

**Towanda Borough Council**  
**Sept.2 , 2025**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Towanda Borough Council held its regular meeting at the Towanda Borough Municipal Building on Tuesday Sept. 2, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

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

**Council Member Absent:** President Ryan Eberlin  
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**Others:** Mayor Garrett Miller, Borough Solicitor Fred Smith , Borough Police Chief Randy Epler, Borough Manager Stacy Schoonover, Borough Secretary Leigh Vargason, Jack and Pam Young, All Borough Police Officers, Mr Bradford

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Jack Young, addressing persistent drainage issues on Fifth Street, detailing property damages over 25 years despite previous inspections and actions by the borough. Jack provides detailed documentation, including photos and communications, highlighting the extent of the damage and lack of resolution. The council acknowledged the severity of the issue and mentioned consulting attorneys

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve Aug 4, 2025 minutes was made by W. Kovalcin, seconded by P. Roof . The motion carried unanimously.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

Chief Roof reported;

- Aug. had 14 calls, no major incidents.
- Updates on the pursuit of a new tanker truck, Meeting with Towanda Township on financial help with the Tanker.

**FIRE BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Parks stated increasing resale value of the current tanker.

**MAYOR REPORT**

- Mayor Miller introduces newly hired Patrol Officer Anthony Carpenter, who takes the oath of office.
- Photographs are taken following the swearing-in ceremony.
- Mayor Miller comments on the long-standing drainage issues faced by Jack Young and expresses sympathy for the family's patience and endurance.

**POLICE CHIEF REPORT**

Chief Epler reported:

- Police Chief Epler reports on the successful coverage of River Fest and various training activities for officers.
- Highlights the positive performance of K-9 Hades during a search operation and issues with the department's computer system.

26	NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	1	THEFT REPORTS
2	DUI ARRESTS	1	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS
33	DISTURBANCE CALLS	4	VEHICLE DOORS OPENED
4	VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	15	WARNINGS ISSUED
0	OUT-OF-TOWN ASSISTS	5	MENTAL HEALTH CALLS
7	CRIMINAL ARRESTS		

### **POLICE COMMITTEE**

- The financial implications of adopting the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for police officers, noting a projected \$55,000 annual increase in expenses.
- Debate ensues among council members and police representatives regarding the feasibility and impact of the proposed DROP plan on the budget and future personnel decisions.
- Waiting on clarification from Actuary if the numbers are for 25 years of service or 28.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

- Barry completed Residential Electrical Inspector Certification
- The Code Enforcement Report is included

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

### **BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT**

- **YMCA**

End-of-Year Animal Sanctuary Dog Swim Day Sept. 7.

- **Closure**

Porchfest 9/7/2025, Flying Taco requesting road closure corner of State Street and Merrill Parkway 7-10 pm

1<sup>st</sup> motion M. Hatch, 2nd W. Kovalcin

- **Comprehensive Plan**

Kick off meeting was held Aug. 20, Towanda Township, North Towanda Township, and Planning Committee members attended.

### **BOROUGH SOLICITOR SMITH**

- Ordinance No. 2-2025 Camping Ordinance (1) prohibits camping or storage of personal property (including camping paraphernalia) on public or private property, except with private property owners' consent and not for more than 2 consecutive nights in the case of camping on private property. (2) Allows camping for special events with permit issued by the Code Enforcement Officer for a fee set from time to time by council by resolution. (3) Allows Code Enforcement Officer to issue rules, regulations, and conditions for permitted camping and revoke a temporary permit if deleterious conditions exist. (4) Establishes penalties and an enforcement procedure in the case of violations. Approved by a vote 8-0, and passed.

### **BOROUGH SECRETARY**

- Memorial Bench in memory of Walter Troy, long-time Wells Mills employee. Community is taking donations to fund the new Memorial Bench.
- Paperback Maple Tree planting along the Merrill Parkway in Memory of James Lacek to recognize his time and commitment to the Towanda Borough.

### **FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

A motion was made by J. Saring 2nd J. Miller to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.

### **UNION SUB-COMMITTEE**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Aug meeting postponed, next meeting Sept. 19

### **RECREATION REPORT**

- Finalizing Riverfest financials will have available for October's meeting.
- Pumpkin Roll planning underway, will be held Oct. 11, Gannon's Insurance will provide electric and their parking lot space to use.

- Christmas Decorating Committee for the parkway will meet and start planning to light up the parkway.

#### **TMA/WTMA/REPORTS**

Minutes enclosed. Welcomed Chad Strickland back.

#### **LIBRARY REPORT**

Leigh Vargason will fill vacant spot for the Borough, next meeting Sept. 11, 2025

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by W. Kovalcin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leigh Vargason  
Towanda Borough Secretary