The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 6:00 pm on Tuesday evening, October 14, 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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL 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. 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. 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 APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM OCTOBER 14, 2025 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK: Bryan Besecker, Duane Saunders, Jennifer Polemitis, Christiopher Fargione, Michael Sniscak, Brian Morris, Brian Jacobosky, Eric Danaher and Jospeh Delaney.
Motion: Mr. Price
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.

REPORTS:
Treasurer's Report: submitted by Albert B. Melone Co., CPA
General Fund - $37,384.16
Payroll Fund - $775.02
ARPA - $.38
Admin Debit Card - $215.69
Police Debit Card - $3,595.32
Refuse Fund - $158,060.87
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $278,083.81
Liquid Fuels Fund - $126,302.35

Police Pension Fund - $1,290,298.63
Special Fund - $50,142.66 New Balance - $25,264.36
(Funds needed over Recreation project grant amount $24,878.30)
Clock Fund - $ 102.06
Fire Victims Fund - $60.08

Tax Collector Report: submitted by Susan Gregory, Tax Collector
August 2025 Report –
Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $28,399.59
Less Face Collections for the Month - $ 1,375.88
Less Penalties - $137.59
Balance Collectable End of Month - $ 27,023.71
Check deposited into General Fund - $1,513.47

September 2025 Report –
Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $27,023.71
Less Face Collections for the Month - $518.20
Plus Penalties - $ 51.83
Balance Collectable End of Month - $26,505.51
Check deposited into General Fund - $ 701.63

Mayor Report: Trunk or Treat is October 25 at Sacred Heart of Jesus parking lot and the food drive is the last Thursday of the month (23rd) at Holy Mother of Sorrows Church hall.

Police Report:
Chief Doran reported the following for September: criminal arrests-2; traffic citations issued-101; non traffic citations issued-1; appearances in magisterial court-59; motor vehicle accidents-6; assist to EMS/Fire-4; assist to other police dept.-11; alarms-1; thefts-2; vandalism-1; disorderly conduct-8; pfa violations-3; domestic reports-7; suspicious activity-4; assault/harassment-2; drug offense-1; miscellaneous calls-45; building checks-34; code enforcement/rental inspection-12; Vehicle Mileage: F150 – 71,637; Car#2 – 56,114; Explorer-36,031. Magistrate Fines Collected: $3,690.97.

Solicitor Report: None

Engineer Report: Bob Naegele reported on the following: (1) Quail Hill – Astound road restoration issue- Bob has been trying to reach out to them but had no luck. He talked about the solicitor reaching out to them and reviewing the franchise contract. (2) DEP came in with annual flood protection project. We are waiting on the final report to come in. (3) Basketball and Walk Trail – substantially complete and waiting on final paperwork to close out grant. (4) OCD projects – 249 Lidy Road Demo is complete – Patty noted Brdaric was paid. Stan questioned what the finish was supposed to be. After the rain, the topsoil was washed out onto the road. Bob will look at it. It should have been seed and topsoil. Also there is a maintenance bond on that contract. Stan also brought up the grass at the pocketpark. Joey noted the netting and fabric is still there. Bob stated we will check it in the spring and have the contractor come back there as well. With had little rain from July to September so growing grass wasn't optimal. (5) ADA ramps are complete. As of now there have not been any concerns from residents to be addressed. They will give it another week or two. (6) Quail Hill – Bob passed out a map for the new home construction at 619 Pittston Avenue - contractor called for information on sewer. Mike Ford did run the camera. There is no lateral on that side of the road. They need to cut the road and tie into the sewer main. After that

he called the power transformer is across and up the road from that lot. He asked how to do that and would like to keep it in one trench. I told him to check with PP&L to make sure they would allow that. Council will meet with the contractor on site to discuss this situation. (7) The garage behind the borough building estimate was very high. There is a new proposal for $100,000 which was scaled down from the original proposal. This is 24 x 28, 6" reinforced concrete floor slab, 2 exterior doors and 2 12 x 12 overhead doors. Stan suggested just one overhead door. Patty noted it is costars contractor so they handle everything it does not have to be bid out. Bob noted the permit fee will be waived for municipality also. Patty questioned if it should be put out to bid to see what other prices come in. Bob explained it would be design build explaining that process. Bob addressed Chief and Council on the police security entrance project and they are working on that project scope and pricing as well to get that on budget.

MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH D & M CONSTRUCTION FOR THE DPW GARAGE PROJECT
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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.

Fire Dept. Report: Chief Don Hudzinski Jr. reported the following: Total incidents-14; paid staff responses-6; volunteer responses-8. Incident types: motor vehicle accidents-5; FD investigation-1; Open burn-1; gas leak-2; aircraft incident-1; EMS assist-4. Jurisdiction: Dupont-10; Hughestown-1; Avoca-2; Pittston Twp.-1.

EMS Report: Hughestown responded 29 times in Dupont Borough in September. Additionally, Hughestown continues to staff two ambulances at a minimum of three days per week.

EMA Report: Joseph Jones reported: Hazard Mitigation Plan resolution submitted to county. It was forwarded to PEMA and FEMA. Joe and Bob attended the Public Information Officers training at the county for three days. It was very informative. I will be participating in the PIO for the county. They have a drill for the nuclear power plant.

Code Enforcement Report: 8 notice of violations, 7 citations written, 5 rental inspections. The IWORQ system is up and running and code enforcement has been using it. BHW is integrated in and can enter their information into our module. Joey is working with Nikki and will forward the rental inspections to her. She is going to implement that in so we can do the bills and monitor that right on the system. Stan asked if we can get on the system and see if permits are being done. Joey stated yes. Joey sent her the fee schedule. Patty asked who collects the rental inspection fees. Joe responded he will print off the invoices through IWORQ and we would go into the system and mark them paid.

Crime Watch Report: September meeting planned the Trunk or Treat event. Bob thanked Stan for getting the pumpkins from Eastern Produce. There are a lot of trunks planned and hopes everyone comes out.

Council President's Report:
Trash – 80.72 tons
Comingle - 4.23 tons
Paper – 3.85 tons no slip 9-11

Mileage: Packer-10,171; Recycler-47,948; Mack-5,452; Green Pickup-11,361; 6500-3,702; 3500-22,118; Bucket Truck-1,507.

Stan reported the following purchases:
Packer tires – 2734.84; recycler tires – 1457.70; green pickup tires – 943.97; mack truck – recall, hoses and exhaust pipes – 9960.14 noting it has only 5,000 miles and needs to be maintained better; 6500 Truck – recall, tires – 2103.52; green pickup inspection – 48.95; tarps for 3500 and mack; bucket truck repairs – 3246.67; plow blades 2 each for 3500, mack, and 6500 and 1 each for green pickup.

Stan continued with issues called in from residents:

1. Stop bar needed by Heidleberg bridge – cars pull too far out into the intersection for turning vehicles. Mark added he deals with this every day with his truck. There is a sign there that says stop here on red. They also need to paint lines coming from Dupont to turn left onto the bridge. Lines are worn out. What they don't realize is the sensor is back further. They don't get green area. All those lines need to be repainted there.
2. Basketball courts are locked at night and a timer was installed for the lighting.
3. Looking into grant to pave several streets including Commerce, Navy, Penn, Hemlock, Lidy, Hill and Liberty. Stash talked about the depression on Navy Way road that needs attention. No one knows what happened in that area.
4. Drain repairs are needed at 124 Main and 131 Bear Creek Road. It is the borough responsibility, but sometimes Penn DOT helps out. Patty talked to PennDOT and they did repair one drain in the Township area of Suscon road and hopefully if they have time can do the other one. If not the borough workers will need to address it.
5. Lidy Road demo is complete and the ADA ramps are complete. The walk trail and benches are complete.
6. Veteran's Day services for November 11th at 11 am will be held at the VFW. Stan asked for anyone available to attend and show support for the Veterans. A special event is planned for two local WWII Veterans in their 90's and we would like to see a large turnout.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS
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 ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2 OF 2025 – DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES
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 ISSUE THE FIRE RELIEF ALLOCATION TO THE DUPONT VOLUNTEER HOSE COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF $14,574.48.
Motion: r. Price
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 ISSUE THE 2025 BUDGETED TAX AMOUNT TO THE DUPONT VOLUNTEER HOSE COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF $8000.
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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 SUBMITTING GRANT APPLICATION UNDER LSA STATEWIDE FOR AN 8 YD PACKER FOR DPW AND A BANDSHELL FOR MEMORIAL PARK
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 PRESENT FIRST READING OF PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET
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.

<u>Proposed 2026 Budget:</u>
General Fund - $873,200.00
Refuse Fund - $190,000.00
Liquid Fuels Fund - $103,100.00
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $101,000.00
Total All Operating Budgets for 2026 - $1,267,300.00

In order to get to this balanced budget, the proposal includes an increase in taxes from 1.725 mils to 2.125 mils. The refuse fund proposes a $10.00 increase across the board and the sewer fund proposes a $20.00 increase per edu.

Patty asked council if they had any questions. Mark noted that the administrative office salary, and it was discussed with Council, Mark proposes an increase in the Secretary salary. Patty stated she will talk with council about this. Mark stated he was not aware of the rate and added that Patty knows everything about the operation of the office to the street and you oversee everything and you deserve it. We will talk about it before the next meeting. Patty noted she will not accept it.

Patty continued that she is waiting for the Borough insurance package prices to come in. Medical increased about $200 per person.

The tax collector salary has not been increased since back when Bill Elko was collecting. That salary increases from $2500 to $3500. The tax collector fee for certified records was $5.00 per record and that is increased to $10.00. Patty mentioned the salaries for Duryea and Avoca tax collectors. Everything else stays the same, road cut fee $100, parking ticket $25, rental inspection $75.00. At this point Mr. Jones would like to propose the rental inspection fee be increased from $75.00 to $100. Other towns have increased their fees. Stan commented that he really doesn't want to get into the budget because he is not going to be here next year, but offered comments such as raising the rental inspection fees when you haven't even gotten through the first round. All the rentals have not been inspected. Joey

noted letters have been sent. At this point Patty suggested council hold a work session before the second reading to discuss the budget in detail and bring the numbers to where they need to be. Stan responded that before the November meeting, possibly an hour before the meeting, we will have a work session to discuss the budget line for line. Patty stated she hopes to have the insurance costs by the second reading.

Mr. Jones stated the second proposal he has is for council and the mayor to take a decrease or eliminate the salaries for council and mayor. Stan stated he would have to look into that. Joey noted it was talked about at the recent Townships Boroughs meeting and that is where he got the idea from. Stan stated it is not that easy, there may be procedures to follow. Stan stated actually this council is one of the lowest around. Patty agreed saying that according to borough code the salaries can be set based on the population you should be getting more than $100 a month. They recently put out an article in the borough news magazine. Stan stated yes, but I always said and it is my personal opinion and why I was here for twenty years; it is not what Dupont can do for me, but what I can do for Dupont. I was here to make it a better place to live and not raise everything. It was an affordable town to live in. This is my last year. Yes, we have been the lower than everyone else with our salaries.

Patty asked if there were any comments on raising taxes, refuse and sewer. Mark noted that is why we have three readings so we can discuss this. The rough draft is out. We will mee at 5 pm next meeting. Patty stated the next meeting will be in November, with a work session at 5, meeting at 6. Following the second reading there will be a tenday public inspection and then a final reading and adoption in December.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF THE PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET
Motion: Mr. Price
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, abstain for a few reasons; (1) I won't be here next year and want council to do what is best for them and (2)I'm related to the tax collector so I cannot vote on it. In fact, I told her she should not get a raise either. Mark jokingly said thanks for telling us you don't care if we get paid next year. Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Matters from Residents: None

Matters from Council and the Mayor:

Mr. Jones – Lions Club Litter Cleanup October 26th 8 am, meet at the borough building. The Hometown Hero banners will be taken down November 11th following the services at the VFW. I will be out of work that day. I spoke with Bob Lopata and he is ok with that. The Christmas lights will go up the following Sunday.

Mr. Kowalczyk – Happy and Safe Halloween. Please show up for the Veterans Day ceremony. Our local Vets do a great job with those ceremonies. It makes you proud to be from Dupont.

Mr. Price – Hope to see everyone out at the Trunk or Treat October 25.

Mayor Lello – Halloween event and the Food Drive.

Mr. Karkut – Same as everyone else. I believe November 3 at the courthouse they area having a hearing on the Quarry for the blasting. Joe was at the office for another matter in town and they advised him of the hearing and to have people attend the hearing that are in protest of the blasting. Residents have come to council about the blasting and issues with their properties. Stan will also attend the hearing. Stan added that the Transfer Station case decision by Judge Gelb was made and the station is denied. Mark added they are moving materials but not operating the quarry. Joey suggested submitting a letter to the county zoning opposing it so it is on record in case of further appeal. Erik spoke about the quarry, being grandfathered in and then that changed.

Joe also spoke about meeting with the new director of Zoning to discuss a few issues in town. We should bring up the LAG issue and the 334 Main Street issue that is illegal. I want to show pictures of what is happening at the properties.

Stan stated he is willing to sit down and meet with the directors. Joe wants to see the two properties addressed before they get out of hand.

Mr. Knick – Happy Halloween. Stan also welcomed the new residents to Dupont, and hope they enjoy Living here.

Meeting adjourned 6:40 pm by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Stanley Knick, Jr.
Council President