

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Mr. Kowalczyk – Present

Mr. Jones – Present

Mr. Karkut – Present

Mr. Price – Present

Mr. Knick – Present

Mayor Lello – Present

Mr. Kowalczyk called for an Executive Session for personnel and legal matters.

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND CORRECTION TO JANUARY REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES AND PLACE ON FILE.**

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 ACCEPT THE CORRESPONDENCE**

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 APPROVE THE BILLS FOR PAYMENT.**

Motion: Mr. Knick

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 APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM MARCH 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. Price

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 - \$ 52,698.74

Payroll Fund - \$ 29,566.46

ARPA Fund - \$ .38

Admin Debit Card - \$ 236.43

Police Debit Card - \$ 1,947.26  
Refuse Fund - \$ 155,861.15  
Sewer Maintenance Fund - \$ 329,080.37  
Liquid Fuels - \$164,560.49  
Police Pension Fund - \$1,180,257.90  
Special Fund - \$ 25,311.95  
Clock Memorial Fund - \$ 102.10  
Fire Victims Fund - \$60.11

Tax Collector Report – No Report this Month. Will have check in April for the Borough along with the report.

Mayor Report: Nothing

Police Report: Mayor Lello read the police report submitted by Chief Doran.

Criminal arrests-1, traffic citations issued-46, non traffic citations issued-4, appearances in county court-1, appearances in magisterial court-37, motor vehicle accidents-9, assist to ems/fire-7, assist to other police dept.-12, thefts-3, vandalism-1, disorderly conduct-3, pfa violations/service-1, domestic reports-5, suspicious activity-6, dui arrest-2, assault/harassment-3, drug offence-1, miscellaneous calls-34, building checks-30. Mileage: F150 – 74,744; Charger – 60,050; Explorer- 38,785. Magistrate Fines Collected - \$2,000.55,

Solicitor Report: Nothing

Engineer Report: Bob updated on the following: (1) Astound – Letter sent for update on repairs to pave cuts (2) 3 Phase Power at Pump Station – Spoke with PP&L and he stated there is 3 phase on McAlpine. He is trying to schedule a call to discuss this further. (3) Multimodal Grant was submitted (4) Flood Channel report submitted and reviewed. We are working on any action items that need to be taken care of. (5) Emergency Action Plan for Flood Channel report – Mike from his office met with Joey and it is pretty much complete. Joey has a final draft he needs to look over and submit. (6) Collins Creek project area was submitted to council for review. His office is working with surveyors to get this scheduled. Bob addressed the solicitor with regard to letters to property owners for permission to enter properties for the work. This is up by Florence Street. Mayor Lello asked about Growing Greener Grant. Bob stated this is Flood Mitigation. The Growing Greener grant closeout involves a meeting scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Bob explained this has to do with DEP has some questions about permitting. We got a permit from DEP to do the work. One hand not talking to the other as far as the MS4 program vs the permitting side and grant agency. Mayor Lello stated she received a call today on this. Bob explained there is \$3500 left in the grant. The short version is if you want the \$3500 you have to jump through the hoops. The last time we met with them there was a question on how we designed and built this thing. Even though it was permitted and approved by DEP, the other agency side is saying well we may have considered things differently. One of which was to widen that creek channel. Now you are in people's back yards. If you look at their design criteria for leveling the flood basin, you would have to condemn properties. There was \$326,000 in that grant, not \$3 million to start buying properties. We did the best we could with what was there without major impacts to people's properties. It is functioning. It is still there. There has not been any washouts or any problems there. (6) Garage and Police entrance - we went through some minor changes, they got the green light and they are ordering materials and I will work on a firm schedule with them before the next meeting (7) Liquid Fuels Paving Project - In front of you is the map and cost estimates. Mark and Mike met and measured our the streets and put numbers

to them. Ball park figure is \$120,000 to \$135,000. It includes parts of Center, Hillside, Elm, Liberty. The map gives you more information on what is planned. Some are just spot repairs, center of road repairs, curb to curb. It is a mixed bag. We can be ready to go out with this possibly April. Mark would like to push this for April to get the bids in. Mark will talk about this in his report. We have to bid this street by street. We have a set dollar amount to spend out of liquid fuels. We have to prioritize. Mark wants to advertise and get it for the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Get some marks painted so we compare apples to apples. Bob noted it is 16 days from first advertisement to opening bids per municipal code. Mark will get out this weekend. Bob said coordinate what is base bid and what is alternates. Mark wants to get bids in now when the blacktop season opens. Bob said he will have it ready to go.

Fire Dept. Report: Chief Hudzinski read the following for February: total incidents-19, paid staff responses-10, volunteer responses-9. Incident type: motor vehicle accident-4, flooding-2, wires down-1, vehicle fire-1, ems assist-9, aircraft incident-1, rental inspection-1. Jurisdiction: Dupont – 13, Hughestown -1, Avoca – 4, Pittston Township -1.

EMS Report: Brandon Collins reported :

Hughestown responded to Dupont 21 times. The 2026 Dupont subscription drive will be sent out during the month of April. The subscription for individual and seniors is \$45.00 and will continue til next drive. \$55.00 is for families. It includes those in the residence. One of the things to clarify because there has been some changes, this subscription program is open to medicare, private insurance, but not open to medicaid or access card or government medical assistance. The other group not allowed is individuals with no insurance. This is designed to supplement. It is not designed to replace insurance that does not exist. The only other thing is this does not replace any copay or deductible. That is between the individual and the insurance carrier. It is hard to get an average amount for what an ambulance ride might be depending on how severe the situation is. You can look at \$1600 to \$1800. Any questions he is available after the meeting. He will provide copies to the Borough Secretary in case some did not receive the mailer.

EMA Report: Joe Jones stated the Plan has been submitted to the county. We are up to date on everything. He has just completed his third directive that is required by PEMA to be emergency management coordinator. It was submitted to PEMA who will send to FEMA.

Code Enforcement Report: Joe noted we have a new code enforcement officer Christian Yacovelli. He was appointed two months ago in January. He took time to train with Officer Tamburello. He is just about finishing the transition. He has been following up on any complaints and voice mails that have been left. He is doing a fabulous job. He had a few cases last week that were tougher but he got through it. It is still the same phone number. He is easily accessible so stop down, see Patty and she can get a hold of him.

Crime Watch Report: February meeting was held. We will be announcing an event in July for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration for Pennsylvania. We do have Tshirts available at the borough office. The next meeting is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Compost Report: Stan provided a report. He contacted me today. There is a bay open at Stephensen Equipment and I will attempt to haul the machine up for repairs. Mericle came in and took the compost at the site to use for their projects. It should be up and running soon. The next meeting is scheduled here April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.

Council President Report: Trash – 61.05 tons, 4.31 tons comingle, 4.26 tons paper.

Mileage: Packer - 11,510, Recycler – 49,479, 6500 – 6,817, 3500 – 24,141, Mack – 6,167, Bucket truck – 1,573.

Mark stated (1) the blacktop plant opened this week. The DPW department has started this week. Bob mentioned a few items - (2) The PennDOT multimodal grant was submitted. It includes first two blocks of Penn, first two blocks of Wyoming, first two blocks of Lackawanna, first two blocks of Everhart and Spruce Street from Everhart to Penn Avenue. No guarantee on how much funding we will get out of it. We tried to keep it where we were guided. (3) There is a DCED multimodal grant to submit in July. We will go after a couple other streets, block by block and see which streets are the worst after that. (4) Also speaking with Patty in the last week, we will be up for Community Development grant. The one stipulation is the property values. Low to moderate income. For example we can't pave a street in quail hill because of high property values which are above the stipulation. So what I hope the Council and Mayor agree on is the top sections of the streets with the Penn DOT multimodal and use Community Development grant for those areas. (5) Asking for a motion tonight, the patch work. Met with Mike Fenick again. There are streets that are not completely falling apart but have bad sections in them. We have liquid fuels money carried over from last year and we can use that for street paving. If we do patch work we don't have to do the ada ramps. Without curb to curb you don't have to. So the only one on the list curb to curb is 100 block of Elm Street and the ada ramps are completed there. If we were able to afford that we would not have to do the ada ramps. Several streets planned include sections of Elm, sections of Hillside, 100 block of Center, the rest of Center was paid after gas lines were put in. So 100 block from Serling to Main by Rygiels, and Liberty. We are trying to get the streets repaired the best possible by using grants and our own funding. It is a guessing game as to what funds we will get offered from the State. (6) We are also submitting a grant application through US Congress, Rob Bresnahan's office for paving Commerce Road and the police office is submitting a second grant for police equipment, body cameras and stuff like that which is so much needed these days. So we went from the state level to the US Congress level. Hopefully we can get Commerce Road and Navy Way Road taken care of at that point. The last time that was paved Dupont took it over 100% and that is going back I think 17 years, my father was on council. Murph Adams was on Pittston Township supervisors that time. Mark hopes council is on the same page as him to get these roads paved. That is one of his main goals.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT 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 ESTIMATE FOR FENCE REPAIRS ALONG COLLINS CREEK BEHIND BOROUGH TO Tri County Fence \$1,680 (Other estimate was Specialty Fence \$4150)**

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 ENGINEER COMPLETE SPECS FOR THE PATCH WORK PROJECT FOR THE FOLLOWING STREETS TO BE BID OUT. Elm, Hillside, 100 Block Center, Liberty**

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 TWO APPLICATIONS UNDER 2027 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING (1) Police Equipment (2) Repaving of Commerce Road**

Motion: Mr. Knick

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 APPROVING LETTER TO CFA FOR GRANT 83112. PROJECT COMPLETE. APPROVAL TO LIQUIDATE REMAINING FUNDS OF \$8,781** This is the Hose Company Airconditioning and Roofing project.

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 APPROVING SOLICITOR FILE CLAIM WITH REGARD TO PUMP ISSUES ON 3500 DUMP TRUCK**

Motion: Mr. Price

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 Residents.**

- (1) Joel Lipperini, Ivy Lane, Quail Hill – So this is part clarification and part complaint. 2 ½ years ago the asphalt company was paving and damaged my property. I made the borough aware of it and they did nothing. I asked for the insurance information from the borough and they refused to give it to me. The office said they would pass it to our counsel. I never heard back from him. I don't know if he got it or not. Dropped the ball. Why would it take 2.5 years, if they have insurance, because I am assuming they did when they did the proposal. What is it good for then if they damage a property and it is not taken care of. The borough refused to do anything. I had to go and sue American Asphalt on my own. That is basically what the office told me to do, you gotta do what you gotta do. 2.5 years. So something is broken here with the office, who you have working on our streets, and the taxpayers. \$1500 worth damage done, and borough refused to do anything. Erik questioned Joel and Joel stated American Asphalt knocked out his mailbox. Erik responded he spoke with Mr. Banks six, seven, eight months ago on two different occasions. He assured me that it was completely going to be paid for and finished. Please don't pay anything to the borough, you have no responsibility for it at all. Erik said we do not. He said he was going to cover it. Joel questioned Erik Bernie Banks Jr. agreed to pay. When Joel went to the father, he said no we are not paying it. Erik stated they did not tell him that, last he spoke with them it was going to be paid and the check was in the mail. Joel continued that 2.5 weeks ago he had the court case, and again, does not know why he had to go through this after 2.5

years, of not having a mailbox up there, I have a temporary one. This should have been taken out of their insurance the minute it happened. Something doesn't seem right here with this whole procedure. Erik stated he wasn't going to turn it over to his carrier just cut the check. Joel questioned if he is going to get any work from the borough, he shouldn't get any contracts from us. If this is the way they do business. I didn't even get paid yet. I just got the decision from the court two days ago. They will appeal it and then I have to go to county court. I don't know if this is a procedural thing here or what we should do when our property is damaged. Erik told Joel he can call his office and he will be happy to call Bernie again. Joel is sure they are going to appeal it. Erik stated then you are in for \$5000 in appeals, and if it goes to supreme court you are in for three times that. Mark asked Joel to share the information with Erik tonight and Erik will call American tomorrow. Joel said absolutely. Thank you. Appreciate it. And what is the procedure going forward if anything like this happens in the future. Erik stated that is case by case. When we looked at this we had to make sure the borough had no responsibility what so ever. I then called Bernie, said we were not paying it. He said he would pay it. I cannot do any more than that. Apparently I can if they did not do anything. Joel said he got a judgement and they still didn't pay. They are within the 30 day appeal. Now if it goes to county court I am going to have to pay an attorney for it. Erik asked what the judgement was for. Joel responded \$2500. Mark stated his company is a lot smaller. He would want it off his plate. Mistakes happen. Joey asked if Bernie called him. Joel stated he had many conversations with the son. The day before the two year statute was up the son told me go file to protect myself.

Matters from Council and Mayor.

Bruce Knick – Nothing

Joey Jones – (1) The Lions Club events: March 29<sup>th</sup> park cleanup. Mark will go over and spruce up the front like he always done. Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Tell your friends it is one of the best in the area. Ages up to 10. Bikes, treats, goody bags. Hometown Hero Banners will go up the Sunday after Easter. If anyone is interested in purchasing one stop at the Borough, Patty has the applications, drop off the picture and he will forward it to Mr. Zezza over Exeter and he will have it made and it will get put up. Joey thanked Mark for the outstanding job he is doing, meeting with the engineer almost daily doing this stuff so thank you.

Jospeh Karkut - Bring to the good of the order the two sewer bills, one from Dupont Borough, the green card and we pay one to LLVSA. I got a number of questions from some Dupont residents that LLVSA, if you have a vacant house, electricity is turned off you don't have to pay the fee. However, you come to Dupont and because there is a lateral you have to pay that \$60 whether that property is vacant, no electricity, no water, you have to pay that \$60. That goes to every property owner in town. We had a discussion about this. I assumed it was the same as LLVSA, but it is not. LLVSA only accepts the electric bill. If there is no water they won't accept it you have to pay.

Robert Price – Crime Watch meeting invitation to everyone March 31. Come out and help plan the event in Dupont for 250<sup>th</sup> of the United States.

Mayor Lello – Elko's parking lot, is there some way we can stop that in downtown Dupont. Mark responded I don't know. Mayor stated we will have to talk about that. Joe Karkut added that when Lokuta first rented that he brought two smashed vehicles. Next day Joe was at the planning commission. They sent him a letter, he is only supposed to have licensed vehicles, his vehicles. I have been there

three or four times. They see me coming they know what it is about. We had a director here with his assistant. Mr. Knick was here. We had three issues, LAG Auto, they skirted that issue. The second was a fence company operating in residential area on the front porch. They stopped that. Third was Elko's. They looked at that and said we will send some letters. It kept going. I went back to the office and wanted to show them pictures. They didn't want to see them. That was about two months ago. Now it is expanding more. Not only that the weather is starting to get warmer. He is doing work out there with air equipment. The director of planning talked to the Owner of the property and he is getting \$2800 a month and wants the rent. It is frustrating to go there and nothing is being done. He is fixing vehicles there, he is painting there. Their answer is we will send a letter.

Albert Warunek commented on the issue with Mr. Lokuta. I feel bad for him. He is trying to make a living after his parents threw him out. The parents are giving him a hard time to access property he owns behind the garage in Suscon. He has been looking for space to move his business. I can understand the noise etc., Making a living. He is doing the best he can. Legal issues are something else. If he is my son I feel bad for him. That is not a easy business. He is trying to make a living. Put yourself in his position. Joe Karkut agrees 100%. But he is in violation. That is not for a junk yard there for scrap. Alberta says hes a renter. Joel commented that Lokuta's is a towing and recover and towing plates, he is allowed to have vehicles there that are not licensed. If that is a commercial property, the borough is harassing him for just trying to make a living. There is noise ordinances, if he is not making noise at 6 am and 10 pm and within the limits 79 decibels at the edge of the property like Luzerne County states. Joel stated make a living, it is tough enough out there. Joe said he can do that in the industrial park. Joel stated yes at 10,000 a month. Joe stated the planning board said he is in violation. Joel does not believe he is. He has commercial property and repair service towing. You need a special exemption to store smashed cars. Joel stated he is in the car business and I have a dealers license and own a 50,000 square foot building and I can tell you that I can have as many cars as I want in a residential area that are unlicensed. I have been down this road. I have a car business for over 30 years. The borough is wrong. Let the man have his business. Joe said he is in violation according to planning and zoning. Joel said if he is not making noise, and there are no smells coming out of there, I don't like the way your house looks, but that is none of my business. Let the guy work and make a living. It is hard times out there now. Mayor Lello apologized for bringing it up. Joel commented I am glad you did. Mayor does not like how it looks in downtown Dupont. She understands it is commercial property like Joel stated. A junk yard is a special exemption. Joel said it is not a junk yard. A junk yard is very specific. You are selling parts and dismantling vehicles. That is not storing damaged cars. Joe said he is fixing and painting cars. Joel stated there are so many things you are hitting on that I think you are not grasping the whole situation.

Mark feels it needs to be handled legally and it needs to be looked into. He doesn't think other than Erik there are any lawyers here on researching the property. Is there violations, I think we need that in writing Mark said.

Mayor Lello stated the food drive is March 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30. We are looking for volunteers.

Motion to adjourn. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adopted and Approved

Patricia McDonald, Secretary

Mark Kowalczyk, Council President