

## Penndel Borough Council Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2025

Council President John Stratz called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Present at the Meeting

Council President John Stratz  
Council Vice President Barbara Heffelfinger  
Councilman Mark Moffa - absent  
Councilwoman Robin Valentis  
Councilman Gary Nickerson - absent  
Councilman Bud Murphy  
Councilman Bob Winkler  
Mayor Tom Sodano

### Also present at the meeting

Barbara Kirk, Hill Wallack  
Carol Schuehler, Borough Engineer  
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

### Announcements

John Stratz and Barbara Heffelfinger thanked the police department for their hard work on National Night Out. A good time was had by those that attended.

Barbara Heffelfinger announced that next year is our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. She has a lot of ideas and plans to get other ideas for the borough's celebration.

### Public Comment

Mike Smith asked if the new public comment format was permanent. He isn't happy that the public cannot comment on motions. John Stratz explained that we are trying it out. Barbara Kirk said that they can still open up the floor if desired.

Ryan Sorensen, said that he likes the new format. The public has the chance to say what they think about an idea, Council should consider this when voting as opposed to dialog back and forth and people standing up multiple times.

### Consent Items

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 4, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. The vote was 4-0-1 (Barbara Heffelfinger abstained). Motion carried.

### **Reports:**

#### President's Report

John Stratz said he and others will be attending Frank Farry's grant seminar tomorrow. He is hoping to get some insight into a pending grant for the borough that is on hold.

#### Solicitor's Report

There will be an executive session before adjournment on pending litigation.

Engineer's Report – Carol Schuehler read her report, which is attached.

New Business

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO AWARD BOWMAN CONSULTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL DESIGN CONSULTANT FOR DESIGN, PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT OF MODERNIZATION OF THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT LINCOLN HWY. AND DURHAM ROAD. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, carried.

MOTION BY BOB WINKLER TO APPLY FOR THE TASA (TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE) GRANT PROGRAM. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

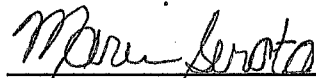
Council Members to be Heard

Barbara Heffelfinger would like to use newsletter money to send out an explanation to residents about the 250th birthday and get their ideas on how they would like to celebrate it. The Heritage Society has money that can be used also.

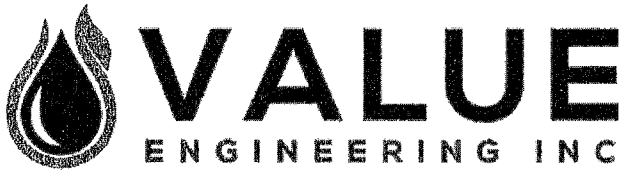
Council went into executive session from 8:09 p.m. to 8:17 p.m. to discuss pending litigation matters. Barbara Kirk announced that the session dealt with pending litigation with no decision made.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:17 P.M. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by:



Marie Serota, Borough Secretary



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## August 4, 2025 Engineers Report Penndel Borough, Bucks County

### MS4 permit PRP and TMDL Plan

The Borough holds a permit for stormwater, called the MS4 permit which is an acronym for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. Under this permit, the Borough is required to create and implement plans to reduce pollutants from stormwater that is released into waterways of the Neshaminy Creek and Delaware River.

The Borough plan approved years ago by DEP proposed hydrodynamic inlet structures as the primary method of pollutant reduction. However, when we tried to implement portions of that plan, it became apparent that DEP would not accept and credit pollutant reductions from these facilities.

In May we emailed an early draft of a revised plan to DEP. The plan describes implementation of a Stream Restoration project as the primary BMP to meet sediment and phosphorus load reduction requirements for Penndel Borough. Additional pollutant reduction is achieved by storm sewer cleaning in the Mill Creek Watershed, and some street sweeping throughout the Borough.

Last week, DEP provided a favorable reply, and encouraged the Borough to proceed with the public presentation and comment period. We look forward to undertaking these steps over coming months.

### ARLE Grant

Penndel has been awarded a \$350,990 ARLE grant from PennDOT for modernization of the traffic signal at Lincoln Highway and Durham Road. A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND FEE PROPOSAL was sent to five firms who are qualified to prepare the signal design and provide traffic engineering services. The responses are due today. They will be reviewed and shared with Borough Council so Council may select an engineering firm for this work at either the August workshop meeting or the September regular meeting.

### Noeland Avenue Sidewalks

The Borough contractors start date for sidewalk work was revised by change order to September 1<sup>st</sup>. Associated Paving will initiate remaining sidewalk work after September 1.

### Pavement Seals

AMS anticipates placing the Ultra-Thin Bonded Asphalt Seal on Highland, Crescent between Neshaminy and Fairview, and on Manor Avenue during the month of September. The roads will be posted days in advance of proposed work, and no parking signs posted for the days when work is being performed.



## Signal Repairs: Lincoln Highway and Bellevue Avenue

Armour and Sons has been performing signal repair work at the intersection of Lincoln and Bellevue this month, funded by an RDA grant.

## Daycare

Plans to manage stormwater runoff from the daycare on Highland Avenue were submitted and a review issued July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are awaiting resubmission of plans.

## Pump Station 1 pump repair

Xylem retrieved the pump and evaluated the insufficient capacity. They attributed it to a pinched wire in the wire harness. The pump was returned and reinstalled on Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Proper operation is confirmed, therefore PUE has scheduled return of the bypass pump.

In recent weeks, PUE did open upstream manholes to look for evidence of gravel or stones to identify the source of material that damaged the station 1 pump and filled the bottom of the wet well. No gravel or rock was found.