

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
(Hybrid Meeting)

December 10, 2025
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Walker. The following Councilpersons were in attendance: Mr. Robol, Mrs. Mabus, Mr. Swartz, Mr. Scheimreif, Ms. Fawess, Mr. Pfeil, Mr. Derr, Mr. Morales, and Mrs. Meckley. Also attending were Sam Shaffer, Mrs. Foust, Atty. Wiley, and Chief Zettlemyer.

Minutes: On motion from Mr. Pfeil, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council approved the minutes from November 25, 2025, Council Meeting. Mr. Robol abstained.

Report of the Borough Manager: No Report

Report of the Mayor: No Report

Report of the President of Council: President Walker asked all department heads for an end of year review (Codes, DPW, PD, FD). He thanked the Revitalization Committee for their work this year. He advised that Marsh Rd meetings will be held in the coming weeks. He advised Harvestfest and Winterfest were outstanding. The Borough is still looking for a Borough Manager. He then thanked Mr. Robol for his mentorship while on Council and thanked him for his service to the Borough.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemyer reported that usually his end of year numbers are completed by March. YTD the department is down one hundred calls from last year. Proactive areas suffered due to staffing issues. The department is still recruiting new employees and has contacted schools and academies to let them know we are looking for new employees. Our calls are becoming more involved with technology. The department still has an open death investigation. Chief Zettlemyer advised that the department's relationship with the DA is good and our officers hold him to the line. On December 13th there will be a Civil Service meeting. He then thanked Mr. Robol for his service to the Borough. The Christmas program is in full swing and toys will be delivered the week of Christmas.

Report of Public Works Director: Mr. Shaffer provided his 2025 year-end report advising Council that the DPW crew paved 5 streets, fixed 47 storm drains, and replaced 300 ft of stormwater pipe. The Borough has a mechanic on staff that does all the maintenance on Borough equipment and vehicles when possible, and we are very fortunate to have him. The DPW crew has also installed two (2) heaters in the garage this year and have 2 more to install. He advised that all lights for Winterfest are up, there was an issue with the Christmas tree, but that has been resolved and replaced. Mr. Shaffer informed Council that he a meeting with Livic Civil and PennDOT for Green Light Go on Turbot and Broadway, and that a few design changes will be needed as some of the ADA ramps will not be able to be done. He does not expect and increase in cost.

Report of the Fire Chief: Chief Heddings provided the year end report to Council as follows: As we close out another demanding and deeply meaningful year, the Milton Fire Department reflects with pride on the progress, challenges, and accomplishments that defined our service to the community. This year brought a combination of steady operational growth, major training

achievements, improved readiness, and continued commitment to the citizens of Milton and surrounding municipalities. Answering 509 fire, rescue and volunteer Ems calls, Micu 15 has answered 2331 calls so far and ambulance 1-5 (7am-7pm well span ambulance)1551

Call Volume & Emergency Response

Throughout the year, MFD responded to a wide range of incidents including structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, alarms, hazardous conditions, water-rescue activations, and mutual aid assignments. While the nature of each call varied, our core mission remained unwavering: provide rapid, professional, and safe service.

Our crews demonstrated:

- Strong turnout across both day and night shifts
- Quick response times, even during severe weather or staffing challenges
- Effective coordination with neighboring departments during multi-company incidents

This consistency showcased the department's continued reliability as a frontline emergency resource for the region.

Training & Professional Development

One of the department's proudest areas of advancement was training. Members dedicated substantial time to expanding their skills, sharpening fundamentals, and ensuring readiness for evolving hazards.

Key training highlights included:

- Live-burn evolutions focused on fire behavior, hose line advancement, and victim removal
- EMS continuing education to maintain up-to-date medical certifications
- Water rescue and swift-water technician refreshers for our river rescue operations
- Apparatus operator courses emphasizing pump operations, aerial proficiency, and safe driving practices
- Officer development sessions for leadership growth and decision-making under pressure

This year reinforced that well-trained firefighters are safer firefighters—both for themselves and for the public.

Apparatus, Equipment & Facilities

The department continued to evaluate and improve its equipment and operational resources to stay mission-ready.

Progress this year included:

- Regular maintenance and upgrades to Tower 15, Engine 15, and other frontline units
- Expansion of river rescue capabilities and ongoing work toward future equipment needs
- Facility improvements within the station to support safety, comfort, and operational efficiency
- Continuous investment in PPE, communications gear, and support equipment

These enhancements help ensure that our members have the tools necessary to operate effectively and safely.

Community Involvement

Public outreach remained one of the most meaningful aspects of the year. The department engaged the community through:

- Open house events and fire prevention demonstrations
- Fundraising activities (ham dinner, chicken BBQ, chocolate pretzel sale and others)
- School visits, public education sessions, and community partnership events (toy run and Santa delivery)
- Social media updates to keep residents informed and aware of safety issues

The community's continued support—financially, emotionally, and through volunteer interest—remains vital to our success.

Membership, Growth & Achievements

MFD gained new members this year and continued strengthening its core roster. Veteran firefighters provided mentorship and guidance to newer volunteers, building the next generation of leadership.

Department achievements this year included:

- Members completing significant certifications
- Recognition for exemplary service
- Safe operations during major incidents
- Strengthened teamwork and morale despite the demanding nature of the work

Each firefighter contributed to the department's reputation for reliability and professionalism.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the new year, the department remains focused on:

- Recruitment and retention of dedicated volunteers
- Continued training investment across firefighting, rescue, and leadership
- Apparatus and station planning for current and future needs
- Strengthening partnerships with local agencies and community organizations
- Maintaining the highest standards of safety and professionalism

The goal remains the same: serve the Milton community with integrity, readiness, and pride. All while being 100% volunteer.

The Department filled two (2) boats, trailers and the back of the utility truck during the toy drive this year during Winterfest.

President Walker asked Alec Klingler, Code Enforcement Officer, to provide his end of year report. Alec provided the following:

During the year 2025, the Borough of Milton Codes Department continued its mission of safeguarding community standards, supporting responsible development, and fostering collaboration across borough operations.

The department issued a total of 231 violation notices throughout the year. Of these, 86 escalated into finable violations, resulting in \$14,250 in fines. In addition to routine enforcement, three serious violations are currently at the Northumberland County Court, with further cases being pursued.

Alongside enforcement, the department supported growth and development through zoning and building permits. In 2025, 54 zoning permits were issued, including 35 for residential properties, 19 for commercial properties. These permits represented \$66,350 in documented improvements throughout the Borough. Building activity was even more substantial, with 67 building permits issued—42 for residential projects and 25 for commercial projects—amounting to \$4,214,900.82 in improvements throughout the Borough. The Codes Department also advanced housing oversight through its tri-annual rental inspection program. A total of 105 rental units across Wards 1 and 2 were inspected in 2025. The department plans to complete inspections of the remaining few rentals in these wards and move on to Ward 3 in 2026.

Beyond enforcement and permitting, the department continued its work with the Community Rating System (CRS). Throughout 2025, staff focused on preparing required items and documentation for submission to FEMA. These efforts aim to strengthen the borough's CRS standing, which can lower flood insurance premiums for residents and enhance community resilience. Staff members Samantha, Douglas, and I participated in multiple virtual events to further their education on topics such as the CRS program, property maintenance, and the adoption of the new 2021 codes. I also completed several residential inspection certifications, including Building Code Official, Residential Building Inspector, and Residential Electrical Inspector. These achievements strengthen the department's expertise and ensure that staff remain current with evolving standards.

Looking ahead to 2026, the department hopes to continue this movement by completing inspections in Wards 1 and 2, beginning Ward 3, and expanding efforts to address abandoned and blighted properties. Tackling these issues will further the borough's long-term goals.

Mr. Scheimreif was then asked to provide a end of year update for the Milton Public Library. He advised that the library director that was on board left after one month, they had rehired, but that director promptly left, so they are still searching for a director. He advised that the library is also looking for board members. They are looking to partner with TIME to move their Maker Space to the library which will be a good asset to the library. He advised that the library probably has two (2) years of operation left. If they can find a director that can find grants for programs that would be great, but its very hard to find grants to cover staffing and the mortgage. The mortgage does account for about 1/3 of the Library's budget. They are operating on about a \$100,000 deficit in the year.

Public Comments: Paul Bianco, 50 Rolling Ridge Dr, advised that Golf course Rd is breaking down along the berm. Mr. Shaffer advised that DPW will be out to address the issue. He also questioned line painting, and Mr. Shaffer advised it is on his plan for the spring. He also questioned what is being done with blighted homes, and President Walker advised that we are at a stand still in the Courts and that we are waiting on Northumberland County. He also advised that the Borough will be able to put in more effort in 2026 to this issue.

Ann Chiccino, 109 Woodsedge Dr, addressed Council with questions regarding the Comcast drilling in the Borough. She advised that at first the residents were told they would be running wires under the ground. She advised that the crews are placing junction boxes in lawns, in odd areas and blocking fire hydrants. She also advised that these boxes will increase the cost of lawncare \$60-\$70 a lawn. She asked for a contact at Comcast to voice her complaint. Solicitor Wiley advised that he would contact his contact at Comcast to see what can be done to remedy the situation.

Keith Ferguson, 2 Farmview Ct, came to ask questions about parking on Turbot and Academy. Is there a way to change some of these streets can be changed to one way? President Walker advised that the next item to come to Council will probably answer his question as we will be tackling the Traffic Ordinance.

Public Works and Cemeteries: No Report

Public Safety:

- Consideration to approve Resolution 25-11 for a handicapped parking space on Rose St.
 - On motion from Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to adopt the Traffic Ordinance #1263 to include resolution 25-11.

- On motion from Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, Council approved this request.

Mrs. Meckley asked the following: My first question was 233-6, authority of the police officers, and I talked to Sam before the meeting, and Chief, where do the fire police fit into this as far as being able to direct traffic in the room? They need to be incorporated into this? Chief Zettlemyer advised he was looking into it, but I believe that if they're out there in their official capacity. They can direct traffic within the borough, as long as they are operating under the guise of the fire department in their official capacity. And they're properly trained to do so.

233-40 missing information – Mrs. Foust to review missing information and update accordingly. 233-43 item F: It is a violation to park in a parking space with... where the meter does not register lawful parking; So, if I pull into a parking space, and I park, and I get out of my vehicle, and the meter does not work. I'm in violation if I leave my vehicle parked there? Chief Zettlemyer advised if that's what the ordinance says that is correct. Then a correction to 233-25 the word "shall" was repeated twice. Mrs. Foust to correct.

General Government and Finance:

- Consideration to approve the 2026 Tax Ordinance #1264.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to cancel the December 23rd Council Meeting
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved this request. Mr. Robol opposed.
- Consideration to approve the Easement Request from MRSA to complete the East End Project.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Pfeil and carried, Council approved this request
- Consideration to amend the agenda to add reappoint Linwood Hill and Bryan McCaffery to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three (3) year term ending in 2028.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to reappoint Linwood Hill and Bryan McCaffery to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three (3) year term ending in 2028.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to amend the agenda to add enter into an agreement with Northumberland County for snow removal on the bridges and sidewalks within the Borough.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to enter into an agreement with Northumberland County for snow removal on the bridges and sidewalks within the Borough.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to pay bills from the General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Liquid Fuels, and Cemetery account in the amount of \$105,685.43.

- On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Scheimreif, and carried, Council approved this request.

President Walker advised the Christmas luncheon will be December 19th, so please sign up. Camera project moving forward in the New year. I was doing math. 7 calls for MIQ 15 a day, if I'm not mistaken. It's not 7 calls a day, one and a half on average a day for our fire rescue.

At this time, 7:51 pm, Council entered into an executive session to discuss personnel issues. The Executive session ended at 8:19 pm.

- Consideration to amend the agenda to add appointing Curt Zettlemyer as Interim Borough Manager.
 - On Motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Moralez, and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to appoint Curt Zettlemyer as interim Borough Manager until January 5, 2026.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Scheimreif, and carried, Council approved this request.

At this time, 8:21 pm, on motion from Mr. Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Derr, Council adjourned.

(Seal)

Submitted By:

Jennifer Foust
Borough Secretary/Treasurer