The Regular Monthly meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday evening, April 8, 2025 by President of Council Stanley Knick Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Mr. Knick – Present	Mr. Kowalczyk – Present
Mr. Karkut – Present	Mr. Price – Present
Mr. Jones – Present	Mayor Lello – Present

At this time President Knick noted an executive session was held at 5:30 pm as advertised for personnel and legal matters.

Special Presentation:
MAYOR LELLO, CHIEF DORAN, AND COUNCIL presented Officer Robert Bartolemei with a plaque and letter:

Robert Bartolemei , you are awarded this plaque in recognition of your selfless actions taken by you in early morning hour of March 5, 2025. At approximately 3:30 am you were notified of a structure fire at an apartment building located at 412 Main Street in Dupont Borough. Being the first on the scene you entered the smoke filled building without protective equipment, had to make forced entry into the apartment in which the fire originated and removed the female tenant to safety. Once again you in regard to your own safety, you reentered the building and continued to check to make sure all apartments were clear of occupants. After which you were treated on the scene for smoke inhalation.

Mayor thanked the officer, along with Councilman Knick and other council members. At this time pictures were taken with Council, Mayor and the Chief. Those attending applauded Officer Bartolemei for his service.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MATCH 11, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AND PLACE ON FILE
Motion: Mr. Karkkut
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPOINT PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM APRIL 8, 2025 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK: Bryan Besecker, Duane Saunders, Jennifer Polemitis, Christopher Fargione, Michael Sniscak, Brian Morris, Brian Jacobosky, Eric Danaher, and new hire: Joseph Delaney.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION APPROVING RENEWAL OF CURRENT POLICE CONTRACT FOR FOUR YEARS 2026-2029 ADDING PERSONNEL AND SICK TIME AS AGREED TO
Motion : Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION APPROVING HIRING JASON KUNA, FULL TIME DPW WITH BENEFITS, WITH A START DATE OF MAY 1ST.
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, no; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 4/0.

MOTION TO HIRE PATRICK KACZMARCZYK AS FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER PART TIME
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

REPORTS:
Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Albert B. Melone Company, March 31st totals unless noted otherwise
General Fund - $ 5,864.64 (4-3-25)
Payroll Fund - $ 829.74 (4-3-25)
ARPA FUND - $.38
Admin Debit Card - $ 201.95
Police Debit Card - $ 272.04
Refuse Fund - $ 190,570.01
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $ 351,234.05 (4-3-25)
Liquid Fuels - $ 165,669.05
Police Pension Fund - $1,082,758.23
Special Fund - $ 43,465.58
Clock Fund - $ 776.20

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Susan Gregory, Tax Collector for month of March
Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $ 234,875.82
Face Collections for the Month - $81,084.46
Less Discounts - $1,621.79
Total Collected - $ 79,462.67
Two checks deposited in the general fund. $67,826.11 and $11,636.56. Total $79,462.67. The reason for the two checks is I needed to request money early in order to pay the insurances and the second check I received today along with the report. Patty also noted tonight's bill listing has bills totalling $59,000 to be paid out of general fund.

Mayor's Report: None

Police Report: Chief Doran read the statistical report for March 2025 as follows: traffic citations issued-115; appearances in county court-4; appearances in magisterial court-20, motor vehicle accidents-7; assist to ems/fire-9; assist to other police dept. -19; alarms-1; thefts-2; disorderly conduct-4; pfa violations-3; domestic reports-5; suspicious activity-4; dui arrest-1; assault/harassment-6; drug offense-1; miscellaneous calls-43; building checks-29; code enforcement/rental inspection-4; Car#1 F150 – 66,,141; Car#2 Explorer – 32,567; Car#3 Explorer – 31,243. Magistrate Fines Collected - $3,832.40.

Solicitor Report: None

Engineer's Report: Bob noted the following. (1) We marked out the pa one calls for Astound Broadband in quail hill. Since then we have encountered a couple problems up there. They did not cut the road and acted in accordance to what their permit application said. However, it was brought to our attention that a couple of the areas where they drilled or bore under the road that the pavement heaved. We met up there, Mark, Stan and myself with the contractor to do road crossings and basically the solicitor gave them a cease and desist order for now. We need to get with them and get a solution. They were saying their franchise agreement has a maintenance component in there. Bob's thought is that they have to properly repair these divisions. They suggested roll it, tamp it. Bob doesn't feel that will work. They brought up another idea, infrared heater basically straddles the speed bump, heats the pavement and then presses it down. Bob also is not crazy about that idea either because some of the areas cracked. That is going to be a long term maintenance issue. The areas that cracked will take on water and eventually become potholes or other deficiencies. Erik added whatever that contract states they are responsible to repair it. Erik doesn't think council would want them to repair it. Council should have control over who would repair it. They are going to pay for it, but we have to ok at the very least who is going to repair it. If they created it, I don't trust them to fix it. Bob also noted the limits of repair as well. The gentleman that we met with was pretty agreeable to a lot of different ideas if council decided that. But again, until they get up there or put the money up, pay the bill or make the repair we won't know. We have to be on the same page from Council standpoint to give directive to the contractor to see what they want to do. Bob's recommendation is where we have the real deficiencies they do base repair, dig out, repave, and go so many feet past that area, mill it out and re top it. Erik asked Bob if he could put together a report that says here is how to fix it and this is what it is going to cost. Bob stated because we are still under contract with Pennsy I can ask them to look at it and give us a price so we have a firm number. Stan would appreciate that, along with other council, to have Pennsy give us a price. We can't tell them who to use. We want to know who is going to do it and we need to ok who is doing it. Bob added insurance and bonding as well just as required for other projects. Erik asked if the

lines are across the road. Bob noted on Ivy Lane, not on Whitman. Stan stated we did not give the ok to go onto Whitman until after meeting tonight. Erik asked if the fix is going to be interfered by the depth of the current line. Bob stated they claimed they went down 2 feet. At first glance Bob said he would suggest it may be a little shallower than that because it buckled the pave. He wasn't there when it was done. He has no way to prove that unless you get out there with equipment and test pitting exactly where the put the line under. Stan asked if we are going to allow them to do work on Whitman. Bob suggested waiting until they agree to Council terms for repair on Ivy. That is another way to leverage them at this point. If you allow it and they are done, you will be chasing them.

MOTION TO STOP ANY FURTHER CROSSINGS OF ANY STREET UNTIL THEY AGREE ON COUNCIL REPAIR SPECIFICATIONS UNDER CONTRACT. Bob added, we let them go laterally alongside the roads and under driveways. This is crossing roads that we just paved. Stash stated he really lost it up there. Bob stated the gentleman mentioned that in their conversation.
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

(2) Patty mentioned while on the subject of Quail Hill can we discuss the road cut needed for the new home construction since there is no lateral on any of the double or triple lot recently purchased. Bob explained that the owner/contractor asked for sewer location. We sent Mike Ford there to camera the line to locate the lateral. Every other time we did this there was an available sewer line. Unfortunately the developer did not install sewer laterals for these lots. To get to the sewers, they have to cut the road. Every other time we had this situation in quail hill we sent the camera up , there is a lateral off the main, they mark it, find it in the shoulder and connect. For whatever reason these lots do not have laterals. Patty asked about water and gas. Stan suggested we go to the developer that it is their responsibility to put laterals in. Patty noted the development has no funds. We are in discussion on another matter. Mayor Lello asked who is responsible for paying for this. Patty noted the owner did pay a hook up fee. Patty asked Bob what an estimate would be approximately to do this. Bob estimated $6000- $8000 but it depends on the depth. Mike Meholic, DPW said he believes the markings are 8 feet. Bob stated there is a main, but no lateral. They would hook to the main using a saddle. The three vacant lots that are left there are no laterals. The good news is the house is elevated up on the hill so they don't need much pitch to go across the road. There have been several houses built up there the last eight years and every time there was a lateral. Patty also noted this lot also they found out wasn't part of the permit with the Conservation District. The other lots had to go get permits for rain gardens in their front yard for stormwater. Bob explained that these lots were left out of those permits and the owners are now going down that path as well. This is costing them a pretty good dollar. Patty stated we may have to refund the hook up fee to help them with costs or reach out to the developer.
(3) Lincoln alley sewer line issue is resolved. (4) Working on a grant for the next phase of Hemlock Park which he believes is due end of May. That will require a resolution. (5) Office of Community Development grant – for the demolition of 249 Lidy Road. That report came back with asbestos on siding, one window glaze, and not sure about the roof because it was tarped and not sure how deteriorated the roof is. We sent that to Mark Hurst. We are waiting to hear back on direction how to proceed. Patty stated she did receive an email that it can be combined with demo. Patty will forward the email to Bob. Bob said we will have to give the directive on how they treat the materials and the chain of custody, etc. that will have to go into the bid documents. We can put that out next month for bid. (6) Opening bids tonight for walk trail for Hemlock Park (7) Basketball court – we have to wait a couple weeks for the weather so they can do the pavement and acrylic and the fence. *8) Hose

company contractor has been non existent. We can't get an email response or schedule. We put them on notice the contract date is up. At this point, at a minimum, we send them a letter and request a person to person physical meeting here with council and solicitor and our office to lay it on the line. They are getting thrown off the job or they get here. Stan suggested Erik send them a letter and give them all the information. If we don't receive any notice form them we just discontinue our agreement with them and get someone else. Bob noted we had two bids. The other was Robert P. Harrington. The base bids were a couple thousand dollars apart. We did Add Alt 1 and 2. The difference totals was about $15-20,000. If we are entering into the same contract as with Harrington as Scranton Electric it will be $20,000 more approximately. Stan prefers Scranton Electric since they are already there and may have materials ordered. Bob stated right now under the contract you have a performance bond 110% of contract total. Because they are not performing, we can pull their bond. The bonding company would give us the money to hire someone else to do it. They send a payment application in for $8000 and we are not signing it, because they are not responding. Bob will get with Erik and send letter to request a face to face meeting. We need to sit down and explain the magnitude of where we are willing to go on this, they will either react or walk away. If they walk away we will pull their bonds. That will affect their future work. It is a serious treat.

Fire Department: Chief Donald Hudzinski reported the following for March. Total incidents-31; Paid staff responses-12; Volunteer Responses-19; Incident Type: fire alarm-1; residential structure fire-2; commercial structure fire-1; structure box-2; motor vehicle accident-6; gas leak-1; wires down-4; tree down-1; brush fire-4; ems assist-4; rental-5. Jurisdiction: Dupont Borough-25; Hughestown Borough-5; Avoca Borough-1.

EMS Report: Total responses by Municipality: Dupont Borough-40; Duryea Borough-52; Exeter borough-3; Exeter Township-1; Fall Township-1; Hughestown Borough-8; Old Forge Borough-1; Pittston City-11; Pittston Township-7; West Pittston Borough-4; West Wyoming Borough-1; Wyoming Borough-3. Call Types: Event stand by – 0; Fire Department Assists-23; Medicals/Traumas-96; Motor Vehicle Incidents-4; Public Assists/Lift Assists-9. Hospitals: not needed to list. ADDITIONAL NOTES: We continue to staff two (2) ambulances on an average of two (2) days a week. Our staff attended the Dupont Crime Watch meeting to discuss our EMS operations and answer any questions. Our staff also attended the March meeting of Girl Scout Troop 50055 in Duryea to help them obtain their safety pin.

Mr. Jones added that the Subscription Letters went out. He was told tonight that the letters say resident instead of the name. If anyone threw it out, we have applications at the borough building. If any questions contact Jamie Merlino.

Mr. Jones also noted he contacted the Luzerne County EMA and we will be hosting a Chief 402 training class here on August 14th at 6 pm. It is a Thursday. That training is required by the Emergency Management Services Code for all elected officials and borough/municipal employees. They help better define the role of all municipal employees and officials if there is a major disaster. It is an overview of how everything goes down. They asked that I open it up to other municipalities close to us so I will invite Pittston Township, Avoca, Hughestown and see who we can get here.

Mr. Jones also noted he is looking to test the siren again. We did it last year in July so probably in May we will try testing it again to make sure all is good.

Code Enforcement Report: Mr. Jones reported that the Code Officer only did it one week this month. The other weeks he was on an other investigation on the police side and he had a death in the family. He did issues notice of violations but he did not provide a report.

Crime Watch Report: Bob Price reported that the March meeting included representatives from Hughestown to discuss their services for the borough including their membership and what it is about. They gave demonstrations and talked about the equipment they have. The next meeting is April 29th at 7 pm.

Council President's Report: Stan Knick reported the following: Trash – 59.38 tons; Comingle – 4.28 tons; Paper – 7.59 tons. Mileage: Packer – 8287; Recycler – 46,255; Mack – same; Bucket Truck – 1274 due for inspection; F550 – 55,666; C3500 – 17,977; C6500 – 861; Green Pickup – 9,998. Skidsteer went to Medicos for service; Issues at Compost – fires and illegal dumping, they are looking at set hours and more hours to handle some of the issues; Landbank Meeting – The lot they purchased on Coolidge will soon have a three bedroom modular; Once that is done it will be off the tax base and then back on the tax base; Problems with Astound underground work in quail hill; Multimodal grant next round we will look into a grant for Commerce and Navy Way Road. The guys will start taring and patching cracks; Get gas program is no longer - anyone paying up front will not get money back but those on monthly payments do not have to continue the monthly payments as of November 2024.

MOTION TO APPROVE REPORTS
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION APPROVING STOP SIGNS FOR MONROE/LIBERTY AND BRIDGE/MONROE AS ADVERTISED AND REVIEWED BY POLICE CHIEF
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO OPEN, READ BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE WALKING TRAIL PROJECT FOR MEMORIAL PARK PHASE II AS ADVERTISED
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Base Bid is modified, Alt. # 1 Colored Stone Alt # 2 Paving

Multiscape – Base Bid - $62,293 Alt # 1 $60,600 No Alt #2

Pennsy Supply - Base Bid - $87,050 Alt # 1 - $65,650 Total $97,150 Alt # 2 $46,460 w/Base $77,960

J. Construction – Base Bid - $ 56,120 Alt #1 - $47,379.10 Total Base + Alt # 1 $66,129.10 Alt #2 $77,376 Base + Alt # 2 $96,126

American Asphalt – Base Bid - $ 46,765 Alt # 1 $30,300 Base + Alt #1 $51,310 Alt #2 $38,380 w/Base is $59,390

Stafursky – Base Bid - $42,730 Alt # 1 $2,424 Total Base + Alt #1 $45,154 Alt # 2 $17,473 w Base $60,203

If looking to pave it , Bob gave the short version of the above. The two low bids are American $59,390 and Stafursky is $60,203.

Mr. Knick asked the amount of the grant and Bob noted $56,365.02. That is $3000 short of the grant. Mr. Knick stated we can work that out. Paving will be less maintenance vs the stone. All agreed on the paving vs stone.

MOTION TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE WALKING TRAIL PROJECT TO AMERICAN ASPHALT AFTER ENGINEER REVIEW IN THE AMOUNT OF $59,390 BASE BID AND ALTERNATE# 2
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Matters from Residents:

Marina Smithonic, Monroe Street – Asked the location of the stop sign on Bridge and Monroe. Mike from DPW stated he will meet with the chief to determine the location for the sign.

Matters from Council and Mayor:

Mr. Jones – Lions Club Park Cleanup, Roadside Cleanup projects. Announced the Easter Egg Hunt is April 19th at 1 pm.

Mr. Kowalczyk - Happy Easter. Happy Spring. With warmer weather a lot of people are out and about. Be vigilant. There has been recent vandalism at the park. If you see something that doesn't look right, call 911.

Danielle Perrins asked about the cameras that crime watch put in the park. The cameras are recording. They did obtain pictures from the cameras.

Alberta noted while at the borough building she observed kids at the park that were older and using the small kids equipment. She addressed it. The kids were from out of town. Mark noted there are a lot of good people, a few bad ruin it for others.

Mr. Karkut - Happy Easter. Talked about the deadline May 7th for Real ID. Also reminded residents April is a month with the fifth Wednesday. There is no recycling. Commented on paying for the paper and not receiving it.

Mr. Price – Happy Easter. Repeated what Mark said, see something, say something.

Mr. Knick – Happy Easter. Thank you for keeping eyes open.

Mayor Lello – Thursday April 24th Food Drive. Happy Easter.

Mr. Kowalczyk – responding to Mr. Karkut's comment, jokingly, hire Alberta to find your newspaper. Everyone laughed.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Stanley Knick
Council President