



Borough Council Minutes  
December 10, 2024  
7:30 pm

Call to Order, Salute to the Flag. 7:30

Mr. Eric Kudrich President	P	Mr. Harry Prey Councilman	P	Mr. Jason Ohliger Solicitor	P	Chief Todd Kowinsky Fire Department	P
Mr. Mark Madsen Vice President	P	Mrs. Lisa Salvato Councilwoman	P	Mr. Scott Myer Treasurer	P	Asst Chief Stewart Eastern Pike Regional Police	P
Mr. Sean Alessandra Councilman	P	Mr. Cory Homer Mayor	P	Ms. Amy Turner Tax Collector A	P	Mr. Shawn Bolles Zoning/Code Enforcement Office/Park Mgr	P
Mr. John Bush Jr Councilman	P	Ms. Shannon O'Leary Junior Council	P	Mr. Tom Olver A EMA	A		
Mr. Jon Maney Councilman	P	Mr. Nathaniel Carso Junior Council	P				

Public in attendance: 14 members of the public were present.

President Kudrich extended happy holiday wishes to all. Noted the Avenue looked festive with all the lights and holiday trees. The Tree of Heros event was well attended. Reminded everyone that Santa would be at the firehouse on 12/14. Stated the DEP issued a drought notice for Pike County and asked everyone to conserve water when possible.

Added Motion new business H) Motion to appoint Police Commission member for a two-year term. The Commission meets prior to our meeting, so we need to have a representative appointed. **M: Madsen/Alessandra. All in favor.**

**Public Comment** (When recognized by the president, per Borough Code, state your name and address for the minutes)

**Charlie Gillinder 3 Ave N:** Opposed to the transfer of the garbage to the Municipal Authority. Mr. Gillinder stated his current tax rate, what the 2.5 mil decrease was for him and the expected additional cost for each household. Stated he calculated that it appears to be a 16.2% increase. Past borough officials have failed us. The borough needs to encourage commercial borough development and noted the lack of sewage service is a detriment to the borough.

President Kudrich stated the Municipal Authority will be taking it over. It is not sustainable going forward without raising taxes an incredible amount. Properties have not been reassessed in 30 years. The brush pickup is also becoming a burden. Bids from private haulers are expected in January, volume pricing. More information will be provided by the Municipal Authority at that time.

**Pam Conklin 402 Ave M:** Thanked the Council who attended and marched in the holiday parade and thanked the Fire Department on behalf of the Heart of Matamoras for the donation of the Christmas trees for the planters on the Avenue.

**Eddie Addison 213 Ave C:** Asked if the borough was able to raise the taxes or are we capped. Solicitor Ohliger responded that we are capped at 30 mils. A petition can be filed with the Pike Court of Common Pleas to charge more than 30 mils, which the borough has been doing for the past number of years. Mr. Addison thanked the Council for their time and summarized that he understands "it is not sustainable to continue the garbage service, hence the reason to try to privatize it, so the council is trying to be proactive, which makes sense."

**Marybeth Salles:** Can you explain the truck we have with Milford? President Kudrich stated we own the truck 60/40. Our last payment will be roughly in 1 year. The Municipal Authority will continue garbage pickup with the

truck. They are waiting for bids from private haulers. More information will follow with regard to the future of the truck as well as changes associated with the transfer of duties from the Borough to the Municipal Authority.

**Unanimous Consent Agenda M: Maney/Madsen. All in favor.**

- a) Approval of Minutes – November 6 & 12 2024
- b) Approval of Treasurer’s Report – November 2024
- c) Approval of bills to be paid – November 2024

Motion to approve reimbursement to the recreation department for invoices paid on behalf of the Wade Trust Fund, November 2024. **M: Prey/Alessandra. All in favor.**

**Reports:**

- Mayor Cory Homer: Mayor Homer noted grants he will be pursuing, DCED canceled their December meeting, the Veterans Sidewalk Project is now moved to the January meeting. Stated he met the new US Representative Robert Bresnahan and he will give him a tour of the Borough this spring.
- Government Committee: Mark Madsen/Harry Prey: Brendan Churchwell was hired for the DPW. All insurance policies have been finalized, unfortunately premiums have increased on all.
- Fire Committee: Sean Alessandra/Lisa Salvato: In the process of selling the fire truck, they will be removing it from the insurance policy.
- Public Works: Harry Prey/Jon Maney: Mr. Prey read his report, leaf season is over, the majority of piles were picked up; brush pickup is done for the year, the facility closed the second week in November. Reminded everyone that overnight parking rules are in effect and that sports equipment must be removed from the streets/right of way.
- Facilities Committee: John Bush Jr./Mark Madsen: Voltron Electric installed some outlets in the firehouse and replaced the LED light over the door by the truck bay and had a quote for drains in the men’s room and another quote for a shower in the men’s room from Smith Plumbing. Please refer questions regarding the need for a shower to Fire Chief Kowinsky.
- Finance Committee: Lisa Salvato/John Bush Jr.: Nothing to report.
- Finance: Scott Myer: Nothing to report
- Planning Committee: Eddie Addison: Busy month, two letters from the Planning Committee were submitted and are on the agenda for tonight. At the last meeting, there was a heavy turnout from the constituents which he attributed to social media chatter.
- Recreation: Jon Maney/Sean Alessandra: Nothing to report.
- Eastern Pike Regional Police: Assistant Chief Stewart read the report which is on file. He noted they attended the Veterans Parade in Milford, that their healthcare insurance increased by 25%, which was unexpected. The Chief is working on the end-of-year report and another detailed report on the outlook for the future of the department. Officer C. Linehan was promoted to Corporal effective 01/12/2025. Explained recent promotions are due to the impending retirement of the Chief and Assistant Chief in the next 18 and 24 months respectively. Both have been serving the community for almost 30 years. The future of the department is looking good!
- Recreation Advisory Board: Nothing to report.
- Fire Chief: Todd Kowinsky: Sat Dec 14 breakfast with Santa, trees are going fast, raffle tickets are still available. Four members complete schooling; one of the members just needs to wait until his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to become a full member. More schooling will
- Emergency Management: Not present. He is working on switching email servers, more information to follow.
- Police Commission: Dave Clark and Sean Alessandra: Nothing to report
- Sewage: Mark Madsen: Nothing to report, it is currently in a review period with DEP.
- Code Enforcement/Recreation Shawn Bolles: Read his report. 9 violations were investigated, and citations have been issued. The Solicitor has filed some court cases for noncompliance, nonpayment and ignored requests for compliance. Met with the state inspector who inspected

both the borough boiler and the firehouse air compressor. Both passed inspection and the next inspection will be in two years. Informed of a situation involving the Sewage Officer. Construction was started on a garage, and they dug into the septic system. They are refusing to comply with the Sewage Officer. Mr. Bolles will enforce property maintenance violations on the home. People will not be living there from this point on, the property will be condemned. The park was closed on 11/15/2024. Grant update: waiting for new bids. Open projects are being closed out. Lighting has been added to poles to illuminate the riverside of the park and field B. More floodlights will be installed in the near future.

- Tax Collector: Amy Turner: The 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day for collection. 45 properties and 57 school bills remain unpaid, which is average.
- Junior Council: Shannon O’Leary & Nathaniel Carso: The DVHS team won the Monroe County Invitation Mock Trial, beating 14 other teams. Winter showcase drama has a show this weekend, the wrestling and cheerleading enjoyed many successes. Many upcoming events were noted, and musical events are underway to celebrate the holiday season.
- All other Reports on file:

Police Report X	Recreation x	Police Commission
Planning x	Fire Department X	Municipal Authority x
Myer & Meyer Financial Report X	Berkheimer EIT Report X	Pike Tax Maintenance Updates X

**Correspondence:** On file.

- Letter from Planning recommending denial of 905 Lucky Mart application.
- Letter from Planning recommending adoption of changes, with corrections, to Chapter 67 Garbage. (§67-2 strike “alley”; §67-11 typo; §67-15 fix spacing).
- Letter of interest to be appointed to the Municipal Authority Board of Directors from Mark Madsen
- Letter from the Matamoras Municipal Authority Board requesting the re-appointment of Robert Howard to the Municipal Board

**Old Business:**

- a) Matamoras/Westfall Compost Facility: chipping and access
- b) Matamoras Salutes Banner Program, banners are down and at the church to be cleaned.
- c) Firefly Park offer of contribution from Mr. Biondo
- d) Regional Act 537 Plan

**New Business:**

- a) A motion was made by Mr. Maney and seconded by Mr. Madsen to adopt the 2025 Borough Budget & Tax Resolution. **All in favor, motion carried.**
- b) A motion to publish the 2025 Meeting Schedule was made by Mr. Maney and seconded by Mr. Madsen. **All in favor, motion carried.**
- c) A motion to approve the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan proposed Resolution 2024-005 authorizing a submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program was made by Mr. Maney and seconded by Mr. Prey. **All in favor, motion carried.**
- d) A motion was made by Mr. Alessandra and seconded by Mr. Prey to authorize the secretary to send a letter to borough residents announcing future changes to garbage collection. **All in favor, motion carried.**

- e) A motion to advertise a Public Hearing on January 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the Conditional Use Application for 905 Lucky Mart Inc. was made by Mr. Maney and seconded by Mr. Alessandra. **All in favor, motion carried.**
- f) A motion to advertise a Public Hearing on January 14, 2025, at 7:15 p.m. to consider the adoption of revised Chapter 67 Garbage was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mr. Prey. **All in favor, motion carried.**
- g) Motion to appoint Mark Madsen to the Municipal Authority Board of Directors for a term limit of 5 years effective 01/01/2025 was made by Mr. Prey and seconded by Mr. Alessandra. **All in favor, motion carried.**
- h) President Kudrich announced the appointment of Lisa Salvato to the Police Commission for a term of 2 years effective 01/01/2025. There were no other nominations. **All in favor.**

**Public Comment:**

**Dee Losee 302 De Drive:** PJHS football just won the State Championship, suggested a congratulatory letter be sent.

**Eddie Addison 213 Ave B:** Thanked Assistant Chief Stewart for his years of service and then asked about the 25% increase in healthcare. Asst Chief Stewart noted that the department budgets for increases in healthcare, however, a 25% increase was completely unexpected. He also noted that the department was notified by the state that they owe \$50,000 to their pension plan. He said that the plan is solvent with over \$4 million. He credited Dave Clark with taking their struggling pension to a thriving plan. He is not sure why there is money owed to the plan. Mr. Addison asked about the possibility of negation of the healthcare premium. Assistant Chief Stewart noted that the Officers must be provided coverage equal to or better than the existing coverage. The coverage they currently have is a grandfathered policy that is no longer offered. It would not be possible to beat the price. Mr. Madsen added that the borough was told to expect a 10% increase and was hit with a 25% increase; the Department is not alone in the struggle to budget for these unexpected increases.

**Motion to adjourn was made at 8:30 by Mark Madsen, seconded by Harry Prey. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Brown  
Borough Secretary