

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

May 7, 2025

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Council President James Speth opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or harmful speech allowed. Mr. Speth noted the meeting would be recorded by the newspaper reporter in attendance.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)**

Council President Speth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed.

**IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Present at the meeting were Council members Alan Heller, James Speth, Bogan Goughler, Larry Baughman, Howard Barger, and Mayor Matthew Carlson. Also present were Maintenance Foreman Doug Freer, Chief Robert Wenner, Attorneys Brian Spaid and Alex Spaid.

**V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA**

**VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA**

**VII. OFFICERS RECOGNITION**

- A. Mayor Carlson presented Chief Wenner, Patrolman Johnson, Patrolman Corbett, Patrolman Wilson and Patrolman DeLoe with certificates of recognition from the State Attorney General for their involvement in recent drug raids, which seized large quantities of illegal drugs and large sums of cash.

**VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (limited to 3 minutes each)**

- A. Terri Lowry wanted to know why the Council would limit public participation in what is to be a public meeting to only residents and tax payers. She stated she did not think that is considered a public meeting. Ms. Lowry said she spoke with other municipalities and no other municipalities she spoke with restrict participation. She questioned Mr. Spaid if the City of Franklin has passed such a resolution. Mr. Spaid said the City follows what is in the Borough's resolution, but does not have a formal resolution. Ms. Lowry asked if school personnel or the Superintendent would be allowed to speak at a Council meeting. Or would a political figure who does not live in the Borough be allowed to speak. She stated she does not understand why this was adopted and believes it is closed minded of the Council to develop and adopt such a resolution. Ms. Lowry asked why the minutes have not been posted for a couple of months. Mr. Sporer said the minutes do not have to be posted, but are available at the Borough building.
- B. Laura Hawkins wanted to congratulate the Police Department.
- C. Karen Snyder wanted to acknowledge the Police Department.
- D. Dan Marvin gave an update for Reno V.F.D. Mr. Marvin said they have begun ordering equipment with the annual donation that was given by the Borough. He said the department has responded to 71 calls YTD, and 17 calls for the month since the last meeting.

**IX. STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Maintenance Foreman:

1. Mr. Freer said they have been cleaning the ditches out, patching roads and getting ready to seal coat the roads. Mr. Baughman questioned if the Borough is now picking up the gravel from Cooperstown Sand & Gravel at the Rt. 322 location. Mr. Freer said they are and the only time the Borough has the gravel delivered is when the trucks are outfitted for the winter and unable to haul the loads.
2. Mr. Freer also presented Council with the recommended bids for the Liquid Fuels bids, as recommended by him. The bids presented were: 3,000 Tons Type 3B Antiskid (AS1) awarded to Cooperstown Sand & Gravel (awarded pick-up and delivery) at a pick-up price of \$9.00/ton, total cost of \$27,000 and a delivery price of \$10.91/ton, total cost of \$32,730; 1,500 Tons 2A Crushed Gravel awarded to Cooperstown Sand & Gravel (awarded pick-up and delivery) at a pick up price of \$9.50/ton, total cost of \$14,250 and a delivery price of \$11.50/ton, total cost of \$17,250; 3,000 Tons 1B Type C Aggregate awarded to Cooperstown Sand & Gravel (awarded pick – up and delivery) at a pick – up price of \$12.00/ton, total cost of \$36,000 and delivery cost of \$13.50/ton, total cost of \$40,500; 1,500 Tons 9.5 MM Superpave Fine Grade Wearing Course (picked up)

awarded to IA Construction at a cost of \$80.00/ton; 500 Tons 19 MM Superpave Binder Course (picked up) awarded to IA Construction at a cost of \$68.50/ton; 500 Tons 25 MM Base Course (picked up) awarded to IA Construction at a cost of \$64.00/ton; 79,778 SY Single Bituminous Seal Coat (delivered) awarded to Midland Asphalt, at a cost of \$1.83/SY, total cost of \$145,993.74; Tree Trimming of Keely Rd. from Warren Rd. to Cherrytree Rd. (1.3 miles) and Cherrytree Rd. from Keely Rd. to Borough Line (0.3 miles) awarded to Cline Energy, at a total cost of \$33,792 ; Bituminous Milling and Paving of Parker Ave. between Fox St. and Rt. 417, Lamberton St. between Fox St. and Rt. 417 and Fox St. between Parker Ave. and Front St. awarded to IA Construction, at a total cost of \$94,330.

3. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to award the Liquid Fuels bids as recommended by the Maintenance Foreman. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Police Chief:

1. Chief Wenner spoke about the outside door to the Police Department and it sticking when trying to open or close it. Chief also said there are issues with locking the door. Chief requested a motion from Council to have someone come and look at the door and give an estimate. Mr. Baughman ask if there were similar issues with the back door Maintenance uses and the front Administration door. Mr. Freer and Mr. Sporer said there are no issues with either of the doors.
  - a. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by James Speth to have a contractor come in and explore options for replacing both the Police door and the Council Room door. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Chief said he has 2 EMT's and all the other officers are first responder certified within the department and will continue to respond to medical calls.
3. Officer Wilson presented Council with the department's plan for "community policing," which was developed by Officer Wilson's criminal justice students. There will be a form placed on the department's Facebook page that the community can fill out and it will go directly to Chief Wenner and the Police Clerk. He said this will make the department more accessible to the community. Chief Wenner said when residents call the State Police and it is not a crime in progress, they will not respond. Mr. Baughman requested to have copies of the form provided to Council. Chief Wenner asked if there needs to be a motion to have the form placed on the Borough's website. Mr. Speth requested to table it and allow Council to review the forms. Mr. Baughman agreed.

C. Administrator/Special Projects:

1. Mr. Sporer received a request from the Franklin YMCA to use the Front Street Playground for their t – ball program.
2. Motion by James Speth, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve the request by the Franklin YMCA to use the Front Street Playground for the month of June 2025, for their t – ball program. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Zoning Officer:

1. No report.

E. Solicitor:

1. Mr. Spaid said he has matters for Executive Session. Mr. Spaid also discussed the Sunshine Law in regards to who could participate during the public participation part of public meetings. According to the Sunshine Law, which is state law, it limits the public participation to residents and taxpayers of the municipality. Mr. Spaid said Council did include in the resolution they passed last month that non – residents and non – taxpayers may be allowed to speak, at the discretion of the Council President.

X. COUNCIL REPORT

- A. Alan Heller wanted to thank the Police Department for their work. Mr. Heller asked if the Council would have to approve the form to go on their Facebook page. Chief Wenner said he would like to have it placed on both the department's Facebook page and the Borough's website, even though the Borough's website is antiquated and rarely up – to – date, but residents still use it. Chief Wenner said he appreciated Mr. Heller bringing the question up. Mr. Baughman questioned how many followers there were on the department's Facebook page. Chief Wenner estimated it was over 1900. Officer Wilson confirmed it was just over 1200.

**XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Motion by Alan Heller, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve the payment of bills/issuance of checks as presented by the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

**XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIV. NEW BUSINESS**

**XV. CORRESPONDENCE**

**XVI. BOARD OF APPEALS**

**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council recessed at 7:35 pm for an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege of information or confidentiality protected by the law and any action to follow. The meeting was reconvened at 8:47 pm.

**XVIII. NEW BUSINESS CON'T.**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the conditional employment of Rose Miller, for the Billing Clerk position, at a starting wage of \$13.00/hour. Motion carried unanimously.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Motion by Alan Heller being duly seconded by James Speth to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

James Speth, Council President