

Mayor & Town Council
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2026

Town of Boonton
 100 Washington Street
 Boonton, NJ 07005

Closed Session Meeting-6:00 p.m.
 Open Public Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE AND ROLL CALL VOTE

COUNCIL MEMBER	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. John Meehan	1 st Ward Council Member	X	
Mr. Cyril Wekilsky	1 st Ward Council Member		X
Ms. Danielle Cascone	2 nd Ward Council Member	X	
Ms. Marie DeVenezia	2 nd Ward Council Member	X	
Mr. Daniel Balan	3 rd Ward Council Member	*	
Ms. Kimberly Mazzei	3 rd Ward Council Member	X	
Ms. Luisa Lopez	4 th Ward Council Member	X	
Mr. Benjamin Weisman	4 th Ward Council Member	X	
Mr. James Lynch	Mayor	X	
Mr. Fred Semrau	Town Attorney		X
Mr. Edward Pasternak	Town Attorney	X	
Mr. Neil Henry	Town Administrator	X	
Ms. Elizabeth Bonsiewich	Town Clerk	X	

*Mr. Balan entered the meeting at 6:04 pm

CLOSED SESSION-6:00 P.M.

RESOLUTION 26-65

RESOLUTION TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the town of Boonton in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter(s).
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 b. (7) Litigation
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public at the conclusion of each individual specified subject matter.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.
5. No action may be taken in Closed Session. N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(1)

MOVED: WEISMAN		SECONDED: DE VENEZIA	
VOICE VOTE:	IN FAVOR: <u> X </u>	AGAINST: <u> </u>	

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

After a delay, the meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE AND ROLL CALL VOTE

COUNCIL MEMBER	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. John Meehan	1 st Ward Council Member	X	
Mr. Cyril Wekilsky	1 st Ward Council Member		X
Ms. Danielle Cascone	2 nd Ward Council Member	X	
Ms. Marie DeVenezia	2 nd Ward Council Member	X	
Mr. Daniel Balan	3 rd Ward Council Member	X	
Ms. Kimberly Mazzei	3 rd Ward Council Member	X	
Ms. Luisa Lopez	4 th Ward Council Member	X	
Mr. Benjamin Weisman	4 th Ward Council Member	X	
Mr. James Lynch	Mayor	X	
Mr. Fred Semrau	Town Attorney		X
Mr. Edward Pasternak	Town Attorney	X	
Mr. Neil Henry	Town Administrator	X	
Ms. Elizabeth Bonsiewicz	Town Clerk	X	

ADEQUATE NOTICE

This meeting is being held in person and livestreamed via ZOOM. The public is invited to attend in person or to view the meeting by following the link below or by calling in to the phone number listed below the link. Public comments are welcome in person or by submitting written comments to the Town Clerk, which will be distributed to members of the Governing Body, and which although not required by law to be read at a meeting, may be summarized or read in their entirety, during the public portion of the meeting. Written comments may be submitted via email with the subject line "Public Comment" to the Town Clerk, Elizabeth Bonsiewicz at ebonsiewicz@boonton.org or by mail addressed to Elizabeth Bonsiewicz, Town Clerk, Town of Boonton, 100 Washington Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005. All written comments must include the name, address and phone number in order to verify the Author. Emailed comments must be received at least eight (8) hours prior to the meeting. Mailed comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85826555060>

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

Notice of this meeting has been provided through resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council on December 15, 2025 at its Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Town Council at the Boonton Town Hall, 100 Washington Street, Boonton New Jersey and by electronic mailing to the Citizen of Morris County and the Daily Record newspapers, through posting on the Town website and by filing a copy of same with the Town Clerk.

Members of the public were also permitted to submit written comments prior to the meeting via mail or email, which may be summarized or read in their entirety during the public comment period. All public comments, whether during the public portion of the meeting or submitted beforehand, shall be limited to no greater than three (3) minutes in duration.

PRESENTATION

Chris Colley of Topology will make a presentation on Highlands Plan Conformance

Mr. Colley stated that the Highlands Council is a regional planning agency established to create new regulations to protect natural resources. In December 2024, the Town received a grant from the Highlands Council to develop a Highlands Grant Petition. Topology has worked the Highlands staff to prepare a draft of that document. Mr. Colley reviewed for the governing body the draft document which is made up of two parts-a look at the Town's existing policies and how they align with Highlands policies and a statement of what the Town would do if it were granted plan conformance. If plan conformance is granted the Town becomes eligible for funding from Highlands. If the Governing Body chooses to move forward with the petition a resolution authorizing submission of the document should be placed on the next meeting's agenda. Mr. Colley answered questions from the Governing Body and briefly explained the steps that would occur after conformance is granted.

BOONTON ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Administration-Administrator Neil Henry-*Mr. Henry gave the following report:*

Highlights from the Administrators office for the time period of January 21 through today, February 2, which are not on your agenda this evening are as follows:

- **Received five proposals back for Water Engineering Services. I will evaluate them and make a recommendation to the personnel committee for those firm's worthy of additional consideration.**
- **Participated in a meeting with our Water Engineer and Police Lieutenant regarding traffic details for the upcoming wastewater reduction program. The following streets to be affected by this project are Chestnut, Kanouse and Green Street.**
- **A fair amount of time was spent fielding calls on our snow removal operation which I'm sure Councilmember Mazzei will expand on during her report.**
- **Coordinate repair work at the Miller Kingsland House in the way of a new stove and a hot water heater.**
- **Coordinated completion of the new generator at the Toner Road pump station.**
- **Begin working on a memorializing access to the Boonton Avenue firehouse by representative from RVRSA to inspect their antenna located within the firehouse.**

Mr. Henry answered questions from the Governing Body about the timing of the wastewater reduction program, about the removal of trees near the Jersey City Reservoir and about snow removal particularly along Main Street.

Economic Development/Special Projects-Council Member Meehan-*Mr. Meehan reported that the Committee had met on January 23rd and discussed the Tap Grant which would start in October of 2026 and take about one and a half years to complete. Other discussion topics included Highlands, Neighborhood Grants, a community garden and the pickleball court preconstruction meeting scheduled for February. At its next meeting, the Committee expects to discuss a time capsule to commemorate our country's 250th anniversary.*

Ms. DeVenezia inquired about the community garden which is something she has been interested in for many years.

Mayor Lynch said that it is a town project and that the current design is unrealistic.

Parking-Council Member Lopez- *Ms. Lopez gave no report as the first meeting of the year was scheduled for the following Friday.*

Mayor Lynch stated that RFP's for parking logistics would be discussed at that meeting.

Public Works Committee-Council Member Mazzei-*Ms. Mazzei said that the Committee discussed the new Town Hall boiler and encouraged regular maintenance to extend its life. She announced that crosswalks were to be installed at Green and Wootton Streets in April. Ms. Mazzei praised both the DPW's recent snow clean-up and the Town's collaboration with the County on Main Street snow removal. The Committee discussed the reorganization of the DPW yard and buildings. A new DPW Superintendent had been selected.*

Ms. Cascone and Ms. Mazzei briefly discussed the Town Hall roof.

Board of Health-Council Member Lopez- *Ms. Lopez announced that effective January 19th, all electric bikes, classes 1, 2 and 3 will be treated as motorized vehicles. Ms. Lopez said that she had received two proposed ordinances from the Board of Health-the retail electronic smoking device and psychoactive substance establishment ordinance and the licensing and regulation of massage and bodywork and somatic therapy establishment ordinance. Pequannock Health Department is proposing that the municipality adopt these ordinances because a recent NJ Superior Court decision has raised questions about the authority of Boards of Health to license certain businesses.*

Boonton Main Street-Council Member Meehan-*Mr. Meehan announced that "Love Notes to Boonton" is the theme of the February 6th First Friday. A schedule of all First Friday events for the year has been completed. The 2026 Farmers' Market was discussed. 90% of vendors will be returning and a waitlist for new vendors has been opened. The market has attracted many visitors to town. Upcoming BMS plans include Brewfest, a gallery walk and murals. Communication with business owners remains a priority.*

Mayor Lynch who had attended the meeting in Mr. Meehan's absence reported that BMS is proposing an event "A Taste of Main Street" to be held at the old Maxfield's. BMS is also dealing with the loss of funding from NPP.

Green Team- Council Member Cascone-Ms. Cascone announced that the next meeting of the Green Team was scheduled for February 9th

Mayor Lynch said he was looking to approve planned Green Team events.

Historic Preservation Co36mmission-Council Member Balan-Mr. Balan reported that the Commission held it reorganization meeting in January. Betty McGrath is the new chairperson. Ian Brastow is Vice-Chair. An application for 929 Main Street was conditionally approved.

Housing Authority-Council Member DeVenezia-Ms. DeVenezia said that at the BHA meeting on January 28th, new member Beatriz Villada was sworn in and James Plaisted was reelected as Chairman. The Housing Authority had issued RFP's for an accountant, an auditor and an attorney. The Plane Street sinkhole repairs and the fencing are complete, but they are waiting on Verizon to handle a utility pole issue. A grant for FSS-Family Self-Sufficiency had been submitted in December. Ms. DeVenezia described the very worthy goals of the grant. She stated that there are still drainage issues on Chestnut Street.

Mr. Weisman, Mayor Lynch and Ms. DeVenezia briefly discussed the drainage issue.

Mayor Lynch echoed Ms. DeVenezia's positive assessment of the FSS program.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions 26-66 through 26-75

RESOLUTION 26-66

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL APPROVING MEETING MINUTES

WHEREAS, Minutes of the previous meeting(s) have been submitted to the Mayor and Town Council for their review and approval.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris and State of New Jersey that the Minutes from the following meeting(s) are hereby approved as typed and filed in the Town Clerk's office:

Regular Meeting January 20, 2026

RESOLUTION 26-67

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

WHEREAS, vouchers for payment have been submitted to the Mayor and Town Council by the various municipal departments.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris and State of New Jersey, all vouchers approved by the Administrator be and are hereby ordered paid.

RESOLUTION 26-68

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PATRICK LAVERTY AS ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE TOWN OF BOONTON

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.2, The Town of Boonton may appoint an Administrative Agent (AA) for the oversight of administration of the Town of Boonton's affordable housing program to enforce the requirements of the law and N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Boonton has amended Chapter 45 entitled Officers and Employees to provide for the appointment of an Administrative Agent of Affordable Housing to administer the Town of Boonton's affordable housing program.

WHEREAS, Patrick Laverty has fulfilled all the required coursework and has met all the prerequisite requirements to obtain the AHP Certificate of Completion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Town of Boonton in the County of Morris, and the State of New Jersey that Patrick Laverty is hereby appointed by the Governing Body of the Town of Boonton as Administrative Agent for the administration of the affordable housing program, pursuant to and in accordance with Sections 45-28 to 45-30 of Town of Boonton’s Town Code.

RESOLUTION 26-69

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PATRICK LAVERTY MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON FOR THE TOWN OF BOONTON

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.2, The Town of Boonton is required to appoint a Municipal Housing Liaison for the oversight of administration of the Town of Boonton’s affordable housing program to enforce the requirements of the law and N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Boonton has amended Chapter 45 entitled Officers and Employees to provide for the appointment of a Municipal Housing Liaison to administer the Town of Boonton’s affordable housing program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Town of Boonton in the County of Morris, and the State of New Jersey that Patrick Laverty is hereby appointed by the Governing Body of the Town of Boonton as the Municipal Housing Liaison for the administration of the affordable housing program, pursuant to and in accordance with Sections 45-28 to 45-30 of Town of Boonton’s Town Code.

RESOLUTION 26-70

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING ERIK GORE AS PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Boonton desires to appoint a Public Works Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Erik Gore has agreed to accept such appointment, effective February 17, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gore meets the qualifications to hold the position; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of Mr. Gore as Public Works Superintendent shall be at a salary of \$130,000.00 per year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris and State of New Jersey, that the appointment of Erik Gore as Public Works Superintendent as described above is hereby authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Clerk are hereby authorized to take all such actions necessary to finalize the appointment of Erik Gore as Public Works Superintendent.

RESOLUTION 26-71

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON HIRING JAMES KOSUT AND JAMES RIVERA AS TEMPORARY LABORERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL

WHEREAS, additional temporary seasonal employees are needed in the Department of Public Works for snow removal on an “as-needed” basis.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council that James Kosut and James Rivera are hired on an “as-needed” basis as temporary seasonal employees for snow removal at a wage of \$35.00/hour.

RESOLUTION 26-72

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON HIRING RICHARD KOBIA AND GARY POST AS TEMPORARY LABORERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL

WHEREAS, additional temporary seasonal employees are needed in the Department of Public Works for snow removal on an “as-needed” basis.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council that Richard Koba and Gary Post are hired on an “as-needed” basis as temporary seasonal employees for snow removal at a wage of \$50.00/hour.

RESOLUTION 26-73

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF PRIOR YEAR APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-59 provides that if, during the first 3 months of any fiscal year, the amount of any appropriation reserve for the immediately preceding fiscal year is insufficient to pay the claims authorized or incurred during said preceding year which were chargeable to said appropriation, and there shall be an excess in any appropriation reserves over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill its purpose, the governing body may, by resolution adopted by not less than a 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to an appropriation reserve or an appropriation in the prior budget deemed to be insufficient to fulfill its purpose or for which no reserve was provided. No transfers may be made to appropriation reserve for contingent expenses or deferred charges; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body further finds and declares that the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the following transfers are both necessary and appropriate; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris and State of New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the CY2025 Budget.

Current Account				
Account Number	Account Name	From	To	Purpose
5-01-20-165-111	Engineering S/W	25,000		
5-01-20-155-229	Legal O/E		10,000	Pay PY Attorney Fees
5-01-31-446-255	Natural Gas O/E		15,000	December Natural Gas Bill
	Totals:	25,000	25,000	

RESOLUTION 26-74

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO 2 (FINAL) TO THE CONTRACT WITH SAMSON CONCRETE & MASONRY FOR THE 122 PLANE STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Boonton awarded a contract to Samson Concrete & Masonry for the 122 Plane Street Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of \$211,220.00 on March 17, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council approved Change Order No 1 October 20, 2025 to increase the total contract amount to \$243,384.35;

WHEREAS, the current as-built amount completed and billed by 122 Plane Street Drainage Improvement Project is \$270,973.47, an increase of \$27,589.12 from the revised contract of \$243,384.35;

WHEREAS, the increase is partially due to additional work required during construction of the inlets within Plane Street, where several unexpected underground conditions were discovered that required layout, length, and depth of piping to be increased, as well as to increase the depth of the inlets within the roadway, which required additional riser sections, additional excavation, additional stone and backfill materials, additional soil removal, and additional police support for road closures, and;

WHEREAS, the increase is also based on final as-built field measurements and quantities for the completed project, which have been field verified and confirmed by the Project Engineer.

WHEREAS, this final change order reflects a total increase of 28.29%, in excess of the 20% change order limitation by NJAC 5:30-11, which shall be filed with the Director of the DLGS as justified by Town Engineer certification included within this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that it hereby approves the Change Order 2 (Final Change Order) amending the Final Contract amount to \$270,973.47.

I hereby certify that funds are available General Capital C-04-55-100-032 to fund an additional \$27,589.12 not to exceed a total of \$270,973.47

Michael Yazdi, CFO

RESOLUTION 26-75

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE TOWN OF BOONTON METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Boonton (“Town”) solicited bids, which were opened on December 23, 2025 for contracts for the Meter Replacement Program; and

WHEREAS, the Town received bid proposals from the following bidders:

Core & Main , LP	\$1,293,876.00
National Metering Services, Inc	\$1,416,501.00

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40a:11-1 et seq. requires that competitive bidding contracts be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, the bid proposals have been reviewed by the Town Engineer, who has recommended that the contracts be awarded to the lowest bidder, conditioned upon attorney review; and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has reviewed the bids and determined that the lowest responsive and responsible bid was received from Core & Main, LP in the amount of \$1,293,876.00; and

WHEREAS, each bid proposal was substantially in proper form, received from responsible bidders, and in compliance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23.2; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Boonton hereby award the above referenced contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Core & Main, LP, 660 State Highway 23, Pompton Plains, New Jersey 07444.
2. The Mayor and Town Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute said contracts, and take any further actions necessary to further the Meter Replacement Program to such contract.
3. This Resolution and contract shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

I hereby certify that \$1,293,876.00 is available in the Water Capital Account H-06-55-591-002

Michael Yazdi, CFO

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Roll Call Vote for Resolutions 26-66 through 26-75

Town Council Discussion					
MOVED: BALAN			SECOND: CAScone		
Motion to Adopt					
MOVED: CAScone			SECOND: BALAN		
	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Mr. Balan	X				
Ms. Cascone	X				
Ms. DeVenezia	X				
Ms. Lopez	X				
Ms. Mazzei	X				
Mr. Meehan	X				

Mr. Weisman	X				
Mr. Wekiisky					X
Mayor Lynch	X				

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS, ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Weisman said that February is Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month. Mr. Weisman has Marfan Syndrome which is a connective tissue disorder along with 30 or so related conditions. It affects about 1 in every 5,000 Americans. Because an individual with the syndrome has a normal life expectancy if the syndrome is diagnosed and treated, Mr. Weisman seeks to make others aware of the condition and its symptoms. He encouraged everyone to find out more through the internet.

Although he said he hoped everyone enjoys the upcoming Superbowl, Mr. Weisman risked controversy with a bold "Let's go Patriots"

Ms. DeVenezia commended the DPW on its work during and after the weekend snowstorm. She asked property owners to clear crosswalks and adjacent street areas.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one came forward.

The Town Clerk read the following public comment received by e-mail:

Dear Members of the Boonton Town Council,

I am writing as a resident of our town to ask for guidance and clarification regarding what actions community members may legally take should Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conduct operations in or around our town.

Many residents care deeply about the safety, dignity, and rights of everyone who lives here, regardless of immigration status. At the same time, we want to ensure that any actions we take are lawful, responsible, and consistent with local and state policies. There is considerable confusion and misinformation around this topic, and clear guidance from town leadership would be extremely helpful. Specifically, we would appreciate information on:

- What rights do residents have when witnessing ICE activity in public spaces?
- What can residents do to help protect vulnerable people from being taken without signed judicial warrants?
- Does the town have any policies, protocols, or resources in place related to ICE presence?
- How can residents support due process, civil rights, and community safety lawfully?
- Are there any educational resources, trainings, or public forums the town may recommend or consider offering?

Our goal is to be informed, prepared, and supportive of our community. We believe transparency and proactive communication from the town would help reduce fear, prevent misunderstandings, and promote public safety for everyone.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community. We appreciate any guidance you can provide.

Sincerely,

Maria Elisa and Eric Glatz

Mayor Lynch said that he did not believe the Governing Body will be in the role of providing legal advice on what can and cant be done but a committee has been convened to explore this issue and what the Town can do.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MOVED: WEISMAN	SECOND: MEEHAN	TIME:
VOICE VOTE:	IN FAVOR: <u>X</u>	AGAINST: _____ 7:49 pm

