

**TIONESTA BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2026**

Being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by Council President, Dennis W. O'Toole with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited. Those in attendance were:

Dennis W. O'Toole, President

Bernadette K. Holzer, V. President

Jamie L. Say

Cindy Crytzer, Secretary

Christine A. Hendryx

Judith M. McDaid, Mayor (via Telephone)

Curt Price, Public Works Director

Also in attendance were residents Bryan Gorman and Kastriot Duraj and via telephone, Borough Solicitor Andrea Stapleford

Ms. Stapleford was in attendance to discuss the results of the title search for 307 Elm St and provide the borough with options on how to proceed. The property went to tax sale in September, 2025 and no bids were placed. The next real estate tax related sale is the judicial sale in September, 2026. If the owner doesn't bring the delinquent taxes current before the sale, anyone registered at the sale can bid for the property. The minimum bid would be the total of the back taxes plus costs & fees. If no one bids on the property, including the mortgage holder, it goes to the county repository where anyone can make an offer to purchase with all liens discharged. The other option is for the borough to file a lien against the property for outstanding water, sewer, trash services and foreclose on the lien through a sheriff sale before the Judicial sale in September. This would extinguish any outstanding liens and the borough would be the owner of the property. There are substantial fees/costs involved in this process.

Public Comment: Mr. Duraj asked if residents could have a choice of trash pickup contractors. President O'Toole explained that the borough ordinance requires all residents to have trash pickup and the borough puts out notices for bids. Last year the borough had two contractors bid on the borough's service. Tri-County was the lowest bidder for three years of service. The current rate will be the same for the next 2.5 years, no increase. Mr. Duraj also suggested adding filters to the borough water system. He estimated that it would cost about \$50,000 to add filters to the water system and perhaps the borough could get grant funding.

Public Works Report: Curt reported that they have been working on regular maintenance, snow plowing and moving snow. A ¾" piece of steel has been placed over a failing manhole on Vine St. The riser needs to be replaced and Curt is getting a price on it. The new manhole riser will be installed by the public works team, so the only cost is the riser. The Methodist Church has been tied into the new sewer line installed across Elm St. The one-way signs will be installed this week at the Dale & Davis Street intersection.

Approvals:

- Minutes (2/3/2026): Reviewed
- Revenue & Expense Statement 1/31/2026: Reviewed
- Account Balances 1/31/2026: Reviewed. Christine Hendryx moved to approve the 2/3/26 minutes as presented, the 1/31/26 Revenue & Expense Statement and Account Balance Sheet as presented, 2nd by Jamie Say, motion carried

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

- **Enforcement Notices:** 103 May St. – Demo in process; 626 Elm St. – Owner and her attorney are working on the title issues; 424 Elm St. – Repairs in process; 107 Walnut Street – Cindy found out that the owner failed to file a permit application with Bureau Veritas for the repairs. She will follow up with owner on the status
- **Creekside Park Upgrades & Maintenance:** Denny to get an estimate to build the banquet table at the pavilion
- **Davis Bldg. Demo:** Contractor is to start next week. The project should be done by the end of the month
- **Landfill Remediation:** In process with the US EPA Consultant
- **Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP):** Met with University of Pittsburgh representatives on 2/5/26. Final report & recommendations to be received in about four weeks
- **Upper Council Run Repair Project:** LSA Grant application submitted. The south side of the culvert bank has begun to fail. Public works employees check the project every day to make sure the culvert is not blocked
- **Catch Basin Repair at Bridge & Williams:** Scheduling the repair to be done is weather dependent

- **Dale Street Ext. Parking:** Cindy hasn't checked to determine if the width of the street is sufficient to amend the ordinance to allow on street parking on the east side. She will do the research soon
- **Tax Collector Equipment:** Letters mailed to County and School District
- **One Way Signs at Dale & Davis Streets:** Will be installed this week
- **Vacant Council Seat #1:** Bernadette Holzer moved to appoint Clifford Custer to a four-year council member term beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029, 2nd by Jamie Say, motion carried. Bernadette Holzer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-4 to appoint Clifford Custer to a four-year term, 2nd by Jamie Say. Roll call vote as follows: Christine Hendryx, Aye; Jamie Say, Aye; Bernadette Holzer, Aye; and Denny O'Toole, Aye. Resolution No. 2026-4 adopted
- **Vacant Council Seat #2:** Denny will check with Rich Cramer. Cindy posted a notice on Facebook requesting anyone interested in serving as a council member contact her
- **307 Elm Street:** This matter was discussed with the solicitor at the start of the meeting. After hearing the options from the solicitor earlier, council opted to wait until after the September, 2026 judicial sale to see if anyone bids on the property. Cindy will start the condemnation process this summer so anyone bidding on the property will be on notice that the property has to be brought up to code or demolished before they bid. Cindy reported that the adjoining property owner(s) are concerned about the current condition of the building because it is damaging the foundation or their building(s)

New Business:

- **Library Board Appointments:** Jamie Say moved to appoint Miquel Taylor to serve a three-year term 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2028; Koal Morrison to serve a three-year term 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2028; Marty Taughner to serve a three-year term 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2028; and Amy Wallace to serve a second three-year term 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2028, 2nd by Bernadette Holzer, motion carried
- **Pension RFP:** Jamie Say moved to authorize Cindy to publish the Request for Proposal for the borough's employee pension plan, 2nd by Christine Hendryx, motion carried. Paperwork is ready and Cindy will post on the website (as required by law), Facebook and send the Notice to firms that have shown interest in the past

Executive Session: None

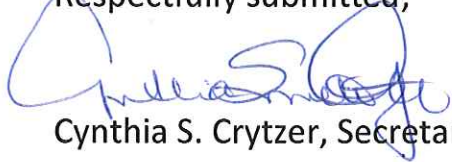
Reports:

- **Mayor:** None
- **President:** None
- **Committees:** None
- **Sheriff:** None
- **Library:** Cindy reported that a new “Hub” was being built in the library basement. Cindy will have more details later. It is being funded by a patron
- **EHB:** Next meeting 4/29/26 @ 2:30 PM
- **COG Report:** Next meeting 4/1/2026 @ 4:30 PM at the borough office
- **TCC Committee:** None
- **Ambulance:** Jamie shared that the board met last night (2/16/26). In an effort to keep the public informed, Jamie and Trista Berry will write a summary of ambulance activities each month to be published in the Forest County News Journal. There have been rumors that the ambulance service is “going out of business” and that is simply not true. The service has predominately paid employees and a few volunteers. Additional volunteers and employees are needed to more fully staff the service. In the past, QRS (Quick Response Service) calls have not been charged to the patient. This will change and any QRS calls will be charged. QRS calls are when only one EMT/EMR is available and can’t transport a patient, but can treat/stabilize a patient until a fully-staffed ambulance arrives for transport. A board member stated that Kathy Rapp said that the county needs to start applying for grants for the service. Some grants have to be applied for by the county and some can be applied for at the municipality level. Trista Berry will get Cindy a list of grants that can be applied for by a local municipality to help with process. Council members asked Jamie if she would tell the board to include the rate of reimbursement for services on the monthly stat sheet
- **Zoning Hearing Board:** None
- **TMA:** Elm Street sewer project in process
- **Planning Commission:** None

Roundtable: Bernadette Holzer shared that the TCA is working on a Welcome Bag program for new residents and a printed newsletter with activities and events

Jamie Say moved to adjourn, 2nd by Bernadette Holzer, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia S. Crytzer', written over a printed name.

Cynthia S. Crytzer, Secretary