

A meeting of the Towanda Borough Police Civil Service Commission was held on August 6, 2025 in the Council Room of the Municipal Building located at 724 Main St, Towanda PA. The meeting was called to order at 10:29 a.m. by Commissioner Ryan Eberlin.

Present were Commissioners Mark Henery, and Ryan Eberlin; Police Chief Randy Epler.
Absent: Commissioner Alec Garden

Minutes

The minutes of the May 21, 2025 meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Mark Henery, seconded by Commissioner Ryan Eberlin. Motion passed to approve the minutes.

New Business

Approve Certification List to Towanda Borough Council

Chief Epler stated candidate, Anthony Carpenter, passed the written test conducted on July 14, 2025 with an overall score of 82%; test administrator was Jene Conklin. The oral interview was done immediately following the written test; interviewers were Sergeant David Lantz, Jene Conklin, Randi Morse, Corporal Bryan Bellows, and Keith Brown. Mr. Brown supervised the swim and physical fitness testing; candidate Carpenter passed all requirements satisfactorily.

Candidate Anthony Carpenter is approved and will be sworn in as a full-time patrol officer at the September 2, 2025 meeting of the Towanda Borough Council.

Old Business – General discussion

Commissioner Henery asked Chief Epler for a review of names of the current force for his records – Sergeant David Lantz, Corporal Bryan Bellows, Officer John Hennessy, Officer Josh Lake, Officer Derek Campbell, Officer Trevor Wills, Officer Clint Vermilya, and Officer Anthony Carpenter. Part-time personnel only used for events like Riverfest and Halloween: Detective Al Ogden (not currently active policing and he is the Deputy Coroner for Bradford County; Mike Lamonna; and Don Stringham who both have full-time jobs with the Bradford County Drug Task Force and the Bradford County Sheriff's office.

Mr. Eberlin added Council's perspective is we have an opportunity with Carpenter and just had to make it work. Chief Epler stated he will exit here very shortly or in around twenty-two months at the maximum; the force will then drop back to eight again and Council will have to decide if they want to add on positions or not. Trailing Chief Epler by approximately

two years of service is David Lantz, John Hennessy about four years and then there'll be a big gap between Bryan Bellows with around twelve years of service.

Chief Epler said he was hired under the COPS Grant and then a three-year COPS in School Grant was awarded and David Lantz was hired; David stayed two years and then became a regular patrol officer; John Hennessy took the final year of the grant. Prior to the grant program, Reggie Douglas worked at the school part-time until Towanda School District asked for an officer full-time in the schools. Consequently, Chief Epler stated Towanda School District has had an officer in the school for approximately twenty-three years.

Next Meeting

The Commission shall meet and organize on the first Monday of February of each even numbered year; the date will fall on February 2, 2026.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henery made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Eberlin. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie L. McGuire

Recording Secretary