

Canton Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Canton Borough Council held a Special Meeting on Monday, December 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at The John A. Mosser Canton Borough Municipal Building, 4 North Center Street, Canton. Council members in attendance were Mike Shultz, Jeff Cole, Deanna Watkins, Dave Atherton-Ely, Brian Koval, Joy Williams, Solicitor Cassi Blaney and Mayor David Groover Sr. George Jennings was absent. Chief Strozyk, David Wilson & James Bowman of the street Department were present. Zoning Officer Leighanne Ellingham was absent.

Visitors: Curt Route and Walter Woods(refused to sign in).

President Councilman Mike Shultz opened the Council meeting lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation.

Visitor Comments:

No Comments

Minutes:

Deanna Watkins made a motion to accept the December 8th, Regular Council meeting minutes. Joy Williams seconded the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Business:

2026 Budget Finalization

Emerick explained that we are here to vote on passing the proposed budget for 2026 with a 1.25 mil increase. 1 for general and .25 for fire. Dave Atherton-Ely made a motion to pass the 2026 budget. Brian Koval seconded the motion. Groover mentioned wanting money put back in for a police vehicle in the future. Shultz said council is aware and is going to work on that in the future. Roll call: All said "Aye"

John Mosser Canton Borough Authority

Emerick explained that council needed to vote on whether they want to appoint John Mosser another term as Secretary for the Canton Borough Authority. Joy Williams and Jeff Cole abstained from this for reasons of conflict of interest. Dave Atherton-Ely made a motion to appoint John Mosser Secretary for another term with the Canton Borough Authority. Deanna Watkins seconded that motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Upper Mtn Rd contract agreement

Emerick told council that Tim Robson brought to the office the contract for Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Project Agreement. We need to sign this and send copies back to Tim to get this project stapled down for 2026. Jeff Cole made a motion to sign the contract. Dave Atherton-Ely seconded the motion. Koval asked about being able to use Act 13 money for this project. Dave Wilson talked of being able to save money on this project from the street crew doing the work. We have "in-kind" responsibilities but it will not be as much as the paper shows. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Chamber renewal

Emerick explained that we received the Canton Chamber Membership renewal application. We need to decide if we want to be part of this for 2026. Deanna Watkins made a motion to renew our membership with the chamber. Brian Koval seconded the motion. Roll call: Atherton-Ely was "Nay" All the rest were "Aye"

Quickbooks Consulting

Emerick explained that she needs more help with Quickbooks. There are updates that we could use. Payroll can run a lot smoother. Less worry with filing taxes for local and state. Emerick talked with CPA Gutherie out of Mansfield on a quote for Quickbooks consulting. They quoted \$350 an hour with in person or over the phone consulting. Emerick also contacted Raychel Boggs, locally in Canton, she gave a quote of \$35 an hour. Council asked how much time Emerick needs. Raychel thought 2-hour sessions would be good. Dave Atherton-Ely made a motion to approve 3 sessions, 6 hours total, with Raychel Boggs. Deanna Watkins seconded the motion. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Drop DEP Waste Transportation Program

Emerick talked to a DEP representative to better understand this program. If the borough doesn't transport waste to a landfill we don't need to renew this program. Dave Wilson told council that they save most everything for the springtime clean up when we get dumpsters at the street shed. All agreed to not renew this program.

Boggs Tech quote

Emerick told council she still doesn't know what this is for. Since Shultz was at this meeting maybe he can explain a little more about this. Shultz briefly explained asking for a quote from Boggs on a back up server. Our current set-up isn't ideal. Shultz tabled this for the January 5th meeting.

Publication of new tax ordinance

Emerick brought forward the new ordinance draft. Blaney read aloud to the council the draft. Mistakes were found with the occupation tax that was previously removed. Council also wanted the millage revised to reflect 1.0 mil added to the general and 0.25 mil added to the fire. Blaney made notes for Emerick to revise. Dave Atherton-Ely made a motion to enact and publicize the new tax ordinance. Deanna Watkins seconded the motion. Dave Wilson asked why we are increasing the fire millage. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Sidewalk grant

Emerick talked about the bid meeting that was held at the borough building last week. Contractors were not happy with the bid requirements from Hunt and Bradford County Community Planning & Mapping Office. They expressed concern about being able to come up with a bid proposal with no numbers to go off for the job. Emerick also let council know of timelines coming up. January 13, 2026 bids are due. January 21, 2026 expected contract awarded. Substantial completion June 30, 2026. From the date the bid is awarded council has 90 days to have a submitted and approved list of properties for this job.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

There was an executive session held after the meeting about personnel.

Olive Emerick
Sec./Treas.