

Penndel Borough Council Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2025

Councilman 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
Councilman Bud Murphy
Councilman Bob Winkler - arrived at 7:50 p.m.
Mayor Tom Sodano

Also present at the meeting

Barbara Kirk, Hill Wallack
Carol Schuehler, Borough Engineer-absent
Geoff Thompson, Borough Manager-absent
Chief Sean Perry
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

SWEARING IN OF MICHAEL MOTZ, P/T PATROLMAN – Mayor Sodano

Reach Out Foundation

Andrea Dames and Desiree Arney employees of the Reach Out Foundation spoke about the programs that are available to residents of Bucks County. They provide a day shelter for the homeless to shower and do laundry six days a week. Through peer support/modeling they support consumers in navigating the mental health treatment system, connect them to resources and community support and help them learn how to advocate for their own needs in order to live better lives and participate in community life.

Jeff Jones asked how many Penndel people go in there. Andrea Dames said mostly Lower Bucks residents. Dave Cahill mentioned that a local church allowed them to sleep there during the winter. Mayor Sodano asked if people are vetted before working in public places. Desiree said they are checked for Megans Law violations.

Public Hearing – Verizon Franchise Renewal

Barbara Kirk stated that the borough advertised this hearing tonight before the renewal agreement is approved. Cohen Law Group represents members of the Bucks County Consortium on renewal of the agreement. There were no comments or questions from the public.

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE VERIZON FRANCHISE AGREEMENT. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. The vote was 5-0 (Bob Winkler didn't arrive yet), motion carried.

Announcements

Penndel Police Dept. will have National Night Out on August 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the recreation field.

Saturday August 9th is opening day for the Neshaminy Wildcats at 4:00 p.m.

The Borough Newsletter was sent out. Extra copies are by the door if you didn't receive one. Included in the newsletter is a calendar of events for the rest of the year. More info. to follow.

Public Comment

Mike Smith asked if a current council member was going to be reprimanded and asked was Middletown thanked for their help planting the tree at borough hall. The Penndel Borough sign at 7-Eleven is missing.

Dave Cahill mentioned the FBI raid at 50 Centre Street and asked if the solicitor he complained about was issued a permit.

Consent Items

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 7, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING AND TO PAY THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2025:

General Fund	\$20,512.93
Refuse Fund	\$23,696.18
SewerFund	\$32,535.92
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 4,172.00
Sewer Capital Fund	\$ 2,803.92
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$ 1,345.21
Escrow Fund	\$ 1,616.50
Payroll Fund	\$ 1,366.06

Payroll

General Fund	\$32,623.35
Sewer Fund	\$ 3,547.75
Total	\$36,171.10

Escrow Bills

Land of Children SWM:	
Value Engineering	\$976.00
50 Hulmeville Ave.:	
Value Engineering	\$274.50
Cattani SD:	
Value Engineering	\$366.00

SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. The vote was 5-0-1 (John Stratz abstained). Motion passed.

Reports:

Borough Manager's Report

John Stratz read the report, which is on file in the secretary's office.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sodano read his report, which is attached.

Police Dept. Report

Chief Perry read his report, which is on file in the secretary's office.

Unfinished Business

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO SEND A LETTER TO SENATOR FRANK FARRY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 194 TO ALLOW PUBLIC NOTICES ON MUNICIPAL WEBSITES AND PROVIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH FLEXIBLE MENU OF PRINT AND ELECTRONIC OPTIONS FOR ADVERTISING PUBLIC NOTICES. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried

New Business

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELINGER TO RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MID-CYCLE INVOICES:

Langhorne Postmaster invoice dated 7/2/25 in the amount of \$345.09 for quarterly sewer/refuse billing postage.
Comcast invoice dated 6/26/25 in the amount of \$314.03 for internet & voice services at 37 W. Woodland Av.
Comcast invoice dated 6/26/25 in the amount of \$308.89 for internet and voice services at 300 Bellevue Avenue
Comcast invoice dated 7/2/25 in the amount of \$364.85 for internet at 790 Neshaminy Street
Gettysburg Benefit Administration invoice dated 6/30/25 in the amount of \$201.93 for dental insurance installment.
Guardian Protection Services invoice dated 7/1/25 in the amount of \$220.68 for the repair agreement fee for the alarm system at 790 Neshaminy Street
State Workers Insurance Fund invoice dated 7/1/25 in the amount of \$3,289.00 for fire departments' workers' compensation insurance installment.
Verizon Wireless Invoice #6117436337 in the amount of \$25.02 for M2M Account Share 1 GB
Associated Imaging Solutions, Inc. Invoice #INV538984 in the amount of \$32.77 for copies made from 6/11/25 to 7/10/25
Comcast Invoice #245273057 in the amount of \$407.27 for business voice edge service
George Allen Portable Toilets, Inc. Invoice #1237544 in the amount of \$75.00 for 5/13 cleaning
Independence Blue Cross Invoice #582510648439 in the amount of \$5,263.48 for medical insurance installment
PECO Payment Processing invoice dated 7/22/25 in the amount of \$1,635.37 for streetlights' electric
Langhorne Postmaster invoice dated 7/30/25 in the amount of \$258.04 for newsletter Postage.

SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICER KEVIN DIPAOLO. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF JOHN AMODEI FOR THE TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE POSITION PENDING THE

COMPLETION OF AN ACCEPTABLE BACKGROUND CHECK. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO APPROVE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO ATTEND FRANK FARRY'S GRANT AND FUNDING WORKSHOP FOR MUNICIPALITIES ON AUGUST 19, 2025 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO TABLE THE MOTION TO SPLIT THE COST OF TREE REMOVAL \$1,800.00 WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER AT 173 HOLLY AVENUE (BOROUGH'S COST \$900.00). SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

Council Members to be Heard

Robin Valentis said the newsletter is on the borough website.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFLEFINGER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:37 P.M. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: Marie Serota
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer