

## **PORT ALLEGANY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting

August 4, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER** - The Port Allegany Borough Council met on August 4, 2025 at the Borough Council Chambers. Those present were Council Members Laura Fillhart, Jared Dickerson, Katie Dynda, Cory Thomas, Tom Johnson, Caleb Benson, and Sam Dynda. Also present were Manager Jeremy Morey, Secretary/Treasurer Heather Szuba, Solicitor Nicole Larsen, and Mayor George Riley.

Visitors present were community member Barry Boyer, Michael Johnson of Star Hose Company No. 1, and Diane Dynda and Dottie Anderson of the Women's Club.

Council President Sam Dynda called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, leading those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES** – Laura Fillhart made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 11, 2025 Regular Meeting as written. Katie Dynda seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**BILL LIST** – After review, Katie Dynda made a motion to approve the July 2025 expenditures as written. Laura Fillhart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT** – Nothing to report.

**MANAGER'S REPORT** – The Manager's Report was provided and reviewed by Jeremy Morey.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** – Code Enforcement report was provided and reviewed by Jeremy Morey.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT** – The Fire Chief's report was provided and reviewed by Chief Michael Johnson.

**AMBULANCE REPORT** – The Ambulance report was provided by PAAS.

**POLICE/MAYOR'S REPORT** – The Police report was provided by Chief Distrola. Mayor Riley added that he thinks the Borough should look into adding security cameras throughout Borough property.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – Nothing to report.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** – The Secretary's report was provided and reviewed by Heather Szuba.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None.

### **TAX REPORTS**

- 2025 Real Estate Tax
  - Face Collected      \$496,977 (82%)
  - Less Discount          -8,391
  - Plus Penalty            +548
  - Cash Collected        489,134
  - Uncollected          \$107,315
- EIT: YTD July 2025 – \$135,316 (2024 - \$135,138)
- LST: YTD July 2025 – \$23,457 (2024 - \$22,577)

**OLD BUSINESS** – Katie Dynda expressed that, on behalf of the Wage, Tax, and Finance Committee, she does feel that the Borough should provide a tax rebate for EMS Personnel.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Barry Boyer asked why there is a “no turn on red” going east on Mill Street. It was relayed that it is a PennDOT decision. Mike Johnson expressed his displeasure with Council’s decision to not provide a tax break for EMS personnel.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – President Sam Dynda called for an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and personnel matter regarding employee wages at 7:05 pm. All were excused from the room for the first part of the discussion except Council, the Borough Manager, the Mayor, and the Solicitor. For the second part of the Executive Session, the Borough Secretary was asked to join and a Council Member was excused due to a conflict of interest. Regular Meeting resumed at 7:54 pm.

**IMMEDIATE ACTION**

Laura Fillhart made a motion to adopt Ordinance 495 regarding the Arnold Avenue Bridge. Jared Dickerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Caleb Benson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 496 amending Ordinance 455 regarding ATVs. Cory Thomas seconded. Motion carried.

Laura Fillhart made a motion to approve the Application for County Liquid Fuels for \$4,180.88. Jared Dickerson seconded. Motion carried.

Laura Fillhart made a motion to approve the use of Savvy Citizen. Tom Johnson seconded, and the motion carried.

Caleb Benson made a motion to approve a pay increase for the Borough Clerk bringing the salary to \$31,952. Laura Fillhart seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Laura Fillhart made a motion to amend the Agenda to add a revote on the Borough Secretary’s pay raise from the April meeting to Immediate Action. Jared Dickerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Laura Fillhart made a motion to revote on a salary increase for Secretary/Treasurer Heather Szuba of \$9,294, split into two equal increases, \$4,647 effective in March and \$4,647 effective January 1, 2026. Jared Dickerson seconded. Motion failed to pass with all no votes, Tom Johnson did not vote on the motion.

Katie Dynda made a motion to approve a salary increase for Secretary/Treasurer Heather Szuba of \$4,647 to be retroactively effective in March 2025. Laura Fillhart seconded. Motion carried with Tom Johnson voting no.

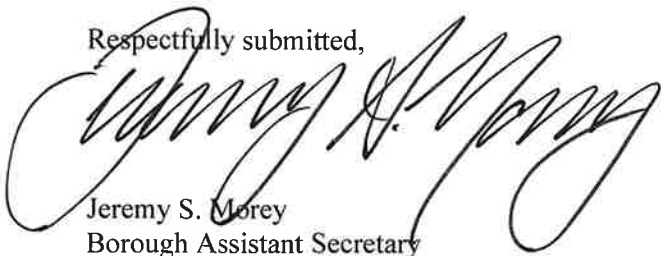
Katie Dynda made a motion to amend the Agenda to add hiring an attorney for contract negotiations to Immediate Action. Tom Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Katie Dynda made a motion to hire Stephanie Fera for full representation for the upcoming IBEW Contract negotiations with a cap at a cost of \$10,000. Caleb Benson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**FUTURE ACTION**

**ADJOURNMENT** – As there was no further business, Caleb Benson made a motion to adjourn. Katie Dynda seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy S. Morey', is written over the typed name and title.

Jeremy S. Morey  
Borough Assistant Secretary