emergency for the Borough from Saturday, January 24 at 10:00 p.m. to Monday, January 26 at 1:00 p.m. He has his USC center open for approximately 13 hours at the fire house. There was one incident involving police and an ambulance; however, the emergency responders were able to get to the location without any problems.
- Savvy Citizen was used 11 times throughout January.

### **Joint Fire Commission Report**

- Ryan Evans provided an update everything for the year kicked off in good order.
- Fire Company received grant for just over \$13,000 for additional rescue equipment on engine 38.
- Engine 38 required roughly \$3,500 of maintenance to get through inspection this year. There have been increasing concerns from the Fire Company regarding the life expectancy of engine 38. The fire company has applied for a grant from DCED, and the Township has committed \$100,000 for replacement of the engine. The current vehicle replacement fund the Township has set aside for the fire company is at approximately \$416,000.

### **Parks and Recreation Report**

- No report.

### **Engineer's Report**

- Farhat continues to work on the High Street Sewer Project. They have had challenges with the weather and due to the close proximity of sewer and water, one line did freeze. It was addressed quickly. A payment application has been submitted and will be voted on in New Business.
- Light-Heigel reviewed ownership of property at Tall Trees and has provided information to Councilmen Smith and Bechtel.
- The Chapter 94 report will be presented to Council in March and is due at the end of March.

- The Borough was awarded \$290,000 for the Small Water and Sewer grant. Light-Heigel will be reviewing with Solicitor Statler to see what is proprietary versus what will have to go to bid.
- Payment applications and a change order for Final Grade for the new building will be discussed under New Business.

### **Solicitor's Report**

- A short report will be provided later in the agenda for salary for Tax Collector.
- A pending claim will be on the agenda for the March meeting.
- Council President Cuddy inquired about the status of court awarded payments due to the Borough from a resident. Solicitor Statler will review and respond. The case information and payment schedule are on ujsportal.

### **Mayor's Report**

- Amanda Nicholson, resident of 415 High Street, contacted the Mayor because Eshenaurs can get to her fuel oil for heating but will not go to the rear of her property to fill propane for cooking and hot water. Eshenaurs stated the High Street construction is impacting the ability for their vehicle to back up to the residence and their line to get to the rear of the property. Per Council President Cuddy, the Borough will contact Eshenaurs to attempt to advocate for the resident.
- Pennsylvania State Police 2025 Annual Report showed 37 traffic citations, 29 warnings, 13 crashes, and 2 DUIs. There were 23 criminal investigations, 13 arrests, and 1 drug investigation. Crime statistics are just within the Borough.
- For 2025, the Fire Department had 65 Duty Officer calls and 218 company responses for a total of 283 total calls for service.

### **Sewer Delinquency / Rental Property Reports**

- Certified letters were sent to delinquent residents. If a response is not received within 10 days, Trudy will be sending accounts to Johnson Duffie to begin the lien process.
- Trudy spoke with Keith Heigel about 3 rental properties that have not been inspected.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- A motion to accept the January 2026 Treasurer's Report was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Rosmus, and passed unanimously.
- Online Sewer and Trash payments have gone live on the Borough website.

### **Unfinished Business**

- There is no additional discussion for the High Street Sewer Project for unfinished business.
- The foundation for the new community building has been completed. Connections for sewer and water being worked on and electricity will follow shortly thereafter.

- The vote regarding the Tax Collector salary will be tabled pending further examination. Solicitor Statler stated that under Pennsylvania local tax collection law, a borough can raise or reduce the compensation for an elected tax collector via ordinance or resolution. The maximum salary is 5% of taxes collected, and the minimum cannot be reduced to zero. The rate must be reasonable based on the duties as well as the time it takes to perform the job.

### **New Business**

- A motion to pay \$184,993.50 to Farhat for payment application 1 was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Grbich, and passed unanimously. This amount is approximately half of the total contract amount and the retainer.
- For the Community Building project, the payments to Final Grade were authorized in the original contract approval that the Administration and Finance Committee to authorize payments throughout the term of the contract. To ratify the payments made, and record for the minutes, the following payment applications were submitted:

First pay app: \$43,964.57

Second pay app: \$41,158.14

Third pay app: \$34,584.30

Change Order: \$6,860.27 to back fill the abandoned septic discovered during construction

Total bid for the project was \$555,455.00.

The total of all payments to date is \$126,567.28.

A motion to approve all the above listed payments and change order was made by Councilman Grbich, seconded by Councilman Bechtel, and passed unanimously.

### **Correspondence**

- At the January meeting, Council voted to approve County to continue as tax collector. The County sent correspondence stating that they agree to continue.

### **Committee Reports**

- Councilman Rosmus will go on Public Works with Councilman Smith. All other committees will remain the same.

### **Administration – Cuddy, Bechtel, Grbich**

- There was not a finance committee meeting in the month of January. Meetings will continue in February.

### **Public Works – Rosmus, Smith**

- Sludge hauling with Wind River Environmental (Klines) is high due to freezing. The sludge is not settling in the tanks.
- Chlorine will need to be purchased soon for the sewer plant and will be approximately \$8,000.00.
- Farhat is continuing to progress nicely on the High Street Project. The UGO, 401, 403, 405, and 409 are completed on the east run. 411 is partially completed. The east run is 415 High Street toward UGO. The west run will be 419 High Street toward the end.
- Councilman Smith wanted to recognize Troy and Ryan for their plowing efforts and compliment the clear condition of the roads.

### **Community Affairs – Burton, Harris**

- Councilman Harris is continuing to research cost of speed bumps. Once a cost is determined, we will determine the number and locations.
- Councilwoman Burton is working with 250<sup>th</sup> committee and Ryan Evans and suggested to have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new building the day of the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration. She asked for permission to use the dumpster for the day of the celebration and requested a waiver of the \$25 application fee for the permit to lease the grounds for the day. Council President Cuddy agreed that the \$25 application fee could be waived.

### **Junior Council Person – Jocelyn Long**

- The newsletter was submitted. Information included the updated Borough Council, information on the new building, a reminder to residents to sign up for Savvy Citizen, notification of online sewer payment availability, and ordinances that should be reviewed. A reminder was also added for warmer weather coming to keep mind of children at play and keeping grass clippings off the roadway.

## **ADJOURNMENT FROM COUNCIL**

The public meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- None

**Attest:**

**Approved:**

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**Cynthia Long**

**Brian Cuddy**

**Acting Secretary**

**President, Borough Council**