PENNDEL BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

September 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - 7:30 p.m.

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

Staff: Solicitor, Barbara Kirk
Marie Serota, Borough Secretary

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.
- Mayor Sodano thanked all who attended and worked at the 250th Celebration on Saturday 9/19. He thanked Barbara Heffelfinger who spearheaded the event, the committee and Council members John Stratz and Bob Winkler for their hard work on the event. Special thank you to Jackie Reese for stepping in and taking over when Mrs. Heffelfinger fell ill.
- In today's news there was an article about Middletown Township's Penn Hill Drainage Project. Some of this project is within sixty feet of the work to be done on the culvert for the MS4 Project. Council should look for information on how this might impact our project.

PUBLIC COMMENT – On Agenda Items and Non-Agenda Items (3-minute time limit)
Mike Smith commended Jackie Reese for her work on the 250th Celebration, council members do not show up at borough events. He questioned why the committee will not prepare the chicken ordinance.
Estella Kristiniak can't get out of her driveway due to parents parking at the recreation field. They also throw trash on her property. She said she would contact Frank Farry.
Michelle Nigra is having trouble with BCW&SA correcting the big puddle at the end of her driveway. It was not as big as it is now after they paved the street. Joe Hogan's office said if she doesn't get satisfaction, she has to hire a lawyer.

CONSENT ITEM
MOTION BY BUD MURPHY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 COUNCIL MEETING. SECONDED BY BOB WINKLER. All ayes, motion carried.

REPORTS
President's Report:
John Stratz has been monitoring work at the recreation field to alleviate water run-off from the ball field and flooding the restrooms. Carol Schuehler engineered new pitches and new sod that was installed to alleviate this run-off. He then read into the record the service that he attended Friday for Captain Walter H. Sigafoos, III, who was declared MIA in the Vietnam War, which is attached.

Solicitor's Report:
MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT FOR 566 BELLEVUE AVENUE LAND USE APPEAL. SECONDED BY RYAN SORENSEN. All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2026-10 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF BUCKS COUNTY FOR A FIRE STATION FIRE ALARM AND SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF $42,625.00. SECONDED BY RYAN SORENSEN. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2026-11 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNIIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF BUCKS COUNTY FOR A PARAMEDIC RESPONSE VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT TO CARRY WHOLE BLOOD ON THAT SPECIFIC VEHICLE. SECONDED BY RYAN SORENSEN. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO APPROVE A 48-MONTH TERM FOR THE FIXED ENERGY RATE OF 0.0853 WITH HUDSON ENERGY AS PROVIDED BY STEVE ESPOSITO WITH NEW AMERICA POWER. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE HEARD

Barbara Heffelfinger said some of the people that attended the 250th Celebration would like to have it every year. Jackie Reese and Karen Kondrk deserve recognition for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:00 P.M. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by Marie Serota
Marie Serota, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

CAPT. WALTER H. SIGAFOOS III

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Capt. Walter Harrison Sigafoos III was born on Aug. 29, 1946, in Richboro, attending Addisville Reformed Church in the community he called home. A talented athlete and scholar, he graduated second in the Council Rock High School Class of 1964, lettering in baseball, football and basketball. He was appointed to the United States Air Force Academy in 1964, graduating as a Second Lieutenant in 1968 and later rising to First Lieutenant in 1969.

On April 25, 1971, during the Vietnam War, Capt. Sigafoos and his pilot Lt. Col. Jeffery C. Lemon launched in an F 4D on a combat mission over Laos. His aircraft was shot down in Laos near the border with South Vietnam. He and Lt. Col. Lemon were declared missing in action, and their remains have not been recovered.

For his valor and service, Capt. Sigafoos received numerous commendations, including the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal for Meritorious Achievement and the National Defense Service Medal, among other honors. His name is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, as well as on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

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