

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
March 11th, 2026

The March 11th, 2026, meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburtis, PA. The meeting was also streamed on Zoom.

Attendance:

Council: Ron DeIaco, Steve Hill, Michael Gerhart, Ashlynn Rivera (zoom), John Aleszczyk, Mehmet Birtek

Associates: Stephen Nemeth- Borough Manager, Hector Moss- Mayor, Dave Knerr-Solicitor, Tony Alsleben- Police Chief (zoom), East Penn Press (zoom)

Visitors: Kathy Palmer, Sean McKenney, Nick(zoom), Tom(zoom), Mary N(zoom), Cheryl's iPhone, Aunt Jane, Rita (zoom), Carl Rottenberger, Gary DeRoner, Brenda (zoom), Donnie Derr (zoom)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carl Rottenberger wanted to thank Donnie for his help during the week on an issue that he was having at his property.

MEETING MINUTES of February 25th, 2026:

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2026. Michael Gerhart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 6-0. John Aleszczyk noted that he would like the newspaper to clarify that the church heaters were not approved, despite being previously reported as such.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to pay the bills, and Mike Gerhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. John Aleszczyk asked why the life insurance cost increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000 and whether a quote had been available during the budget process. Steve Nemeth explained that the notice of the increase was received on February 26, with payment required within 30 days to avoid losing coverage. Mehmet Birtek then made a motion to approve all bills except Bill No. 25659, which was seconded by Steve Hill and approved unanimously, 6-0. Steve Hill subsequently made a motion to approve Bill No. 25659, seconded by Mehmet Birtek. The motion passed 5-0, with Ashlynn Rivera abstaining due to her role with the AACC.

Reports:

Mayor's REPORT:

No Mayor reports.

POLICE REPORT:

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the February Police Report. Michael Gerhart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 6-0.

TREASURERS REPORT:

John reported that the sewer fund balance is approximately \$62,000, which represents about one month of operating costs. He noted that the water fund holds roughly \$288,000, another fund reflects approximately \$281,000, and the general fund is down about \$80,000. He also stated that the transfer made to cover the police car payment still needs to be properly marked in the financial records, and he and Steve will review the line item to ensure it is accurately documented. John further noted that the borough will need to closely monitor expenses, as snow removal costs have reached \$19,000 despite only \$10,000 being budgeted. Steve Nemeth added that the severity of recent storms was not anticipated. John also explained that several other expenses were higher than expected, including increased life insurance premiums. Additionally, although \$19,000 was budgeted for magistrate expenses, the borough is not on track to receive that amount. Michael Gerhart made a motion to accept the February Treasurer's Report, and Ashlynn Rivera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Steve Hill suggested that the Highway Committee meet to plan for future snowstorms and consider whether the borough needs to continue performing snow removal at the same level as in previous years.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Steve Hill made a motion to accept the February Engineer's report, Michael Gerhart 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS

Ron DeIaco mentioned in the report stated 408 calls for Macungie Ambulance in February, with 11 being in the borough. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the February Ambulance report, Steve Hill 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

New Business:

2026 borough road projects; mill and overlay

Steve Nemeth reported that the planned road projects for the year include Chestnut Street from 3rd to 2nd, Stone Alley, and the intersection of 3rd and Walnut, based on quotes provided by Donnie. Steve Hill questioned whether the quotes were current, noting that costs may rise given market conditions. John added that other roads, including Cobblestone Circle and the area in front of the borough building, are also in poor condition. Nemeth stated that he intends to pursue grant opportunities for additional projects, such as Ridgeview, once those programs open. He noted that the budget allocates \$69,000 for road work, while current estimates are at \$67,000 and likely to increase. Scheduling will depend on the availability of the paving machine from Macungie and must also account for the school calendar. Ron DeIaco emphasized that the list represents potential projects and that a motion will be required, with the understanding that rising costs may limit the borough to completing only two projects while staying within budget. Nemeth added that he hopes to begin work on Chestnut Street in April or May. Michael Gerhart made a motion to approve the use of borough roads for the event, which was seconded by Mehmet Birtek. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Resolution 2026-5: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF THE BOROUGH'S 2013 FORD EXPLORER POLICE INTERCEPTOR BY ONLINE AUCTION SALE THROUGH MUNICIPAL BID.

Steve Hill made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-5. Mehmet Birtek seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 6-0.

Resolution No. 2026-6: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.

Steve Nemeth explained that the resolution presented was to appoint MVA Audit PLLC as the borough's independent auditor. A question was raised regarding how the firm bills its fees, and Steve noted that this will be discussed further once the appointment is officially finalized. He added that the firm has a strong background and represents many municipal clients. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-6, which was seconded by Michael Gerhart. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Request to purchase Pole banners and hardware through the Chamber Main Street Grant

Steve Nemeth reported that, through the Main Street Grant, the borough was awarded an additional \$1,000 for new banners, with a required 50% match. He requested permission to proceed, noting that the proposed banner design for this year would coordinate well with the existing military and "Welcome to Alburdis" banners. Michael Gerhart made a motion to approve the purchase of banners and hardware. Mehmet Birtek seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 6-0.

Request to approve the sewer manhole chimney seal project with the remaining Sewer Grant

Steve Nemeth made a request to approve the chimney seal project using the remaining sewer grant funds. He explained that the project involves sealing approximately 24 to 29 manholes throughout the borough to prevent seepage and reduce inflow and infiltration. Ron DeIaco noted that a demonstration of the sealing method was conducted last year and the borough was satisfied with the results. While this phase focuses on sealing the manholes, additional work—such as sealing the tops—may be possible depending on remaining funds. It was reported that approximately \$110,000 will remain in the grant after this portion of the project, which may allow for the additional sealing work. Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Chimney Seal Project, and Mehmet Birtek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Maintenance Bucket truck

- Repair, Request to bid on one on Municibid, or Alternatives

Steve Nemeth reported that the engine in the borough's bucket truck has failed and cannot be repaired. Donnie contacted several junkyards to locate a replacement engine and believes the repairs can be completed. The borough has also been monitoring available vehicles on Muncibid, but prices have increased since the meeting packets were printed. Steve requested direction from Council on whether to proceed with repairs and, if so, to approve a spending limit for the replacement engine.

John Aleszczyk made a motion to purchase a replacement engine for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Mehmet Birtek seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 6-0.

Upper Milford Township SALDO and Zoning Revision Municipal review

Steve Nemeth mentioned that this is mostly informational. If we would like to make comments, we can send them over. Always best to review and see if there is something that would look good to add to our ordinances. No further comment.

Mayor's Ball and Meet & Greet- Hector Moss

Steve Nemeth provided a follow-up to a discussion from two meetings prior, noting that the Chamber supplied a response outlining what a partnership for the proposed networking event could look like. He explained that Macungie is unable to participate due to internal issues, and the Chamber recommended holding the event at the Alburis Community Center, with an estimated partnership fee of approximately \$500.

Hector clarified that the event is intended as a community networking opportunity involving local and neighboring organizations—such as the fire company, Scouts, and other civic groups—to gather information and strengthen connections. He emphasized that the goal is not a personal meet-and-greet but a structured effort to bring organizational leaders together. He added that more information still needs to be collected and that approval is needed to move forward with planning.

Kathy Palmer expressed concerns about spending taxpayer funds on the event, noting current budget constraints and questioning why similar networking could not occur during Community Day. She also questioned potential conflicts of interest if the event were held at the Community Center.

Hector responded that the recommendation to use the Community Center came from the Chamber, not from him, and reiterated that the concept is still in early stages and requires further discussion. Kathy continued to express concerns about conflicts of interest and the need for clearer separation between borough business and other organizations to avoid confusion among residents. Ron requested that Steve Nemeth set up another meeting between the Mayor, himself, the Chamber, and Steve.

America Celebrates 250th

Steve Nemeth mentioned since there have been increased requests as to what the borough is doing for this celebration, figured now would be the best time to discuss this. Steve mentioned that he believes this should be a committee-created event. Lower Macungie is doing their celebration as part of their community day. Emmaus is doing a larger event in July in the triangle, and Upper Milford is doing a parade organized by their historical society and commissioners.

Notice of 2026 Liquid Fuels Payment

Informational, no further comment.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth
Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.