

STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2026

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY,
APRIL 6 at 7:30PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Roll Call

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President Kathleen Zdonowski, Joe Gosnell, Katie Santiago, Peter Dewey and Richard Wagner.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Mayor Rosemarie Wenzelberger, Secretary/Treasurer Candace Keller were present.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Amy Richard at 7:33pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

- **Motion** by Katie Santiago, Seconded, by Peter Dewey to amend the agenda as presented and repost the most recent up to date agenda with the addition of Vacancy Board Chair Appointment. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded, by Kathleen Zdonowski to accept Cindy Hower's resignation effective March 9th, 2026. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Appointment of Council Vacancy** – Letters were read from interested candidates, Timothy Kratzer and Herbert Koenig. Katie Santiago and Peter Dewey asked questions to the candidates which were followed by a vote.

Motion by Peter Dewey, Seconded, by Katie Santiago to nominate Timothy Kratzer for council. Katie Santiago Yes; Peter Dewey Yes; Richard Wagner Yes; Amy Richard No; Kathleen Zdonowski No; Joe Gosnell No. The vote tied 3-3 for Tim Kratzer.

Solicitor Gary Asteak asked if there are any other nominees. Kathleen Zdonowski nominated Herbert Koenig, Seconded, by Amy Richard. Gary requested since we have two candidates, to ask all those in favor of Timothy and then all those in favor of Herbert and get it done in one vote. Roll call all those in favor of Herbert Koenig - Amy Richard Yes; Kathleen Zdonowski Yes; Joe Gosnell Yes; Katie Santiago No; Peter Dewey No; Richard Wagner No. The vote also tied 3-3. Amy Richard and Peter Dewey stated tie vote goes to the mayor. Peter stated Mayor should vote in order of nominations. Solicitor Gary Asteak stated the order does not matter because the mayor will make the choice. Katie Santiago brought up her contact with PSAB regarding a conflict with a relative voting. Peter Dewey quoted Section 1103 of the State Ethics regarding public official or employee who in the discharge of official duties, in reference to requirements to vote with conflict of interests. As a result, Amy Richard abstained and retracted her vote.

“Amy: Well then, I can make this simple, I abstain from the vote, I’ll retract my vote. How’s that. Satisfy anything? So now we have a three to two. So that would mean we would have the majority for Tim Kratzer.”

Amy Richard, Council President asked for nominations for appointment of a vacancy chair.

Motion by Katie Santiago, Seconded, by Peter Dewey to nominate Candy Dew for appointment of vacancy chair. Katie Santiago Yes, Peter Dewey Yes; Richard Wagner Yes; Amy Richard No; Kathleen Zdonowski No. Joe Gosnell No. Vote tied 3-3. As a result of a tied vote, with no one in place to break the tie, Gary Asteak suggested we table until this nomination until we have the oath of office signed and new council member is on board.

Motion by Katie Santiago, Seconded by Peter Dewey to table the vacancy board chair nomination until the next council meeting. Motion carried unopposed.

New Business

Public Comment

- Louise D’Achille, Center Street commented at the March 2 meeting she presented a letter requesting reimbursement for grass, seed and straw to fix front of her property from snow removal damage. No quote has been given to date. Amy Richard reported it appears the damage was on the right of way and the area has been repaired. Ms. D’Achille stated it has not been fixed properly. Amy Richard stated the zoning officer will make this determination. Ms. D’Achille also inquired why public works was removing snow from landlord property. Amy Richard, Council President reported she has answers to her questions and will be responding during council comment.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Peter Dewey, Seconded, by Katie Santiago to approve the minutes as corrected for March 2, 2026. Motion carried 6 yes and 1 no by Richard Wagner.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded, by Kathleen Zdonowski to approve the General and Sewer Fund accounts payable as of April 6, 2026. Motion carried unopposed.

Solicitor Report

- Solicitor Gary Asteak reported there will be an election Tuesday, April 7 between 2:30 and 3:00pm for Borough of Stockertown Public Works Department to unionize with the Teamsters. The election will occur in the Borough Chamber Office. The public is not invited.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak reported a letter of resignation was received from public works employee, Zachary Zemencsik dated March 20, 2026.

Public Works

- Amy Richard, Council President reported a list of public works activities for the past month.

- Amy Richard also reported branch pick up for the Borough is scheduled for May 4 – May 29. She requested branches be cut to not more than 3 foot in length and placed at the curb.
- Amy Richard presented 3 quotes for public works to rent a chipper for debris clean up. **Motion** by Katie Santiago, Seconded, by Joe Gosnell to rent a chipper from Action Rental at the cost of \$1,375 for one week. Motion carried unopposed.

Old Business

- Peter Dewey reported on the meeting between him, Kathleen Zdonowski with Jennifer Smethers of the Meyner Center discussing Phase I on hiring a Borough Manager.
- Amy Richard reported the new zoning officer Jim Macort was in the office and met with present zoning officer. Mr. Macort of Keystone Engineer has requested a designated phone line right to him for zoning purposes and authorization for him to have an office key. Phone line would cost \$29.99 plus tax each month and \$99.95 for a one time set up. Mr. Macort's zoning day in the Borough office will be Thursdays. **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded, by Katie Santiago to obtain a phone line designated for zoning and to give the zoning officer a key to the office. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard remarked on three website proposals in council packet for review in the coming weeks and requested councilors returned prepared to make a decision next council meeting.
- Amy Richard presented an updated Vendor list.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded, by Richard Wagner to approve the Vendor list as written with one correction. Motion Carried Unopposed.
- Katie Santiago reported on the Egg Hunt event held on March 28th. The event was a success. The next event will be an anniversary celebration on July 18th at Stockertown Rod & Gun Club, followed by other upcoming events. **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded, by Peter Dewey to approve expenses of \$479.13 for reimbursement of Easter Egg Hunt Event held on March 28th to Katie Santiago out of the Special Funds Account. Motion carried unopposed.

Council Comment

- Amy Richard answered questions presented at last meeting regarding snow plowing on Main Street. Ms. Richard contacted PennDot and they stated they are grateful our public works assisted them and would be open to contract with our Borough to plow Main Street as needed. The Borough was not in any violation.
- Amy Richard continued with questions from public presented at last council meeting - Issue was raised involving public works removing snow from our sidewalk and right of way. The snow was put there by a private plow and was removed to provide clear vision at the intersections.
- Continuing with questions, the issue with stones being thrown onto the Borough property by a Lezzer plow contractor, stones will be removed at Lezzer Lumber expense.

- Continuing with comments, about Borough public works laying cones out while work is being done, our men were trained by LTAP and accordingly they will make the judgement when they feel cones are needed.
- Question regarding plowing being done for Emergency Management, this is customary as well as expected, during a snow event, for access to be provided for police, fire and EMC.
- Amy Richard responded to Peter Dewey's statement that the Borough's track loader (skid steer) and Steiner were not eligible to be legally licensed and therefore cannot traverse on public streets. The Steiner was always registered and licensed and the skid steer is now also registered and licensed.
- Public works inventory list has been updated and complete for insurance purposes and is available for review.
- Richard Wagner commented cones and safety signs should be utilized by public works when working on roads more readily. Amy Richard will send reminders for safety provisions to be utilized. Brittney Santiago of Main Street also commented she noticed public works working on a road near her property and may be helpful if cones and safety signs were used for direction and to lesson confusion.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Katie Santiago, Seconded, by Peter Dewey to adjourn meeting at 9:17pm.
Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council is scheduled for Monday, April 20th 2026 – Cancelled

The foregoing was approved the **18th** day of **May, 2026**.

President of Council

Attest: _____

Adjournment

Transcript of Election nomination verbage as follows:

Peter: I'll nominate Tim followed by Herbert in that order

Asteak: You make a nomination and then it will be seconded

Peter: You don't need to second a nomination

Asteak: Well, that is the way we are going to do it. Nomination and second, nomination and second.

Katie: I'll second the nomination of Tim.

Amy: We have a 2nd...Tim Kratzer has been nominated for position. Do we have a second

Katie: Me

Amy: Who nominated?

Katie: Pete Peter: I did Amy: Ok, I'm sorry

Amy: Yes Mr. Wagner

Richard: I have a question. This whole election tonight must be tabled. Because we cannot make a decision tonight. These people should have been here 2 weeks ago to give their presentation and give us time to think about it. You don't come to a meeting and think you are going to vote on something this important for somebody who is going to represent our Borough for the next two years.

Amy: At the last meeting Richard: At the last minute Amy: At the last meeting we had these two

nominations and they were made public so Richard: This is the first I heard of either one of

them Amy: Well, they have both been there. Richard: How would I know they were even there, I mean from what I understand there were even interviews going on. Amy: Theres

what? Richard: Interviews going on that I did not know about. Amy: That's not for you to interview, I

mean you could interview if you wanted. Richard: Not that I understand, we as council could not interview them, but the Mayor has and she has that right to do it and she did and that fine as far as I'm

concerned. Amy: Sure Richard: But, as far as I know, the rest of our council do not have the

opportunity or the right to call these individuals up and say I'd like to interview you. Katie: Yes you do,

we are allowed to interview them. They submitted their letters of intent. Richard: Oh well then I am

wrong, I'm sorry, I did not know we had that right, but this is still the first I heard of either one of

them. Amy: I don't think we need to table this for additional time. Richard: That's what I said, table

it. Amy: I said, I don't think we need to table it Richard: I make a motion that we table it Amy: We

already have a motion on the floor, let's get the nominations.

Gary: So there has been one nominee's motion and seconded, are there any other

nominees. Kathleen Z: I nominate Herbert Koenig, Amy: And I'll second it.

Gary: We are going to do it this way, since we have two candidates I am going to ask all those in favor of Timothy and then all those in favor of Herbert and let's get it done in one vote. One or the other or none. Katie: Then after the voting, I

have a question. Gary: Alright Peter: You going to roll call. Gary: Yes, yes Amy: Ok, Tim

Kratzer Katie: Yes Richard: Yes Peter I; Kathleen: I do not even hear what is going on here, what are we

doing? Amy: Ok, I'm a No. Kathleen: What is this for? Gary: Ok, now all those in favor of Herbert

Koenig. Amy: ok Candy: Now wait, WAIT.... Kathleen: I am a no for whatever. Amy: You are a No for Tim Kratzer Kathleen: Correct Amy: We are doing Herbert now Peter: No we are NOT, we're still on Tim. Candy: Wait, wait.. We are still on Tim. Kathleen: We still have to finish Candy... Katie ok...Katie was.... Gary: There were 3 votes for Timothy, I did not hear any other votes for Timothy, is that correct? Amy/Katie: that's correct: Peter: So it is three/three? Gary: Looks like it is three/three. Peter: I did not hear Joe's vote. Gary: All those in favor of Herbert Koenig. Amy: alright I'm in favor of Herbert; Kathleen: I am: Joe I am...Amy: and Joe is – so now we are three/three. Peter: Don't we have to address one at a time....cause the three/three doesn't matter. Gary: Well I think we did, we address the first one was three and there were no other votes, the 2nd one was three and there were no other votes. Peter: But if it is a tie, it goes to the mayor. Amy: it goes to the mayor, correct. Peter: So, we have a tie on the first vote, it goes to the Mayor.

Kathleen: There's a tie on both candidates. Peter: no, no it goes in the order that they're nominated. Kathleen: How can you have a tie on one guy? Gary: It doesn't matter because the Mayor will make the choice if that's the way you wish it to be done. Someone: Yeah! Katie: Don't you have something that...Peter:

Well, it is on the first nomination. Katie: One other question, well go ahead....

Peter: once that vote is cast, then it would go to the second nomination vote.

Amy: What's is your question, do you have a question, is that what you said? Katie: Well, um.. I am waiting to see what Gary says. Gary: No, I am just waiting for you guys to decide who you are going to elect, it's three to three. Amy: So it is the Mayor Katie: Well, I reached out to PSAB and I did not know your relation and it says you have to abstain from voting since you are his mother-in-law. Peter: It is a state ethics violation. "Laughter in crowd" Amy: Well isn't that handy Peter: and Gary already pos.....Gary: I was not aware that there was a relative of anyone running. Katie: Me either, not until right now. Gary: A complete surprise to me. Peter: Section 1103 of the State Ethics (J?) requires the following procedure. Any public official or public employee who in the discharge of his official duties, would be required to vote on a matter that would result in a conflict of interest, shall abstain from voting and prior to the vote being taking publicly announce and disclose the nature of his interest as a public record in a written memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes for the meeting at which the vote is taken. Amy: Well then I can make this simple, I abstain from the vote, I'll retract my vote. How's that? Satisfy anything. So now we have a three to two. So that would mean we would have the majority for Tim Kratzer."