

Kane Borough Council Meeting

April 9, 2025

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Kane Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 pm by Council President Tom Kase. The meeting was held at the Borough Office, 112 Bayard St., Kane, PA 16735. Members were notified of the meeting on April 7th, 2025.

Invocation

Pastor Bruce Kuhmer was not present. Council proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Tom Kase (President), Jack Zelina (Vice President), Kelle Bari, Jerry Milliron, Debra Miller, Sam Cummings, Don Payne (Secretary), Tony Alfieri (Solicitor), Brandy Schimp (Mayor), Matt Bressler (Fire Chief), Mick O' Rourke (Street Dept. Manager)

Telecommunications: None present

Excused: Melanie Clabaugh and Chief Boyer

Absent: Joe Geer (Code Compliance)

Visitors

Hayley Gubelman, Michael Lombardo, Theresa Auriemmo, Frank Auriemmo, Steve Dyne, and Jeff Shrubb

Statement of Citizens on Agenda Items

Hayley Gubelman to speak at item #15, Michael Lombardo to wait for New Business.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jerry Milliron, second by Kelle Bari to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2025, Regular Council meeting. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Correspondence

- a. Local Realty Transfer Tax- March 2025
- b. Letter to Senior Patrolman Nichols
- c. McWaPEC meeting minutes and April meeting reservations. Don Payne said that the next meeting will be in Youngsville and to RSVP by April 18th.

Monthly Reports

Budget: A motion was made by Debra Miller, second by Jack Zelina to approve the Budget Report, as presented. Jack Zelina asked when the State Revenue funds would be deposited, since it still shows zero to date. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

Tax Collector: A typo was noted in the End of the Month balance. Don Payne said he would have Laura McDonald send an email to Council with the correct amount on Wednesday, April 10th. A motion was made by Kelle Bari, second by Sam Cummings to approve the Tax Collector report, with correction. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

Bills for Payment

Check detail in the amount of \$395,314.02 was presented to Council for approval. This included bills from the Liquid Fuels account and the Capital Projects account. A motion was made by Jack Zelina, second by Debra Miller to approve the bills for Payment, as presented. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Office: Report submitted. The Mayor asked about Santilli Field. Don Payne said that the fence will be put up and maintenance materials will be ordered. Games will start in a week or two when the weather improves. Tom Kase asked about item #12 regarding the meeting with the Conservation District. Don Payne explained that they are looking to remove a dam at Southover Park. They received funding for the project but will need approval from KASD to use their right-of-way. Mick O'Rourke gave the details regarding item #13 about the new Street Sweeper. He said that the manufacturer had picked it up and returned to the plant in North Carolina to address issues with the drive shaft. It had malfunctioned shortly after the first use. Don Payne reported that the kiosks (item #11) are now operational. The Mayor stated that she would like to ask Kate Kennedy from the Chamber to film a video with instructions on how to use them. Tom Kase reported on item #7 regarding new bike racks. They are part of funding from the Route 6 Alliance and will be placed at various locations within the Borough. Don Payne stated that he would like to have Haines and Company present the 2024 audit at the Workshop on May 7th.

Code Compliance: Report submitted.

Solicitor: Report submitted. Tony Alfieri stated that item #58 is close to completion. He sent the inheritance tax and deed regarding 8 Beech Street around two weeks ago. A closing date will then need to be set.

Police: Report submitted. Don Payne suggested that the last set of call pages be condensed.

Street: Report submitted. Jerry Milliron asked Mick O'Rourke if there was anything that could be done about the confusing signage on Route 321. He replied that the intersection is a state-designated location.

Fire: Report submitted. Chief Bressler commented that if residents are burning on off hours or if they are burning unacceptable materials to call 911 for the best results.

Assessment: Report submitted.

Health Board: Report submitted.

A motion was made by Kelle Bari, second by Jerry Milliron to approve Department reports as presented. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

There were two sets of minutes submitted from the Parks Commission from February and March. The Finance Committee met with Raymond James, an investment firm, to consider investment options. The committee decided to remain with PLGIT as our best investment option.

New Business

- a. Royce Novosel Johnson- Park Project. Royce was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Tom Kase stated that they had a few phone meetings with other communities to provide due diligence before bringing new information to Council. A motion was made by Sam Cummings, second by Debra Miller to investigate the project further. Ayes from all. Motion carried.
- b. Michael Lombardo-Ordinance. Michael requested that the Ordinance committee revisit the keeping of chickens in the Borough issue.
- c. Penn Strategies- Grant Assistance. Council agreed that the program is not a good fit for the Borough.
- d. Group Work Camp- Decision by May 1, 2025. Council decided not to pursue the program for 2026, as more thought would need to go into planning and budgeting.
- e. A motion was made by Jack Zelina, second by Kelle Bari to sign and approve the revised SRO agreement as presented. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried.
- f. Jack Zelina- Trailhead Project. Jack Zelina proposed an \$11,000.00 budget for the work to be completed at the trailhead for the Phase One Depot Project. A motion was made by Kelle Bari, second by Debra Miller to use funds from the Controlled account for this project. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried.
- g. Sales of Lots. Don Payne said that there had been interest in one of the Borough's properties (236 Haines Street), but the offer was too low considering how much money was put into it.
- h. Bid opening for the Poplar Street Bridge Project. Don Payne presented two sealed bids to be opened. He explained that a total of six were emailed, but two companies responded. The first one was Mekis Construction at a bid of \$50,750.00. The second was Frances J. Palo Construction at \$94,840.00. Mekis was awarded the bid. A motion was made by Sam Cummings, second by Jerry Milliron to approve the use of Liquid Fuels funds for the project. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

- i. A few other projects were discussed. Don Payne said he got a price from IA Construction to complete a paving project on the 700 block of Elk Avenue for \$17,097.00. A motion was made by Jerry Milliron, second by Jack Zelina to use Liquid Fuels funds for the project. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried. Don went on to report that he and Mick will meet with a representative from Midland Asphalt to discuss a road sealing application called “Fiber Mat,” done exclusively by their company. The Borough may use it for future projects. Another sealcoating project on Pine Avenue is set to be completed using a slurry application by Suitkote. A motion was made by Sam Cummings, second by Jack Zelina to use Liquid Fuels funds to pay for the project totaling \$23,476.50. No further discussion. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

Statement of Citizens (Time limited to 5 minutes) none.

Hayley Gubelman asked if it was possible to set up a dog park in the Borough. It was recommended that she speak to Melanie Clabaugh for information, as it would require a zoning hearing. She also if ATV’s and side-by-sides were allowed on public roads. Currently, this is not allowed. Her third question was regarding low-income home repair programs in the Borough. The response was that the County has a weatherization program, however there is a lengthy waiting list.

Executive Session

The Regular Borough Council meeting paused to begin the Executive Session at 8:03 pm.

Adjournment

The Regular Session of the Kane Borough Council resumed at 8:41pm. No further discussion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McDonald, Kane Borough Treasurer