



**FOX CHAPEL**  
BOROUGH

**Minutes**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
**Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6 p.m.**

**Present:** Andrew C. Bennett, President; Harrison S. Lauer, Vice-President; Betsy Monroe, Frederick C. Leech, Bradley D. Harrison, Barry Schaitkin, Wesley W. Posvar, Council Members; Jonathan Colton, Mayor

**Also Present:** Julie P. Bastianini, Borough Manager; A. Bruce Bowden, Borough Solicitor; Jeanine Mancuso, Treasurer; C. Ellis Watson, Chief of Police; Larry Kurpakus, Director of Public Works; Shawn M. Peterson, Assistant to the Manager; Ben Shopland, Chief of Foxwall EMS; Aiden Drucker, Anna Grace Shultz, Ahmed Elsayed, Laurence Park, Junior Council Members; Mike Pohl, Lieutenant Fox Chapel VFD; Jill McConnell, Executive Director Cooper-Siegel Community Library; Patrick Minogue, Jerry Vest, Kelly Sample, Jim Sample, residents; and seven other attendees

**Via Zoom:** Nine attendees

**Absent:** Kabeer Chopra, Junior Council Member

**Call to Order**

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Monroe moved to approve the March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

**Resident Comments**

Patrick Minogue, 440 Dorseyville Road, stated he wanted to express his disappointment with the Council's decision last month to pass the resolution regarding non-cooperation with ICE. He stated his opinion that the Council did not allow residents time to review the resolution before passing it.

Jerry Vest, 716 Fairview Road, stated he was a little surprised to see on the cover of the current Fox Chapel Herald an article about discussions to merge Foxwall EMS with West Deer EMS. He said he thought it was incumbent upon the Borough Council to ensure this is fully evaluated, and that it is not about making recruitment easier, but about benefiting the citizens of Fox Chapel.

Kelly Sample, 800 Fairview Road, thanked the Borough for the traffic study conducted along Fairview Road due to speeding. She stated that residents of Fairview Road, Borough staff, and

the Police Department met to discuss traffic calming measures. She appreciated the Borough listening to their concerns and performing the study. She asked that the Borough conduct another traffic count when the traffic is more significant, particularly in the morning or the afternoon, as the road is heavily used and has many visibility issues.

Jim Sample, 800 Fairview Road, stated that the initial radar box installed on Fairview Road recorded 750 cars passing by on Christmas Eve. He stated the road is extremely busy and hopes that the study helps with speeding.

### **Park Commission**

Mr. Posvar summarized the Park Commission meeting held on Monday, April 13, 2026. He stated that the Park Commission would be promoting a Remarkable Tree Contest, like the one hosted by the Franklin Park Borough EAC. He also said that in the last two years, 5,000 trees have been planted and over 1,000 students have volunteered in the Borough parks.

Mr. Posvar said that the annual 1-mile/5k walk/run would be held on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at McCahill Park. Early bird registration is now open.

Mr. Posvar also said that, as he is now a voting member of the Borough Council, he would be stepping down as Chairperson of the Park Commission and asked the members for a volunteer to take his place. He will remain a member of the Park Commission. Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. Posvar for his time as Chairperson over the past seven years.

Mr. Schaitkin asked if the salamanders at Salamander Park had made their appearance this year to migrate to the vernal pools, to which Mr. Posvar said yes.

### **Planning Commission**

Mr. Lauer summarized the Planning Commission meeting, held immediately before the Council meeting.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve Subdivision Application 26-02: Lot-line change, as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

### **Reports**

#### Mayor Report

Mr. Colton thanked the Police Department, Borough staff, and the many volunteers who assisted with the Egg-Stravaganza egg hunt on March 28, 2026.

He also stated that the Local Government Week Roundtable, hosted by the Junior Council members, was a successful event held on April 16, 2026.

Mr. Bennett asked Mr. Drucker whether the Fox Chapel School District still has a springtime event with high school students in which they demonstrate the jaws of life. Mr. Pohl stated that this event used to take place every other year, but it has not occurred in a few years. Mr.

Bennett asked Mr. Pohl whether it was worth bringing it back on an every-other-year basis, to which Mr. Pohl answered in the affirmative. Mr. Pohl and Chief Watson will work on this.

#### Police Report

Chief Watson stated that the Deer Management Program is completed for the year, and all 150 tags were filled. He said that the department would like to request more tags next year. He noted that the team consisting of Sergeant Sorg and officers Stoner, Rourke, and Catanzaro worked well together, and their hard work paid off.

#### Fire Report

Mr. Pohl stated that March was a busy month for the department due to the storm on March 13, 2026, and the aftermath on March 14, 2026. Ms. Monroe noted that there were many calls from Woodcock Drive. Mr. Pohl said that residents sometimes think that by calling 9-1-1, Duquesne Light Company will be dispatched more quickly to an area. Mr. Pohl stated that residents should call 9-1-1 for downed wires if they are arching, sparking, or on fire.

Mr. Bennett said that a newsletter article should be written to educate and alert residents about downed wires. Mr. Bennett thanked the Fire Department for their hard work during the busy month.

#### EMS Report

Chief Shopland thanked Mr. Vest for his earlier comments. He stated that Foxwall was three months into a mutual aid partnership with West Deer Township. He said that since the partnership began three months ago, there has been no dropped call in Fox Chapel or Aspinwall while assisting West Deer in Indiana Township. He said he is confident that the call volume is something Foxwall can sustain, and that it helps them on the revenue side by allowing them to bill for those calls.

Chief Shopland stated that Foxwall EMS and West Deer will participate in a study with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in June. He said this study is offered to municipalities at no cost to assess feasibility and determine whether pursuing a merger makes sense. Chief Shopland stressed that the study would look at options, and recommendations may include merging, continuing to share services, or remaining independent. He said that Foxwall absolutely wants to ensure that any large change, such as a merger with another service, would be supported by the communities, if it were to take place.

#### Public Works Report

Mr. Kurpakus stated that the PWD is moving into spring activities, such as stormwater improvements. He said that the Brush Collection will wrap up next week.

#### Engineer Report

Ms. Bastianini stated that the Fairview Road Traffic Calming Study was requested by residents, as discussed earlier in the meeting. She said that residents along Fairview Road worked through the Borough's new Traffic Calming Policy to request a study on Fairview Road. She said

the results showed that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on Fairview Road was 38 miles per hour, while the speed limit is 25 miles per hour.

Ms. Bastianini said that the residents have requested that traffic counts be conducted again this spring, as the study's counts were conducted in December and January, and they feel traffic increases in the spring and summer months. She said the Borough can have the traffic engineer review the data to see if that would change their recommendations for the roadway. She said the initial recommendation is to install permanent radar speed signs on the roadway.

#### Treasurer Report

Ms. Mancuso stated that the Borough is currently undergoing a 5-year pension audit, and the process typically takes 3 to 4 weeks to complete.

#### Ratification of Payments

Mr. Lauer moved to ratify the payments of the March 2026 General Fund Vouchers 6434-6472, totaling \$407,935.63. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

#### Community Library Association Report

Ms. McConnell provided a brief update regarding resident use at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library in 2025. She stated that 61% of Borough residents have a library card, and 96,904 visitors came to the Cooper-Siegel Community Library last year.

Ms. McConnell also said that the renovation of the library's lower level was complete, adding over 6,000 square feet of public space.

#### **New Business**

##### Retirement of Sergeant Jeffrey Clark

Mr. Schaitkin moved to approve the retirement of Sergeant Jeffrey Clark, effective Friday, May 22, 2026. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**\*\*Mr. Leech moved to approve the Civil Service Commission to proceed with the hiring process for a new patrol officer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.**

**\*\*Mr. Lauer moved to approve the advertisement for the Civil Service Examination. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.**

**\*\*Ms. Monroe moved to approve the designation of Police Consulting Services to administer a written examination for the patrol officer position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaitkin and passed unanimously.**

***\*\*Subsequent to the Council meeting, it was determined that due to a posting error, these motions did not appear on the posted Borough Council agenda and therefore, these three actions will be reapproved at the May 18, 2026, Council Meeting.***

Seasonal Parks Program Coordinator

Ms. Monroe moved to approve the hiring of Percy Porter Bacon as the Seasonal Parks Program Coordinator at \$15/hour. The motion was seconded by Mr. Posvar and passed unanimously.

**Contract Awards**

2026 Roadway Improvement Program Contract No. 26-R01

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the award of the Base Bid and Add Alternate Nos. F-A1, F-A2, F-A3, F-A5, and F-A6 of Contract No. 26-R01 to Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc., in the total amount of \$1,469,476.50. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously. This amount includes \$47,425.50 for Utility Patches, which respective utility companies will reimburse. Therefore, the total to be paid will be \$1,422,051.00.

Ms. Bastianini stated that the Hill n Dale Trail would be funded through the Park Budget (\$31,350.00), and the Municipal Complex Restoration would be funded through the Capital Budget (100,915.00).

Roadway Aggregates Contract No. 26-RA1

Mr. Schaitkin moved to approve the award of the Roadway Aggregates Contract No. 26-RA1 to Allegheny Mineral Corp., as the low bidder for No. 2A Limestone, No. 57 Limestone, No. 1 Limestone, AASHTO No. 8 Limestone, AASHTO No. 57 Gravel, No. 8 Pea Gravel, Fine Mason Sand, and Fill Sand. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed unanimously.

Mr. Leech moved to approve the award of the Roadway Aggregates Contract No. 26-RA1 to Vigliotti Landscaping and Construction, as the low bidder for R-8 RipRap. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

Mr. Leech stated that the Borough and O'Hara Township will meet with the VA in May to discuss ways to deepen the relationship between the entities as part of the Joint Comprehensive Plan. He said the VA wellness director stated that comprehensive data shows that getting veterans outside to walk and move around is quite beneficial for their recovery.

**Executive Session**

At 7:22 p.m., the Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. At 8:15 p.m., the regular meeting reconvened.

**Adjournment**

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Shawn M. Peterson**  
Assistant to the Manager