

White Haven Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2026

Council President John Klem called the meeting to order with roll call, the following members were present: John Klem, Bob Lamson, Tom Szoke, Zane Writer, John Zugarek. Absent: Charles Best, Julie Fallon and Mayor Janosco. Also, present Attorney Sean Logsdon, Borough Manager Linda Szoke, Police Chief Nick Ganz and Road Master Sean Reynolds.

The minutes from the March 23 and April 27th meetings were presented for approval. A motion was made by Zugarek and seconded by Lamson to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favor and motion was carried.

Public comment on agenda items was brought up and there were no comments from the public.

Engineers report –

- Awarded the TASA grant from Penn Dot for \$650,000.00. A meeting to be scheduled in July on how the awarded funds will be used. Lamson asked about property owner Darrin Gallagher and his zoning hearing results be reviewed with the streetscape. Klem asked for an update on Chemung Street. Engineer is working on paperwork for bidding. Also, it appears the flashing stop signs have been approved just waiting on final permit for purchase.

Attorneys Report

- Discussion on Amending Landlord Tenant inspections. Dennis Peters pointed out a case law in December of 2025 regarding the ability to conduct the inspections. The attorney reviewed the new case law. Discussion from council on other options on how to proceed with this ordinance. Possible self-inspection or when unit is open, they get an inspection while increasing the fines to ensure compliance. A line that would absolve the borough of any liability. Finally, discussion is to follow case law and have attorney come up with a new amended ordinance. A motion was made by Tom to set fees for self-inspection fees and seconded by Lamson to charge, \$1000 if they fail to do self-inspection and \$500 if they fail to get an occupancy permit. Roll call vote was taken: Klem -yes, Lamson-yes, T. Szoke -yes, Writer-yes Zugarek -yes, motion carried.
- Resolution for fee schedules will need to hold until the land lord tenant issues are resolved as well.

Managers' Report

- Discussion on sidewalks and having a program regarding sidewalk maintenance. We did cite a few residents. Manager used Luzerne County gis map for council members to see the locations around the property that were cited. After review the location how would council like to proceed with the sidewalk issues. Following additional discussion, it was decided to table the project until the borough gets more information from the active transportation professionals.
- There was a meeting with the White Haven Center with a tour, both Linda, Bob Lamson and John Zugarek were in attendance. There will be a meeting in July with all the stakeholders and use those comments to create the bid package so the property can be put out to bid.
- The 2025 Audit was completed and is available for review.

Tax collections for April \$316,168.26 for property taxes, no funds collected on real estate transfer taxes and delinquent taxes collected were \$1312.22

Code enforcement/zoning – report on file

Street Department

- Working on bids for new truck
- T. Szoke requested Sean to get prices on Liter pick up sign that can be used by residents, chamber for safety when they are cleaning. Lamson thinks it may have been the White Haven Methodist Church and speak with their coordinator to help keep everyone safe.

Police chief/Mayor/Police committee – report on file

White haven Fire Department – report on file

Ambulance – report on file. Linda did report that the DCED is unable to do the study for the ambulance. State Representative Walsh is working on a bill for dual endorsements on payments to their ambulance.

Buildings and Grounds – working on quotes for garage

Finance – moved funds back to savings from taxes

Recreation – no meeting this month

Planning – no meeting schedule

Water – report on file collected 1,333,000

Consent agenda

1. Adopt resolution 9 of 2026 for the disposal of borough records prior to 2018

2. Motion to add Pro Temp – Bob Lamson to an authorized signature on borough checks at Essa.

A motion was made by Zugarek and second by Writer to adopt consent items, all in favor, motion carried.

Bills were presented for payment \$46,251.33, with no questions a motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Zugarek to pay the bills. Roll call taken Fallon -yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T.Szoke – yes, Writer-yes and Zugarek-yes all in favor. * Note for minutes that Council Woman Julie Fallon joined the meeting virtually.

Comments from public regarding non-agenda items.

1. Thomas Szoke stepped away from council table and spoke as business owner of Garage time auto repair stating he would not be working on borough vehicles so there is no conflict of interest
2. Mr. Jeff Gulva spoke from West Woodhaven Road, he asked that his road be looked at it appears to be neglected with pot holes and issues with Breeze line and their work on the street. Sean Reynolds will go out and take a look at it for the resident
3. Chris Robert asked about sidewalks questions and ADA being complied. Just asking that council keep in mind that issue as well.

A motion was made at 8:00pm to adjourn by Lamson and second by Zugarek, all in favor. Next meeting will be June 22, 2026.

Sincerely,

Linda Szoke
Borough Manager