

BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 12, 2025

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 Thursday, June 12, 2025

ROLL CALL: Council President Robert May conducted the roll call; the following members were present: Robert J. May, Council President, Michael Fritz, Member Steve Geibel, Member, Gregory Zawilla, Member, Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Member, Warren Lubenow, Member, Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager /Treasurer, Derrek Rhoads, Roadmaster, Borough Engineer Pamela Stevens, Solicitor Julia Adams sat in place for Borough Solicitor Joan London tonight, and Amanda Muso, Borough Secretary. David W. Eggert, Council Vice President, and Corrie Zana, Borough Mayor, were absent from tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the May 15, 2025, meeting were presented to the Council for review. There were no corrections or additions.

MOTION: Mike Fritz made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Warren Lubenow all were in favor and so the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification up to and including June 10, 2025, were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund up until June 10, 2025, totaled \$92,530.66; sewer fund totaled \$7,018.03; liquid fuels fund totaled \$12,937.33; fire tax fund totaled \$0.00 ; EMS tax fund totaled \$0.00.

MOTION: Warren Lubenow made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; 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: Steve Geibel made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Mike Fitz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$472,002.58 **SEWER:** \$265,825.35 **RESERVES:** \$207,636.57 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$153,820.63 **FIRE TAX:** \$3,923.90 **EMS TAX FUND:** \$2,494.67; **TOTAL FUND BALANCE:** \$1,105,703.70

PUBLIC COMMENT: Fire Chief Chris Jordan and Steve Begley from the Exeter Fire Department attended tonight's meeting. The Exeter Fire Department is requesting the partnership and assistance of the Borough with applying for the Pennsylvania State LSA Grant. The Fire Dept. is looking to replace a 1997 rescue truck with a new rescue pump truck. The cost of the new truck now is upwards of 1.3 million dollars, and so a grant is the best way to absorb some of that cost. With the State LSA grant, the Borough would be able to request 1 million dollars, which is what Chief Jordan is asking. He did say that he and the fire department would help with filling out and filing the application, and offered to pay any application fees associated. Council discussed different scenarios with Chief Jordan to ensure that if the Borough did do this for them, the Borough would not be responsible for any cost of the new truck that would not be covered by the grant or any fees associated with purchasing the truck. If the Borough sponsored the Fire Department in this endeavor, it would be just that, and the Borough would not be responsible for any money due or for the new truck itself. Chief Jordan understood and agreed. Bob May then suggested that the Borough offer to pay for the application fee, which the council members agreed to do.

A motion was made to move forward and help the Exeter Fire Department with the understanding that the Borough will only pay for the application fee and all other payments, fees, and expenditures are to be taken on by the Exeter Fire Department.

MOTION: To approve the sponsorship of the Exeter Fire Department and apply for the maximum amount of 1 million dollars using the State LSA Grant. The State LSA Grant will be used to replace a 1997 Rescue truck with a new Rescue Pump Truck. The Borough will pay the one-time application fee. All other fees, overages, supplemental costs, and any other expenditures will be the responsibility of the Exeter Fire Department. Any and all costs associated with the new truck will be the responsibility of the Exeter Fire Department.

Warren made the motion; seconded by Mike Fritz; Steve Geibel had to abstain due to his involvement in the Exeter Fire Department; all others were in favor, and so the motion carried.

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.

The MORE Grant – The energy auditors for the MORE Grant did their walkthrough of the building. They submitted their findings in a report, which was added to Council's packet to review. In their review, they found that the Borough building could be saving energy by going to a smaller water heater, as well as continuing to move towards converting to gas instead of electric. Council agreed to go to a smaller hot water heater and convert at least 1 unit for now.

MOTION: To replace the 50 gallon to around a 28 gallon and convert 1 electric unit to gas. Mike Fritz made the motion; seconded by Greg Zawilla; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

The Floodplain Ordinance is being reviewed by SDE; once complete, it will go to the State for its final review.

The Multimodel Grant is being worked on by SDE and Derrek Rhoads, much of the mapping has been done and will need to go to SDE for the cost estimates to be sent to the state for the grant.

The Green Light Go Grant will be coming up within the next year. Council is hoping that all of the traffic signals will be upgraded, and the intersection at St. Lawrence and Perkiomen Ave will be updated.

The agenda will need to be amended to include the Green Light Go in this month's meeting.

A motion to amend the agenda to include and approve the Green Light Go Grant was made.

MOTION: To amend tonight's agenda was made by Steve Geibel; seconded by Mike Fritz; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

A motion was made to go forward with the Green Light Go Grant involving all of the Borough.

MOTION: To approve the application of the Green Light Go Grant. To move forward with requesting the upgrade to all of the traffic signals in the borough, as well as updating and upgrading the St. Lawrence Ave and Perkiomen Ave intersection. Greg Zawilla made the motion; seconded by Steve Geibel; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

MOTION: To no longer move forward with the Elm St. traffic light signal study; instead of the study the traffic signal at Elm St and St. Lawrence will now be included in the upgrade in the Green Light Go Grant. Greg Zawilla made the motion; seconded by Mike Fritz; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUT

Joan London was unable to attend the meeting tonight; in her place was Julia Adams.

There was no new business to discuss tonight.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - CORRINE ZANA

Mayor Zana was absent from tonight's meeting; however, she submitted her report earlier, which was added to Council's packet for review prior to the meeting. The Police Commission meeting was on June 5, 2025. During the meeting, there were discussions about kids/teens and some others riding their scooters, bikes, and motorized bikes on the streets, not obeying any traffic laws. Disregarding all traffic laws causes unsafe and hazardous conditions for them and those driving. The Chief of Police is urging people to call the dispatch center to make them aware of when and where it is happening so it can be monitored more closely and stopped until further legislation is in place. Mayor Zana and Bob May attended the Colebrookdale Railroad Municipal Breakfast on May 30.

Mayor Zana will be contributing historical stories about the Borough in the upcoming newsletters.

PUBLIC WORKS - DERREK RHOADS

Derrek Rhoads submitted his report, which was added to Council's packet for review prior to the meeting.

Shirk gave an estimate for the garage but was missing details that needed to be added in. Derrek will contact them to come out and give a site review and hard estimate on the full build of the garage.

Parkview Rd and Beechwood the stop sign was hit by a car and needed to be repaired.

There was an accident on N. Bingaman that required debris removal with the backhoe from the roadway.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission will continue to work on finalizing the Floodplain Ordinance.

ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Multiple door tags were hung due to high grass.

There was a request for a zoning change for a property off of Parkview Rd. Due to the area being spot zoning, it will automatically be denied. The property owner may go to the zoning hearing board and request a zoning variance.

Another property owner will be requesting the zoning hearing board allow a pole barn to be added to their property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A resident of the Borough had a complaint about the unsightliness and maintenance of a home on the 2900 block of Oley Turnpike Rd. At this time, there does not seem to be a safety concern, and it does not go against any borough ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dolan Construction is asking for an exemption for the sidewalk width at 3209 Oley Turnpike Rd. around the utility poles that are currently there. Without the exemption, the sidewalk would not meet the requirements of SALDO and each pole would have to be removed and relocated. Dolan Construction has been working with the Borough and inspectors to make a plan that meets everyone's needs and requirements. Attached in Council's packet are the plans/blueprints for the sidewalk and where the exemptions are needed.

MOION: To grant Dolan Construction a waiver to the SALDO for the sidewalk width around the utility poles as per the diagram/blueprint. Warren Lubenow made the motion; seconded by Mike Fritz; all were in favor, and so the motion carried.

Recreation: Summer Playground Program started June 9, 2025. Please visit the website or stop in to fill out a registration form if you have not done so already. Morning hours are 9 am-noon, and evenings are 6 pm-9 pm

Joint Comprehensive Plan: Warren Lubenow requested that we provide photographs of the community for the Joint Comprehensive Plan. We will also send the County updated Land use maps for future use.

Municipal Lands: Warren had suggested, after hearing feedback from community members, that it would be nice if there were maps of the trails with either trail names or color-coded trails to follow. He will work on this and see if it is something that we can do.

Library: Mike Fritz said the library is doing well.

Public Safety: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made to go into executive session to discuss an offer that was made on the old Borough Hall. Warren Lubenow made the motion to enter into executive session at 7:59pm; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

At 8:42 pm Warren Lubenow made the motion to exit the executive session; seconded by Mike Fritz; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

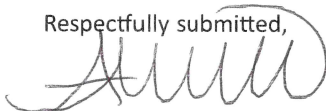
During the session Council discussed the offer that was made and came to a decision

MOTION: To reject the offer that was made on the Old Borough Hall Building located at 3540 St. Lawrence Ave. Reading PA 19606. Steve Geibel made the motion; seconded by Greg Zawilla; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Greg Zawilla 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 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Muso
Borough Secretary

