

Canton Borough Council

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Canton Borough Council held a Regular meeting on Monday, July 13, 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, Eric Anderson, Dave Atherton-Ely and Joy Williams, Solicitor Cassi Blaney and Mayor Shawn Packard. President Mike Shultz was absent. Chief Strozyk, David Wilson of the street Department and Leighanne Ellingham zoning officer and Nick Petrowski codes officer.

Visitors: Gary Parks, Charlotte Parks, Sheadan Rue, Kristy Fecker, Jeff Rosenheck and Walter Woods (refused to sign in)

Vice President Deanna Watkins opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and David Atherton-Ely prayer.

Minutes

George Jennings moved and Jeff Cole seconded accepting the minutes of the June 8th regular council meeting. Roll call : All said "Aye"

Bills

David Atherton-Ely moved and Eric Anderson seconded accepting the bills presented for payment and the issuing of checks since June 8th meeting. Roll call: All said "Aye"

Visitor Comments:

None

Business

CD at FCCB

Jessica stated that there is a CD up for renewal 09/14/26, Deanna Watkins said the CD up for maturity is \$60,000.00 and will mature 09/14/26 and the current rate is 3.4%, Solicitor Cassi Blaney said that there is a meeting 09/14/26 and it could wait until then

and to see what the current rate at that time is and discuss the rates at the next meeting and vote then, the decision by council is to wait until the September meeting.

2025 Audit

Jessica stated that the audit is done. Deanna Watkins said that is wonderful and deserves a round of applause and thanked Jeff Cole for doing a fair amount of work on this and Olive for working hard on it as well, Jeff thanked Deanna for the work she did on the audit as well. Deanna Watkins thanked Jessica as well and asked if they had sent a letter yet, to which Jessica replied that they had not sent a letter yet. Jeff Cole stated that we are going to change things up next year, Jeff has offered to take the records they need to the auditors in Wyalusing and that will make a much smoother and easier process for everyone. Deanna Watkins stated that this year was a learning season for everyone this year. Jessica stated that the auditors emailed a list of required information for the next audit.

Recycling and trash Collection

Deanna Watkins asked if anyone had any additional information. Deanna Watkins said that NTSWA was here at the last meeting and they were talking about the possibility and most likely discontinuing the recycling and a decision needs made on that, she also stated that NTSWA is looking for a contract on the recycling so council needs to discuss if a contract is what they want to do or look for other possibilities. George Jennings stated that he talked Terry Sheets and they do their own recycling with their own truck, he talked to Micah and they have a truck that they might be willing to sell, George Jennings also stated that a possibility would be to find someone retired or willing to work part time to pick up the recycling if we had our own vehicle to do so with as an idea to keep the recycling going for the borough residents one or two days a week and when the truck is full then the person could go dump and come back. David Atherton-Ely stated he has been in other communities that have bins where people take their recycling to and drop it off and there isn't as much expense as they are emptied when they are full. Joy Williams stated that they did offer that and Deanna said that was discussed at the last meeting and was discussed with Dave Wilson about recycling bins. Deanna Watkins mentioned that she didn't send a letter but if it needs to be discussed they can about getting a volunteer list to have people volunteer to man the recycling bins, such as churches, boy scouts and girl scouts or something on that line to man it once or twice a month and it would only be open during those times. Deanna Watkins also stated that there are cameras and fences to keep it secure and NTSWA said they would provide the bin and come and take care of it and they would continue with their trash pickup and that would still give the residents and opportunity to recycle and also would not limit them to trash disposal services from others that collect trash. David Atherton-Ely stated that another nice thing about the bins is that you don't have to have

people pick up because residents could drop it off on the designated day and time and he mentioned it would be there full time and Deanna Watkins stated that it would still be manned on certain days. David Atherton-Ely stated that Montoursville is open 7 days a week 24 hours a day and Mayor Shawn Packard said South Williamsport shuts theirs down at sunset but they still have cameras around it. Deanna Watkins mentioned that she saw where there have been places where the bins were full and people still left their recycling, George Jennings stated that happened at Farm Freds. Deanna Watkins states that having it manned might be a cleaner option to avoid that issue. Deanna Watkins mentioned that NTSWA was considering September or October stopping their recycling services, George Jennings stated yes that was correct and Joy Williams said definitely nothing in 2027 door to door. George Jennings brought up that another problem to think about is the elderly that can't get there and keep it curbside. Mayor Shawn Packard said he liked that theory and it still provides community engagement and looking out for neighbors and gave the example if you know your neighbor puts theirs out every Tuesday and you haven't seen them do so then you can call Chief Strozyk to check on them. David Atherton-Ely said the council needs to weigh the cost and means. Eric Anderson said his only concern is the cost of maintenance on the truck and someone to drive it with a CDL, George Jennings replied that a CDL would not be necessary. David Atherton-Ely said they have a couple of options will have to look at them and get the cost of truck and insurance and someone to run it Mayor Shawn Packard stated that NTSWA wanted an exclusive contract and Deanna Watkins said that there are other small business guys collecting and said that this topic will be tabled until next month and David Atherton-Ely said by next meeting council needs to have cost of each option so that the council can make a decision. Mayor Shawn Packard mentioned an avenue would be to talk to the smaller trash collectors and tell them we may buy a truck to pick up recycling with and ask if they would be willing to run the truck on a rotating schedule. Discussion is on the cost of the bins is free. Solicitor Cassi Blaney said that if you go with the bins and you're not signing a contract and they are bringing the bins then the council needs to decide how it's going to be manned and if that doesn't work out the council can decide to change the process. Deanna Watkins also states that there are several vendors in town collecting trash and some of them have not followed protocol, they are supposed to contact the borough office and provide them with a certificate of insurance and asked if the council is good with that they will ask Jessica to send out a letter or call them and let them know they are welcome here in town but protocol needs to be followed. George Jennings asked if there was a fee for the vendors and Deanna Watkins said no, they need to ask for permission and provide proof of insurance.

Kali's Mission

Gary Parks introduced himself and thanked the council for letting them on the agenda. He stated that he and Charlotte Parks run Kali's Mission, it is a Trap, neuter, return and vaccinate program that is strictly volunteer and a 501c, nonprofit and nontaxable organization. They started 7 years ago when Towanda Borough had a feral cat problem and contacted him and Charlotte to help so he and Charlotte put a program together and went to the council and got their approval and they budget money for the program. 7 years later there are hardly any cats in Towanda borough that have not been spayed or neutered, you can tell by the left ear being clipped and is how they know the program is working because they will trap cats with and see the clipped ear and they know its one that has already been done. They collect nickel bottles and cans and take them to Waverly for the money and have a small grant from United Way and various places they set up a concession stand and proceeds go into Kali's mission. All cats are trapped in a safe manor using have a heart traps, the cats are supervised and the vet is a certified veterinarian-Dr. Robyn Terrell from Wysox animal clinic and the cats don't get released until the veterinarian says they can, they do get released the same day because they are feral cats and they get anxious being in the traps once they wake up and may cause themselves harm. Kali's mission has a board of directors and Dr. Robyn Terrell is the medical director on the board. Towanda Borough, Sayre Borough, Dushore borough all support Kali's mission. Joy Yarnell is a resident of Forksville and has started a satellite program of Kali's mission and has taken many cats to Wysox through Kali's mission and takes them back to Forksville to be released. The concession stands are the main source of funding for the program but they need more support and are looking for the council to consider budgeting an amount for this program.

CDBG

Solicitor Cassi Blaney said that because the application was a quick timeline that the application was turned in and to discuss what the application is being used for and the amount. Deanna Watkins said the application is being used for sidewalks and the amount is \$100,000.00 and that there were a lot of applications for sidewalks from residents and that we won't be able to get them all this year so this grant will help with getting more done with this new grant. David Atherton-Ely said the amount is good because it is hard to get a contractor willing to do the work for a smaller amount, that the contractors need it to be worth their time. George Jennings moved and Eric Anderson seconded the motion to approve retroactively the CDBG application for \$100,000.00. All said "Aye".

Jeff Cole brought up that he and Jessica will be going to a commissioner meeting Thursday, July 16th to present the project and have a discussion with them. David Atherton-Ely stated that he went to the meeting at the Moose when Commissioner

Gates was there and said it was a good meeting and that he talked to him for a while after the meeting. He also stated that if we are fortunate enough to get this grant he would like to see it finished in that year because every year prices go up and that in the past when a grant wasn't completed that it held us back from getting other grant and Deanna Watkins added that we have applications for sidewalks and not all will be gotten to for this year and those applications will go to this next grant. Eric Anderson asked if the council had a figure on how much we can spend per applicant, David Atherton-Ely replied with no, its based on what its needed to get each applicant done until the money is all spent and Mayor Shawn Packard commented with that they need to know how much concrete is needed per residence and total it up that way and including if trees are involved. Deanna Watkins reminded council to get their ranking of addresses to Jessica so that she can get them to the engineer.

Committee Reports

Police Department

Chief Strozyk handed out his police report and talked about the police reporting management system and said there is a meeting he will be going to on July 14 and should have more answers after that, he stated that this came to motion before he started and it has been 2 ½ years and it was supposed to be done in a year, it's a flawed system that they are trying to get to go through, the current system is becoming obsolete and cannot be updated, there are some different options out there and said he explained it to Mayor Shawn Packard what we are facing and he did some research and submitted a letter and all the mayors and supervisors around the county did that, so right now there is not an update on the system. Chief Strozyk mention that he has so many complaints over the last year and half about the one way traffic on Tripp St behind Car Quest, it's a one way street that is real narrow with 4 houses on it, he said it is hard to correct the problem with patrol because there is no place to sit and it doesn't happen every day and it would only be by luck if he was driving on the street and saw someone coming the wrong way. Chief Strozyk state he met with Dave Wilson and looked over some options and they feel the best option is to put 2 signs down a little further from the sign that is currently there, or an idea to make it a two way street again and put a barrier there, the cheapest and easiest would be to put new signage there down a little further with hope that people will see it before they enter. Chief Stroyzk talked about grants for police cars and how you think your doing good and getting somewhere and then it's a dead end and find out that there is a fee they want or something else but he is still working on this grant. George Jennings asked if Andrew whitehead has been working for the borough, Chief Strozyk said no that he has been dedicated to his full time department and that that is 2 officers short and all of his overtime is going there and he

said he talked to the Chief up there and she told him that they are still struggling and Chief also said his other part time person is working up there as well because its more money and close by to his residence. Mayor Shawn Packard commented that when the part time officer is here is doing a phenomenal job.

Street Department

Joy Williams said that Mary Ann's sidewalk that the street dept did looked very nice. Deanna Watkins asked how the Upper Mtn Road project is going, Dave Wilson said its underway and that Jeff Cole went up and saw the project they are doing and that it's a 6 week project. Dave Wilson states that there is a printout to look at regarding what the state requires when it comes to catch basins regarding the ones on S. Minnequa and he has a meeting with them on July 14th and they will let him know if they will require him to permit them or what their requirements are. Dave Wilson says he is not sure who is responsible for fixing it and who is liable if someone gets hurt or damages a vehicle if it's the state or borough. Solicitor Cassi Blaney said that the borough remains responsible and in the letter from DEP it says that even if DEP takes over and comes in and fixes that they will bill the borough for the work because they consider it the responsibility of the borough. Jeff Cole asked if we had to do another street does that mean the catch basins need to be raised up and is that part of the work for whoever is doing the work or for the borough to do, Dave Wilson says that if it is a borough road it is our responsibility the only confusion is when it's a state road. George Jennings asked if it causes any issues with the water draining into them and Dave Wilson said no. Jeff Cole thank Dave for trimming the trees down at the Memorial park

Zoning

Leighanne reports that she has not received a zoning application in 2 months until today. Mayor Shawn Packard says that the District Use Table needs to be reviewed because the majority of everything on that list is a no. Mayor Shawn Packard said if we update to more reasonable regulations we would probably see more opportunities knocking on the door to come in. Mayor Shawn Packard said the last zoning board hearing was confusing, he stated he was not there but heard a lot about the meeting. Solicitor Cassi Blaney said that the zoning hearing board is separate and apart from the council. Deanna Watkins asked if the reviewing and updating the zoning map is a council job or a zoning hearing job. Solicitor Cassi Blaney said that changes to the map and the district map are a council job and there are rules that need to be followed to do that. Mayor Shawn Packard asked if this falls under one of our current committees or if a special committee needs appointed for that, Solicitor Cassi Blaney said you can

assign it to a committee or create a new committee and Deanna Watkins replied that we currently have a zoning and codes committee and George Jennings said he was the chair of it.

Update on Code violations on the WIP property

Deanna Watkins opened up the discussion about the WIP property and Cassi Blaney said that she had a discussion with Leighanne and Nick Petrowski and not many violations have gone out in quite some time and that she is going to be helping Nick Petrowski get violations put together and sent out. Cassi Blaney also gave council a reminder that the last discussion on the WIP property was that the council had decided to continue sending fines and violations to them and not take on the responsibility and the financial responsibility of fixing and rehabilitating it. David Atherton-Ely asked if the fines as of now still being levied, Solicitor Cassi Blaney said they are not and David Atherton-Ely if they can retro date them, Solicitor Cassi Blaney said she does not think so, she also stated that we can continue to fine them and they will just pay the fine and a separate back account can be opened to put the money in from the fines and that the borough can go down the path of taking over the building and using that money towards cleaning the building up but the borough would have to take over financial responsibility and hope that there is enough money to pay for that and selling it as a vacant lot, but that is a big financial burden for the borough to take on up front, she stated again that she will be working with Nick Petrowski to send out fines. David Atherton-Ely voiced his concern about kids being in and around that property and is concerned someone will get hurt and wants to see them fined heavily in hopes to get something remediated soon.

Codes

Nick Petrowski reports he wrote 6 grass violations and discussed the need he has for a laptop or tablet. Nick Petrowski also said that he was able to get into the Gogov program and that he can use this program for issuing items he needs to and that it looks more professional than the current way of doing it. Deanna Watkins brings up that this current program is scheduled to be cancelled at the end of December and it is costly and wants to determine if this is too much or if there is something better out there. Nick Petrowski said he will spend some more time with the program. Mayor Shawn Packard asks Nick if he would need a wireless printer to print violations out to issue them on the spot and Nick Petrowski said he could either do that or print them from the office. Solicitor Cassi Blaney suggests that the council makes a motion and approves a purchase up to a certain amount. George Jennings makes a motion to set a budget for

\$1,000.00 for Nick to get a tablet and wireless printer. David Atherton-Ely seconded the motion. Roll Call: All said "Aye"

Deanna Watkins told Nick Petrowski to check into this and work with Jessica to make this purchase.

Fire Department

George Jennings said the trucks are in good shape. Mayor Shawn Packard said he got a text saying they had 31 calls for the month and the fire contract is going to be issued at the next board meeting in August.

Recreation

David Atherton-Ely thanked Dave Wilson for trimming the trees. He mentions concerns that the basketball court has not been repaired yet and it's time to get on them to get something done. Solicitor Cassi Blaney said she will contact them. David Atherton-Ely said Jeff Cole brought up that there were some residents wanting lights on the tennis court and that he remembers years ago that there were lights down there and the coin box was vandalized for the quarters. Discussion is getting some lights down there and have them on a timer to go off at 10:00 pm. Dave Wilson mentions that when they tore the boxes down they tore the electric lines down so that will all need to be replaced. Jeff Cole mentions that this is something that the borough can take on so the court can be used. David Atherton-Ely mentions that a new net is needed on the once court and he will go take a measurement and see what we need. Discussion about the electricity and who should pay for that. David Atherton-Ely said he and Jeff Cole and Mayor Shawn Packard painted the dugouts at the park and is asking for some money for next year to put some dirt on the field and donate time to build a small bleacher. Deanna Watkins mentioned that there were some people on a facebook post willing to donate time and materials. David Atherton-Ely also mentions maybe putting up a chain link fence so kids can play kick ball and t-ball. David Atherton-Ely also mentioned the pool and said we either need to replace the pool or get rid of it, something will need to be done at some point and the cost to replace the pool would be very high. Deanna Watkins mentioned that there was a discussion and a motion made at one time about making a list of equipment down there to advertise to sell.

Personnel

Deanna Watkins mentioned that there is nothing to report today but will soon regarding time off for full-time employees for updating the policy manual.

Mayor Remarks

Mayor Shawn Packard said he had someone ask him about the Green free library donation that is usually done yearly and if it has been done for this year and last year. He also stated that he received nice comments from residents made nice comments regarding the cleanup of the tree that came down on E union st. He also commented on the Police Dept doing a good job with the parking issues in town.

General information (No information or action required)

Sheadan Rua asked if there is fundraising people could do to help pay for lights at the tennis courts. David Atherton-Ely said they are welcome to raise funds to help. Sheadan Rua asked if she could get a dollar amount so they know how much they are trying to raise to help. Deanna Watkins said to leave her information and we will be in contact. Jeff Cole reported that the downtown celebration was nice. Deanna Watkins announced good luck to the troy softball team going to states and that canton has a player on that team.

For the good of the order

Next meeting will be August 10th at 6:00 pm at the John Mosser Borough Building

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

Jessica Shadduck

Sec./Treas.

Minutes approved 08/10/2026

Michael Shultz
President

Deanna Watkins
Vice President

