The Regular Monthly meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday evening, February 10, 2026 by President of Council Mark Kowalczyk.

ROLL CALL:

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

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2026 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND PLACE ON FILE.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

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

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

MOTION TO APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2026 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK: Bryan Besecker, Jennifer Kumpas, Christopher Fargione, Eric Danaher, Michael Sniscak, Joseph Delaney, Mitchell Rennick.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

REPORTS:
Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Albert B. Melone Company, Business Consultants
General Fund - $16,597.09
Payroll Fund - $9,529.66
ARPA Fund - $.38
Admin Debit - $9.29
Police Debit - $2,927.12
Refuse Fund - $ 178,093.98

Sewer Maintenance Fund - $328,207.99
Liquid Fuels Fund - $ 84,087.93
Police Pension Fund - $1,180,257.90
Special Fund - $ 25,310.01
Clock Memorial Fund - $102.09
Fire Victims Fund - $60.10

Tax Collector's Report – No report this month.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Lello acknowledged with all the snow we had, she wanted to thank everybody from police officers, fire department, ems, and dpw workers, especially for what they did. They worked hard in the bitter cold weather. They all deserve credit. Also, Patty who kept everything under control. Mark agreed, you are correct Mayor.

Police Report – Chief Doran reported the following for the month of January 2026: criminal arrests-5; traffic citations issued-23; appearances in county court-3; appearances in magisterial court-24; motor vehicle accidents-9; assist to ems/fire-2; assist to other police depts.-9; alarms-2; burglaries-1 (unfounded); thefts-2; disorderly conduct-3; pfa violations/service-5; domestic reports-7; suspicious activity-6; assault/harassment-6; drug offense-3; miscellaneous calls-28; building checks-26. Vehicle Mileage: Car#1 F150 – 74,326; Car #2 Charger – 59,327; Car #3 Explorer – 38,345. Magistrate Fines Collected - $3,301.60.

Solicitor's Report – None (Excused from Meeting)

Engineer's Report – Bob updated on the following: (1) Letter to Astound regarding Road restoration Quail Hill – To date he has not heard anything; (2) Multimodal Grants – Working on two grants and provided council with a cost estimate for PennDOT multimodal for street paving including Everhart, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Penn and Spruce Streets. Total with construction, engineering and admin is $570,000. That grant is due February 13th. A resolution needs to be passed as part of the grant application. In addition to that, we are looking at the DCED multimodal grant and liquid fuels for additional paving. (3) Flood Inspection Report from DEP – we received a letter from DEP with the report attached and there was a clerical error in the letter. The letter stated the channel was unsatisfactory, but the report itself said it was minimally satisfactory which is what the reports have stated over the last several inspections. They will correct the cover letter and resend it. (4) In addition, DEP wants the Borough to update the Emergency Operations Plan and they provided a template. Basically this is in case of a catastrophic event or failure to the flood control project they would need a plan in place that would list the contacts, who has the plan, how to implement it, etc. There are parts the Borough will complete, our office to complete. Bob addressed Mr. Jones as to emergency management coordinator and Mr. Jones noted tonight there is a motion to adopt the updated Emergency Operations Plan of the Borough. Bob provided Joey with the draft and noted that Mike in his office is also looking at the draft. Bob noted it is mostly personnel information, fire chief, EMA coordinator, police, county EMA, names and addresses. It goes on file at different locations so that in case of emergency everyone has the same plan and information. (5) Our

office completed the Chapter 94 report which is the annual sewerage report. It lists any bypass issues, overflow issues, backup issues or new connections. That gets submitted to LLVSA. (6) We are still working with the contractor on the police entrance and the garage. At our last preconstruction meeting we discussed some minor changes. We are waiting on the new estimate. Patty noted the grant expires June 30th, will it be completed by then. Bob asked if we requested an extension. Patty noted we have not, but Bob suggested we request an extension just in case. The utilities were marked out and it is a tight squeeze. We adjusted it to 24 x 24. The water main in front and behind, sewer main and lateral so we changed the size form the original plan.

Stanley Knick asked a question with regard to the street paving after hearing the $570,000 estimate is it for portions or certain blocks of the streets listed. Mark stated he was going to bring that up in his report. The estimate we got last year for all the streets was a lot of paving. In speaking with the state representative and state senator office staff, there is no way they can give out that amount of money to one town. There is so much money to go around. Mark figured being that the handicap ramps were done with the grants from last year, if we got Spruce done, and Spruce down to Chestnut on those streets, at least we are starting with the bottom sections and then maybe next year we can apply for the top sections. It would be the bottom two blocks. It also includes Spruce from Everhart to Penn Avenue, that street wasn't in good shape for a while. Next year we can move on further.

Fire Department Report – Chief Hudzinski reported the following: Total incidents-19; Paid staff responses-4; Volunteer responses-15. Motor vehicle accidents-7, fire alarm-1, residential structure fire-1, commercial structure fire-1, PD assist-2, FD investigation-2, EMS assist-3, fire police/traffic control-2. Dupont Borough-13, Hughestown Borough-4, Avoca Borough-2.

EMS Report-Mr. Jones read the report for January submitted by Jamie Merlino as follows: Hughestown responded into Dupont 36 times during January. They continue to staff two ambulances on an average of twenty-four hours a week. Chief Collins apologized he is at the LVH fire participating in a post incident critique of what happened. Mr. Jones commended Hughestown, Pittston Township and Greater Pittston who were the Luzerne County units that responded and assisted with the fire incident at LVH in Dickson City.

EMA Report: Mr. Jones reported the following: (1) Mayor Lello declared a declaration of disaster emergency which was submitted to Luzenre County. We would be able to submit expenses for snow removal and plowing if money was available. (2) We are going to readopt the Borough's Emergency Operation Plan. It is not for public view due to sensitive information.

Code Enforcement Report: Mr. Jones updated Council that Christian Yacovelli has begun transition as Code Enforcement Officer with help from Officer Tamburello over the past three weeks. The office upstairs is set up for him and the phone transferred to his office and IWORQ account. He will start taking complaints within the next week or two.

Crime Watch Report: Bob noted the January meeting was cancelled due to weather and safety concerns. The next meeting is February 24th at 7 pm.

Compost Report: Stan Knick noted they are waiting on the parts to come in. He will call Stephenson tomorrow for an update. Stan also noted three towns have paid the 20026 dues and he will send out a reminder to the other 4 towns. There is no meeting scheduled at this time. Once the machine is up and running we will hold a meeting.

Council President's Report: Mark Kowalczyk reported the following:
Trash – 59.93 tons; comingle – 5.66 tons; paper – 7.21 tons. Mileage: Packer – 11, 206; recycler – 49,191; bucket truck – 1,573; Mack 6,067; green pickup – 13,066; 3500 is at lowes; 6500 – 6,702; backhoe hours – 8,750.

Mark updated on the following: (10 Snow storm – Appreciate everyone's patience with snow storm Everyone communicated excellent with all the workers including police and snow removal crews. They plowed the alleyways at the end of the storm. Everything was cleaned up with the size of the storm we got. (2) Truck fire today. DPW was collecting the end of the garbage collection and something caught on fire inside the box of the truck. Our crew did an excellent job because they saved the truck. They drove up to the compost facility, emptied out the load as fast as possible and called for emergency personnel. To his knowledge there is no damage to the truck. A couple nerves shot probably with the crew. But something exploded in the truck and we have to ask people to be careful putting flammable items in the trash. They said it sounded like an explosion and then everything started burning inside. (3) As Stash and Bob mentioned, the multimodal grants - motion tonight on the agenda for Penn DOT Multimodal (Everhart to Penn to Spruce). We are trying to push forward with paving streets. Because of the last year grant that Stash was involved in there were a lot of handicap ramps completed in that area last year which saves money. We are going to take the paving as we could this year once we find out what funds we have to use. That grant is due Friday. (4) The second one is the DCED Multimodal grant due March 2nd. I drove around with Mike from Bob's office. There are certain sections of streets need to be paved or repaired. I think it is smart for the town to get those areas done. For example, Stanton between McLean and Simpson; Liberty from Center to Monroe; and Hillside from Main by the bank and gas station. So that is the idea with the DCED grant. After that, not tonight I would like to move forward with patch work, streets that we don't get grants for. They can just be patched to make them more passable. This was done in the past when the gas lines went in and we did a nice patch job and that is holding up pretty good. (5) We will be asking for a motion on additional work for the new pole barn to get the electric installed through the contractor while it is under construction. That is to just get the service to the building. (6) Pump station power outage – There was the fire on McAlpine Street in Avoca which resulted in a power outage affecting the pump station. We had to replace parts once again which was expensive. We have to move forward to eliminate that pump station one way or another in the future.

Stan Knick talked about the meeting with Avoca regarding the pump station and that there is a grant for $190,000 which the borough should look into before the grant is lost. Mark questioned using it for a new pump station. Bob Naegele added that the problems we have with the pump station he feels are because there is not three phase power up there. It is always a power related issue. He suggested contacting PP&L about getting three phase to that pump station. He is not sure if it is possible, but we can ask. Mark asked when the grant expires. Patty stated 2027. Mark said we need to work diligently on that issue. Bob stated there are obviously other issues with the pump station, flushable wipes is one. Stan asked about a grinder pump. Do we need a bigger pump. Bob explained the grinder pump. Mark asked if Bob is familiar with other pump stations and do they have the same problems we do. Bob talked about three that he is aware of but ours has more problems. He will ask around about this. It is an interesting question.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 5 OF 2025 ADOPTING AND PLACING INTO EFFECT THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN OF DUPONT BOROUGH PREPARED BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR JOSEPH JONES, INCLUDING ALL ITS CONTENTS, CHECKLISTS, AND AGREEMENTS
Motion: Mr. Knick
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2 OF 2026 SUPPORTING AMERICA250 PA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 3 OF 2026 APPROVING APPLICATION UNDER PENN DOT MULTIMODAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR STREET PAVING DUE FEBRUARY 13, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF $569,632.00
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Stan asked instead of $570,000 can you put it up to $600,000. Mark explained that the conversations he had basically gave a specific number to stay within. The discussion on the match of 30% and hiring a third party administrator for the grant was another issue. Bob is looking into that and explained the engineering, administrative and contingencies categories on the grant. They will reach out to April Hannon, PennDOT and see if it can be done in house. Bob talked about the difference between PennDOT and DCED and PennDOT requires payment to the contractor prior to the grant reimbursement. Stan mentioned the borough taking out a line of credit for the quail hill project. The other item was engineering to be bid out or if using the borough engineer, costs are to be paid from the borough, not the grant.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 4 OF 2026 APPROVING APPLICATION UNDER DCED MULTIMODAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR STREET PAVING DUE JULY 31, 2026 Patty believes it opens March 2nd and is due in July. She will double check it.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION APPROVING ADVANCED ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATIONS (AEC) $9500 ESTIMATE AND START WORK ON ELECTRIC FOR NEW GARAGE
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Matters from Council and Mayor:

Bruce Knick- Question for Solicitor regarding Personnel pertaining to action taken being made public at a meeting. With Erik excused from tonight's meeting, Mark will follow up and report back to council on the question.

Mr. Jones – Happy Valentines Day. Thanked everyone for the work done during the snow storm noting everyone working together to benefit the town. Also announced orders for Hometown Hero Banners can be called into himself or the Borough office.

Mr. Karkut – Noted the excellent job by DPW workers during the snow storm. Also thanked Council President Mark for his help during the storm. Commented on snow removal takes priority over trash pickup.

Mr. Price – Agreed with others that the DPW department did an excellent job keeping up with the snow plowing and making roads passable.

Mr. Kowalczyk – Thanked the DPW for work with snow removal. Spoke about if another storm hits, the town may need to look into removing snow from roadways. We are at that point

where if another storm comes this weekend we may have to haul snow because there is no place to put it.

Mayor Lello – Announced the next food drive is scheduled for Thursday, February 26th at Holy Mother of Sorrows church hall. Mayor turned the topic over to Alberta Warunek.

Alberta reached out to those in attendance that the program sponsored by the Lions Club can use some manpower and woman power with unloading trucks and packaging bags for the food distribution. Truck arrives around 8:00/8:30 in the morning. It's an enjoyable time. If you are interested, come over. If you like it fine. We can always use extra help. Mark thanked everyone that helps. Mayor Lello added there is a wellness mass on the same day as the food drive, and those attending mass come over and help at the food drive. The issue is getting to unload the truck and bring the stuff inside. Joe Karkut added the 50 pound bags of this and that and they have to drag them in.

Motion unanimous to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:422pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Borough Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Mark Kowalczyk
Council President

After the meeting adjourned, the topic of 2027 refuse bags, vs 2027 stickers was asked. This topic will be discussed at future meetings.