

White Haven Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2026

White Haven Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. President Klem asked for a roll call and the following were present: Julie Fallon, John Klem, Bob Lamson, Tom Szoke, Zane Writer, and John Zugarek. Absent: Charlie Best – illness. Also Present: Attorney Lodgson, Mayor Tim Janosco, Borough Manager Linda Szoke, Street Commissioner Sean Reynolds

Minutes from the February 23, 2026, meeting were presented. A motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Writer to approve the minutes as presented. All members in favor, the motion carried.

President Klem asked to start with the appointment of the Police Chief. Councilman Tom Szoke presented the motion to appoint Nicholas Ganz as our full-time police chief with a mutual agreement of understanding to be signed with employment. A motion was made by Szoke and seconded by Lamson to hire Officer Ganz as White Haven Police Chief. All members in favor, the motion carried. The meeting was then turned over to Mayor Janosco, who swore in the new Chief. After Chief Ganz had his daughter pin his chief badge on his uniform.

Public Comment

1. White Haven Fire Department, Fire chief Brian Hoch and President Sal Stallone asked to speak to council. Since John Klem is a member of the fire company he past the gavel to Pro Temp Lamson to run the meeting so there was no conflict. Sal then spoke to the board about the \$40,000 in funds that the borough lent the fire company and requested that the board reconsider the boroughs contribution being repaid to the borough. Lamson spoke commending the fire dept on their efforts, yet we have \$48,000 invested in this venture and is open to having conversation but inclined not have the decision made tonight. Councilman Szoke asked about a repayment plan, Lamson stated he too was mulling that over as well. Lamson asked to take that proposal back to the fire company membership to discuss. Fallon also stated we are fortunate to have such a great fire dept in our town. Fallon's concern is that this is setting a precedent when others come to the council for financial assistance as well. Lamson and Szoke also agreed that several non-profits are struggling to raise money from the same group of area residents. The borough is not in a position to say you don't have to pay this back. Sal and Brian said paying it back will be based on how fundraising goes. Sal reviewed the truck payments will be from the loan on the truck which will be somewhere around \$2200.00 Fallon suggested we should have a sit down meeting to discuss on the

financials. Lamson suggested a work session. Fallon said bring your financials and numbers so we can discuss options. Borough Manager Szoke spoke about the financial history of the money in the reserves and what has already been given to the fire dept. After further discussion, it was decided to have a work session at 6 pm before our next council meeting on April 27, 2026. The fire department will bring some proposals and ideas with them to the meeting. President John returns to chair the meeting at this time.

Engineers report

We have a letter from engineer that the bids for the library project came in over the Funds available for the project. It is his recommendation that we reject all bids and put The project back out for rebid for April 8th, 2026. A motion was made by Fallon to reject all current bids and rebid for April 8th, the motion was seconded by Zugarek. A roll call Vote was taken: Fallon – yes, Kelm-yes, Lamson-yes, Szoke -yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek-yes. The motion was carried.

Attorney's report

Followed up on tax exempt properties and trash billings, we would not be able to bill Separately based on the ordinance that was adopted. He also spoke about billing for The ambulance company, its not considered a theft of service but with the assignment of

Benefits form that might help them collect the funds. The next step would be to then Take those who are not paying to court. Szoke spoke about his meeting with State Representative Walsh regarding this situation and the challenges all the area ambulances and even the fire department faces with these calls. The attorney then spoke about ICE program and area law enforcement joining. Szoke recommended that Chief Ganz look into this program for the department. Sean also presented on some options for development of vacant lots to register them with a fee, possible tax relief options or waivers of permit fees to encourage building. More discussion on this item to follow.

Managers' Report

Thank you to everyone for another successful Egg Hunt. An update was put out on the I80 Construction with both ramps will be closed for a bit. Linda further spoke about the Meeting with Wagmans and the progress of the I80 bridge. Linda also worked on the PPL lights and the number of street lights in the borough.

Tax Collection – reports on file

Code Enforcement – reports on file

Street Committee/commissioner - looking for volunteers for annual clean up on April 24th
Police chief/committee/Mayor – Police report on file. Tom Szoke present John Bryan to be hired part time at \$22.00 per hour pending back ground checks. A motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Szoke to hire John Bryan, All in favor, the motion carried. Szoke also said the JNET audit went well for the public; there were no CJS violations, even though allegations from former employees were made about that. Things were in order, and thank you, Chief Ganz, for handling the audit.

Fire Department – report is on file – Get your fish fry tickets for next week

Ambulance – report on file, also meeting with State Representative Walsh for consider an LSA grant for the new ambulance.

Finance - CD is coming due; Linda provided rate options from 3 financial institutions. A motion was made by Zugarek and seconded by Lamson to roll over the CD with First Keystone for an additional 6 months at 4%. All in favor, motion carried.

Recreation – next meeting April 2 at 6pm

Planning – no meetings scheduled

Water – report is on file

Consent agenda:

- Approve resolution 6 of 2026 for disposition of borough records.
- Approve Resolution 7 of 2026 to amend police directives 41 and 42

A motion was made by Fallon and seconded by Lamson to approve Resolutions 6 and 7 of 2026 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, Szoke-yes, Writer - yes and Zugarek -yes. Resolution 6 and 7 are adopted.

The monthly bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$38,191.17. A motion was made by Writer and seconded by Lamson to pay as presented. President Klem asked if all were in favor, there were 4 yes (Writer, Fallon, Klem, Lamson and 1 no Zugarek), the bills were approved for payment.

Comments from public for non-agenda items – there were none

A motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm was made by Zugarek and seconded by Lamson; all in favor, the motion carried.