

PENNDel BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:00 P.M. Personnel

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President John Stratz.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	John Stratz, President Barbara Heffelfinger - absent Robin Valentis Bud Murphy Bob Winkler Gary Nickerson Ryan Sorensen Tom Sodano, Mayor	Staff: Solicitor, Barbara Kirk Manager, Geoff Thompson Chief, Sean Perry Engineer, Carol Schuehler Secretary, Marie Serota
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COUNCIL OR BOROUGH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Borough meetings are recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes.
- All comments must be made at the microphone and be kept at three minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT – On Agenda Items and Non-Agenda Items (3-minute time limit)

- John Fitch, commented that we can ask our snowplow drivers to return and remove some snow and push it back.
- Andy Schifferli from the Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad thanked council for submission and support of their 2025-2026 RDA Grant application.

CONSENT ITEMS

- MOTION BY BUD MURPHY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2026 WORKSHOP MEETING. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER. All ayes, motion carried.
- MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2026:

General Fund	\$60,063.26
Refuse	\$ 46.67
Sewer Fund	\$10,865.20
Capital Reserve Fund	\$17,789.69
Sewer Capital Fund	\$ 217.50
Liquid Fuels' Fund	\$ 1,126.07
Escrow Fund	\$ 661.03

Payroll

General Fund	\$44,467.38
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 5,589.53</u>

Total \$50,056.91

REPORTS:

President's Report:

John Stratz reminded residents to be mindful of neighbors that may not be able to get out or remove snow and may need help and said thank you to those who have. This week has been designated by the federal trade commission identity theft awareness week. Carefully review credit card statements, bank statements, and any strange bills you may receive and don't give out information over the phone.

Borough Manager's Report – Geoff Thompson read his report, which is on file in the secretary's office. Mayor Sodano said he received complaints about the shoveling done on Lincoln Hwy. that blocked the walkway and handicapped ramps which left one business owner without access to his property. Geoff Thompson will check the ordinance.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Tom Sodano read his report, which is attached.

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

Solicitor's Report

Barbara Kirk reported that there was an executive session from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. this evening to discuss personnel contract with Building Inspection Underwriters, code enforcement and building inspections.

- MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO PROCEED WITH THE TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT WITH BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried. Borough Solicitor recommended that Council ratify the termination of BIU at their next meeting and discuss who will be the replacement staff to handle those duties.

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

- MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO APPLY FOR C2P2 GRANT FUNDING AND DELAY CONSTRUCTION OF THE MEMORIAL PARK WALKING TRAIL UNTIL 2027. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.
- MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2026-1 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CDBG GRANT APPLICATION FOR ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS TO MEMORIAL PARK. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. All ayes, motion carried.
- MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2026-2 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CDBG GRANT APPLICATION TO REPLACE AND IMPROVE THE MEMORIAL PARK BASEBALL BACKSTOPS ON FIELDS 2 & 3. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER. All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MID-CYCLE INVOICES:

Encova Insurance Quote #Q7008866-000 in the amount of \$3,840.00 for workers' compensation insurance premium

Langhorne Postmaster invoice dated 1/6/2026 in the amount of \$374.16 for quarterly sewer/refuse billing.

Langhorne Postmaster invoice dated 1/6/2026 in the amount of \$370.00 for 1st Class Permit Fee

CMRS-FP invoice dated 1/7/2026 in the amount of \$600.00 for postage meter refill.

Comcast invoice dated 12/26/2026 in the amount of \$277.63 for internet and voice service at 300 Bellevue Avenue

Comcast invoice dated 12/26/2026 in the amount of \$283.85 for internet and voice service at 37 W. Woodland Avenue

Gettysburg Benefit Administrators Invoice #123125 in the amount of \$169.10 for dental insurance premium.

Leck Waste Services Invoice #621085A in the amount of \$1,532.72 January invoice balance (January's invoice did not include the annual increase)

State Workers Insurance Fund invoice dated 12/31/2025 in the amount of \$1,643.00 for fire department's workers' compensation insurance premium.

Comcast invoice dated 1/2/2026 in the amount of \$372.85 for internet at 790 Neshaminy Street

Comcast Invoice #260318258 in the amount of \$425.11 for business voice edge service

Police Chiefs' Association of Bucks County invoice dated 1/20/26 in the amount of \$200.00 for 2025 membership.

Associated Imaging Solutions, Inc. Invoice #INV555025 in the amount of \$48.02 for monthly copies.

De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc. Invoice #595482848 in the amount of \$108.00 for copier lease payment

Independence Blue Cross Invoice #582519488152 in the amount of \$7,682.11 for medical insurance premium installment

Verizon Wireless Invoice #6132435411 in the amount of \$28.24 for M2M Account Share 1 GB

PECO invoice dated 1/22/2026 in the amount of \$1,705.79 for Streetlights' electric.

SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. All ayes, carried.

- MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF OFFICER KATHLEEN BEVANS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 23, 2026. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. All ayes, carried.

ADJOURNMENT

- MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:08 P.M. SECONDED BY RYAN SORENSEN. All ayes, carried.

Submitted by:



Marie Serota, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

Mayor's Report for January 2026

Oversaw Borough reorganization and attended the Borough Council meeting and Council work session and executive session.

Attended Zoning Hearing.

As you all know, we had two snowstorms in January. The first was less snow but disappointing that so many cars were not moved and walkways not cleared.

The second storm was severe enough to warrant declaring a snow emergency. Again, despite much advance warning, the results were mixed. Snow emergency routes were cleared to the asphalt for safety, but many side streets had parked cars. I realize the parking situations, but in trying to minimize problems I authorized temporary parking of vehicles on curb ways without ticketing. Moving forward, that will be revisited.

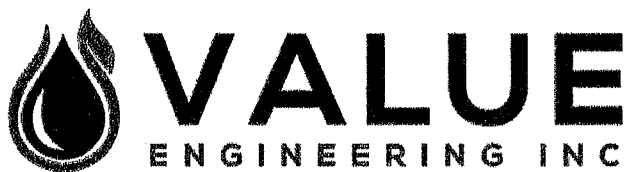
Vehicles on snow emergency routes were towed. Snow removal violations were mailed. While I empathize with everyone on the difficulties this snow and ice storm presented, I consider it a win that Penndel Borough had zero vehicle accidents and no loss of life during the snow emergency.

One area of critique for the plow contractor that I hope is addressed. Most residents did their parts by clearing to the handicap ramps and around fire hydrants. But far too much snow was left at intersection corners, rendering handicap travel impossible, hydrants inaccessible and many corners that Ladder 8 could not navigate.

Looking down the road for 2026. Councilwoman Heffelfinger needs help for our Nation's 250th. There are many upcoming events such as the OLG Spring Fling, Redeemer always hosts the Easter Egg Hunt, the Car Show, the Memorial Day Parade and Penndel Community Day and Borough Wide Yard Sale on Saturday June 6th. The social media pages are full of suggestions. Here's one. Get involved! There won't be any new activities, and the old ones will fade away, without help. Goodness Knows I could use some help for Community Day.

Saturday February 14th is Valentines Day. Tell someone that you love them. And mean it.

And remember, never leave your vehicle running and unattended.



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February 2, 2026 Engineers Report

Pennel Borough, Bucks County

Grant Awards- congratulations!

Pennel Borough has been awarded a \$170,000 grant from DCED under the Greenways, Trail and Recreation program for Memorial Park Trail construction.

Pennel Borough has been awarded a \$105,000 grant from DEP under the Growing Greener grant program for design and permitting of stream restoration.

➤ CDBG Grant Application – PFC John Dalola Ave sidewalks, curbs, and fence.

We have prepared a grant application for replacement of the sidewalk and fence along the Dalola Avenue frontage of Memorial Park. The project would replace the 6' high galvanized fence with 4' high black vinyl coated chain link fence, replace the existing gates, replace the sidewalk, add accessible curb ramps, and install a concrete pad and enclosure for the trash dumpster. This work will improve accessibility to and along the park frontage. Construction costs are estimated at \$300,610. The agenda includes a resolution to accompany this grant application, which will be submitted this week to the County CDBG office.

➤ Field 2 & 3 Backstops CDBG

The aged backstop of ball field 1 was updated by the Borough last year to improve safety. The backstops of ball fields 2 and 3 still need to be upgraded. The 2025 CDBG application for those backstops was not funded. The costs have been updated to \$174,774, reflecting current proposals from a qualified installer, and the application prepared for resubmission in 2026. This project is noted as second in priority to the Dalola Avenue frontage improvements. The agenda includes a resolution to accompany this grant application, which will be submitted this week to the County CDBG office.

➤ Field 2 & 3 Backstops C2P2

Another grant program could fund the backstop upgrades. The Park Rehabilitation and Development Grant funds from DCNR require a 50% match. The Borough Manager and I have spoken with DCNR about this program. As discussed in my January 27 memo, the Borough could apply for a grant for the combined project of the trail around the park and the ball field backstops to request \$185,000 in funds from DCNR.

The Borough has recently been awarded a Greenways, Trails and Recreation grant in the amount of \$170,000 toward construction of the trail around the park. This money could be used as match of the Borough can secure a Park Rehabilitation grant. The drawback is that the trail could not be constructed before the second grant is awarded, so trail construction would be planned for 2027 rather than 2026. We seek direction from Council on whether to pursue the grant application.



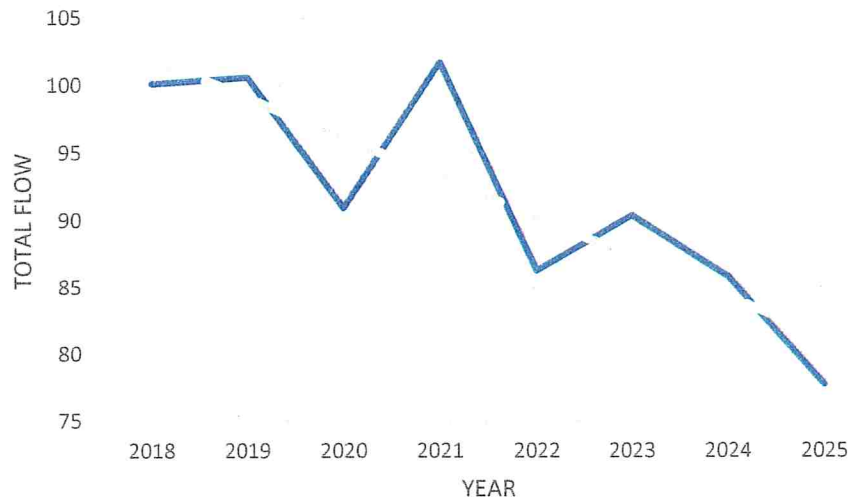
Chapter 94 Reporting

The annual Chapter 94 reporting has been produced for the sanitary sewer collection system. This report is sent to DEP and to BCWSA. The data suggests the Borough I & I program is producing results in storm event flow reduction.

The number of times the Borough exceeded the 'allowable' peak daily flow under the Neshaminy interceptor agreement is down to 16 days in 2025, the lowest number of exceedances in the past 8 years.

Year	Total Flow (MG)	Average Flow (GPD)	Exceeds Allow.	Total Rainfall (in)
2018	100.11	274,282	65	53.17
2019	100.58	275,562	58	49.57
2020	90.92	248,403	30	38.64
2021	101.69	278,613	62	48.81
2022	86.28	236,384	22	43.82
2023	90.36	247,562	34	53.62
2024	85.82	234,481	52	37.89
2025	77.73	212,959	16	42.61

2018-2025 TOTAL WASTEWATER FLOW (MG)



Resurfacing Monroe Avenue and Crescent (east of Bellevue)

A project to mill and pave Monroe Avenue and Crescent Street east of Bellevue is out for bid on PennBID. Bids are due February 20th.