

Borough of Beaver, PA
Council Meeting
February 11, 2025
Minutes

- A regular scheduled meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room of the Beaver Borough Municipal building and was called to order on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 7:00 PM by Council President, Sean Snowden.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Robert Bickerton, Michael Deelo, Roberta Good, Todd Hindman, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, Sean Snowden, and Amy Stettler.
- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Thomas Hamilton, Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Solicitor Garen Fedeles, Finance Manager Andy Kennedy, Sergeant Ken McCoy, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Sprecker, Debbie Hindman, and Rebecca Phillips.
- Absent: None.
- Visitors in attendance (signed in): Laura Shute, Janet Shute, Midge Sefton, Bill Egley, Ellen Kretchmar, Lincoln Kretchmar, Jim Woolley, Rosemary Stidmon, and Ron Stidmon.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hindman to accept the January 14, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes and January 28, 2025 Work Session Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- The January Treasurer's report was provided in the Council packet.
- Finance Manager and Finance Committee continue to draft a new summary page for the Treasurer's report.

Review invoices and authorization to pay bills

Motion by Ms. Good to authorize and pay submitted invoices for the Borough. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Public Participation –

- Jim Woolley, Beaver Resident
 - Thanked the Road Department for keeping the roads clear with the recent winter weather.
- Janet Shute, College Avenue, Tax Collector
 - Reviewed responsibilities as Tax Collector
 - Asked for an increase in compensation
 - In favor of compensation based off of percentage of taxes collected rather than base rate per parcel.

- Ron Stidmon, Taylor Avenue
 - In regards to the motion on the agenda to purchase police tasers, asked for an explanation as to why the purchase of the tasers was necessary.
 - Mr. Madgar stated that the tasers were purchased in 2017. The service life recommendation is 5 years. Due to the age of the tasers, parts are being discontinued. Newer versions of this equipment have better technology and functionality. The risk of liability issues was also weighed in the decision to upgrade. Tasers are used as a tool by the police officers as an option before deadly force.
 - Sergeant McCoy explained that tasers are used as a tool and are safer for the police officer and individual and are used regularly. Tasers are an effective tool used by police officers. This purchase is also necessary to lock in pricing.
 - Mr. Hindman explained that the purchase allows for an annual interest free payment for five years. The overall cost of the tasers will be spread out over five years. The funds for this purchase have been reallocated from the police vehicle budget to make this purchase.
- Ellen Kretchmar, Ward 2
 - Asked that the amount being spent on police be reduced before looking into buying tasers.
 - In favor of a report being provided by the Police Department.
- Sandie Egley, 2nd Street
 - Asked if any grant funding was explored for police tasers.
 - Mr. Madgar stated that the Police Department did apply for a grant with the DOJ for this purchase. The Police Department was notified in December that the grant was not awarded to Beaver Borough.
 - Ms. Stettler explained that this purchase is not an additional expense to the budget. The funds have been reallocated from the police vehicle budget to make this purchase. Only one payment will be made towards the tasers in 2025 of approximately \$20,000.

Council Committees

Finance – Reported by Mr. Hindman

- Finance Committee continues to work on monthly summary report to include unexpected costs that occur and pool house revenue.
- Will continue to monitor the Capital Fund.
- Ms. Stettler requested evaluation of the property owned by the Borough on Corporation Street. The evaluation showed that the property is being managed in a profitable way. The recommendation would be to continue the current scenario of renting the property.
- Ms. Stettler explained that the annual payment of the FNB Loan has been incorporated to the 2025 Budget. Other ways to pay down the loan can be considered once the Borough's financial position is determined at the end of the year.

General Government – No report

Highways – Reported by Mr. Deelo

- Borough will be meeting with Columbia Gas next week to review plans for 2025 and restoration needed. Historically, Columbia Gas has greatly assisted with road restoration projects.
- The Borough makes an effort to plan paving projects around Columbia Gas work.
- Ms. Stettler asked that any unexpected repair costs to roads due to the harsh winter be reflected in the financial summary report.
- Mr. Andres asked for an update on the light pole that was damaged by a vehicle on Third Street near Dravo Ave.
 - Mr. Sprecker stated that this repair will be completed by Duquesne Light. Mr. Sprecker regularly contacts Duquesne Light to notify them of work that needs completed within the Borough.

Public Safety / Code Enforcement – No report

Recreation – Reported by Ms. Learn-Conjeski

- The Beaver Area Memorial Library will host a fundraiser on March 8, 2025.

Reports

Manager/Secretary – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Reviewed the proposed MOU extension with the Pool Committee.
- Reviewed the increase of Police call volume since 2022.
- Working with Emergency Management Coordinator to update emergency plan for the Borough.
- Reviewed amount of Right to Know requests being submitted to the Borough by the same individual and the increasing unexpected costs this is causing, including Solicitor, engineer, and administrative costs and time.
- Ms. McKean asked if the Borough has submitted for any LSA grants.
 - Mr. Madgar – Yes, police radios were applied for and awarded for approximately \$100,000 and the Police Department just recently submitted another LSA application for crosswalks. This grant announcement is still pending.
 - Ms. McKean suggested applying for grants to address stormwater.

Mayor Hamilton –

- Recognized Elaine Savoldi for her many years of service on the HARB.

President – No report

Police Department – No report

Borough Engineer –

- January 2025 Engineer report included in the Council packet.

Solicitor Report – No report

Motions

Extension of MOU with Pool Committee

Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the extension of the current MOU with the Pool Committee by two years. MOU to expire June 14, 2027. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Authorization to Place Order for Police Tasers

Motion by Mr. Bickerton, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the ordering and purchase of police tasers from Axon Enterprise, Inc. Yearly payments to be \$20,798.40 for five years, totaling \$103,992.00. Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Resolution to Set Tax Collector Compensation

Motion by Mr. Snowden, I move that Beaver Borough approve Resolution 2025-01 to set the compensation of the Tax Collector at \$25.00 for each taxable parcel of real estate. Seconded by Mr. Hindman.

- Tax Collector compensation rate needs to be determined by April 15th. The rate will be set for four years and cannot be changed again for another four years.
- Ms. Stettler and Mr. Hindman explained their support of a raise more in line with the Borough Administrative staff at 5%.
- *Motion by Ms. Stettler to amend the compensation amount to \$21.00 per taxable parcel of real estate and increase 5% each year starting in 2026.*

Original Motion Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andres – Yes, Mr. Bickerton – Yes, Mr. Deelo – Yes, Ms. Good – Yes, Mr. Hindman – No, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – Yes, Ms. McKean – Yes, Mr. Snowden – Yes, Ms. Stettler – No. Motion passed 7-2.

Request of Police Department Report

Motion by Ms. McKean, I move that Beaver Borough Police Department supply Council with a monthly police report similar to what the Beaver Regional Police provide to their communities, and that this information is also included on the Borough website. Seconded by Mr. Andres.

- Ms. Learn-Conjeski and Mayor Hamilton addressed concerns about the language of the motion.
- Mr. Hindman and Mayor Hamilton addressed concerns of the value this type of report.
- Ms. McKean stated that the number of calls could determine the number of police officers needed. The Beaver Regional Police department report was a template of something she would like to see or the FBI report.
- Mayor Hamilton asked Council to let the Police Department review this further to determine the best way to handle this.
- Mr. Andres believes that this can be done in a collaborative effort rather than by a motion, with the oversight of the Mayor. This can be discussed further at a Work Session.
- Mr. Madgar invited Ms. McKean to meet to review this further.

- Mr. Deelo believes that asking the Police Department to provide additional information is reasonable but also that the motion presented gives the impression that there is conflict between Council and the Police Department.
- Mr. Snowden stated that a discussion would be held at a public Work Session meeting.

Ms. McKean formally rescinded her motion.

Motion by Mr. Hindman. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Adjourned 8:31 PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips