The Borough of Bowmanstown Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2026

The Bowmanstown Borough Council meeting was called to order by President Pam Leiby at 7:00 PM, members present were Vice-President Wendy Borger, Robert Sikorksy, Ben Price, Norman Engle, Jr., Kara Scott, Mayor Sean McDermott, and Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer Rebecca Gruber. Solicitor Lisa Pereira participated via phone. Candace Rodrigues and Engineer Jessica Rehrig were absent.

❑ Visitors

1. Mike Spairana-Fire Chief of Bowmanstown Volunteer Fire Co. -wants to set meeting with council regarding an increase in fire tax from 1 mill to 2 mill. The LSA Grant will not approve the change of scope of work from the original application of the project, due to the cost of building; the original project has increased to approx. $3 million dollars. Council would have to talk to the Director to change the scope, if not, the fire company would have no choice but to return the money. Kara suggested talking to some county officials. Pam Leiby stated that she will get the information from the office and they will set up a meeting to discuss the scope of project and the grant. Due to the increased cost of equipment, Mike Spairana requests Council to raise the millage to help cover costs.
2. Antoinette Mullen -Questions on Lincoln Ave. Phase 2. The engineer is in the process of putting the Multi modal grant packet together to get it started.
3. Judy Hoffman w/Emmanuel United Church of Christ -Asking council's approval to display bell at the Oliver Solt Pavilion. **Motion by Norman Engle, Jr., granting permission to display bell at the Oliver Solt Pavilion, 2nd Kara Scott, AIF-MC**
4. Paul Lupcho
5. Phyllis Kreiss
6. Raine Neal -reminders of the block party on Saturday, July 11, 2026, and the Palmerton Area Library Outreach Summer Reading Program on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 & Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at the Oliver Solt Recreational Park Pavilion.
7. BRCTV-13

❑ Approval for

1. **Motion by Wendy Borger to approve the minutes of June 2, 2026 Borough Council Meeting, 2nd Robert Sikorsky, AIF-MC**
2. **Motion by Wendy Borger to approve the General Treasurer's Report dated July 7, 2026 and payment of the bills listed, 2nd Norman Engle, Jr., AIF-MC**
3. **Motion by Ben Price to approve the Sewer Treasurer's Report dated July 7, 2026 and payment of the bills listed, 2nd Kara Scott, AIF-MC**
4. **Motion by Norman Engle, Jr., to approve the Garbage Treasurer's Report dated July 7, 2026 and payment of the bills listed, 2nd Kara Scott, AIF-MC**
5. **Motion by Kara Scott to adopt Resolution 2026-07 Increasing the 911 Surcharge, 2nd Ben Price, R. Sikorsky Nay, 5-1 vote, MC**
6. **Motion by Norman Engle, Jr., to adopt Resolution 2026-08 Sale of the 2015 Ford F350 Truck, 2nd Robert Sikorsky, AIF-MC**

❑ Correspondence

Subject	Date	Summary
Audit	06/16/26	Kirk Summa and Company, LLC Audit for 2025
Minutes	06/17/26	Palmerton Area Regional Plan Review Minutes
Minutes	06/23/26	Bowmanstown Borough Authority Meeting Minutes

❑ Solicitor

1. Sewer Service Agreement with Mark Krofchok, Utility Management Services (UMS)
2. Grass Cutting Services Agreement with the United States Postal Service-Bowmanstown Post Office
3. Three (3) samples of Data Ordinances from other Boroughs for review. Discussed possibly meeting with Duane. Ben Price will do more research and get findings to Solicitor Lisa Pereira. Discussed voting on it at August Council meeting.

❑ Engineer

1. Jessica is on vacation July 5th-10th
2. Benesch is updating plans and responding to PennDOT HOP permit comments on ADA ramps at Lincoln Avenue

3. Benesch is preparing the Multi-modal Transportation Grant Application for Lincoln Avenue Phase 2
4. Benesch prepared the Hazardous Mitigation Forms on behalf of the Borough and submitted to Carbon County

❑ **Unfinished Business**

1. Clair Troxell inquiring about discontinuing garbage services and putting a dumpster on premises at 614-616 Ore St. **Motion by Norman Engle, Jr., denying permission to discontinue garbage services, 2nd by Kara Scott, AIF-MC**

❑ **New Business**

1. Is council willing to allow community service in the Borough? Solicitor Lisa Pereira stated always having a release of liability waiver signed. Will also be done on a case-by-case basis. **Motion by Wendy Borger to allow Community Service in the Borough on a case-by-case basis, 2nd by Ben Price, R. Sikorsky Nay, 5-1 vote, MC**

❑ **Committee Reports**

Fire

1. Received Financial Statement dated May 31, 2026
2. Fire Chief Report June 2026
3. Increase Fire Tax -Fire Chief Mike Spairana requests the tax raise from 1mill to 2mill
4. Fire Company radios -Due to the cost of the radios, there have been 2 grants applied for and are pending.

Law

1. Norman Engle Jr. expressed concern over the Borough of Bowmanstown losing its identity; trying to be squeezed into Palmerton and wants to meet with the Regional Director of the Postal Service Unit in our area for a discussion.

Personnel

1. Approval for Doug Larsen's pay increase of .50 cents. **Motion by Kara Scott to approve Doug Larsen's pay increase of .50 cents, 2nd Ben Price, AIF-MC**
2. 90-day evaluation for Timothy Phillips with a step increase of .50 cents with retroactive back pay to June 23, 2026. **Motion by Kara Scott to approve step increase of .50 cents with retroactive back pay to June 23, 2026 for Timothy Phillips, 2nd Ben Price, AIF-MC**
3. 90-day evaluation for Rebecca Gruber with a step increase of .50 cents with retroactive back pay to June 23, 2026. **Motion by Robert Sikorsky to approve step increase of .50 cents with retroactive back pay to June 23, 2026 for Rebecca Gruber, 2nd Kara Scott, AIF-MC**

Budget & Finance

1. Received $1960.00 from Local Realty Transfer Tax for May 2026
2. Received $20.41 from Carbon County Court of Common Pleas Vehicle, Crimes Code and Miscellaneous Income Report for May 2026
3. Received $636.74 from Carbon County Tax Claim Bureau for May 2026
4. Will be beginning budget talks for 2027 next month

Property & Special

1. Playground inspection. Possibly budget for new playground equipment on Green St. Discussed repainting merry-go-round next to Borough office.
2. Authorization to purchase two (2) new office chairs. Obtain three (3) quotes and present to council at next meeting for vote.

Sewer, Sanitation, & Water Liaison

1. Contract renewal from Penn Power Systems; one (1) year term in the amount of $1,780.02**. Motion by Wendy Borger to renew contract with Penn Power Systems in the amount of $1,780.02, 2nd Robert Sikorsky, AIF-MC**
2. Repair of the sewer backup system. Computer program needs to be updated.
3. Monthly Wastewater Treatment Report dated May 1, 2026 – Current. Issues with the new Chlorine Contact Tank. One side did not have a pump installed. Discussed new piping in between tanks is approximately $2500.00 to run the pipes. Ben will check on items needed on the report.

Streets

1. Pam, Wendy and Rob to meet next week or week after to look at streets that need to be sealed.

- **Mayor**
  1. No Loitering Ordinance. Needs rewriting. Mayor Sean McDermott said that the State Police have made it clear that they do not enforce our local ordinances. Norman Engle, Jr. will look into the matter.

- **Other Business**
  1. Received Zoning Time Street.
  2. Wood Chipper – Looking into options of a chipper; whether through purchasing second-hand or purchasing through the Council of Governments (COG)

- **Motion by Kara Scott to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 PM, 2nd Norman Engle, Jr., AIF-MC**

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca S. Gruber, Assistant Secretary