# BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE

## MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, October 8, 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 Thursday, October 8, 2026.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**: The minutes from the previous meeting held on September 10, 2026, were presented to Council to review prior to the meeting.

**MOTION**: Dave Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes; 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 October 7, 2026, were presented to the Council prior to the meeting for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund up until October 7, 2026, totaled $91,682,66; liquid fuels totaled $5,127.93; sewer fund totaled $25,253.40; EMS tax fund totaled $0.00; fire 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 Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor, and so the motion carried.

**GENERAL**: $423,785.45 **LIQUID FUELS:** $135,829.55 **FIRE**:$3,000.76 **EMS**: $4,903.87 **SEWER**: $255,258.10 **RESERVE:** $344,415.84; **TOTAL FUND BALANCE:** $1,167,193.57**135 N PROSPECT LOAN:** $556,833.87

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment at this time

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - PAMELA STEVENS, SDE**

Pamela Stevens submitted her report prior to the meeting, which was added to Council's packet for review. All grants are continuing to go through the process. The Borough will apply for a $1 million state grant to begin updating the playground. This grant will fund the basketball court area, including retaining walls and new fencing. The resolution will be for approval at the November meeting.

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUDT**

Borough Solicitor London gave an update regarding the litigation with Mt. Penn Borough and Mt. Penn Water Authority. Judge Gavin overruled the preliminary objections, which was in our favor; Mt. Penn has until October 15, 2026, to file an answer. The next court date is the hearing for the petition for intervention; this will also be on October 15, 2026. Council President Bob May will testify at the hearing on behalf of the Borough. At this time, the Mt. Penn Water Authority has no objections to our intervention; the Borough of Mt. Penn has

filed that they do object to our intervention. There are no other updates out of the Authority or Mt. Penn Borough.

The formation of the St. Lawrence Municipal Authority is underway; all required paperwork and advertisements have been and are being filed. The formal hearing to adopt Ordinance 464 forming the St. Lawrence Municipal Authority will be held at 6:30 PM on November 12, 2026.

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - CORRINE ZANA**

Mayor Zana's report was in the packet for Council to review prior to the meeting.
A Police Commission meeting was held on September 28, 2026. They discussed applying for an LSA Grant and the 2027 budget.
The Centennial Committee met on October 7; they continue to plan the Borough's 100th year anniversary celebration. Tree lighting will be December 11, Easter Egg Hunt March 26, 2027, Car Show April 17, 2027 and Centennial Celebration May 22, 2027.

**PUBLIC WORKS –**

The municipal garage is up; floors are in. The finishing touches of the walls and doors will be coming in the next few weeks.

**RECREATION- DAVE EGGERT:** No new updates

**LIBRARY**: Book sale will be coming up soon at the Exter Library. It was requested that the Borough increase the yearly donation to the library. In the past, it has been $5.00 per resident, coming out to $9,460 per year. Before a decision is made, Council is requesting that we have a more accurate number of Borough residents that attend the library to make a more informed decision. The Borough Secretary will look into finding more information on that for the November meeting.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** No new updates

**MUNICIPAL LANDS:** Hunting season has begun. There are currently 15 registered archers permitted on the Borough property. One tree stand enforcement has been made. There was a complaint about another tree stand that the public works department will investigate and enforce if needed.

**ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT: Derrek Rhoads, Borough Manager**

Enforcements have been made and are ongoing
A zoning relief application has been requested for an oversized garage on N. Bingaman; the applicant will need to pursue zoning relief through the zoning hearing board. That has not been finalized or scheduled at this time.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Budget meetings are scheduled for October 28 and November 2 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00pm. The Borough will be hiring a part-time, as-needed snowplow driver, Tyler Nieswander, for the winter.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - Requests have been made to support the Central Berks Police Department in the purchasing of new radios. The Borough Manager will speak with Chief Johnson for more details on which radios, how many, and the cost for more accurate information for Council to make a decision.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Distribution of Foreign Fire Insurance to Exeter and Mt. Penn Firefighter's Relief Associations

A motion was made by Dave Eggert to authorize the 50/50 distribution of the Foreign Fire Insurance by check to the Mt. Penn Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association and the Exeter Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association in the amount of $5,543.49, for each; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor, and so the motion carried.

2. To make the 2026 contributions

A motion to make the following 2026 contributions was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and so the motion carried

a. Library-$5/person x 1892= $9,460 (budgeted)
b. Berks County Conservation District- $500
c. Berks County Solid Waste Authority- $500
d. Crime Alert of Berks County- $500

3. Ordinance 465- Quality of Life

Quality of Life Ordinance 465 which establishes certain violations of property maintenance regulations, including accumulation and disposal of waste, garbage and rubbish, prohibiting outdoor placement of indoor furniture, feral cats; establishing a ticket and fine process. Council had a few changes in the ordinance; the borough secretary will make the adjustments for Council to review. A motion for advertisement will be added to the November agenda with the updated ordinance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None needed at this time

**ADJOURNMENT:**
**MOTION:** Dave Eggert made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor, and so the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Muso
Borough Secretary

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH
10/9/2026