

AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025 MINUTES

The monthly meeting of Auburn Borough Council was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., in the Auburn Community Center at 451 Pearson Street. In attendance: Council President John Eckert, Vice-President Doug Naftzinger, and Council-members Liz Shaner and Jesse Spencer. Also present: Mayor Frank Cataldi, Solicitor Stanley Burke, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler. Council-member Melissa Schwenk and a representative from Systems Design Engineering were unable to attend this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Eckert who opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

February 2025 Minutes and Financial Reports

A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to accept the February 2025 minutes and reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Approval to Pay Bills

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve payment of check #16536 through #16559 as attached to the March agenda. The motion also includes payment of the regular monthly March invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by President Eckert or Vice-President Naftzinger. Motion carried. The complete March check register is included with the March minutes.

Recognition of Guests

The guests attending this meeting were: Daniel Webber, Aaron Brommer, Richard Krebs, and John Fessler. They had nothing to discuss at this time.

Complaints/Complaint Forms

--No complaints or forms received during the month of February

REPORTS

Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk

No report

Mayor – Frank Cataldi

--Mayor Cataldi noted that the VFW will be sponsoring the Memorial Day Parade this year. John reminded Frank that the Blue Mt. Band performs in the parade every other year and the VFW usually reaches out to the band's director.

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Doug, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Safety – Jesse Spencer

--No report

Fire & Ambulance

--The Auburn Fire Company responded to (12) calls for the month of January. Four calls in Auburn, five in South Manheim, one in West Brunswick, one in Wayne, and one in Hamburg.

--The Auburn Fire Company responded to (2) calls for the month of February. One call in Wayne Township and one in Auburn.

--The Auburn Ambulance responded to (14) calls for the month of February. Four calls in Auburn, one in West Brunswick, three in South Manheim, two in Hamburg, one in Deer Lake, and three in Orwigsburg.

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Fire & Ambulance-cont'd

Fire Chief Dan Webber asked if Council would consider helping the Fire Company purchase new truck tires for the fire trucks. He presented an invoice for a total cost of \$4,547.24 through CoStars with installation at Kantner's in Shoemakersville.

A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Doug, to approve the purchase of the truck tires at a total cost of \$4,547.24. Motion carried. (Budget Acct.# 430.70-Capital Expense)

A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Doug, to accept this report. Motion carried. The full report is on file.

SEO/Engineer

--A copy of the report was distributed to Council-members..

--Nothing was discussed

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Jesse, to accept this report. Motion carried. The full report is on file.

Tax Collector – Marlene Naftzinger

No report

Sanitation – Melissa Schwenk

--February 2025 total collected = \$9,865.00

--It was noted that Melissa is still working on the end of year report and delinquent list.

A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried.

At this time, a letter was presented from Melissa Schwenk submitting her resignation as borough council-member for health and personal issues. A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to accept her resignation. Motion carried.

Municipal Authority

--Frank, chairman of the AMA, said he will ask why the AMA meeting minutes are no longer being sent to the borough for their files.

--He also will be looking into the problems that have been occurring with their phone system. Complaints from residents have been received because they can't leave messages and have no other way to contact anyone.

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Streets & Roads – John Eckert

--The handicapped sign on Orchard Street was placed on a pole in front of the residence

--The crew cleaned out the stream going into the pipe at the bridge on Deer View Drive

--The oil was changed and wiper blades replaced on the old truck

--Several potholes were patched on River Road

--A new garage door opener was purchased (Jesse helped set it up after the meeting)

--A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to purchase one more additional load of rock salt through CoStars for the 2025/2026 season. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Jesse, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Solicitor – Stanley Burke

--Melissa will need to let Stan know when the certified letters are sent to the delinquent garbage accounts. He said they will have 30 days to respond before he begins the filing process for liens and/or sheriff sales.

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to accept this report. Motion carried.

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Blue Mt. Recreation Commission – Liz Shaner

--The minutes and financial reports from January 2025 are available for review.

SCOG

No report

Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk

No report

OLD BUSINESS

--Stan- Abandoned property on Bear Creek Street

--Melissa- Certified letters regarding sheriff sales/liens

--No date set with Comcast regarding their request to review the franchise agreement

--After some discussion Council agreed to sell the 1992 truck that is currently parked in the small garage. Ad for bids?

--Citizen from the borough needed to serve on Blue Mt. Recreation Board

--Council agreed to look into the cost to replace the roof on the small garage rather than just patching it

NEW BUSINESS

--It was decided that there will be no liquid fuels road project this year

--A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Doug, to authorize a pay increase for Ron Snyder and Larry Lehman, from \$16.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour. Motion carried.

--Council members had no interest in attending a “Summit of Local Leaders” at the County Courthouse, due to work schedules.

--Ethics statements were distributed-due May 1st

--Annual renewal premium for Workers Compensation = \$13,528.00 (4/15/25-4/15/26)

--Annual renewal premium from PIRMA = \$10,609.00 (4/15/25-4/15/26)

--Specs received and distributed regarding proposals from Terry Shaner to build townhomes on Front Street and also on Orchard Street. The engineer will be attending the April meeting to discuss these plans.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. A work session will be held, if needed, at 6:00 p.m. before the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to adjourn the March 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler
Secretary-Treasurer

