

**Towanda Borough Council**  
**May 5, 2025**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Towanda Borough Council held its regular meeting at the Towanda Borough Municipal Building on Monday, May 5, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

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

**Council Members Absent:** Vice President Mark Christini

**Others:** Mayor Garrett Miller, Fred Smith (Borough Solicitor); Borough Officers Randy Epler, Borough Manager Stacy Schoonover, Sargent David Lantz, Corporal Bryan Bellows.

**Amend Agenda**

Zoning Hearing for ordinance of amendment Chapter 325, article 7 non-conforming use structure.  
Motion made by Michelle Hatch and seconded by Joseph Saring.

**Public Comments/Concerns**

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR SMITH –Zoning Hearing**

This was readvertise amended to the zoning code. Fred Smith summarizes zoning ordinance non-conforming uses being amended.

Section 56, title continuation previous version of the ordinance read only with respect to uses; added uses. Uses can be nonconforming structures, and lots. All three categories nonconforming will be included.

Section 57, changing another conforming use, saying in order to this you must first establish as applicant that the non-conforming use cannot be reasonable changed to a use permitted in the zoning district as principal permitted use.

Section 58A, pertains to termination of use. Cease the use on conforming use after 6 months intent abandon without evidence of use.

Additional regulations 325-59 amending subsection A, can't enlarge, extend, reconstruct, substitute alter your use on structure or lot unless structure by law or court ordered.

Subsection B If property burns down or some other casualty occurs, change the 50% prevision to be based on replacement value.

Subsection F, if you previous did something to the structure; violation of the article will not fall in nonconforming use it will now be legal use or undo the work. Hearing Closed 7:11pm

The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval Of Minutes**

A motion to approve the April 7, 2025, minutes was made by Mr. Kovalcin, seconded by Mrs. Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the April 24, 2025, Special Meeting minutes was made by Mr. Parks, seconded by Mr. Saring. The motion carried unanimously.

**Fire Chief Report**

The detailed monthly report is included in the May packet.

**Fire Board Report**

Mr. Parks stated there was nothing new to report.

### **Mayor Report**

- Stacy & I attended MOC DUI at THS last week, I want to thank Towanda Fire Dept, Towanda PD, North Towanda Fire & Rescue, Guthrie helicopter, Guthrie EMS, all the students, and anyone else I may have missed.
- Willy, Stacy & I attended the new business opening on Merrill Parkway Styling Station.

### **Police Chief Report**

Chief Epler reported:

- 10 DUI this month, incredible high numbers.
- Officer Lake attended week long weapons handling tactical responses, tracking device and shield deployment.
- Officer Hennessey is off until May 12.
- Stacy, Joe attended ACT 13 seminar at the Comm Center. Informational to us as \$25K will be coming from this for the K9.
- Officers did a phenomenon job helping with the MOC at Towanda Area School.
- K9 car hope to receive a week or two, figure 5 days to outfit.

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

293	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	0	JUVENILE PETITIONS
89	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	K-9 SERVICE (BORO)
1	NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	2	THEFT REPORTS
10	DUI ARRESTS	7	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS
42	DISTURBANCE CALLS	5	VEHICLE DOORS OPENED
3	VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	12	WARNINGS ISSUED
1	OUT-OF-TOWN ASSISTS	9	MENTAL HEALTH CALLS
14	CRIMINAL ARRESTS		

### **POLICE COMMITTEE:**

Officers are doing a great job; we want to keep that. I would like to ask civil service activated to bring on another full-time officer.

Motion made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Mr. Eberlin has attached information regarding DROP highlight the facts, how it works and the benefits. Will be meeting May 22, 2025 with Pension Actuary.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

The Code Enforcement Report is included.

Mrs. Hatch asked to have Oak Hill Cemetery looked at.

### **PUBLIC WORKS/CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Parks stated that they only meet as needed.

### **BOROUGH REPORT from Borough Manager Schoonover**

Act 13: Met with former Gov Corbett at the Comm Center April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was information event regarding Act 13 (Tom was the one who singed this into law) Joe, Garrett, Myself, Chief, few of our police officer attended.

SLFRF: Yearly report completed; we now have a balance of \$122,462.89 which I will be using for revenue replacement.

Garden Club: We are starting with cleaning the pots and ordering flowers. Hoping by Mother's Day we have some color.

Beautify: Towanda Saturday May 3, 2025.

Murals – 2 coats of clear coat, tarp and stone in front of the murals

Security: M&R Maintenance will be starting construction at The Municipal Building. Mostly will be done on weekend. This will be to install security door and front office dividing room. Once this is complete, I will be in contact with security to have the fobs installed.

Chamber: I attended the annual Chamber Dinner May 17<sup>th</sup>. Blythe Jones was named the Business of the Year.

Spring Clean Up May 16 & 17: BOROUGH RESIDENTS ONLY can bring old furniture, appliances (must be "Freon" free), household trash (no garbage), tires (no farm tractor tires or tires larger than 22.5"), metals, brush and branches, and other non-garbage inside the gated area there to place into the containers. Except for tires, this service will be at NO COST.

Employees New employees: Zach Czajkowski, Dustin Mulcahy, Brandi Beers, Anita Gasper, Jeff Nash. Matt Aikey, April Maynard have resigned. John Vincent & Scott Johnson began seasonal work.

I would like to Thank our seasonal mowers. They have been working to clean up the town everywhere you look. Drive down the Parkway, they have been clearing the bank along the fence, pressure washed Madigan Park, and much more.

5K: Approve 5K run on the parkway June 7, 2025.

#### **PERSONNEL DISCUSSION:**

#### **FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

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

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:**

#### **RECREATION REPORT:**

Mr. Kovalcin stated that they were working on summer bands starting June 12.

#### **TMA/WTMA/CBPA REPORTS:**

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

#### **LIBRARY REPORT:**

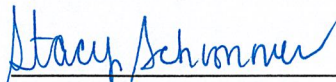
The March Library meeting minutes are in the packet

#### **OTHER**

The current tax collector will not be rerunning.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mr. Parks. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.



Stacy Schoonover  
Towanda Borough Manager