

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2026**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A REORGANIZATION COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Amy Richard, Kathleen Zdonowski, Joe Gosnell, Cindy Hower, Katie Santiago, Richard Wagner and Peter Dewey.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Candace Keller were present.

The Meeting was called to order by Solicitor Gary Asteak at 7:35PM

Pledge of Allegiance

- Solicitor Gary Asteak opened the meeting stating the first order of business is the election of a Borough Council President, but before doing this, Mr. Asteak wanted to mention for the minutes that the Borough received oaths of office from three recently elected members of Borough Council, Mr. Dewey, Mr. Wagner and Ms. Santiago. Mr. Asteak welcomed them to the board and thanked them for offering their services. Also, Mr. Asteak stated the Borough received a letter from Mr. Dewey, since he was elected for both Mayor and Borough Council, as one cannot serve in both capacities, accepting the office of Council and not assume the office of Mayor elect. With this noted and received, the Borough will declare a vacancy in the office of Mayor effective January 5, 2026. The Borough Council will have 30 days in which to appoint a Borough Mayor.
- The first Council Meeting of 2026 is a Reorganization Meeting where Council Members must nominate a Council President and Vice President. Mr. Asteak asked for a nomination for President. Joe Gosnell nominated Amy Richard for Council President. Cindy Hower seconded the nomination. Mr. Asteak asked if there were any other nominations for President. Katie Santiago nominated Peter Dewey for Council President. Richard Wagner seconded the nomination. Before the vote was taken, Mr. Dewey wanted to draw attention this is the second time since 2010 that there has been more than one person nominated for Council President position. Both nominees abstained from voting in 2012 and the state ethics law gives the authority to the solicitor to take into account abstaining for voting for yourself. Mr. Asteak acknowledged and asked if this was a voluntary abstention. He also inquired if there are any additional financial compensation for the someone to serve as Borough President. Since there is no financial benefit, Mr. Asteak stated a nominee may, in fact, vote for themselves. The first nominated individual was Amy Richard, Mr. Asteak requested all those in favor say I. The Borough Secretary did a role call vote. Richard Wagner, No; Peter Dewey, No; Kathleen Zdonowski, Yes; Amy Richard, Yes; Joe Gosnell, Yes; Cindy Hower, Yes; Katie Santiago, No. Mr. Asteak confirmed the vote was 4 Yes, 3 No and passed the gavel back to Amy Richard as Borough President. **Motion** passed 4 to 3 nominating Amy Richard as Council President. Ms. Richard accepted the nomination and thanked

everyone for the vote of confidence and hoped everyone can move forward and work together for the best of the Borough.

Amy Richard asked for nominations of Borough Vice President. Joe Gosnell nominated Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded, by Cindy Hower.

Ms. Richard asked for any other nominations for Vice President. Peter Dewey nominated Katie Santiago, Seconded, by Richard Wagner.

Role call for Kathleen Zdonowski for Vice President. Richard Wagner, No; Peter Dewey, No; Kathleen Zdonowski, Yes; Amy Richard, Yes; Joe Gosnell, Yes; Cindy Hower, Yes; Katie Santiago, No. **Motion** passed 4 Yes to 3 No nominating Kathleen Zdonowski as Council Vice President. Ms. Zdonowski accepted the nomination.

Amy Richard read two letters of intent for the appointment as Mayor of Stockertown Borough. The letters were read from previous Mayor Rosemary Wenzelberger, resident Michael Weisenstein and resident Timothy Kratzer. The appointment of Mayor is tabled until February 2, 2026 council meeting.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026

- Candace Keller as Borough Secretary/Treasurer
- Candace Keller as Open Records Officer
- Candace Keller as Interim Tax Collector
- Kenneth Zemencsik as Director of Public Works
- Keycodes as Zoning/Building Code Officer and Inspection Services
- Keycodes 2026 Fees for Services
- Robin Abbate to Manage and Update Borough Webpage
- Forks Township Fire Company for Stockertown Fire Protection
- Nazareth Ambulance Corps as Stockertown Emergency Responder
- Gary Asteak Law Firm as the Borough's Solicitor
- Fees for Service of Asteak Law Firm for 2026
- Hanover Engineers as the Borough Engineer
- Hanover Engineers 2026 Fees for Service
- Hanover Engineers as Sewage Enforcement Officer
- SC Engineers as the WWTP Engineer
- Fees for Service of SC Engineers
- Amy Richard as Emergency Management Coordinator
- Kenneth Zemencsik as Deputy Emergency Coordinator
- Keystone Collections Group as Tax Collector for the Earned Income Tax (EIT)
- Berkheimer the Tax Collector for Local Services Tax (LST)
- Amy Richard as Tax Collection Commission Delegate
- Kathleen Zdonowski as Tax Collection Commission Delegate Alternate
- Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC, as the Independent Accountant for Annual Audit purposes
- Zelenkofske Axelrod to proceed with the 2025 Audit
- Paychex as the Payroll Provider (TBD)
- Sean Dooley as the Nazareth Council of Government Delegate
- Joe Gosnell as the Nazareth Council of Government Delegate Alternate
- Rosemarie Wenzelberger as Delegate to the Bushkill Conservancy
- Sean Dooley as Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp. Local Government Representative
- Sean Dooley Chair of Borough Planning Commission
- Bryce Good, Secretary of Borough Planning Commission

- Tyler Martin, Borough Planning Commission
 - Kathleen Zdonowski, Borough Planning Commission
 - Joe Gosnell, Borough Planning Commission
 - Lucienne DiBiase Dooley, Zoning Hearing Board, Chairman
 - Morgan Schafer, Zoning Hearing Board
 - Kim Malavolta, Zoning Hearing Board
- **Motion** by Richard Wagner to retain Keycodes and review in two months, Seconded, by Katie Santiago. Motion carried 6 Yes and 1 No by Peter Dewey.
 - **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve the appointments as listed for 2026. Motion carried 6 Yes and 1 No by Peter Dewey.

Agenda

- Peter Dewey requested the following items be added onto Agenda
 - Borough email addresses & cell phones
 - Audit
 - Public works assessment study
 - 2026 budget
 - Agenda format
- **Motion** by Katie Santiago, Seconded, by Richard Wagner to accept the agenda items as presented. Motion carried 6 Yes and 1 No by Kathleen Zdonowski.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded, by Cindy Hower to add Mr. Bill Heller of Teamsters Union to agenda. Motion carried unopposed.

Mr. Bill Heller, Vice President of Teamsters Union stated the election is in process and wanted to know if anyone had any questions. A petition was already filed for an election which the process takes about 5-6 weeks to sit down with the Borough and begin negotiations. Solicitor Gary Asteak stated the Borough will be responding to the PA Labor Board and following through with the process.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded, by Katie Santiago to approve Council Meeting Minutes of December 29, 2025, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through January 5, 2026. Motion carried unopposed.

New Business

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded, by Peter Dewey to approve the 2026 Calendar Approval. First budget meeting approved for September 23, 2026. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard reported on public works mobile time keeping program search. Amy requested this be tabled until future meeting. Public works department were present and each introduced themselves to the new council 2026.
- Procurement of a RTK Officer – Candace Keller is to remain as RTK Officer and to request Solicitor Asteak for assistance as needed.

- Norco Grant – we were rewarded this grant and next step is to put out bids for this Saldo and Borough Ordinance review to be done. A \$40,000 grant was approved from Northampton County and at least \$20,000 outlay from the Borough's funds.
- Amy Richard requested a legal firm be appointed as interim Borough Manager – discussion followed and this will be tabled until future date.
Motion by Richard Wagner, Seconded, by Katie Santiago to form a committee comprised of Amy Richard-Council President, Peter Dewey and Katie Santiago to explore the resources available in the hiring of a Borough Manager. Motion carried unopposed.
- Peter Dewey brought up his concern regarding present use of personal emails and cell phones for Borough business and correspondence verses Borough owned emails and devices. Any communication involving borough business is up for discovery per the open records sunshine law. Discussion followed with the consensus to look into obtaining borough emails for everyone with RCN webmail, the Borough's present provider
Motion by Peter Dewey, Seconded, by Katie Santiago to obtain Borough emails for all councilors and secretary with RCN.com. Motion carried unopposed.
- Peter Dewey requests the Borough Solicitor to prepare a draft request for proposals of a forensic audit of the Borough's operations. This forensic audit would not replace the routine regular audit, however broaden the scope of financial transactions, controls, processes and enhance transparency. Amy Richard asked Solicitor Gary Asteak his fees for getting these proposals and he did not have a price. Discussion followed and this topic was tabled until a future meeting.
- Peter Dewey requested a public works department assessment study to ensure the Borough Public Works is structured, staffed and resourced in a way to best serve the residents of the Borough. Solicitor Gary Asteak requested a committee be developed to move forward looking into this further.
Motion by Peter Dewey, Seconded, by Richard Wagner to form a public works assessment committee consisting of Peter Dewey, Katie Santiago and Amy Richard, Council President. Motion was denied with 4 No votes (Kathleen Zdonowski, Amy Richard, Joe Gosnell and Cindy Hower; and 3 Yes votes (Peter Dewey, Richard Wagner and Katie Santiago).
Council agreed for Peter Dewey to continue on his own obtaining proposals for assessment study and present back to Council.
- Peter Dewey requested for Borough Council to reopen the duly adopted 2026 Budget for limited purposes of review and amendment and for council to authorize the preparation and consideration of necessary revisions to the budget as permitted under Borough Code and applicable law. This motion is requested to ensure the adopted budget accurately reflects current financial conditions, operational needs and policy priorities to address any errors and so on.
Motion by Peter Dewey, Seconded, by Katie Santiago to reopen the 2026 budget. Motion was denied with 4 No votes (Kathleen Zdonowski, Amy Richard, Joe Gosnell and Cindy Hower; and 3 yes votes (Peter Dewey, Richard Wagner and Katie Santiago).
- Peter Dewey made a proposal to revise council meeting Agenda format for consistency. Outline will be presented at a future meeting for approval.

Amy Richard, Council President recognized and introduced Sergeant Thomas Geerlof, Station Commander, Pennsylvania State Police Belfast Station at tonight's meeting. Sergeant Geerlof reported he tries to attend council meetings on a quarterly basis and represents Borough of Stockertown as the Borough's full-time police department. He recognized concerns, especially at bus stops and reported they have had some invisible patrols through the Borough specifically at bus times. He also reported the PSP presents themselves every day or as often as possible. Sgt. Geerlof had nothing further to report or discuss and assured council PSP is here for the residents. If any concerns, he offered the inside line to call in non-emergency situations, 610-759-6106 or call 9-1-1 if in immediate need.

- Amy Richard, Council President read information from the proposal of Entech Engineering for professional engineering services to complete Manhole Locating and Sanitary Sewer System Mapping. Proposal is \$4500 for Phase I GIS Conversion and Preparation; \$15,500 for Phase 2 Manhole Field Locating & Data Collection; \$10,000 for Phase 3 GIS Mapping Update. This is the lowest proposal presented. Council decided to table this proposal until questions are answered regarding timeframe from start to finish Phase I to Phase III, how many of the Borough's man hours, and new up to date proposal as original one is from October 9, 2025. This motion has been tabled until future meeting.

Public Comments

- Candace Dew inquired about Keycodes Inspection verses Keycode Zoning and accountability for work being done throughout the Borough.
- Resident Louise D'Achille inquired on wording of the council minutes. Ms. D'Achille requested the wording from December 1, 2025 minutes be corrected from as written: "Louise D'Achille, Center Street reported on the decoration enhancement she made at the Veteran's Memorial for the Christmas season" to the following as stated and requested modified to: "To honor our Veterans for the winter season, she and Rosemarie Wenzelberger placed poinsettias and pine wreaths at the Veteran's Memorial."
- Resident Jason Hartpence commented on the importance of locating and documenting of the Borough's Manhole and Sewer System piping. Mr. Hartpence stated this is the best thing we could do.
- Resident Scott Hill asked if GIS Entech proposal will include trunk lines into residents' home. Amy Richard will get the definite answer on this.
- Eric Wenzelberger also commented on GIS proposal and past problem incurred when a telephone pole went right through piping due to mapping not being accurate. This mapping will pay for itself avoiding these problems.

Council Comments

- Katie Santiago extended congratulations to Richard Wagner and Peter Dewey. Ms. Santiago also thanked both of them for registering and taking PA State Borough courses. She offered the 2026 calendar to all council members and also announced tentative date of a community egg hunt on Saturday, March 28 and rain date Sunday, March 29.
- Richard Wagner inquired about getting the agenda sooner. If council has agenda items, secretary requested council agenda additions be to office by Thursday noon

before Monday meeting. Mr. Wagner asked about road repairs and if the Borough gets notified to ensure repairs are made properly.

Mr. Wagner also inquired about an abandoned car on Center Street. The car was identified and will be addressed. He also asked for committees to be created for emergency management, road department, finance for grants and things, parks and recreation and police. These committees will be addressed at a future meeting.

- Solicitor Gary Asteak commented, since the Borough does not have a Mayor the Borough Code provides the President of Council fills in the capacity of Mayor until the vacancy is filled.
- Resident Jason Hartpence remarked, pertaining to forming committees in cities and municipalities, there should be a representative from every department overseen by the Borough Manager, Mayor and HR director all in one place. Having all these committees is a lot for a small borough.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Peter Dewey, Seconded, by Katie Santiago to adjourn the Council Meeting at 10:05pm. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on Monday, January 19, 2026.

The foregoing was approved the **19th** day of **January, 2026**.

President of Council

Attest: _____