

BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by Council President Mr. Robert J. May, on Monday, January 5, 2026

ROLL CALL: Council President Robert May did roll call; the following members were present; Robert J. May, Council President, David W. Eggert, Council Vice President, Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Member, Michael Fritz, Member, Steve Geibel, Member, Warren Lubenow, Member, Gregory Zawilla, Member, Corrie Zana, Borough Mayor, Derrek Rhoads, Borough Manager, Roadcrew Member, Logan Wood, Borough Engineer, Pamela Stevens, and Amanda Muso, Borough Secretary, Borough Solicitor, Joan London was absent for tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting on December 11, 2025, were presented to Council for review. There were no corrections, questions, or additions. **MOTION:** David Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; Warren Lubenow and Bob May abstained since they were absent for that meeting; the majority were in favor, so the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification up to and including December 31, 2025, were presented to the Council prior to the meeting for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund up until December 31, 2025, totaled \$63,594.10; sewer fund totaled \$8,108.61; liquid fuels fund totaled \$3,513.80; fire tax fund totaled \$0.00; EMS tax fund totaled \$0.00.

MOTION: Dave Eggert made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections, or clarifications to the report.

MOTION: Dave Eggert made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Mike Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$274,022.91 **SEWER:** \$282,723.36 **RESERVES:** \$434,183.17 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$123,706.21
FIRE TAX: \$4,604.78 **EMS TAX FUND:** \$4,953.97; **TOTAL FUND BALANCE:** \$1,124,194.40

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - PAMELA STEVENS, SDE

Pamela Stevens submitted her report, which was added to Council's packet for review prior to the meeting. Included in the report was that the Planning Commission held a meeting on December 17, 2025, regarding the Mt. Penn Fire Department Variance. Planning Commission is recommending the

Council consider their variance with their support to the Zoning Hearing Board and to waive the application and spend down account fees associated.

A **MOTION** was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Greg Zawilla; all were in favor, and so the motion carried. Council will support the recommendation by the Planning Commission and will have Borough Secretary Amanda Muso send the Zoning Hearing Board a letter of support for the addition of the Mt. Penn Fire Department. Council has also decided to waive any associated fees they would have incurred. Borough Manager Derrek Rhoads will be in attendance at the Zoning Hearing Board, and so Solicitor Joan London will not need to attend.

Borough Manager Derrek will review the MORE Grant for its potential use and will further discuss with Council next month.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUTD

Solicitor Joan was absent from the meeting and did not have any new information to share prior to tonight's meeting

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - CORRINE ZANA

Corrie Zana, Borough Mayor, did not have any new information regarding the Police Commission meetings. She will begin setting up meetings for the planning of the Borough's centennial celebration, the first one being at the end of this month.

PUBLIC WORKS – LOGAN WOOD

There was a winter mix that needed to be attended to due to slippery road conditions. Yard waste will continue to be on Mondays, with Christmas trees beginning to be taken down.

RECREATION- DAVE EGGERT

Due to the summer calendar this year, the playground summer program will be open for an extra week, making it a 9-week program.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission met on December 17, 2025, and has sent a letter to the Council for their support for the addition to the Mt. Penn Fire Company building.

ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT: Derrek Rhoads, Borough Manager

Enforcements have been made and are ongoing.

A motion to reaffirm authorization for Joan London to continue the litigation process regarding vacant property on Parkview Rd. was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Mike Fritz; all were in favor, and so the motion carried. After many attempts to have the owner make corrections to the property, the Borough has not received any contact from the owner. Legal proceedings will continue by Solicitor Joan on behalf of the Borough.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Berks County Tax Claim

As of tonight's meeting, 6 properties did not pay their tax bills. There was a **MOTION** to authorize Council President or Borough Treasurer to sign the Certification of unpaid 2025 Real Estate Tax Bills to Berks County Tax Claim and 2025 Fire Taxes to the Borough Office. The motion was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and so the motion carried

2. 2026 Fee Schedule

MOTION: Approve Resolution 934 -2026 Borough Fee Schedule was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor, and so the motion carried.

3. Intergovernmental Agreement for the UCC Code

MOTION: Approve Resolution 933 -2026, entering the 2026 Berks County UCC Board of Appeals Intergovernmental Agreement and authorizing the payment of the \$300 annual membership fee was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor, and so the motion carried.

4. Reappoint Kristen Livingood to Zoning Hearing

MOTION: Approve Resolution 935-2026 to reappoint Kristen Livingood to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three-year term. The motion was made by Greg Zawilla; seconded by Dave Eggert; all were in favor, and so the motion carried.

5. Landis- To install equipment in the Municipal Building

MOTION: a motion was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Mike Fritz; all were in favor, and so the motion carried to approve Landis to do the install/ conversion to gas with the cost estimate of \$87,600.00

7. The Council has been working with the road crew to figure out other options regarding the municipal garage. The original idea was to add it to the back corner of the building. After thinking it over and really looking at what would be built and the needs of the road crew, it seems that it would not be the best option. Mike Fritz will be working with Derrek Rhoads and the road crew to try to find a better solution.

Municipal Lands:

While Warren Lubenow was in the woods, he noticed a tree stand that was fixed on a tree, more like a platform rather than a removable tree stand. There were no tags on the platform to identify who it belonged to. Warren posted the Borough's rules and regulations on the stand so that the owner would know that they violated our hunting regulations. There was a trail camera attached to the tree the first time Warren noticed the structure. When he went back to see if the owner had complied with the rules and regulations, the camera was gone, but the platform tree stand was still there. Knowing that the owner had been back and the rules had been posted for nearly a month, it was Council's decision to have the Roadcrew take down the structure. The Borough will keep as many salvaged parts as they can for the owner to come forward; if not, then it will be discarded.

OTHER: A MOTION to amend the agenda was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Steve Geibel; all were in favor, and so the motion passed.

The October 2025 and November 2025 Treasurer's report had missing information and was not noticed until the new Manager did the reconciliation of the accounts. **A MOTION** to amend and accept the updated October 2025 and November 2025 Treasurer's report was made by Mike Fritz; seconded by Dave Eggert; all were in favor, and so the motion was passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Dave Eggert made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Muso
Borough Secretary

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH
1/6/2026