

Penndel Borough Council Meeting Minutes

February 3, 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
- Councilwoman Robin Valentis
- Councilman Gary Nickerson
- Councilman Bud Murphy
- Councilman Bob Winkler
- Mayor Tom Sodano

Also present at the meeting

- Barbara Kirk, Hill Wallack
- Geoff Thompson, Manager
- Carol Schuehler, Value Engineering
- Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

Council or Borough Announcements

Mayor Sodano announced that Chief Perry was at a service for a fallen comrade and friend tonight and would not be in attendance.

Consent Items

MOTION BY BUD MURPHY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2025 WORKSHOP MEETING. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PAY THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025:

General Fund	\$36,458.50
Fire Tax Fund	\$ 161.84
Refuse Fund	\$ 75.60
Sewer Fund	\$36,926.53
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 1,675.50
Liquid Fuel Fund	\$ 5,275.91
Escrow Fund	\$ 40.00
Payroll Fund	\$ 1,645.14

Payroll

General Fund	\$38,958.99
Sewer Fund	<u>\$11,699.54</u>
Total	\$50,658.53

Escrow Bills

Schoolhouse Court LD:	
Hill Wallack	\$40.00

SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

Reports:

President's Report

John Stratz reported that he attended a Public Works Committee meeting with Geoff, Carol, and Bob. Items discussed were the 2025 road work project, pump station repair upgrades and rec field upgrades. Work is progressing on the borough hall wall. The wall, window and back door have been repaired, and the contractor will be installing the new window block for the basement.

Borough Manager's Report

Geoff Thompson read his report which is on file in the secretary's office.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sodano said it was mentioned there was a Public Works Committee meeting and in the December meeting, it was mentioned that the Finance Committee had met regarding the new budget and made some tweaks. He asked if it was procedural to let the rest of the elected officials know that there will be a meeting, should they choose to attend and have input. John said it was an ad hoc meeting, and it wasn't fully official. Mayor Sodano said maybe this one was but the one where the Finance Committee met regarding the budget, apparently, a decision was made somewhere along the line that there would be a reduction in taxes. He feels that should have been open to ideas because the \$27.00 tax reduction roughly amounts to about \$18,000.00 a year. They could have gotten a couple of leaf cleanups with that money instead. When they get the streets cleaned, half of them don't get cleaned because they drive around the leaves. It may not have been an issue before but starting this year, if that stuff is in the drains, and goes into the storm catch basins that are at the corners, they could have an issue because they're not allowed to clean them. This is in the new MS-4 rules he believes, and those have to be considered hazardous waste to clean them. For \$27.00 a residence, he thinks a lot of people would have been willing to not get the reduction and use it for leaf cleanup, which would prevent having to spend a lot of money on hazardous waste cleanup.

Police Chief's Report

Mayor Sodano read Chief Perry's report which is on file in the secretary's office.

Engineer's Report

Carol Schuehler read her report which is attached.

Mayor Sodano asked about the rusted and corroded stairs at one of the pump stations. He said they didn't specify which one. Carol said it is in both. She has taken measurements of all the facilities in both pump stations and contacted a metal worker that council member Winkler provided her with as one of the people that installed the stairs initially. She is going to meet with him down there next week and get some ideas about what kind of costs they're looking at. Mayor Sodano asked if they would have to put that out for bid. Carol said she couldn't answer that for sure until she got further into it. Mayor Sodano asked about the ceiling paint. Carol said the moisture infiltration was coming from above because the roof was shot. But the quote she got on the product is Luxon waterproofing masonry coating to help protect and preserve that. The water that was coming through the roof should be sealed off now.

New Business

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

Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley invoice dated 1/3/25 for the amount of \$5,587.75 for 35% of general liability, crime, inland marine, and commercial property policies' premiums

Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley invoice dated 1/3/25 for the amount of \$4,224.85 for 35% of the business auto policy premium

Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley invoice dated 1/3/25 for the amount of \$8,589.00 for the total police liability policy premium

Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley invoice dated 1/3/25 for the amount of \$1,206.00 for the commercial package total umbrella policy premium

Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley invoice dated 1/3/25 for the amount of \$6,815.00 for the total public officials' policy premium

Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley invoice dated 1/3/25 for the amount of \$1,431.00 for the total cyber liability policy premium

Encova Insurance invoice dated 1/1/25 for the amount of \$3,841.00 for the workers' compensation policy premium installment

Comcast invoice dated 1/2/25 for the amount of \$304.89 for internet at 790 Neshaminy Street

Comcast invoice dated 1/1/25 for the amount of \$408.24 for business voice edge service

Gettysburg Benefits Administrators invoice dated 12/31/24 for dental insurance premium installment

Office of Labor & Industry invoice dated 1/1/24 for the amount of \$1,953.00 for fire department workers' compensation insurance installment

Independence Blue Cross invoice dated 1/15/25 for the amount of \$5,263.48 for medical insurance premium installment

PECO invoice dated 1/17/25 for the amount of \$1,849.85 for streetlights electric

Modern Munitions invoice dated 1/31/25 in the amount of \$2,607.95 for rifle, flashlight, sling

SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO APPOINT A VOTING DELEGATE TO ATTEND THE PSAB ANNUAL CONFERENCE. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO WAIVE THE ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTION FEE OF \$150.00 FOR THE PENNDEL FIRE COMPANY. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO APPROVE PARTIAL PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,086.51 TO KEYSTONE SPORTS CONSTRUCTION FOR BACKSTOP REPLACEMENT. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO APPROVE PROJECT #25-003 QUOTE FROM GS DEVELOPERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,385.00 TO PREPARE AND PAINT INDOOR AND OUTDOOR CEILINGS AT BOTH STATIONS AND REPLACE TWO CHECK VALVES IN PUMP STATION 1, AND THE PURCHASE OF A NEW TRASH RACK FOR \$445.00 TO BE DELIVERED TO STATION #1. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER.

John Kross, asked if this was a roof that they're talking about that's leaking. Carol explained they repaired the ceiling in December. She said they actually have three separate items here. The first is the check valves. When one pump is running right now, the station records a reverse flow and the other pump, so that indicates the check valves have failed. The quote from GS Developers, which is a vendor familiar to your operator, is for \$4,300.00 to replace those check valves. It's not well broken out in their quote. It might be something they want to authorize an expense of up to \$4,300.00.00 for the check valves and then the masonry repairs were done in December after the roof was fixed, and so it would be good to protect and preserve those masonry repairs that was quoted by GS Developers at \$2,085.00 for each station, not combined. If they'd like to proceed with that, she would suggest they use "do not to exceed" authorization for that. The trash rack is a separate thing entirely. It is ordered from Halliday Products in Orlando FL and PUE would install that trash rack.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO REVISE THE MOTION NOT TO EXCEED \$4,300.00 FOR THE VALVE, NOT TO EXCEED \$4,170.00 ON THE PAINTING AND NOT TO EXCEED \$445.00 FOR THE TRASH RACK. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER.

All ayes, motion carried.

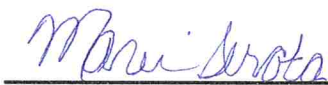
Public Comment

Dave Cahill, said he had to call 911 last week and the dispatcher asked him where his emergency was and when he told her where he lives, she said let me check to see if they had somebody on. He said that's a good one, he never heard that one before and she said they are a part-time police department and sometimes they're not on and the state police are covering. He told her that according to the taxes that he pays, it is for 24/7 365 coverage. He asked if the coverage had changed. John told him it did not. Dave said it just seemed really strange that she had to tell him that she had to check to see if there was anybody on. So, that tells him that they're missing shifts. Mayor Sodano said they have not missed a complete shift. Dave asked if there is any time during the day that's not covered. Mayor Sodano said only in the instance of an emergency, and someone was not able to answer from Penndel. Dave said he's seriously doubting that they're getting what they're paying for. Mayor Sodano said as far as what he is or is not paying for, he can tell him that for the third year that he's been mayor, they came in considerably under budget. Dave said that's because they missed a lot of shifts. Mayor Sodano said absolutely not. He said his allegations that someone owes him something are silliness. Dave said they missed thirty-seven shifts in July of 2023 when they had officers leave here. Mayor Sodano said that it was an anomaly, and they passed it and came out the better.

Jeff Jones, said he started smelling chlorine in the water. John said he noticed it too. With the freezing cold, the water slows, and they have a hard time with the water pressure, so they put extra chlorine in to make sure that it's safe.

MOTION BY BOB WINKLER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by:



Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

February 3, 2025 Engineers Report

Penndel Borough, Bucks County

Chapter 94 Report

The annual chapter 94 wasteload management report was prepared for the Penndel Borough sewage collection system and submitted to DEP and BCWSA. Borough flows are down this year, with an average daily flow rate of 235,000 GPD. This compares favorably to the 2023 rate of 247,600 GPD. However, we had a very dry year, so a direct comparison is not a dependable yardstick. The chart of 2024 metered flows and rainfall events informs us that peaks still exceed allowable flow levels during significant rainfall events, and I & I work must continue.

Noeland Avenue Sidewalks

Preliminary design of sidewalk layout and grading is complete. At a recent committee meeting, we discussed preparing bidding documents that would direct contractors to perform the work *after* September 1st 2025, thus provide property owners with the opportunity to complete work with their chosen contractors if they do not want to use the Borough contractor.

Pump Station Repairs

The check valves in station 1 require replacement, and the Borough has received a proposal for this work from a vendor recommended by the pump station operator.

A cost has also been presented from that same vendor to paint over the ceilings to protect and preserve the masonry repairs performed in December.

Also, the trash rack in station 1 is breaking apart at the welds and must be replaced. The cost of the replacement rack, delivered, is \$450.

These appear on tonight's agenda.

CDBG

Application materials are assembled for the Community Development Block Grant and will be submitted today. They are due on February 5th.

