

PENNDDEL BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

January 20, 2026

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

- ROLL CALL: John Stratz, Council President                      Staff: Solicitor, Barbara Kirk  
                  Barbara Heffelfinger, VP                                      Carol Schuehler, Engineer  
                  Gary Nickerson    Marie Serota, Borough Secretary  
                  Bud Murphy  
                  Bob Winkler  
                  Robin Valentis  
                  Ryan Sorensen  
                  Tom Sodano, Mayor

- 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.

- EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION BY BOB WINKLER TO HAVE BOROUGH SOLICITOR MONITOR THE ZONING HEARING BOARD APPEAL OF 566 BELLEVUE AVENUE IF MADE. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

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

- Mike Smith, would like to see personal care facilities added to zoning ordinance, truck and trailer parking issues on Park Avenue, Council's wages should be increased, anything being done with junkyards in the borough.

- CONSENT ITEM

- MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2026 COUNCIL MEETING. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER. All ayes, motion carried.

- REPORTS

- President's Report

John Stratz met with Laura Onisk on December 31, 2026 regarding last year's CDBG Grant. She is going to assist us when funds are available for last year's grant and this year's.

- Engineer's Report

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL OF K. E. SEIFERT, INC. FOR TWO SANITARY SEWER SPOT REPAIRS WITH RESTORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,642.96. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO AUTHORIZE THE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO SUBMIT THE UPDATED TMDL/PRP PLAN TO DEP. SECONDED BY RYAN SORENSEN. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO AUTHORIZE PREPARATION AND ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS FOR RESURFACING MONROE AVENUE AND THE EASTERN BLOCK OF CRESCENT STREET. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

• NEW BUSINESS

- MOTION BY RYAN SORENSEN TO WAIVE SEWER BILL FEES FOR ACCOUNT #483, 36. W. WOODLAND AVENUE (DEMOLISHED DUE TO FIRE), UNTIL SUBMISSION OF A PERMIT APPLICATION. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

• UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPOINT CHRIS BELL TO THE AUDITOR POSITION. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

Barbara Kirk will look into whether he can be on the planning commission and serve an auditor at the same time.


• COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE HEARD

- The mayor said during snow events in the borough, vehicles left on the street make it difficult to remove cars without a snow emergency. This weekend another storm is expected, and he will declare a snow emergency. Vehicles will be ticketed if not removed from the streets.
- Ryan Sorensen and Gary Nickerson went to the sewer plant property and said the TMDL erosion is really bad. The "Welcome to Pennel" sign is in the public works building.
- Gary Nickerson asked about the tractor trailer parking code in the borough, can they be towed. The mayor said the ordinance needs to be changed. Barbara Kirk will look into tractor trailer parking being restricted.

• ADJOURNMENT

- MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:25 P.M. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by:



Marie Serota, Borough Secretary