The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 6:00 PM on Tuesday evening, March 11, 2025 by President of Council Stanley Knick.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:
Mr. Knick – Present
Mr. Karkut – Present
Mr. Jones – Present
Mr. Kowalczyk – Present
Mr. Price – Present
Mayor Lello – Present

At this time, Mr. Knick called for an executive session for personnel and legal matters.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AND PLACE ON FILE.
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.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CORRESPONDENCE.
Motion: Mr. Price
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.

MOTION TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT AT PEOPLES SECURITY BANK CALLED DUPONT BOROUGH FIRE VICTIMS FUND
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 THE BILLS FOR PAYMENT.
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.

MOTION TO APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM MARCH 11, 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
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:
General Fund available balance - $17,343.37 Note: Tonight's bill listing which was approved is $24,000
Payroll Fund - $594.15 as of February 28, 2025 Note: We transfer $12,000 weekly for payroll
Refuse Fund - $188,473.82
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $319,095.77
Liquid Fuels Fund – Balance was $73,000. We received the 2025 allocation in the amount of $95, 768.71 for a total in that Fund as of March 5, 2025 being $169,239.99
Police Pension Fund - $1,082,758.23
Special Fund - $43,462.13 - Includes $30,000 from sale of leaf vac - We owe Pennsy Supply $12,000 outside of the grant award.
Clock Fund - $415.13

Question: Mark Kowalczyk asked what was the $60,000 for that was paid back to the sewer. I know it was a loan but what was it for. Patty noted $20,000 is the final payment of the building remodeling loan from 2020, $40,000 is the tan note we took out to make payroll December, January and February. Mark asked if the $60,000 has to be paid back all at once. Patty noted it can be paid back over time. That is Mark's point, if you have $17,000 and the bills are $24,000 why would you pay it all back at once. Patty stated the motion is on the agenda for council to approve tonight. Stan stated we usually pay it back when taxes comes in. Mark stated it is for 2025 and it is only March, that is my point.

Tax Collector's Report:
For the month of February we received a check in the amount of $9,007.07. Balance Collectable Beginning of the Month - $244,066.69; Less Face Collections for the Month - $9,190.87; Less Discounts: $183.80. Balance Collectable at the end of the month - $234,875.82.

Mayor's Report: None

Police Report: Chief Doran read the statistical report for February 2025 as follows: traffic citations issued-61; non traffic citations issued-3; appearances in county court-4; appearances in magisterial court-14; motor vehicle accidents-7; assist to EMS/Fire – 4; assist to other police departments-15; alarms-2; thefts-5; disorderly conduct-7; domestic reports-3; DUI Arrest-1; assault/harassment-2; drug offense-1; miscellaneous calls-41; building checks-33; code enforcement/rental inspection-9.
Mileage: Car #1 F 150 – 65,429; Car#2 – Explorer – 31,897; Car #3 Explorer – 30,863. Magistrate Fines Collected - $2,949.75.

Fire Department: Chief Don Hudzinski reported the following for February:
Total incidents:23; Paid Staff Responses-11; Volunteer Responses-12. Incident Type: Fire Alarm-3, Motor Vehicle Accident-8, Public Assist-1; CO Alarm-2, EMS Assist-4, Rental-5. Jurisdiction: Dupont Borough-19; Hughestown-1; Avoca-2; Laflin-1.

Solicitor's Report: None

Engineer's Report: Bob Naegele updated the following: (1) Astound pave cut application for 7 directional drilling or boring (if they cannot they will notify the borough to set up meeting for pave cut; Patty noted they were up hanging door notices and marking the areas today; (2) Collins Creek – We are applying for a grant for bank stabilization under Flood Mitigation Grant and there is a motion on the agenda tonight;

(3) Hemlock Park – We are applying for a grant for the Hemlock Park and that too is on the agenda tonight. (4) Met with contractor for the Garage out back, and the Police Entrance. We are waiting for pricing from them and then a decision from council. (5) OCD funding – that is for the demolition of 249 Lidy Road. We contacted Guzek Associates to do the inspection for asbestos. They are scheduled out a couple weeks yet. The last project estimate was between $1000 and $1500. It depends on the size of the structure and what they find. Question: Mr. Posly questioned what agreement did they come to on the structure. Patty noted Guzek Associates will go in and do an environmental assessment to see if there is asbestos. Then a company will be hired to remove the asbestos. Then we can advertise for bids to tear it down. We are in process. Stan confirmed it is getting torn down. Bob Naegele noted there is a process that has to be followed by the funding source. (6) Hemlock Park – Although the weather was good today, the ground is still in bad state of affairs. It is wet and sloppy. It is probably a couple more weeks before we see the contractors there. I am told the asphalt plants are slated to open this week, which is also subject to weather. As far as Hemlock Park goes, the change order was worked out, with that and where we are today, and what we have the original bid amount, there is approximately $56,300 left in the two grants that you currently have. We ran a cost estimate to put the walk trail in, it came out at $57,000. That was 8 foot wide, paved asphalt walking trail. If Council wants to spend the rest of the remaining funds on that side, I don't see any reason why we couldn't put that out to bid and get bids to come in better than our estimate and we will have all we need. Question: Stan asked if we are doing paving. Bob responded they accounted for paving, but can do an add alternate to do a stone surface, and add alternate for paving. We ran an estimate for pavement and we went 8 foot wide because a lot of pavers start base width at 8 foot, or at least 6. Stan would like to see an add alternate with red stone. Bob said there are mixed answers on that. People riding bicycles would rather pavement. Mark added that he is looking at maintenance issues with it also. Stan confirmed just do it for blacktop and 8 foot wide. Mark asked what is the balance in the grant? We have 56,300. Our estimate came in right around $57,000. It is a good time of year. Mark then suggested we should ask for add alternate just because we are so close to the balance, so we don't have to take money out of our pocket. Bob and Stan agreed. And it was to do the red stone and the fines.

Patty noted the motion is on the bottom of the second page if Council wants to make the motion now while on the subject.

MOTION TO ADVERTISE BID SPECS FOR MEMORIAL PARK WALK TRAIL PROJECT.
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.

Bob Naegele continued his report regarding the Hose Company HVAC contractor. They are very quiet. We put them on the clock with the notice to proceed. If they continue stalling they can face liquidated damages. The way they are behaving I have no problem with that. Patty asked when was the last contact with them. Bob would have to check his emails. Patty stated it seems the notice to proceed was issued a while ago. Bob stated at least a month ago. Bob added that we did give them a lead time because of the equipment orders. That grant runs out in June.

EMS Report– Mr. Jones - EMS responded 40 times into Dupont the previous month.

EMA Report - Mr. Jones noted the County has started to roll out the new Hazard Mitigation Plan. I have been actively participating in that on behalf of the Borough. The County hired a third party contractor to do the whole plan for the County and once it is finished, the Borough will have to adopt it so we would be eligible for grant money in case of emergency.

Code Enforcement Report: - Stan noted the Code Enforcement officer is in attendance and can read the report. Mr. Jones actually had the report prepared and read the following: 5 notice of violations, 1 property marked unfit, 9 rental inspections, 2 cases closed and 0 work permits issued.

Crime Watch Report: Bob Price reported that several topics were discussed at the February crime watch meeting. The next meeting is March 25th at 7:00 pm.

Council President's Report: Stan reported the following: Trash – 57.61 tons; Comingle – 5.15 tons; Paper – 9.08 tons. Mileage: Packer – 8,039; Recycler – 45,983; needs 8 tires; Mack – 5,381; 3500 Dump Truck – 17,418; F550 – 55,137 needs 6 tires; Green pickup – 9,921; Bucket Truck – 1,270, backhoe – 818 hours. Stanley noted there is a big list in the meeting packets tonight that lists all the grants and work that has been done.

Patty asked council to look at items 13 and 14 regarding liquid fuels monies. Last year balance was $70,000. 2025 allocation is $95,000. We talked about scratch and overlay on Lidy by the stop sign 13,920; curbing on Everhart and Walnut – 10, 960, 100 block of Center Street for paving – 122,000; Spruce Street from Everhart to Lackawanna – 64, 200 and Stanton from Simpson to Mclean 43,000. Again, we haven't used liquid fuels monies for payroll. There is a process with using it for payroll and it would be road work.

Stan noted and Mark agreed we need to get the section of Lidy Road by the stop sign done this year. Bob will check but he thinks that section of Lidy was included in the Pennsy project. Patty noted that was not part of the grant that was borough funds. Bob stated he believes it ended up where it was in budget with the grant. Patty stated she has an invoice for the balance from Pennsy for retainage at 20,000 and the grant balance is 10,000. Bob will double check it. Patty believes Lidy was cancelled and the drains on Walnut were done instead. Bob noted if using liquid fuels monies you have to go out to bid. Bob will check to see if we approved the change order. Mark thinks that at the meeting we had up there we decided to hold off because of the volume of it putting us over. We will look over the last pay request from Pennsy. Also Patty noted if paving that area, the two drains should be fixed or replaced in that area.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS:
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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.

Patty also noted that Item #1 on Stan's report lists the tremendous amount of work done in the town over the past couple years, the basketball project, the paving of streets, the new drains on Almond, new drains on Everhart, drains on Walnut. Stan stated we did a lot of work with grants. We hope to continue paving streets.

MOTION TO PAY $20,000 FROM TAX REVENUE TO REPAY BUILDING REMODELING LOAN.
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 PAY $40,000 FROM TAX REVENUE TO SEWER FUND TO REPAY TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE
Mr. Kowalczyk suggested and Council agreed to pay back $20,000 in March and $20,000 in April. Two installments.
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 GUZEK ENVIRONMENTAL TO DO INSPECTION AND REPORT FOR 249 LIDY
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 HIRE JASON KUNA, FULL TIME DPW DEPT. W/BENEFITS AS OF MAY 1, 2025
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk to hire on or before the first week of May depending on how everything is worked out with council.
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes with stipulation we look at our funds and everything is worked out and we are able too without going into the hole. Patty noted she would like to be in on a meeting with council to discuss job duties, descriptions, the current staff in the dpw department. Mr. Kowalczyk stated more than willing to attend the meeting, just please advertise for an executive session and we can all sit down and go over everything. It needs to be done. I am not going to have five guys sitting around, and I don't mean to say I. Stan stated I understand, you work with them on a day to day basis. Patty stated yes more than you know. Mr. Kowalczyk, yes, Mr. Karkut, yes if funds available, Patty noted it depends on the meeting outcome, Stan said it will be worked out by May; Mr. Price, no can't afford it at this point, Mr. Jones, yes. Motion Carried 4/1 if funds available.

MOTION TO APPOINT CINDI CHESNIAK TO CODE APPEALS BOARD. Patty introduced Cindi who stood up and greeted residents. Stanley added she replaced Pina on the appeals board. There needs to be three members. Joey talked her into it.
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.

MOTION APPROVING GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH FLOOD MITIGATION PROGRAM FOR COLLINS CREEK BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION
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.

MOTION APPROVING GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH GREENWAYS, TRAILS AND RECREATION PROGRAM AND APPROVE RESOLUTION Patty asked council to review the final application before submitted.
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 APPROVE CHANGE ORDER FOR MEMORIAL PARK BASKETBALL PROJECT
Patty asked Bob if this is the outcome of the meeting held with Multiscape, Mike Crawford. It knocked down about ten percent of the total.
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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 APPROVE IT MANAGEMENT OF SERVICES SURVEY FOR ADMIN, POLICE, BOROUGH
Dave suggested we bring somebody in, an outside firm, to look at all our IT equipment and see what the upgrades are. Patty noted Dave has volunteered his services for over 7 years. He was here when COVID hit. He applied for several grants for equipment, computers, police equipment, the bucket truck grant. The amounts were 125,000 for bucket truck, 99,861 grant for electronics, tvs, computers, radios, etc., 30,000 state grant electronics and 105,000 PPE equipment during covid.
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 APPROVING DPW GARAGE FOR 2025 PITTSTON TWP. VOTING AND SIGN AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY
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.

<u>Matters from Residents:</u>

Lou Posly – (1) Road conditions Lidy Road – Lou asked that instead of patching potholes, it needs to be dug out, subsurface and repaved. Patching will not solve the problems. All agreed it needs to be done properly. We will do the drains and it will be done properly. (2) Questioned the Hometown Hero Banners taken down. Stan noted the banners in the beginning were hung and taken down in the winter to be protected and last longer. They are stored at the VFW. Mr. Jone sis President of the Lions Club. Mr. Jones explained the banners were taken down and cleaned, protectant applied, and will be put back up in May. Lou noted as Veterans they appreciate it. The rumor was they were getting rid of it. Mr. Jones stated the program will continue even if the Lions Club discontinues it. Lou noted his two brothers and his banner are not too old. Lou mentioned the Veterans killed in action and those no longer here. Stan and Lou agreed we have our Freedom thanks to the Veterans.

Joe Cigan – Questioned the President and solicitor on the Big Rocks LLC and quarry. Erik noted it is in appeal which can take time. Erik stated they appealed. They lost their license to operate the quarry. Mr. Cigan also noted he understands they never had the proper permits to operate a quarry and may be getting fined daily. Erik said that can be solved by the county by filing the proper paperwork. Mark stated they are not operating, not crushing or blasting or hauling. Someone does go in there probably to check things. Someone is there in the morning and it is locked by 11.

Alberta Warunek – I am glad that Patty made the suggestion that council members consult as a group with her over hiring and or firing of our dpw employees. If you don't know what money exists, you shouldn't be hiring people beforehand. Amen. Mark stated I'm pretty sure we did know though.

Danielle Perrins - Hemlock Street, what is the status of the pocket park or are funds going toward walk trail? It was noted that the remaining grant funds will go toward the walk trail and the new grant application will go toward the pocket park and the field behind the high rise. Stan stated we don't have enough money to deal with the pocket park, but can finish the walk trail.

Lou Posly – Asked when the environmental company is starting on that property on Lidy Road. Asked about the inspection and demolition of 249 Lidy Road. The inspection should be complete by end of March. Lou asked if that is being paid by the county. Patty noted the demo is but not the inspection or asbestos removal.

Matters from Council and Mayor:

Mr. Jones - Reported that Donations are being accepted for the Victims of the fire at 412 Main Street. Thanked the Fire and Police for all they do. The Borough is in good hands.

Mr. Kowalczyk – The Lions Club litter cleanup is March 22nd and the Park Cleanup is March 29th. Volunteers are welcome and bring your rakes.

Mr. Price – Spring is here. Be vigilant.

Mayor Lello – Four new orders came in for banners. The Lions Club food drive is the last Thursday of the month.

Mr. Karkut – Follow the Calendar. The first and third weeks are comingle. The second and fourth are paper. Put it out the night before. Mayor Lello said if its windy don't put plastics out. They end up all over.

With no further business before council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia McDonald
Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Stanley Knick Jr.
Council President