Borough of Beaver, PA
Work Session Meeting
October 27, 2026
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held at the Pool House Civic Center and called to order on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 7:00PM by Council President, Roberta Good.

- Council Representatives in attendance: Bob Bickerton, Roberta Good, Tom Hamilton, Todd Hindman, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, Phil O'Shaughnessy, and Jarrod Thomas.

- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Lincoln Kretchmar, Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Solicitor Garen Fedeles, Finance Manager Andy Kennedy (via phone), Sergeant Ken McCoy, Corporal Shawn Reese, Assistant Borough Manager Rebecca Phillips, and Debbie Hindman.

- Absent: Michael Deelo.

- Public in attendance (signed in): Ellen Kretchmar, Amy Shay, Jim Woolley, Doug Hindman, Jeff Hamilton, S. Vogel Scibilia, and Allison Hartley.

Public Participation –

- Ellen Kretchmar, Ward 2
    - Presented concerns about police spending in relation to the Borough's budget, reimbursements for police services, and the impact on taxpayers. Asked Council to review costs and explain proposed increases.
- Suzanne Vogel Scibilia, Ward 2
    - Requested information about police pension funding, individual employee compensation, proposed raises, and whether recreation funds were being redirected to police expenses, and raised potential conflict of interest concerns.
        - Sergeant McCoy explained pension contributions and funding.
        - Mr. Hindman identified relevant budget entries of employee compensation.
        - Mr. Madgar offered to meet to answer any questions and discuss concerns.

Discussion Items

- **Draft 2027 Budget** –
    - Mr. Hindman reported that no tax increase is planned or budgeted for 2027; millage rate will remain the same as 2026.
        - Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PGLIT) reserve account holds approximately $504,000 and earned approximately $4,000 in interest over the past three months.
        - The insurance dividend projection was increased from the last budget proposal. Mr. Kennedy recommended this limit due to fluctuations in dividend payments.
        - The Business Privilege tax projection increased from the last budget proposal following updated collection figures. Mr. Kennedy explained collection timing and the distinction between business privilege and mercantile taxes.

- Police Department Budgeting
    - The draft budget includes one additional full-time patrol officer. Discussion addressed anticipated retirements, limited part-time availability, scheduling and coverage needs.
    - Proposed police overtime funding was reviewed.
    - Council discussed purchasing one Ford Explorer and one F-150 police vehicle, including the truck's operational uses and eventual transfer to the Highway Department. Potential LSA grant funding for two police vehicles was also discussed.
    - Corporal Reese reviewed the Axon body-worn and in-car camera project, grant reimbursement, and five-year financing terms, with annual payments included in the draft 2027 budget. This agreement must be signed by the end of the year to secure current pricing.
- Highway Department Budgeting
    - The draft budget includes one additional full-time highway employee, with hiring anticipated in early 2027.
    - Construction and repair funding increased for tennis court parking lot paving and drainage improvements behind the Borough building.
    - Equipment funding was reviewed along with potential grants to offset costs.
- Fire Department Budgeting
    - Vehicle repair and maintenance allocation was raised in proposal.
    - Professional apparatus inspections revealed two fire trucks require major mechanical overhauls to maintain operational compliance.
- Funding for a third playground project was removed from the draft 2027 budget. Council discussed potentially earmarking $50,000 from remaining capital reserves at year-end for a 2028 playground project, while retaining funds during 2027 for emergency infrastructure needs.
- Fourth quarter cash flow and reserves were reviewed, including a projected year-end operating balance of $100,000. Discussion emphasized maintaining sufficient reserves to cover expenses until spring tax revenues arrive.
- Zoning Hearing Board fees were reviewed. Costs for three recent hearings totaled approximately $4,722, exceeding the $3,000 collected in application fees.
- Two crosswalk grant projects were discussed, including upcoming purchase authorization, installation, and upfront funding needed before reimbursement.
- The proposed 2027 budget totals approximately $6.3 million. Discussion addressed contractual wages, rising insurance and utility costs, and future administrative succession planning.

- Announcements
    - Beaver Area Memorial Library fundraiser is Saturday, November 7th.
    - Trick or Treat is Thursday, October 29th
    - Beaver County Veterans Day Parade is Wednesday, November 11th

Motion to adjourn and enter Executive Session by Mr. Hindman. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. and entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Executive Session ended at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips