

BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order at 7:32 PM by Council President Mr. Robert J. May on Thursday, August 13, 2026.

ROLL CALL: Council President Robert May did roll call; the following members were present: Robert J. May, Council President, Member, Steve Geibel, Member, Warren Lubenow was late and arrived to the meeting at 7:35 pm, 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. Absent from tonight's meeting were David W. Eggert, Council Vice President, Member, Michael Fritz, and Member, Gregory Zawilla.

Public Hearing on the St. Lawrence, Exeter, Amity, and Douglass Joint Comprehensive Plan

Two notices in the Reading Eagle were published on July 17, 2026, and August 3, 2026.

There were no public comments or questions regarding the joint comprehensive plan

Resolution 942-2026 Approving the adoption of the SEAD Joint Comprehensive Plan

MOTION: A motion to approve Resolution 942-2026, Borough of St. Lawrence, Berks County, Pennsylvania, approving the adoption of the St. Lawrence, Exeter, Amity, and Douglass Joint Comprehensive Plan as attached was made by Warren Lubenow; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor, and so the motion passed.

After the public hearing, the regularly scheduled council meeting continued.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting held on July 9, 2026, were presented to Council to review prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Warren Lubenow made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Steve Geibel; Rev. Bennethum abstained due to his absence from that meeting; the rest were in favor, and so the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification up to and including August 12, 2026, were presented to the Council prior to the meeting for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund up until August 12, 2026, totaled \$129,133.42; liquid fuels totaled \$3,506.38; sewer fund totaled \$69,802.58; EMS tax fund totaled \$16,000.00; fire tax fund totaled \$13,500.00.

MOTION: Rev. Bennethum 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: Steve Geibel 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: \$493,682.41 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$143,310.03 **FIRE:** \$7,182.41 **EMS:** \$5,021.65 **SEWER:** \$257,180.00 **RESERVE:** \$342,347.52; **TOTAL FUND BALANCE:** \$1,248,724.02 **135 N PROSPECT LOAN:** \$561,381.71

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joe Taimanglo, from Berks Catholic Lacrosse, came before Council to speak. There had been one resident complaint about the banners that were hung on the Shemanski Stadium fence to thank the local businesses for their sponsorship to the lacrosse team. Mr. Taimanglo stated that the banners are located on private church property 200ft off of the roadway and do not interfere with local traffic. He expressed that without the local sponsors, the lacrosse team, who host not only Berks Catholic, but also Exeter School District, which includes children in St. Lawrence, would not have the ability to fund such a sport for the kids nor the required field maintenance. He feels as though the banners do not interfere with or harm the public and provide the needed assistance to the school and sports field. He is requesting that the Borough allow the banners to remain on the fence. Council members discussed the banners and interpreted the verbiage in the zoning ordinance and concluded that the signs do not align with the zoning ordinance and asked that they be flipped to the inside of the fence line.

A member from the community had requested an update regarding the Mt. Penn Borough and Mt. Penn Water Authority. He expressed his concern and wanted to ensure that St. Lawrence was doing everything they could to keep the water system from being sold and rates from going up. Council and the Borough Solicitor gave him the updated information. More of this topic will be discussed during executive session due to the ongoing litigation.

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. The borough was granted \$348,350.25 for the Green Light Go Grant. The borough is responsible for 20% of the total cost, which leaves a total of \$278,680.20, and the Borough to owe the remaining \$69,670.05.

TPD is working on the plans for the Multimodal Grant.

A part of the Hafer subdivision was purchased a few months ago; the new buyer is requesting that the parcel be able to be divided into two parcels. The current zoning does not support the division. The new owner will have to submit an application and go to the zoning hearing board if he wishes to continue with the split.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUTD

Borough Solicitor London gave an update regarding the litigation with Mt. Penn Borough and Mt. Penn Water Authority. More will be discussed during executive session.

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 for August was canceled. The next meeting will be September 3, 2026. The Centennial Committee will meet August 18, 2026; they continue to plan the Borough's 100th year anniversary celebration.

PUBLIC WORKS –

Joe Moser has been hired as the new public works employee; his first day was on July 29.

The Borough garage is taking shape and is a work in progress.

Telco notified the borough that there have been issues with the processors in the cameras on the traffic signals at the intersections of Prospect, Bingaman, and Elm. In order to fix them, it could cost nearly \$12,000.00 per signal, or there is an option to change them to another version that may only cost \$8-10,000.00. The Borough Manager is working with Telco on other options and to see what will work best for each intersection.

RECREATION- DAVE EGGERT: Dave was absent from tonight's meeting. The summer playground program has now ended. It was a successful year with nearly 150 kids registered.

LIBRARY: No upcoming events

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: No new updates- SEAD was approved at tonight's public hearing

PLANNING COMMISSION: No new updates

ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT: Derrek Rhoads, Borough Manager

Enforcements have been made and are ongoing

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

1. Enter into LED Street Lighting Agreement with FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company (MET-ED) for a 10-year term. MET-ED will begin phasing out High Pressure Sodium (HPS) equipment and will convert all street lighting to LED, at MET-ED's cost.

MOTION: A motion to approve the LED Street Lighting Agreement with MET-ED was made by Rev. Bennethum; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor, and so the motion passed.

2. Comcast Agreement Update- Borough Solicitor is still working on this and should have an agreement at next month's scheduled meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Borough would like to welcome new public works employee Joe Moser to the team. His first day was July 29, 2026.

2. Updated appointments adding Joe Moser and Mike Fritz; removing Jen Ulrich and Logan Wood

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Resolution 943-2026 Updated Borough Appointments as of August 13, 2026, taking Jennifer Ulrich and Logan Wood off and adding Joe Moser and Mike Fritz on as Assistant Codes and Assistant Zoning Officers by Warren Lubenow; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and so the motion passed

3. Updated Fee Schedule

MOTION: A motion was made to approve Resolution 944-2026 Fee Schedule August 2026; increased pricing to special hearings to \$1,500 for residential and \$3,000 for commercial. Updated the increased sewer charge that was adopted on June 11, 2026. The recreation fee for new construction fee of \$400.00 per section 5952 of Saldo was added back to the fee schedule by Warren Lubenow; seconded by Steve Geibel; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

4. Pay for Playground Leaders- Playground leaders were called off due to smoke conditions from Canadian wildfires and for extreme heat. Is the Borough to pay for lost days?

A discussion was had regarding whether or not to pay the leaders for the lost time since weather and air conditions are out of their control and they were called off as opposed to them calling off. In the end, it was decided to pay out the days off, which totaled a week of work for the playground leaders. This will be reevaluated each year and decided upon circumstance.

5. Wall of Recognition- A wall of recognition was brought up to honor those who have dedicated years of service to the Borough. Individual plaques vs one large plaque with name plates.

The borough secretary will purchase a large plaque with individual name plates for those in the community who have served the Borough and demonstrated outstanding community service. Nominations can be brought to Council to approve.

6. Resolution 945-2026 LSA Category 4 Grant for \$29,381.50

MOTION: A motion to approve Resolution 945-2026 requesting a LSA Category 4 Grant for a John Deere UTV Gator for \$29,381.50 was made by Warren Lubenow; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and so the motion carried

7. Resolution 946-2026 LSA Category 4 Grant for \$41,171.32

MOTION: A motion to approve Resolution 946-2026 requesting an LSA Category 4 Grant for a John Deere Sub-Compact Utility Tractor with attachments for \$41,171.32 was made by Steve Geibel; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor, and so the motion carried.

8. Discuss LED Lighting Conversion Color Temperature- there are two different lighting options to choose from, both have been presented to council to review. One has more of a yellow low light hue, while the other is a bright white light.

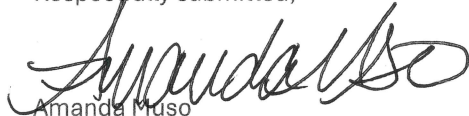
MOTION: A motion to approve the bright white color temperature for LED Change was made by Warren Lubenow; seconded by Steve Geibel; all were in favor, and so the motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A **MOTION** to go into executive session to discuss litigation was made by Warren Lubenow; seconded by Steve Geibel; all were in favor, and so the motion carried. Executive session began at 8:36 PM. At 9:15 PM, Rev. Bennethum made the motion to end the executive session; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor, and so the motion passed. Executive session concluded at 9:15 PM. Out of executive session, a **MOTION** was made by Steve Geibel to authorize the Borough Solicitor to file a petition for intervention on the mandamus action of the Mt. Penn Borough, seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor, and so the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Warren Lubenow made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Steve Geibel; all were in favor, and so the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Muso
Borough Secretary

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH
8/14/2026