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**DEEMSTON BOROUGH MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10,
2026**

The regular monthly meeting of Deemston Borough was held on Tuesday February 10, 2026, at 7PM at the borough building. The meeting was called to order by Jody Lohr, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) Roll Call attendance

Jody Lohr – Present, John Dieterle – Present, Bill Bechtold, Present, John Yesenosky – Present, Joe Clark, Present, David Dinger, present, Dave Kanalis – Not Present, Carrie Ann Lehrman – Not Present

Also present: Solicitor/Steve Toprani, Jim Matthews/Road Supervisor, Betsy Benning/Secretary, not present: Renee Minsky/Treasurer

3A) Motion: to accept resignation of Council Member Dave Kanalis

Motion: by John Yesenosky, 2nd by John Dieterle, all in favor, motion passed

3B) Motion to appoint Charlie Caprini to fill the vacate borough council seat

Motion: by John Yesenosky, 2nd by Dave Dinger, all in favor, motion passed.

3C) Motion to accept the resignation of Renee Minsky.

Motion: by John Yesenosky, 2nd by Dave Dinger, all in favor, motion passed.

4) Public Comment

~Residents John and Carol Zuchowski reviewed and discussed the opening of Zukes Automotive, what services will be available, Josh's automotive experience as well as the location address: 1898 Morey Road, Fredericktown, PA 15333

Council member John Yesenosky queried auto spacing in their parking lot while waiting for services and had questions regarding safely exiting Zukes Automotive Garage onto busy Morey Road. Residents will pursue "Hidden Driveway" signage.

~Jason White/MOA spoke regarding the MOA Hunting Reserve and wanted to Thank Council members for the work completed on Pump Station Road as well as the Cul De Sac.

~Jason White/MOA asked about Neiswonger Quarry and possible grant money they may be able to request for a truck tire wash

~Jason White/MOA stated the water tower on Morey Road is being replaced and had a concern about no flag workers and was concerned about their safety

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5) **Approval of Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

Motion: by Joe Clark, 2nd by John Dieterle, all in favor, motion passed.

6) **Motion: to pay Borough Bills as presented**

Motion: by Jody Lohr, 2nd by Dave Dinger, all in favor- John Yesenosky, yes, Bill Bechtold, yes, John Dieterle, yes, Jody Lohr, yes, Dave Dinger, yes, Joe Clark, yes, all in favor, motion passed.

7) **Correspondence:**

Secretary will be distributing 2026 Ethics Forms at the February meeting. Secretary will need these back as soon as your time allows, they aren't due until May 1, 2026, but I prefer to complete the process earlier.

~2025 Borough accomplishments (please review in Correspondence Binder)

~People's & Columbia Gas Companies offer gas bill assistance.

~Secretary would like all Council members to review the 2025 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report as presented by OPST. Once reviewed management representation letter is reviewed, signed and returned to OPST, this will allow our audit to be sent to DCED as a completed wholesome audit.

8) **Secretary report**

~ see attached

9) **Street Commissioner Report**

~see attached

10) **Solicitors Report**

~Solicitor reviewed the certified letter sent to the mayor on behalf of Deemston Borough. (see attached)

11) **Mayors Report**

~not present

12) **Vice Presidents Report0**

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Cont. VP report:

- ~good 2025 audit already completed
- ~Deemston Borough received a Washington County LSA grant in the amount of \$200,000.
- ~Would like Jim and Dave for taking such good care of the roads during the bad snowstorm we experienced recently.
- ~Next year, Deemston Borough hopes to apply for a grant to purchase a new truck with Salt Brine equipment (to aid additionally with snowstorms).

13) Unfinished Business

- a) AED purchase? (Not addressed)

14) New Business

- a) **Motion:** to pass a resolution to allow certain bills to be paid between meetings (sample from PSAB)
Motion: by John Yesenosky, 2nd by John Dieterle, all yes, motion passed.
- b) **Motion:** to purchase Steering Box for Peterbilt truck at a cost of \$1259.74 from Hill International
Motion: by Dave Dinger/2nd by John Dieterle, all in favor, John Yesenosky, yes, Bill Bechtold, yes, John Dieterle, yes, Jody Lohr, yes, Dave Dinger, yes, Joe Clark, yes, all in favor, motion passed.
- c) **Motion:** to send a letter of support to MOA for a grant they are applying for Wildlife Improvement
Motion: by Joe Clark, 2nd by John Dieterle, all yes, motion passed.
- d) **Motion** to hire Betsy Benning as Secretary Treasurer at an hourly rate of \$23.00 hourly.
Motion: by John Dieterle, 2nd by John Yesenosky, John Yesenosky, yes, Bill Bechtold, yes, John Dieterle, yes, Jody Lohr, yes, Dave Dinger, yes, Joe Clark, yes, all in favor, motion passed.

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15) Executive Session:

Motion: to go to the Executive Session at 7:38 pm by John Dieterle, 2nd by John Yesenosky, all yeas, motion passed.

Motion: by John Dieterle to return from Executive Session at 7:52 pm, 2nd by John Yesenosky, all yeas, Motion passed.

Motion: to adjourn meeting

Motion: by John Yesenosky, 2nd by Dave Dinger, all yeas, Motion carried to adjourn meeting at 7:54 pm.

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Secretary