

Towanda Borough Council
April 7, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Towanda Borough Council held its regular meeting at the Towanda Borough Municipal Building on Monday, April 7, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Council Members Present: President Ryan Eberlin, Vice President Mark Christini, Jean Miller, Philip Roof, Joseph Saring, William Kovalcin, Jonathan Schulze, Michelle Hatch, and Gary Parks.

Others: Mayor Garrett Miller, Fred Smith (Borough Solicitor); Borough Officers Randy Epler, Borough Manager Stacy Schoonover, Code Enforcement Officer Barry Thrush, Administrative Staff Angie Oliver, Sargent David Lantz.

Public Comments/Concerns

Approval Of Minutes

A motion to approve the March 3, 2025, minutes was made by Mr. Kovalcin, seconded by Mr. Saring. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the March 20, 2025, Special Meeting minutes was made by Mrs. Hatch, seconded by Mrs. Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Report

The detailed monthly report is included in the April packet.

Fire Chief Bill Sheets was absent. Mr. Roof reported;

- 19 calls, which 10 mutual aid calls, brush fires.

Fire Board Report

Mr. Parks stated there was nothing new to report.

Mayor Report

- Grateful to have officer Campbell return from being deployed.
- Congratulate Knight to knowledge at Towanda School as they won 2nd scholarship challenge
- Glad to see First Friday starting back
- Nice to see couple more businesses in town.
- Building demolished on Main Street
- Mr. Mayor attended SAFE organization and was able to meet Lt. Gov Davis

Police Chief Report

Chief Epler reported:

- Would like to use the small room that is not occupied at the Borough Hall as Interview room
- Possible bring fingerprint machine from county.
- Central Square live date has been pushed back to June.
- Officer Carpenter, Officer Vermilya attended a 3-day training of narcotics.
- Officer Campbell has returned from duty and will be starting back up April 13, 2025.
- Chief went into discussion asking Borough to allow him to join the Drop Program. He would like all to know what he does throughout his career. Prepared a letter he read with his job description.
- I started my career as police office in Towanda 1999, went fulltime 2001, my accomplishment: drug task force coordinator, setting the Highmark of 33 dui in single year, being highest citation writer in Towanda

history for single month repeatedly. Accepted challenger only DRI in county area. October 2011 voted in as civil service Chief. He has written letters, attended meetings requesting funds for body armour, body cameras, etc., no cost to the Borough. Handed out a copy to all council.

- I am requesting I effectively retire in June. The program keeps me working and you pay me normal. Do not require any more towards the retirement fund. The retirement funds out of the pension will go into a different fund, when I exit the funds are mine. I would like to get this considered and get it into effect by June. I then will work and exit after the two years from June.

**TOWANDA POLICE DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY REPORT – March 2025**

293	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	0	JUVENILE PETITIONS
34	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	K-9 SERVICE (BORO)
11	NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	4	THEFT REPORTS
4	DUI ARRESTS	2	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS
42	DISTURBANCE CALLS	4	VEHICLE DOORS OPENED
2	VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	8	WARNINGS ISSUED
2	OUT-OF-TOWN ASSISTS	13	MENTAL HEALTH CALLS
11	CRIMINAL ARRESTS		

POLICE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Saring stated that Big Brothers/Big Sister moved out of the Borough Hall, looking for council to approved the police to fill the space.

Met with Commissioners regarding funds from Act 13. Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 10am will be meeting at the Comm Center to present check and meet previous Governor Corbett.

Would like to ask council to open up a position for another full-time officer, eliminate part time budget, put back in general funds. Currently 6 full time, chief, SRO; asking to look into having 7 full time, chief, SRO. Council will look into the financial sides.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

The Code Enforcement Report is included.

- Mr. Thrush covered the March permit, property maintenance, rental report and Judy parking tickets.
- Council member Mr. Saring asked about the parking. What is the payout that cost the Borough compared to tickets vs salary.

PUBLIC WORKS/CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Parks stated that they only meet as needed.

BOROUGH REPORT from Borough Manager Schoonover

Open Space

Big Brothers/Big Sisters have moved out of the Borough Hall. 2 large rooms that was collecting \$6468 year in rent, the police have mentioned they would like to have this space. IT estimate to move phones etc., \$4460.50. The DA old office is also vacant the police would like.

Turnback Project

PennDOT will be pushing the Main Street paving back between April – October 2026. This will be a night project.

3rd Ward Park

DCNR Grant Application has been submitted. The requested grant amount \$621,350 to join with the \$35K commitment from the Bradford County Commissioners and a \$586,350 Local Share Grant from 2024 Grant.

GARDEN CLUB

Wednesday April 9 @ noon, will be the first garden club meeting in the conference room.

EAGLES RUN

5K taking place April 12, throughout the Borough.

BOROUGH PROPERTY

Its that time of year that people are camping along the river bank and on other Borough properties. I am looking for suggestions that prohibits the use of tents and or camping on Borough property. The trash that is left behind has caused the Borough money and makes the place look terrible. Ordinance prohibiting camping on borough property?

BEAUTIFY TOWANDA

Last year this was help on April 20, this year May 3rd.

COMMISSIONERS

I will be attending the next commissioners meeting regarding possibly receiving funds to put towards the K9 new purchase, and also the 22nd at the Comm Center to be presenting the funds

SECURITY

Last Thursday, Guyette security did a walk though of all the facilities. We will have prices within next couple weeks.

SERVE

I mentioned in the last months' meeting that Serve will be volunteering throughout the Borough. Serve now have labeled vest that say Towanda Borough and they have been out cleaning up the town.

PENNDOT

Thursday April 17 from 5-7pm, Angie & I will be attending Municipal Outreach which will be held at the Ulster Fire Hall.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Opening day will be held April 26. I will be volunteering but just want the residents to know to use caution as they will be having a parade.

RESOLUTION 2025-5

Approve changing the Bradford County TCC Voting delegate from Superintendent to TASD Business Manager
Motion made by William Kovalcin and seconded by Jean Miller.

The roll call was called and recorded as follows:

AYE/YES: President Eberlin, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Roof, Mr. Saring, Mr. Kovalcin, Mr. Schultze, Mr. Chirstini, Mrs. Hatch, Mr. Parks.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR SMITH –

Solicitor will continue to work with planning commission modifying home occupation previsions and solar system.
Property donation matter 4th & Lombard; this went through tax sale; solicitor will check to make sure clean title.
Request private session for personal matters.

PERSONNEL DISCUSSION:

President Eberlin called for an Executive Session 8:07 PM for a personnel discussion related to performance.

Council came out of Executive Session at 8:30 PM

FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

- A motion was made by Mr. Saring and seconded by Mr. Parks to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

Mr. Christini stated no meeting this month. Next meeting will be April 15. Mr. Christini will notify Planning that council would like them to look into the camp ordinances and to keep looking into solar and home occupation.

Solicitor Smith stated that he was hoping to have past ordinance tightening up non-conforming use that was discussed previous month, but missed reporting to County Planning.

Planning has two open spots.

RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Kovalcin stated that they were working on summer bands and getting ready for Riverfest.

TMA/WTMA/CBPA REPORTS:

The February TMA and WTMA meeting minutes are in the packet.

LIBRARY REPORT:

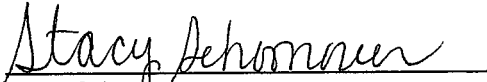
The February Library meeting minutes are in the packet

OTHER

Mr. Eberlin wanted to mention the passing of Jim Lacek. Jim did a lot of things around the Borough for many, many years.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mr. Parks. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stacy Schoonover", written over a horizontal line.

Stacy Schoonover
Towanda Borough Manager