

The Borough of Bowmanstown Council Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2026

The Bowmanstown Borough Council meeting was called to order by President Pam Leiby at 7:00 PM, members present were Vice-President Darren Thomas, Ben Price, Norman Engle, Jr., Wendy Borger, Kara Scott, Candace Rodrigues, and Mayor Sean McDermott, Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Csrenko, Solicitor James Preston, and Engineer Jessica Rehrig.

Visitors

Jason Sander, Times News

Paul Lupcho

Phyllis Kreiss congratulating the crew for a job well done with the recent snow storm and keeping the roads passable.

Phyllis also questioned the water quality in town with the problems that Palmerton is having. Darren assured her that all the necessary tests are done on the water here in town and all is good

Approval for

1. **Motion by Kara Scott to approve the minutes of January 5, 2026 Borough Council Meeting, 2nd Candace Rodrigues, AIF-MC**
2. **Motion by Darren Thomas to approve the General Treasurer’s Report dated February 3, 2026 and payment of the bills listed, 2nd Wendy Borger, AIF-MC**
3. **Motion by Wendy Borger to approve the Sewer Treasurer’s Report dated February 3, 2026 and payment of the bills listed, 2nd Norman Engle, AIF-MC**
4. **Motion by Kara Scott to approve the Garbage Treasurer’s Report dated February 3, 2026 and payment of the bills listed, 2nd Candace Rodrigues, AIF-MC**

Correspondence

Subject	Date	Summary
Minutes	01/20/26	Bowmanstown Authority meeting minutes for review
Minutes	01/27/26	Bowmanstown Planning Commission meeting minutes for review
Audit		Received the close out audit from the resignation of the Treasurer

Solicitor

1. Nothing to Report

Engineer

1. **Motion by Darren Thomas to approve the final subdivision plan for 422 White Street on condition of the engineer’s approval, 2nd Norman Engle, AIF-MC**
2. Benesch submitted a request to PennDOT’s EPS system to close out the Fireline Road HOP permit for the drainage repair
3. Benesch began designing the Lincoln Avenue Phase 1 project this month and is preparing plans and quantities for the bid package
4. Dave Horst will meet with Scott Confer from PADEP and Chris Bixler for the MS-4 site inspection on February 11th at the borough hall

Unfinished Business

1. No Unfinished Business

New Business

1. **Motion by Darren Thomas to accept the 2025 Exoneration List as submitted by the tax collector, 2nd Kara Scott, AIF-MC**
2. **Motion by Kara Scott authorizing the engineer to apply for the CDBG FY2026 Program for Forge Street from Hamilton Street to Spring Street, 2nd Norman Engle, AIF-MC**
3. Council approved adding the Palmerton Library annual fundraiser in the borough’s next newsletter

Committee Reports

Fire

1. **Motion by Kara Scott to approve the Act 172 fire tax credit eligibility list submitted by Fire Chief Mike Spairana, 2nd Darren Thomas, AIF-MC**
2. Received the Financial Statement as of December 31, 2025
3. Received the Fire Chief’s report for January 2026

Law

1. Discussion on the snow ordinance and the odd/even parking. Residents were complaining about the borough not plowing curb to curb
2. The committee will start working on the curbing ordinance

Personnel

1. **Motion by Norman Engle to hire Douglas Larsen as a full-time public works employee at a rate of \$18.00 per hour, 2nd Darren Thomas, AIF-MC**
2. Kerry Solt has agreed to be a backup snow plow driver if the borough should need him
3. Personnel committee will discuss a line item pay for snow plow drivers
4. **Motion by Kara Scott to advertise for part-time office help, 2nd Wendy Borger, AIF-MC**
5. Council approved paying Devon out for his remaining vacation and PTO time, they commented that it is an earned benefit
6. **Motion by Kara Scott approving President's Day as a paid holiday for the borough, 2nd Wendy Borger, AIF-MC**

Budget & Finance

1. Received \$602.70 from Local Realty Transfer Tax for December 2025

Property & Special

1. Kara stated she needs to set up a meeting with the committee
2. Discussion on the refurbished bell from Emmanuel UCC Church and what type of structure for housing it up by the Oliver Solt Pavilion Sign.

Sewer, Sanitation, & Water Liaison

1. **Motion by Darren Thomas approving payment application #2 submitted by MGK Industries, Inc on 12/19/2025 in the amount of \$193,280.80 for the chlorine contact tank, 2nd Wendy Borger, AIF-MC**
2. Chris is obtaining quotes for relocating and repairing the influent valves for the screener, will bring the quotes to the next borough meeting
3. There will be a cleaning of reed bed #1 in the Spring
4. Wendy questioned whether we still have a contractor for the wastewater treatment plant, and Darren said that Portland Contractors are the backup operators

Streets

1. Chris will be checking all the snow emergency routes for the proper signage
2. **Motion by Norman Engle to obtain quotes for a new truck, 2nd Darren Thomas, AIF-MC**

Mayor

1. The Mayor was impressed with what he saw during the snow storm. He did not write any tickets, but did speak to some residents. Sean has an example warning letter from Palmerton for people not paying their tickets.
2. Need to look into tickets for people not shoveling their sidewalks

Other Business

1. Chris mentioned that the borough should look into an area within the borough for residents to store their campers
2. Phyllis brought up the Block Party on July 11th for the street to be blocked off and also the ballfield for the Egg Hunt

EXECUTIVE SESSION – IN: 8:16 PM OUT: 8:55 PM

While in executive session no decisions or motions were made – President Leiby asked if there were any motions to be made: **Motion by Darren Thomas to interview for a 2nd full-time public works employee with cross training to water and sewer, 2nd Norman Engle, roll call: B.Price-Nay, K.Scott-Nay, N.Engle-Yes, C.Rodrigues-Yes, D.Thomas-Yes, W.Borger-Yes, P.Leiby-Yes, 5-2 vote, MC**

Motion by Norman Engle to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM, 2nd Darren Thomas, AIF-MC

Respectfully submitted by Tracy L Csrenko, Secretary