

PENNDDEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2026

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

ROLL CALL: John Stratz, President  
Barbara Heffelfinger, VP  
Robin Valentis  
Bud Murphy  
Bob Winkler  
Gary Nickerson-absent  
Ryan Sorensen  
Tom Sodano, Mayor

Staff:  
Solicitor, Barbara Kirk  
Manager, Geoff Thompson  
Chief, Sean Perry  
Engineer, Carol Schuehler  
Secretary, Marie Serota

AWARDS & COMMENDATION PRESENTATIONS by Police Chief Sean Perry

Life Saving Awards to Officer Hillary Kloiber, Officer Michael Mannino, Officer Michael Wojnar, Deputy Chief Zachary Cooperman, Paramedic Carrie Ehmann, EMT Martin Liczbinski, and Firefighter Riley Collins, for their life-saving actions taken during a Cardiac Arrest incident in Penndel Borough on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Certificate of Commendation to Fire Marshal James Bampfield, William McCool, Darrel Martin, Daniel Darnley, Henry Lovett, Sam Simon Jr., Sam Simon III, and Shane Quinnan, from the Penndel Fire Company for their quick actions taken in extinguishing a residential structure fire in Penndel Borough on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

COUNCIL OR BOROUGH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Borough meetings are recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes.
- Barbara Heffelfinger announced that the Penndel-Hulmeville Memorial Parade Committee & Redeemer Lutheran Church are having a Designer Bag and Spirits Bingo on March 21st at OLG School Gym. Doors open at 6:00, bingo starts at 7:00. The cost is \$40.00 a person.
- Mrs. Heffelfinger also announced that there will be a meeting on Monday March 9th at 7:30 p.m. at borough hall to discuss the 250th Birthday Celebration.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT ITEMS

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2, 2026, MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PAY THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026:

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$37,374.08</b>
<b>Refuse</b>	<b>\$ 336.07</b>
<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b>\$10,610.87</b>
<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$12,362.45</b>
<b>Liquid Fuels' Fund</b>	<b>\$ 844.47</b>
<b>Escrow</b>	<b>\$ 2,737.50</b>
<b>Payroll Fund</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
<b><u>Payroll</u></b>	
General Fund	\$35,293.57
Sewer Fund	\$ 4,194.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,487.75</b>

SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

#### REPORTS

##### **President's Report** – John Stratz

It goes without saying attended Council meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Attended pre-bid meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> regarding resurfacing Monroe Avenue and Crescent Street East and then a week later attended the bid opening meeting. Accompanied borough engineer on inspecting the drainage problem at the recreation field. Nothing was determined at that time. We will have a discussion later in the program regarding the water main replacement at Lincoln Hwy. and Durham Road. Hearing from our engineer on that topic tonight. As a reminder, this coming Sunday morning at 2:00 a.m. our clocks spring forward one hour, which starts our annual daylight savings time, and the coming of finally more temperate weather. As such, more residents will start walking for health again so as drivers, please be conscious of the extra foot traffic for their safety.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor 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** – none

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

MOTION BY BOB WINKLER TO AWARD RESURFACING OF MONROE AVENUE AND CRESCENT STREET EAST OF BELLEVUE AVENUE TO RICHARD T. BARRETT PAVING COMPANY, INC., WITH A BID OF \$45,405. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

Pat Donahoe asked why the property owners on Monroe Avenue and Crescent Street did not have to put curbs in as he did on Bellevue Avenue. Council members and the mayor responded that the way that the ordinance is written is up to Council's discretion.

MOTION BY RYAN SORENSEN TO AUTHORIZE SENDING A LETTER TO PENNDOT ADVISING THAT THE BOROUGH DOES NOT OBJECT TO OVERNIGHT CONSTRUCTION FOR PROPOSED WATERLINE REPLACEMENT IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN HIGHWAY AND DURHAM ROAD. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO DIRECT THE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO SCHEDULE LIMITED SOIL TESTING AT TADDEI WOODS CONCURRENT WITH SOIL TESTING AT MEMORIAL PARK. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE THE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO PREPARE AND ISSUE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL FOR STREAM RESTORATION ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN FIRM AS PART OF THE GROWING GREENER GRANT. SECONDED BY RYAN SORENSEN. All ayes, motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

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

**A T & T** Invoice #287290898778X01262026 dated 1/18/26 in the amount of \$235.25 for PD wireless service.

**BCW&SA** invoice dated 1/23/26 in the amount of \$26,871.24 for monthly wholesale sewer charges.

**BCW&SA** invoice dated 1/23/26 in the amount of \$26.69 for water service at

Station #2

**BCW&SA** invoice dated 1/23/26 in the amount of \$26.69 for water service at 790 Neshaminy Street

**BCW&SA** invoice dated 1/23/26 in the amount of \$26.69 for water service at 640 Hulmeville Avenue

**BCW&SA** invoice dated 1/23/26 in the amount of \$30.22 for water service at 37 W. Woodland Avenue

**BCW&SA** invoice dated 1/23/26 in the amount of \$31.99 for water service at 300 Bellevue Avenue

**BCW&SA** invoice dated 1/23/26 in the amount of \$26.69 for water service at Station #1

**Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.** check dated 2/5/26 in the amount of \$727.77 for December employee contributions.

**Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.** check dated 2/5/26 in the amount of \$1,290.17 for January employee contributions.

**Comcast** invoice dated 1/26/26 in the amount of \$278.01 for internet and voice service at 300 Bellevue Avenue

**Leck Waste Services** Invoice #629199 in the amount of \$25,193.28 for February service

**Mission Square** check dated 2/5/26 in the amount of \$900.00 for December and January employee contributions to the 457 Plan.

**The Hartford** Invoice #357529740049 in the amount of \$790.44 for life insurance premium

**Langhorne Postmaster** check dated 2/11/26 in the amount of \$256.00 for winter newsletter postage.

**Comcast** invoice dated 2/2/26 in the amount of \$372.85 for internet at 790 Neshaminy Street

**Comcast** Invoice #262812848 dated 2/1/26 in the amount of \$425.11 for Business Voice Edge service.

**Gettysburg Benefits Administrators** invoice dated 1/30/26 in the amount of \$201.93 for dental insurance premium.

**State Workers' Insurance Fund** invoice dated 1/30/26 in the amount of \$1,643.00 for fire department workers' compensation premium

**Comcast** invoice dated 1/26/26 in the amount of \$284.21 for internet & voice service at 37 W. Woodland Avenue

**Independence Blue Cross** Invoice #582519006501 in the amount of \$7,682.11 for medical insurance premium

**PECO – Payment Processing** invoice dated 2/19/26 in the amount of \$1,646.43 for streetlights' electric.

**Verizon Wireless** invoice #6134937900 in the amount of \$40.44 for M2M Account Share 1GB

SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BOB WINKLER TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE #2026-1 REGULATING, RESTRICTING, OR PROHIBITING THE OPEN BURNING OF MATERIALS.

SECONDED BY RYAN SORENSEN. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE #2026-2 PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR FALSE FIRE ALARMS CAUSED BY FAULTY FIRE DETECTION, ALARM EQUIPMENT OR NEGLIGENCE. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE #2026-3 AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE BOROUGH REGARDING PARKING OF TRACTOR-TRAILERS IN GENERAL ON PARK AVENUE. SECONDED

BY BOB WINKLER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO AUTHORIZE SOLICITOR TO DRAFT A GROUP HOME ORDINANCE. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO APPROVE KEYSTONE MUNICIPAL SERVICES' PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES. SECONDED BY RYAN SORENSEN. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF OFFICER PAUL CALLAN EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 23, 2026. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

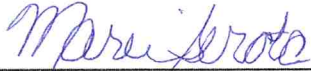
MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE THE REVISED CONTRACTS FOR RILEY COLLINS AND JIM BAMPFIELD TO INCLUDE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER DUTIES. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY RYAN SORENSEN TO AUTHORIZE BOROUGH SOLICITOR TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE ZONING HEARING BOARD APPEAL FOR 201 W. LINCOLN HWY. TO PARTICIPATE AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL WITH THE INFORMATION THAT IS OBTAINED. SECONDED BY ROBIN VALENTIS. All ayes, motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE HEARD - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ROBIN VALENTIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:00 P.M. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by:   
Marie Serota, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

## Mayor's Report for February 2026

Attended the Borough Council meeting and executive session.

Again, Penndel had a huge snowstorm, the two snowstorms in January and February combined to make this the snowiest winter Penndel has seen in a decade. In these two major storms it was necessary to declare Snow Emergencies. Some fresh ideas were implemented to address the many cars that often are not moved from Emergency Routes and walkways not cleared. In the first storm, fifteen vehicles were towed and forty-two shoveling notices were mailed. In the second storm, only one vehicle towed and twelve shoveling notices. Thank you to the residents for helping us keep safety a priority. Moving forward, recommended updates and revisions to parking and snow ordinances should help alleviate many weather problems that have plagued Penndel Borough for decades.

As previously reported here, I consider it a win that Penndel Borough had zero vehicle accidents and no loss of life during either snow emergency.

I also want to acknowledge the plow contractor for a much-improved job in February's storm.

Council Woman Heffelfinger still needs help and ideas for our Nation's 250th. We hope to see you at the many upcoming events in Penndel such as the OLG Spring Fling, the Redeemer Easter Egg Hunt, the Car Show, and the Memorial Day Parade.

Reminder: Penndel Community Day and Borough Wide Yard Sale will be on Saturday June 6th.

This coming Saturday night, March 7th, the clocks spring forward one hour. It's a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and check your fire extinguishers.

And remember, *never* leave your vehicle running and unattended.

## March 2, 2026 Engineers Report

### Pennel Borough, Bucks County

#### Resurfacing Monroe Avenue and Crescent (east of Bellevue)

Eleven bids were received for a project to mill and pave Monroe Avenue and Crescent Street east of Bellevue. The lowest responsible bidder is Richard T Barrett Paving Company, Inc., with a bid of \$45,405.

We sent our paving plans to PECO and BCWSA to ask if either was planning any excavation work in these streets, because it is frustrating and costly to have a utility excavate a newly paved street.

We received a reply from PECO. PECO is replacing certain types of gas mains under PUC order. The gas line in LeGrande and on Route 413 north of LeGrande is scheduled for replacement in 2027.

The lines under Crescent from Bellevue to Monroe, and under Monroe from Crescent to Eastbrook, are scheduled to be replaced sometime before the end of 2030, but there is no fixed timeline. If we insist, they can plan it for 2027, but not 2026.

The Borough can proceed as follows:

- Cancel the 2026 paving project, bid the work in 2028 assuming PECO schedules and completes gas line replacement in 2027, or
- Award the Bid to Barrett Paving to pave the roads this year and require PECO to mill and overlay half the width of the street when they replace the gas line in (2030 ?).

#### BCWSA Water Line Replacement in Durham Road

Engineers for BCWSA are working to secure a PennDOT permit for replacing the water line in Durham Road from just north of Lincoln Highway, past Robbins Avenue and south to Harrison Avenue outside the Borough.

PennDOT is requesting water main replacement at the intersection of Lincoln Highway and Durham Road be done during **nighttime hours** to reduce traffic disruptions. The Department requests a letter from Pennel Borough stating that the Borough has no objection to nighttime work at this intersection. Council is requested to authorize the Borough Manager to send such a letter.

#### Growing Greener Stream Restoration – RFP for Design.

The Growing Greener grant that was recently awarded to Pennel Borough for design and permitting of stream restoration includes a competitive procurement requirement. The Borough must issue a Request for Proposal to use in selecting a qualified environmental design firm with experience in Stream Restoration projects. We have drafted the RFP and, upon Council authorization, will send it to three or more firms to seek proposals.

## Soil Testing at Memorial Park – (and Taddei Woods?)

To support design work for the Memorial Park Trail we plan to subcontract a soil consultant to evaluate soils at the park for infiltration. The cost for that will be about \$3,600. If we want to evaluate soils at one or two locations in Taddei Woods while they are already in the Borough, the added cost would be about \$500.

Soil tests done for two building projects on Holly Avenue (just west of Taddie Woods) have both reported a perched water table at depths ranging from 3 to 5 feet, with ample infiltration capacity in the soils below that feature. If that circumstance also exists under portions of Taddei Woods, it may expand design options for managing stormwater to improve this public space.

Ww seek guidance or consensus on whether Council would like us to coordinate limited testing at Taddei Woods when soil testing is performed at Memorial Park.

