DUPONT BOROUGH
Municipal Government
LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
600 Chestnut Street
Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641

MAYOR: Elaine Lello
COUNCIL
Mark Kowalczyk, President | Joseph Jones, Vice President
Joseph Karkut | Robert Price | Bruce Knick
BOROUGH MANAGER: Tony Guariglia, PhD
SOLICITOR: Eric Dingle, Esq.
ENGINEERING: CNA Associates

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Council President Mark Kowalczyk called the September 8, 2026 Regular Meeting of Dupont Borough Council to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Mark Kowalczyk, Joseph Jones, Joseph Karkut, Robert Price, and Bruce Knick were present. Mayor Elaine Lello was also present. A quorum was confirmed. CNA Associates was present for engineering matters.

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to adopt the minutes of the August 11, 2026 Regular Meeting and place them on file.

Motion by Bruce Knick; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Motion to accept the correspondence as presented.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Robert Price.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

4. BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Motion to approve the bills for payment.

Motion by Joseph Karkut; second by Joseph Jones.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

5. PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS

Motion to appoint part-time police officers from September 8, 2026 through the next regular meeting of Council, with no guarantee of work.

Officers appointed: Bryan Besecker, Jennifer Kumpas, Christopher Fargione, Jennifer Anderson, Joseph Delaney, and Mitchell Rennick.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

6. REPORTS

Treasurer

The Treasurer's report was presented with balances as of August 31, 2026: General Fund, $36,088.16; Payroll Fund, $27,732.74; ARPA/FNCB cash, $0.38; Administrative Debit Card, $49.22; Police Debit Card, $704.10; Refuse Fund, $135,354.81; Sewer Maintenance Fund, $419,484.58; Liquid Fuels, $89,783.00; Police Pension Fund, $1,180,257.90; Special Fund, $35,824.76; Clock Memorial Fund, $102.15; and Fire Victims Fund, $60.13.

Tax Collector

The Tax Collector report showed $9,874.77 remitted for the reporting month.

Mayor

Mayor Lello reminded residents that the Borough has a no-burn ordinance and that violations may result in fines. Fire pits were discussed as an exception, and residents were specifically reminded not to burn leaves as fall cleanup begins.

Police

The Police Department reported 31 building checks, an activity score of 376, vehicle mileage information, and magistrate fines collected in the amount of $1,337.03.

Solicitor

No separate Solicitor report was presented.

Engineer

- The Quail Hill insurance claim was settled. The most recent restoration estimate discussed was approximately $14,000-$14,500, above the settlement amount; Council may either scale back the restoration or fund the difference.

- For the Quail Hill Pump Station, the grant agency indicated that a three-phase electrical approach may be acceptable but requested a more detailed cost breakdown and identification of items that would be removed from the original scope.

- DEP requested another meeting regarding the Lidy Creek / Holden Street project. Prior responses and supporting information have been submitted.

- Support documents, cost estimates, and mapping were prepared for the Walnut Street culvert replacement and the next phase of Hemlock Park for anticipated community-development and Local Share Account funding.

- Preliminary Collins Creek drawings were previously submitted. Resident input will be sought before the project is submitted to DEP for permitting.

- Work on the garage and police entrance continues. Sheetrock and painting were reported complete, while ceiling, flooring, electrical, security, and related finish work remain. The garage floor is in place; paving at the entrance will be priced with other paving work.

- Plans received for Choo Choo Ice Cream were reviewed. The plans appeared to concern stormwater/retention features rather than new construction. The matter is primarily under County jurisdiction, and the Engineer will seek clarification as needed.

Fire Department

The Fire Department reported 21 incidents during August: 5 motor vehicle accidents, 1 fire alarm, 1 carbon-monoxide alarm, 1 residential structure fire, 1 utility-pole fire, 4 investigations, 1 wires-down call, 2 public assists, 4 EMS assists, and 1 fire-police callout. Jurisdictional totals were 16 in Dupont, 4 in Hughestown, and 1 in Avoca. A part-time apparatus-driver appointment was scheduled later in the meeting to fill the Thursday shift.

EMS / Emergency Management

Hughestown EMS responded to Dupont 21 times during August. The EMA Coordinator reported participation in a county exercise involving a simulated terroristic threat at Talen Energy and coordination with multiple responding agencies, including Pennsylvania State Police.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement reported 6 notices of violation, 8 citations, 4 rental inspections, and 1 property on McLean Street marked unfit for human habitation.

Crime Watch

Crime Watch announced a children's movie in Council Chambers on September 19, a trunk-or-treat event on October 25, and the next Crime Watch meeting on September 29.

Land Bank

The Land Bank reported recent property acquisitions in Avoca and Plains Township, anticipated state and federal funding opportunities for blighted-property work, and a planned modular-home project on an acquired property.

Greater Pittston Regional Compost Commission

The Commission reported that the immediate grant strategy is to seek funding to maintain and repair the existing grinder rather than purchase a new machine. Additional municipal participation, future state and federal grant opportunities, annual member costs, and disposal alternatives were discussed.

Council President

- August refuse and recycling totals were presented, including 5.4 tons of commingled recycling and 9.81 tons of paper. Refuse tonnage and Public Works vehicle mileages were also reported.

- Holy Mother of Sorrows Polish National Catholic Church will celebrate its 50th Annual Dozynki Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- The Borough has been awarded nearly $570,000 for paving portions of Penn Avenue, Wyoming Avenue, Lackawanna Avenue, Everhart Street, and Spruce Street. PennDOT procedures, ADA-ramp requirements, a required public meeting, bidding, and reimbursement procedures must be completed before construction. The project is expected to proceed as quickly as those requirements allow.

- Council discussed the Quail Hill roadway restoration following the Astound Broadband damage. The insurance offer was reported as having increased from $8,500 to $10,500 after negotiations, while the prior restoration estimate was approximately $14,000-$14,500. Council discussed obtaining new paving prices for the affected roadway and a separate price for the entrance to the new pole barn.

Motion to accept the reports as presented.

Motion by Bruce Knick; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

7. ACTION ITEMS AND MOTIONS

Quail Hill Road and Pole Barn Paving Bids

Council authorized solicitation, receipt, and consideration of bids for repair and restoration of the portion of Quail Hill Road affected by Astound Broadband work and, as a separate price, paving/blacktop at the entrance to the new pole barn behind the Borough Building.

Motion by Robert Price; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

Northeast Pennsylvania Land Bank Authority Representative

Council designated Robert Price as Dupont Borough's representative to the Northeast Pennsylvania Land Bank Authority.

Motion by Bruce Knick; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: 4 yes; Robert Price abstained - Motion carried.

Part-Time Paid Fire Apparatus Driver

Council appointed Alex Roper as a part-time paid apparatus driver for the Dupont Borough Fire Department, effective immediately, subject to all required certifications, clearances, training requirements, Borough policies, and the compensation rate established by Council.

Motion by Robert Price; second by Joseph Jones.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

Resolution No. 9 of 2026 - Luzerne County Local Share Account Grant

Council adopted Resolution No. 9 of 2026 authorizing the Borough of Dupont to submit a Luzerne County Local Share Account grant application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority on behalf of the Greater Pittston Regional Compost Commission in the amount of $200,000 for maintenance of the compost grinder, including eligible parts and labor, and authorizing Council President Mark Kowalczyk and Borough Manager Tony Guariglia to execute documents necessary to apply for and administer the grant.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

Former Police Vehicles - MOTION TO TABLE

Council discussed the Borough's two former police vehicles, a 2015 Ford Taurus and a 2019 Ford F-150, including possible sale, retention for Borough/code-enforcement or other municipal use, removal of police equipment and markings, repair needs, and insurance costs. Council did not declare the vehicles surplus at this meeting. Instead, Council moved to table the disposition of the vehicles until their mechanical condition and anticipated repair costs can be evaluated. The Borough Manager was directed to arrange an inspection/evaluation, including obtaining information from a Ford dealership or other appropriate service provider.

Motion to table by Robert Price; second by Joseph Jones.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

Holy Mother of Sorrows 50th Dozynki Proclamation

Council recognized and endorsed the Dupont Borough proclamation honoring Holy Mother of Sorrows Polish National Catholic Church upon the celebration of its 50th Annual Dozynki Harvest Festival and directed that the proclamation be entered into the official Borough record.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Robert Price.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paving schedule. A resident asked whether the newly awarded paving program is more likely to be a spring project than a fall project. Council advised that PennDOT procedures, the required public meeting, ADA-related requirements, and other compliance steps must be completed before work begins; the Borough intends to proceed without rushing or risking noncompliance.

Grant recognition. A resident recognized Borough Secretary Patty McDonald for the work performed on grant applications and Borough projects. Council agreed and thanked her for those efforts.

Sacred Heart parking. Residents and Council discussed longstanding parking concerns near Sacred Heart, particularly along Walnut and Lackawanna Avenues during Masses and funerals. Concerns included blocked handicap ramps, parking near a fire hydrant and intersections, roadway width, emergency-vehicle access, signage, line painting, and potential Borough liability. No formal action was taken. Council discussed revisiting professionally marked parking and access areas after the affected roadway is paved.

9. COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMMENTS

- Mayor Lello reminded residents of the recurring food drive, requested volunteers, and again encouraged attendance at the Holy Mother of Sorrows festival.

- Joseph Jones announced that the Lions Club will resume meetings on September 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the pavilion and confirmed the temporary closure of the 100 block of Elm Street for the Polish Club clam bake.

- Council confirmed that Public Works has returned to a 7:00 a.m. start time and asked residents to be patient when refuse collection is delayed by staffing, vacations, holidays, or schedule changes and to follow the published Borough calendar.

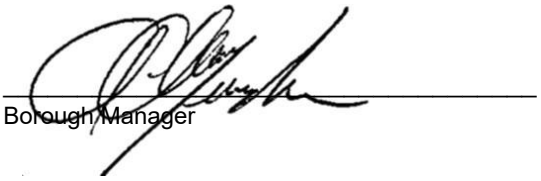
- Robert Price encouraged residents to attend the Crime Watch movie on September 19.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

These minutes were approved by Dupont Borough Council on October 13, 2026, as presented / as corrected.



Borough Manager