

# Mount Penn Borough Road Project Budget Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025 | 6:04 PM

Municipal Office Meeting Room

### 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

### 2. Attendance

#### Committee Members Present:

- Christine Dise
  - Rick Lombardo
  - Roger Stief
  - Ty Leinneweber
  - Hunter Ahrens
  - Several other committee members and speakers
- 

### 3. Road Project Planning Discussion

#### A. Overview of Budget and Project Scope

- The **LSA grant** for the road project totals **\$800,000**.
- The committee reviewed and prioritized road sections for repairs.
- Streets included in the bid package:
  - **Summit Avenue** – \$41,500
  - **Laurel Avenue** – \$145,340
  - **Cameron Street** – \$59,460
  - **Oak Terrace (Full Reconstruction)** – \$199,630
  - **Brook Street (25th St. to Carsonia Ave.)** – \$113,057
  - **Brook Street & Hill Ave Intersection** – \$28,340
- Total projected cost: **\$628,601** (leaving funds for contingencies).

## B. Unexpected Budget Shortfall and Adjustments

- Some road sections had to be omitted due to **underestimated base materials and repair costs**.
- Initial estimates assumed a **milling and overlay approach**, but core sampling revealed **insufficient base layers**, requiring **full reconstruction**.
- The Borough had not accounted for **curb replacement** in some areas, which will now be included.

## C. Importance of Core Samples in Future Budgeting

- Committee members emphasized the need for **preliminary core samples** in future projects.
  - Future grant applications should include **worst-case estimates** to avoid funding shortfalls.
  - Proposal: **Conduct core samples in advance to determine true repair needs** before applying for funding.
- 

## 4. Road Maintenance Strategy

### A. Pavement Layering Plan for Longevity

- Roads will be rebuilt with a **12-inch removal process**, replacing it with:
  - **6 inches of stone base**
  - **4 inches of base course**
  - **½-inch leveling course**
  - **1.5 inches of wearing course**
- New roads are projected to last **20 years** with **regular maintenance** (e.g., crack sealing and micro-seals).
- Committee discussed the need to **enforce curb maintenance** to prevent water erosion.

### B. Adjustments to Road Selection & Contingency Planning

- **Hill Avenue**: Initially included but removed due to budget constraints.

- Instead, the **worst section of Hill Avenue (Brook & Hill intersection)** will be paved as a **supplemental contract**.
  - The committee **prioritized road sections with high traffic volume** over lesser-used areas.
- 

## 5. Funding & Grant Considerations

### A. Supplementary Funding Options

- Committee discussed using **Liquid Fuels Funds** for additional road sections.
- Current **Liquid Fuels Fund** balance is **\$85,000**, but higher-than-expected **salt and vehicle repair costs** may reduce availability.
- The **Bobcat equipment payment** will be due in February next year, affecting long-term planning.

### B. Supplemental Bidding Strategy

- **Some omitted road sections will be included as supplemental bid options** to see if competitive pricing allows for additional work.
  - Contractors will be invited to **submit alternative pricing for these sections** in case excess funds become available.
  - The Borough will **not use PennBid (statewide bidding)** but will **directly invite reputable contractors** to bid.
- 

## 6. Road Project Timeline & Bidding Process

- **Bid advertisement dates:**
    - **First notice:** February 24, 2025
    - **Second notice:** February 28, 2025
  - **Bid opening date:** March 25, 2025 (to be reviewed at the council meeting the same day).
  - **Project completion target:** Summer 2025.
-

## 7. Discussion on Utility Coordination & Road Protection

- **Utility companies (UGI, Met-Ed, Water Authority)** have a history of **delayed roadwork requests**, sometimes cutting into new roads.
  - The Borough **enforces a five-year road cut restriction** for newly paved streets, requiring curb-to-curb repaving for excessive cuts.
  - Concerns were raised about **water valve boxes**—some are **too old to be adjusted**, potentially causing excavation delays.
- 

## 8. Additional Concerns & Items

### A. Recycling Container Supply Issue

- The Borough has **38 recycling containers remaining** but will likely run out before a **new grant award is issued in summer**.
- Committee debated **whether to stop distributing them for free or purchase more using Borough funds** to maintain supply.

### B. Tree Damage to Road Infrastructure

- A **tree at 238 Inlet Avenue** has caused severe curb damage.
  - The tree **was not included in the grant budget**, and the sidewalk behind it is also affected.
  - Committee debated whether to **hold the homeowner responsible or fund the removal** to protect new roadwork.
- 

## 9. Action Items & Next Steps

### 1. Finalize Bid Documents:

- Ty Leineweber will submit bid documents for review by February 24.
- Bids will be opened on **March 25** and approved in the **April 2025 meeting**.

### 2. Coordinate Utility Work:

- Confirm with **UGI, Met-Ed, and the Water Authority** if any planned work affects bid roads.

### 3. Explore Additional Road Funding:

- Investigate using **Liquid Fuels Funds** to cover additional paving needs.
- Consider **adjusting the supplemental bid list** based on funding availability.

### 4. Tree & Recycling Container Decisions:

- Determine **who is responsible for tree removal at 238 Inlet Avenue.**
  - Decide **whether to continue distributing recycling containers or delay until the next grant cycle.**
- 

## 10. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
- The meeting was adjourned at **7:00 PM.**