

BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Bell Acres was held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2026, at the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Hall, 1850 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Renfrew, President of Council, at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL

(X) David Renfrew - President of Council
(X) Brock Meanor - Vice President of Council
(X) Christopher Abell
(X) Matthew Horton
(X) Charles Kulbacki
(X) Gregory Molchen
(X) Michelle Veeck
(X) Kenneth Alvania – Mayor
(X) Sandy Nelko - Borough Engineer
(X) Robert Max Junker – Babst Calland

Public Comments

None.

INVITED GUEST

Tom Kuny – President, Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Department

Discuss the proposed merger of three fire departments

Mr. Kuny summarized the merger of the three Fire Departments in our area, as follows:

- A resolution, plan, and merger agreement was prepared with attorney Mr. Kim Hauser to combine three corporations - Leet Township, Leetsdale, and Big Sewickley Creek Fire Departments—into a single volunteer fire department. The chosen merger approach allows the department to retain ownership of its land, buildings, trucks, and 501(c)(3) status.
- The merger process includes several steps:
 - Submission to the Allegheny County Attorney General for approval, filing a petition with Allegheny County, scheduling and attending a county hearing
 - County approval of the petition
 - Filing a legal name change within 30 days after approval
- A draft fire service agreement between Quaker Valley Fire District and Bell Acres Borough has been completed and sent to the attorney. Council members are asked to review and provide feedback, with a target implementation date of October 1. Work is ongoing to finalize financial details, with the goal of presenting completed information at the August council meeting.
- **Insurance Coverage:** The group is reviewing insurance coverage for buildings and vehicles. Building coverage is currently in place; however, vehicle coverage will require further review due to Bell Acres' current arrangement that combines buildings, trucks, and vehicles with other fire departments. The goal is to determine the best coverage options and identify any potential cost savings.
- **Workers' Compensation:** It was determined that a municipality must hold the workers' compensation agreement for the fire department. The proposed arrangement is for Bell Acres to hold the municipal workers' compensation agreement, with LEET and Leetsdale reimbursing Bell Acres for their share of the costs.
- **Fire Truck Ownership Agreement:** The purchase agreement for the newest fire truck will need to be reviewed. It appears the Borough and the fire department share ownership interest in the vehicle. If the truck were to be sold in the future, Borough approval would be required. A request will be discussed for the Borough to relinquish its ownership interest in the truck.

- **Financials:** Work is underway on the financial information, with the goal of presenting the completed financials to Council by August 1st.

Mr. Molchen was thanked for volunteering to serve on the finance committee, providing municipal representation alongside fire department representatives.

Mrs. Veeck asked regarding the long-term viability of the fire department facilities. It was explained that, for now, all three existing fire stations will remain operational. Once the transition process is complete, further evaluation will be conducted to determine which facilities and vehicles are most practical moving forward. This review may result in adjustments to the number of vehicles and facilities needed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's Report for the month of June 2026 has been submitted in writing and made part of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 8, 2026, was made by Mr. Molchen, seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted for June 2026 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$137,658.52 out of the General Fund and \$136.78 out of the State Fund was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Budget & Finance – Michelle Veeck

Mrs. Veeck thanked Chief Korol for sharing a warning about mailbox theft and check fraud. Mrs. Veeck emphasized the importance of council members passing along scam alerts to the community and shared a serious example where a check intended for the IRS was stolen from a mailbox, altered, and led to a large fraudulent withdrawal, with the FBI involved and the issue still unresolved. Mrs. Veeck stressed that this type of crime is common and that continued communication and awareness are important to help protect residents.

Mrs. Veeck gave an update for council as well as people in attendance that in regard to legal fees for the Georgette Austin and William Holt appeal, as of July 1st, 2026, our borough has dispersed an amount of \$6,850.

Public Safety – Brock Meanor

Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Department – Authorization for Monthly Distribution of Fire Tax Funds

A motion to authorize the Borough Manager to disburse \$10,000 from budget line item 301.101 to be deposited in the FDIC bank account maintained by the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Department in accordance with Section 153-54 of the Borough of Bell Acres Fire Tax Ordinance was made by Mr. Meanor, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

Police Body Camera Upgrade – Motorola Solutions

A motion to authorize the Chief of Police to upgrade to six (6) new V700 BWC Body Worn Cameras and Video Manager Service with Motorola Solutions for a 5-Year Term at \$3,477.60 per year was made by Mr. Meanor, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Korol discussed replacing outdated police body cameras after learning the current B300 models have been discontinued and can no longer be replaced. Chief Korol explained that the vendor recommended upgrading to newer B700 cameras. This upgrade would provide six new cameras at no upfront cost, with replacements again in about three years and a five-year warranty overall.

The main change is an increase of \$500 per year, bringing the total annual cost to \$3,477.60. The system will remain cloud-based, with the vendor handling storage and compliance requirements, making access to footage straightforward.

Public Works – Christopher Abell

Beadnell Drive Improvement Project – Change Order No. 1 to Youngblood Paving

A motion to approve Change Order No. 1 issued to Youngblood Paving, Inc. for a decrease of approximately \$24,356.00 of the Contract Price for the Beadnell Drive Improvement Project was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Abell explained the original design included work on private property; however, the homeowner, did not sign the Easement agreement: therefore, Shoup Engineering redesigned the project, eliminating work on private property and shifting improvements to the opposite side of the street. The redesign resulted in: Cost savings of \$24,356 from the original contract with Youngblood Paving.

Mr. Abell explained we will increase asphalt coverage from approximately 100 feet to 190 feet at the base of the hill, improving safety where vehicles previously slid. Existing drainage pipes on private property will remain, new piping will be installed on the opposite side of the road to maintain proper water flow.

SHACOG – Rock Salt Bids for 2026-2027 – Received “NO BIDS” on July 2, 2026

Mr. Abell discussed the issues with last year’s salt supplier Compass Minerals, including supply disruptions due to frozen barges and lack of storage. The prior contract conditions led to no bids for the upcoming season. The bid documents are being revised by the COG (Council of Governments). New requirements will likely include mandatory salt storage capacity to avoid supply interruptions. Bidding is expected to reopen at the end of the month.

Equipment Storage – Public Works – Mr. Abell had discussions with Mr. Bohn regarding storage for borough equipment, much of which is currently stored outdoors. Mr. Bohn suggested a permanent pole barn as a more suitable solution to house equipment, with the possibility of completing the project in phases over several years. Council discussed pursuing a grant application as a second phase of a previous project to help fund the proposed structure. Also, the existing lean-to structure attached to the borough garage was noted as in poor condition.

PENNDOT Severe Winter Adjustment – Received additional \$2,741.77 for the 2025/2026 Winter Season

Property & Supplies – Charles Kulbacki

Ongoing administrative work continues for the borough park grant that was applied for last year. Required paperwork was recently signed and submitted, and the process is nearing completion. Anticipation is that the project will be able to move forward once final approvals are received.

Potential Eagle Scout projects have been identified. Still in the early stages and not yet ready for formal presentation. Further details will be provided as they develop.

Government & Legislation – Matthew Horton

Mr. Horton discussed that it is currently grant season, and the QVCOG has provided information regarding available grant opportunities and assistance with applications. The schedule and available resources have been shared, and potential grant applications have been identified. Mrs. Fleming has been provided with the information and is working on a plan for the applications.

Zoning – Gregory Molchen

Announcement – Villas at Bell Acres, LLC accepted the Preliminary and Final Phase 1 Approval and the conditions in Resolution No. 04132026B

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

There are other items that should be noted but do not need action at this time.

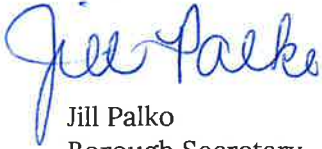
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Molchen, seconded by Mr. Meanor. Meeting adjourned at 6: 41 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held after the council meeting to discuss Police Personnel, Villas at Bell Acres, QVRA Conditional Use Appeal, and Public Safety (Possible Fire Department Merger)

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Palko
Borough Secretary