

White Haven Borough Council
September 22, 2025
Meeting Minutes

The White Haven Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Klem. A roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Charlie Best, Julie Fallon, John Klem, Bob Lamson, Zane Writer, and John Zugarek. Absent: Harvey Morrison. Also present: Attorney Sean Logsdon, Borough Manager Linda Szoke, Assistant Borough Secretary Holly Potance, Street Commissioner Sean Reynolds, Police Chief Rich Mocofan, and Mayor Tim Janosco.

Attorney Logsdon stated that there was an executive session regarding personnel matters held before this meeting at 6 pm.

Minutes – The minutes from the August 25th meeting were presented. A motion was made by Best and seconded by Writer to approve the minutes. All in favor, the motion carried.

Public comment on agenda items –

- Joan Gower spoke regarding an accident that happened on Interstate 80 on the evening of August 17, 2025. Traffic had been routed through town. Gower stated she was here to request a safety plan for the next time this happens. Gower stated that from about 9 pm that evening until around 2:30 am the truck traffic was non stop. The trucks had gone one right after another into the left lane and turned, not stopping for the stop sign. Gower asked if everyone knew where she lived and Councilman Writer said he did not. Gower stated she lives at the corner of Church and Berwick Streets. Gower said this was very dangerous and she called the police she believes after 11 pm. Nobody was on duty in White Haven so she was sent to the State Police who made Gower believe they would be sending someone out. Gower is asking that when we have a situation like this again, we have a police officer at that intersection. Councilman Lamson said he had spoken briefly with Gower about this earlier and had checked the schedule. The officer that was on second shift was off duty by the time Gower had called and because of staffing issues there was nobody on the next shift. Lamson stated that this type of situation is not something that warrants calling out an off duty officer. Lamson introduced Alex, Chief of Staff for Representative Walsh's office, in the audience and said that this may be something that he could help with. Lamson stated that even if an officer had been on duty, they may have been on a call and not been available to direct traffic. Lamson also stated that 437 and 940 are state highways so the trucks do have the right to be there as they pay taxes to use the road, but running the stop sign and crossing the line are issues.

Borough Manager Szoke addressed Alex and told him that at night the stop signs are hard to see in the dark and that borough council had spent of \$25,000 on a traffic study to get PennDot to allow lights to be put on the stop signs and they fought against it and said no. Alex stated he would try to help out on this.

- Council President Klem asked if anyone had any questions for Alex from Representative Walsh's office. Councilman Lamson asked if there was any progress on the issue of boroughs being responsible for storm water on state highways. Lamson stated townships are not but boroughs are and we have a drain pipe near Interstate 80 that needs to be replaced and it is our responsibility to replace it. Alex will call the borough manager and discuss this.

Engineer Report – on file

Attorney's Report –

- A motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Zugarek to approve the proposal for \$22,780 from Frens and Frens Architectural Consulting Services for the final library phase. Roll call vote: Best-yes, Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek-yes. All in favor, the motion carried.

Manager's Report –

- Borough Manager Szoke stated our MMO is our exposure to our pension plan that we get every year. Szoke said we did get grant money back for it, and that this year's exposure was \$24,000 or \$25,000 and we ended up with \$33,000. Szoke stated all of the money goes to the pension fund, we don't get to keep any of it. Szoke said the one that is underfunded right now is the non-uniform because there have not been enough employees on the plan long enough to contribute. For 2026, Szoke said the exposure for police is \$3,200 and for non-uniform it is \$26,776. Szoke said if the grant money from the pension relief keeps coming every year, it covers it so we are not in a deficit where we need to make up some of that money.
- Borough Manager Szoke stated we got an agreement to do the capacity building grant for Walk Works. Szoke stated that meetings have started and a press release will be going out tomorrow introducing the community to what Walk Works will be doing with us as far as an active transportation plan. We are a Pennsylvania Department of Health State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program of Luzerne County county of need. Because we applied and fall in the county of need, they will take us through an almost year long program and get us ready for doing the grant to hopefully do the walking trail around Linesville Park and connect to Main Street to give the community a walking area. They

will be meeting with Szoke and the committee sometime in October to get a feel for the town.

Tax Collector –

- Property taxes collected - \$2,337.23
- Local Realty Transfer Tax - \$367.50
- Delinquent taxes - \$2,548.64

Building, zoning, Code enforcement – Report on file

Street Commissioner / Committee - Silverado 54,541 F550 33,114

- Street Commissioner Reynolds stated the salt shed has been resealed and new lines have been painted on Main Street. Reynolds said we will also be getting the decal to paint between the arrows on Main Street for the D&L Trail.
- Councilman Writer discussed having Reynolds get quotes for a line painter to help with the work around the borough. Borough Manager Szoke stated it is an allowable expense from Liquid Fuels. Reynolds read the 3 quotes he received. Grayco Paint was \$5,500, Bradco was \$7,300, and Sherwin Williams was \$5,300. Reynolds also noted that both Sherwin Williams and Grayco would come out with the machine and train them to use it. A motion was made by Writer and seconded by Zugarek to purchase a line painter from Sherwin Williams from Liquid Fuels money at the cost of \$5,300. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mayor / Police Chief / Police Committee Report – report on file

- Chief Mocofan stated that July was one of the busiest months in the history of the police department with 466 calls for service. Chief Mocofan also stated we may need to look at hiring more part time officers to handle staffing issues.
- Mayor Janosco said that regarding staffing, the committee has discussed moving a part time officer to a full time position. A motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Zugarek to hire Officer Patryk Sulewski as a full time officer to fulfill the Foster Township contract. All in favor, the motion carried.

Fire Department – report on file

Ambulance – report on file

Committee Reports –

- **Building and Grounds –**

- **Blueprint Planning Group** – The team was in Harrisburg on Thursday presenting goals, projects, and plans to some funders.
- **Finance** –
 - Council Vice President Best discussed the First Keystone CD. The CD is due to rollover and Best would like to check rates as he does not think \$500 in 18 months is a good rate. A motion was made by Writer and seconded by Zugarek to give Best and Szoke permission to find a higher interest bearing CD. All in favor, the motion carried.
 - Vice President Best said that his son is on council in East Side Borough and wanted to be on the agenda tonight but it had been too late. East Side wants to know if White Haven Borough would work out some kind of snow plow contract with them. Street Commissioner Reynolds said there are 2 people on White Haven Public Works and East Side does not carry salt so it would also be White Haven Borough's salt. Reynolds said he was not sure how that would work, plus our state contracts get done first. Councilman Lamson asked what all are they talking about as far as plowing for them, what areas. Reynolds asked if they have a map of what we would be looking at. Borough Manager Szoke stated that the concern with salt is that we have already ordered for the contract that has been awarded this year, which is usually done in February or March. That means that taking on more roads, and if we have a harsh winter, if we need to buy salt outside of the contract that will cost us more money. President Klem suggested getting together with Mike from East Side, taking a look at a map and taking a look at things. Councilman Lamson said that his only other concern is the one truck we use for plowing is not in the best condition. Szoke stated that is something she has to review when we look at the budget in October. We may be able to budget a new truck with payments coming out of Liquid Fuels. Szoke did say that we probably would not buy that truck until the spring because we will need the current one through the winter for snow plowing. Szoke did say that Lamson is right, we only have 2 trucks and one is usually doing the state highways while the other is doing the local roads.
- **Planning** –
- **Water** – report on file

Consent Agenda - a motion was made by Writer and seconded by Best to adopt the following items through the consent agenda. Roll call vote: Best-yes, Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, Writer-yes, and Zugarek-yes. All in favor, the motion carried.

1. Grant permission to the Lions Club for the annual Halloween parade on 10/19/25

2. Acceptance of the annual MMO reports as presented by the Borough Manager
3. Resolution 14 of 2025 to apply for the LSA Grant to pave the Power House Road

Payment of bills –

A motion was made by Best and seconded by Lamson to pay the bills. All in favor, the motion carried.

Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn at 7:40 pm by Lamson and seconded by Zugarek. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Potance

Holly Potance
Assistant Borough Secretary