

Howard Borough Council

Minutes of January 5, 2026, Meeting

Council Members Present: Philip Winchell, Emily Herr, Donna Benner, Andrew Kotzur, Bobby Yearick, Autumn Hanley, Lydia Watters, Mayor Deb Simoncek

Council members absent:

Guests present: Zac Worth, Marissa Undercolfer, Josh Collins, Caleb Kelly, Kyle Undercofler, Lindsey Long, Tom Bowes

Philip Winchell called the meeting to order. Deb Simoncek, Emily Herr, Lydia Watters, Autumn Hanley and Lindsey Long were sworn into office.

Deb Simoncek presided over Leadership terms.

Election of Borough Council Offices. Council Leadership for the 2026 term and will include: Andrew Kotzur President, Donna Benner, Vice President, Nancy Fishburn, Sec.-Tres. and Terry Williams Borough Solicitor. All were in favor.

Andy Kotzur and Donna Benner were sworn into office by Deb Simoncek.

Andy Kotzur presided over the rest of the meeting.

Moved by Lydia Watters, Donna Benner seconded, approving minutes from December 8, 2025, Council Meeting. Motion passed.

Citizen/Guests

Citizens and guests were reminded about the time limit on comments.

(TIME LIMIT OF 4 MINUTES-Citizens present at any Borough Council Meeting or Committee Meetings have the option to speak at this time unless otherwise recognized by the presiding officer.)

Tom Bowes was in attendance to talk about the misuse of the recycling area by commercial landscapers.

Josh Collins presented the 2025 HFC report. Josh Collins presented a new Fire Protection and Funding Agreement. This will be sent to Terry Williams for review.

Mayor

Deb Simoncek reported that putting a Facebook post about snow removal might be helpful. Deb reported that some residents have been shoveling the railroad bridge at times, and also a portion of the walking path.

Treasurer's Report

Moved by Donna Benner, seconded by Robert Yearick, to approve the December Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Passed.

Correspondence

Outgoing –

Incoming–CCRRA/information

Committee Reports

Water- Donna Benner reported that all is good. Most meters have been installed. Moved by Bobby Yearick, seconded by Lydia Watters, to raise the water shut off fees from \$25.00 to \$100.00. Motion Passed.

Streets – Bobby Yearick and Emily Herr had nothing to report.

Streetlights – Lydia Watters had no report.

Refuse– Autumn Hanley reported all is good.

Property- Andy Kotzur reported that the tractor bids have come in low so it will be put back up.

Zoning Officer – Zach Worth had nothing to report.

Operations and Maintenance Report –Zac Worth reported that they have been removing snow.

Old Business

Moved by Andy Kotzur, seconded by Autumn Hanley, to add Donna Benner as a signer on the accounts with First National Bank. Motion Passed.

Nancy Fishburn reported that the grant for the new LED sign for the Fire Hall was approved. Linda Hanley had worked on this grant.

New Business

Moved by Lydia Watters, seconded by Autumn Hanley to appoint the 2026 Standing Committees. (attached) Motion passed.

Deb Simoncek reported that a kiln was donated to the borough

Moved by Autumn Hanley to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned

Nancy Fishburn
Secretary-Treasurer