

Canton Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Canton Borough Council held a Regular meeting on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at The John A. Mosser Canton Borough Municipal Building, 4 North Center Street, Canton. Council members in attendance were George Jennings, Jeff Cole, Deanna Watkins, Brian Koval, Mike Shultz, Dave Atherton-Ely, Solicitor Cassi Blaney and Mayor Shawn Packard. Chief Strozyk, David Wilson, James Bowman of the street Department and Leighanne Ellingham zoning officer. Joy Williams was absent.

Visitors: Bill Holland, David Groover Sr., Matt Jennings, Brett Neely and Walter Woods(refused to sign in).

President Mike Shultz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Dave Atherton-Ely prayer.

Minutes

Jennings moved and Watkins seconded accepting the minutes of the February 9th, regular council meeting. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Atherton-Ely moved and Koval seconded accepting the minutes of the February 16th, special council meeting. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Bills

Cole moved and Koval seconded accepting the bills presented for payment and the issuing of checks since the February 9th meeting. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Visitor Comments:

Bill Holland comments about the hopeful growth of jobs in the community with Lubbering Corp running business at the old milk plant building. He talked about how long he has lived in the borough and things he has seen change with time. He would like to see the borough liven up once again with more businesses.

Business

PSAB conference attendees/approval

Emerick shares the dates of the conference. May 31st – June 3rd in Hershey PA. Early sign up before April 24th gives you a discount on the attending fee. You can choose the full package at \$255.00 per person or one day only passes for \$100.00/day. Ellingham showed interest in going along with Watkins and Koval. You must have a reserved voting delegate by May 11th. There are other options on where to stay the night as well to lessen the total cost of this trip.

Jennings made a motion to send 2 people to the conference. Cole seconded the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Tax Rate Ordinance

Emerick explains the new tax rate that had to be adjusted to show the fire tax be no more than 3.0 mills. The extra 0.25 mills went into the general fund. Atherton-Ely makes a motion to accept the new tax rate ordinance. Jennings seconded the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Borough Manager Ordinance

Shultz makes sure this was advertised. Atherton-Ely made a motion to accept the borough manager ordinance. Cole seconded the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Advertise for vacancies on zoning board

Emerick shares with the council that she has reached out to some board members to see if they still would like to participate on the zoning board. She is waiting to hear back from two members. There is a total of 4 seats held with one seat vacant. Sandra Most's term has expired this year for 2026. She would like to keep the seat. Watkins makes a motion to advertise vacancies online and in the paper if required. Jennings seconded the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Sidewalk Grant

Emerick asks if council would like to advertise more for the sidewalk application. She has received four applications so far and we are nearing the deadline. Emerick explains that if we only have one or two approved applicants the grant will still go through but with the money left the process will start all over again. Contractors would be hesitant to bid on this job with the third round. More money will be spent on admin instead of the actual project. Ellingham will keep reaching out to the public. Shultz asked if churches could participate. Emerick says no its based off income. Atherton-Ely asks for word of mouth, Facebook and knocking on doors.

FCCB CD maturity/renewal

Emerick let council know there is a CD maturing on March 11th. We have 10 days to renew or withdraw. Rates at \$100,000 are 3.75% for 9 months, 3.55% at 5 months, or 3.75% for 17 months. Talk about the upcoming Upper Mountain job starting soon and needing money upfront to cover costs. Atherton-Ely makes a motion to reinvest \$60,000 and keep \$40,000 for the general fund. Jennings seconded the motion. Reinvest for the 5 months at 3.55% if it is the same interest rate or higher as the \$100,000 option. If not hold on to the \$100,000 to reinvest later. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Mike Henahan/Water Board

Canton Borough Authority has given the option of voting Mike Henahan on the water board. Cole makes a motion to vote Henahan in. Jennings seconded the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution

Emerick tells council about the Bradford County Department of Public Safety sending out a new Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2026. We have been advised to adopt the County Plan. Emerick typed up a resolution for this to take effect. Shultz reads the resolution to council. Atherton-Ely makes a motion to adopt this resolution. Koval seconds the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Code Officer

Jennings makes a motion to hire Nick Petrowski at \$18 an hour and 8 hours a week with reimbursement with mileage. Koval asks if the computer system is still in place for the code officer position. Jennings says that is no longer. The yearly cost was high for what we needed it for. Ellingham is going to get with Petrowski to get him started. Ellingham asks for a tower for the computer in the office so they can share the computer. Cole seconds the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Procession of the Cross

Emerick spoke with Ted Bown about the procession of the cross happening on April 3rd around 10:30AM. They need a written letter from the Borough allowing this procession to take place. Emerick asked Ted to reach out to the Fire Dept for help with traffic. Jennings makes a motion to approve the route and the letter from the borough. Atherton-Ely seconds the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Police Department

Report:

Chief Strozyk talks about 62 calls for February. Talk of one part time employee working steady two shifts a week. The other part time employee has been working more at his full-time job. They are short-handed and it hasn't given him time to work here at night. Jennings asks if Strozyk thought about advertising for any more part time help? Jennings would like to see more nighttime/weekend coverage. Strozyk explains one department is hiring part time at \$30 an hour for help.

Street Department

Street Report for February:

- Monday morning street checks
- Several snow events
- Installed new fuel tank
- Hauled snow out of town
- Repaired several signs
- Sanded & painted backhoe hood
- Equipment maintenance
- Pressure wash equipment & trucks
- Hauled in material from township
- Clean shop & office
- Inventoried rec building
- Stripped & painted picnic tables

Wilson talked mainly about snow events. Wilson mentioned the inventoried list from the rec. building. Wilson has contacted several people about some of the larger dollar items sitting down there. He would like to see if they would give us some money back if they would take the items

back. The no turn on red sign that is facing the ground at the red light, Wilson does not have a piece of equipment to get him that high to fix it. Cole has contacted Brian Krise and he is willing to help us with his bucket truck. Steve Kehoe was contacted also to help with guidance on who is responsible for what. Montague St is beyond repair at the bottom near the Water Authority. The section below second street. Cole asked about the UGI project that is to happen on Montague St. Wilson is unsure where they are going to place the line. Cole thinks tying in with Ugl's project to get a discount on material would be best. Wilson is going to contact Steve Kehoe to see if he can get us a quote on what needs done and our options. Watkins asks what we are going to do with this inventory list. Wilson suggests advertising on Municbid. Watkins makes a motion to advertise on Municbid. Cole seconds the motion. Blaney offers asking local concession stands to see if they need any of these items. Watkins amends to advertise locally instead of Municbid. Get an estimated cost first. Wilson should take pictures of what we have. Tabled for April meeting. Rol call: All said "Aye"

Zoning Officer Report

Ellingham talks about one accessory use zoning permit. She talks about Luebbering Corp and the parcel itself is fine to operate as it sets. They are under a non-conforming zone. They are looking in the future to bridge that gap. There are a few residential lots in this area. Ellingham gave council a packet of information regarding what is being asked and what we currently have going on. She clarifies that this is not spot zoning. Ellingham explains that we must be careful and cautious moving forward. Blaney states this is early on and they could file for a rezoning application. Koval asks if there is anything slowing them down now from doing business. Shultz asks for pros and cons with changing his zoning for his lot. Ellingham states that he would not need to do that. That's what we are questioning. Ellingham looks into the future once we change the zoning and there are some big buildings sitting vacant again like the WIP property. The potential of data center?

Fire Department

Fire Report for February:

Brett Neely is going to get with Olive and Shawn about some training coming up for EMA.

Emergency Management

As stated above.

Recreation Committee Report

Koval talks about the basketball court and meeting with Wilson about what we are going to do about the unsatisfactory work done to the court. Koval also states we are flagged through the state and we cannot receive DCED grant funding as well as selling everything off at the pool. Atherton-Ely claims we can't keep going into the red to keep the pool running. There is not enough money to keep and maintain it. Holland mentions getting someone in here that all they do is write grants. Koval brings up feasibility study. Watkins expresses not being able to afford that study to be done. Koval asks maybe we can repurpose it in another way to offer the community.

Mayor's Remarks:

Packard talks about questions about when the bathrooms will open at the park. He knows that it is a seasonal thing. Wilson goes over the list of events yearly when he closes and opens the park. Middle of May should be when he gets to open the park up for the season. Packard gives a shout out to Chief Strozyk for a rough couple weeks. Working on some cases that should have been rectified years ago.

General Information (no information or action required)

Groover Sr. talks about Packard posting on Facebook. "sometimes as mayor it is better to know when to say nothing." On the street department "that used to always be a job the street department did. We widened the streets out at the end of a snowstorm." It seems the street department is subletting jobs and removing work and not getting anything new to do for the time being spent.

Blaney states the CHS department at the Canton Area High School is doing Cinderella. March 20th and 21st at the auditorium.

Watkins states the Canton Area High School Baseball team has a fund raiser coming up March 14th. Basket bingo at the auditorium.

Shultz mentions the Tee ball field and basketball court were being used already with the nice weather.

Atherton-Ely mentions working on the tee ball field soon.

For the Good of the Order

Next Meeting – April 13, 2026 6pm at the John Mosser Canton Borough Building.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM

Olive Emerick
Sec./Treas.