

February 2, 2026

The regular scheduled meeting of the Borough Council was called to order on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jim O'Connor with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer. Members who attended were Bob Moyer, Jim O'Connor, Tricia Springer, Sam Wengert, Larry Minnich, Pat Haley, & mayor Matt Zechman. Also attending were Solicitor Collen Gallo and Borough Manager Michael Peiffer. In addition to the official recording of the meeting, mayor Zechman also recorded the meeting.

Minutes from January 5, 2026, meetings were emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. Manager Peiffer noted one change to the citizen's comments, which clarified Ms. Springer and Mr. Minnich's comments regarding solar farms. **Ms. Springer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Haley to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion Carried.**

The Treasurer's report for January 2026 was read. **Mr. Wengert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moyer to approve the Treasurer's report for January 2026. Motion carried.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE COMPANY REPORT- Dustin Sider

Mr. Sider said the chief will get his report out in a few days. More people seemed to stay off the roads during the storm so there were less accidents. Anything the Boro can do to help to remind residents to help keep fire hydrants clear would be greatly appreciated. Fire company has conducted an internal safety audit. The results will be coming out in the next week or so, but overall, they were very happy with the results. Fire company will work with the Boro office to help close out their LSA grant. They need access to Boro's Keystone Access account so Mr. Sider will work with Manager Peiffer.

Highlights from chief Snavelly report:

Services Rendered

Total Calls for the Month = 60

Total Man Hours for Responses = 240.6

Total Man Hours for Training = 88.5

Highlighted Incidents

A vehicle struck a gas pump on Thursday, January 1. As the result of a multi-vehicle accident on a snow-covered roadway, a vehicle struck a gasoline pump. ACFD personnel facilitated securing the power to the pump and mitigated other hazards while EMS handled patient care.

Member Excellence

James Westhafer – Jim has been a cog in so many of the fire department operations for several **decades**. Jim is currently under the weather. His absence is noticeable.

Operational Activities

Help Needed for Overnight Calls – Several firefighters, have changed jobs or switched shifts and are now working overnight shift. Consequently, the fire company is looking for those with availability to respond to overnight calls. There are newer members completing classes now, so help is on the way.

Software Issues – The fire company is experiencing software vendor related challenges with a changeover to a new reporting and analysis format, National Emergency Response Information System (NIRIS). Not only is the state supported vendor new to the fire company, but the changeover to NIRIS occurred in January 2026. The attached reports look different and do not capture the same information. This is a work in progress

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jeff Farneski

The chief reported 301 calls for January, 95 of which were in borough. Officer Henning has been working on an ongoing theft at Giant, which is currently at \$16,000. Cleona police were involved in an investigation by the DA's office involving human trafficking at the Spa in Cleona Square Mall. The Spa has been closed for now. The department is also investigating a \$12,000 theft at Eckenrode Rare Coins. There were also 2 DUI crashes in North Annville and 1 DUI fugitive arrest. There was one sexual assault investigation.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Matthew Zechman

Mayor Zechman had a short presentation to build a case for why we need Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at key crosswalks on Rt 422. Mayor Zechman estimates the total installation cost to be ~ \$10k/crosswalk. He spoke to Annville about installing them, and Colleen said we would not need to put them out for bid if we used Annville. He shared stats from the 2023 traffic study, that included several pedestrian fatalities, to demonstrate the need. There are 6 priority areas identified for these crosswalks. The mayor knows budgets are tight so has gotten verbal commitments for ~\$40k in donations from local businesses. We can set up a special restricted fund account (can generate interest) for the funding donations. If, for some reason, we would not complete the project, the funding would need to be returned to the donors. He realizes that this is just a starting point and eventually we would like/need to make other modifications outlined in the traffic study including: going down to a single turning lane, adding bike lanes and bump outs at intersections. President O'Connor questioned how satisfied we would be with this type of light. He suggested that maybe we test one and see how we like it. Ms. Springer asked about the difference in price between the one we're looking at, and the type Annville has. The mayor stated that it's only about a \$1,500 difference, plus additional labor. Need to look to see if this is considered a road project as \$100k or more would require prevailing wage. **Ms. Springer made a motion seconded by Mr. Haley to create restricted project fund and move forward with County Planning and gaining PennDOT approval. Motion carried.**

250 Anniversary Committee will work with Parks & Rec for Cleona's celebration. Lebanon County will host a July 4 giant event at Expo Center; Jonestown will host a 4th of July parade. Cleona is looking to have a block party towards end of summer (sometime in August). The main event would be a Cleona celebrates 250 picnic on June 20 at playground. Free food and drinks, provided by corporate sponsors. It would also include old fashion games, a reading of the Declaration of Independence from a Revolutionary War reenactor, a pet parade, rubber duck race down the Quitte. Next meeting will be February 26th.

The mayor also did a ride-along with officer Soderberg and plans to spend time with the school resource officer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Jim O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor discussed moving our data center within the Borough Hall. We've been looking at different options that will provide a more stable environment. Bob Moyer donated a 2-post rack that saved us some money. Thank you Bob.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Larry Minnich

Mr. Minnich Lebanon County Planning is our floodplain administrator, and they did submit the report on behalf of the Borough. However, he explained that there is another part to this through FEMA-Community Assistance Contact (CAC) program. This part has to do with education to the municipalities, so they clearly understand their role and responsibilities. Mr. Minnich and Julie Cheyney, from County Planning, completed the training, which makes us eligible for federal funding in the event of a severe flooding event.

Mr. Minnich spoke about Zoning Ordinance 336 and how it was sent to County Planning and Cleona's own Planning Commission simultaneously. They are both reviewing and will send comments to Ms. Gallo in February.

Ms. Gallo stated there are some additional challenges with map changes but yes, we should be able to move to the next step by next month.

Mr. Minnich also discussed the municipal waste project that Mr. Gomez was working on. He and Ms. Gallo will get together and have a final document to the council for approval by the March meeting. This doesn't have anything to do with trash haulers, which is a separate subject that will be discussed on another day.

PROPERTY DEPARTMENT – Bob Moyer

Mr. Moyer all work in the firehouse has been completed and the fire company is happy. Spoke to Fred Siebecker to make sure all sidewalks were opened before we opened on Tuesday and he got them done.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Sam Wengert

Mr. Wengert first few snowfalls Jan 17 & 18 went well with just a few problems. He discussed Borough's salting strategy that usually works pretty well. However, since we use Annville to salt the Borough, we must wait until Annville is salted and that can cause some problems. We continue to try and refine our process. The big storm was a little more problematic. There were a few more challenges, especially since there were subcontractors involved. This left us with experienced plow drivers, but not much experience in plowing the Borough. Tried to get snow pushed back curb to curb. Mr. Wengert generously volunteers his time to plow Walnut Mill. There are lots of cars and narrow streets in that area that make it a difficult area of the Borough to plow. Mr. Wengert also stated that we had a lot of people shoveling/snow blowing into the streets after they were plowed. This meant returning to those areas to do cleanup.

Manager Peiffer reported that we've used 56% of our snow removal budget on this one storm. YTD, we used 72% of our snow removal budget and that doesn't include salt, as we haven't gotten a bill from Annville yet. Mr. Wengert also mentioned that there is a shortage of salt. The big contractors like the state are first and the supply trickles down. Annville is concerned that we could have a problem if we have another storm or two that requires salt.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Pat Haley

Mr. Haley applied for LSA grant awarded \$29,895. The Rec Board is meeting at the Playground on the 7th to decide on kitchen upgrade and then will discuss it at their monthly meeting on February 9th. Movie nights dates July 17, Aug 14 & Sept 19. Movie titles will be selected at the board's meeting on the 9th. Easter candy scramble will be March 28; Spring Cleanup will be May 16 and the Rec Board partnered with the LCBC church for this event. Last year they had about 50 people who participated. Summer welcome June 19th (tentative). The Fall Festival is tentatively set for Oct 17, but that could change depending on the 250 celebrations. The Santa meet & greet will be Dec. 22, at the Borough Hall again. Eagle scout project will be fixing up the butterfly garden at the Park. He will work with Ashlea Good, our local botany expert.

FIRE SAFETY/POLICE DEPARTMENT – Tricia Springer

Ms. Springer said she and Bob have continued to attend the meetings on the regionalization of fire services. This initiative is less about bringing the fire companies together and more about ways to coordinate through some kind of oversight. She said they have been looking at how other fire departments have done it in PA. Warwick EMS does this with 4 departments and is very successful. They maintain an independent structure but have an umbrella organization. They will be meeting with leadership of

Warwick on February 10 so they can get some firsthand accounts of how this works. Kennett Fire EMS regional is another example. They have a similar structure but organize it a little differently. This is in the early stage of exploration.

Police executive session tonight to discuss the police contract and then vote on it when we come back into our regular session.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Matt Urban

Mr. Urban -absent

BOROUGH MANAGER-BOROUGH AUTHORITY – Manager Peiffer- not much going on on the Authority side. On the Borough side, we finally have a deal with IntegraOne. The sticking point was an evergreen clause they inserted to automatically renew after 1 year with a minimum of an 8% increase. We went back and forth on this for weeks and finally landed on a 3-year deal with no increases. So we are paying what we paid last year for the next 3 years. We also combined the Borough and Police contracts into a single contract, although we are keeping them as separate line items in the budget. Manager Peiffer also touched on PEMA reimbursement. Since we did declare an emergency we are eligible for reimbursement. We'll be contacted by the Gary Verna at some point with how to proceed. February 1 is the first day you can rent the Playground pavilion and we got 4 calls today already for rentals. We'll need to work out how the kitchen renovation will impact rentals at the upcoming Rec Board meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Colleen Gallo

The Solicitor's report was submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Gail Kerkeslager asked about the chicken problem. Mr. Minnich explained that the ordinance is with planning commission and county planning. Our hope is that we will be ready for public comment sometime in April or May. When it happens, this meeting will be advertised. Darlene Shuey, who is normally not bothered by the chickens, concurred with Gail's comments about the chicken problem. The recent snow accumulation provided enough elevation for the chickens to get over her fence and into her yard.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The new cruiser, a 2026 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD, will cost \$46,236. This does not include outfitting the vehicle, which is projected to cost another \$15-\$20K. The LSA grant will cover \$50,651 of the total cost. The Borough will need to take about half of the \$33k we're getting from insurance from the chief's car to make up the difference. **No Action Required**
- Borough Council to authorize Borough employees & elected officials to operate the Borough truck. **Mr. Moyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Haley to approve employees & elected officials to operate the Borough truck, including plowing snow with proper training. Motion Carried.**
- Borough Council to pass the resolution for the disposition of 2018 records. **Ms. Springer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Haley to approve resolution #2026-02 for the disposition of 2018 records. Motion Carried.**
- Zoning Ordinance # 336 is with the Planning Commission for comment. They will have their notes to Ms. Gallo by February 12. **No Action Required**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Municipal Trash- **No Action Taken**

- The Planning Commission signed off on the Met-Ed subdivision. **No Action Needed**

Executive Session: 8:16-8:49

Council Reconvened at 8:51 pm

Ms. Springer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minnich to approve the 2026-2028 police contract. Motion carried.

Mr. Haley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moyer to approve direct payment to Manager Peiffer for reimbursement of medical insurance due the 90-day waiting period. Motion carried.

Mr. Minnich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Haley to move forward with litigation for the 145 Dairy Rd property. Motion carried.

Mr. Haley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Minnich to pay the January bills. Mr. Moyer abstained. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 9:08 pm