

Arendtsville Borough Council
1 Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 508
Arendtsville, PA 17303

December 22, 2025

ATTENDANCE: The monthly meeting of the Arendtsville Borough Council was held on December 17, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the AVS Community Center, 1 Chestnut Street, Arendtsville. The following council members were present: Ken Shafer. Also in attendance was Secretary, Maddi Kuhn. Absent from the meeting were council members, John Campo, Paula Martin, Chris Swartz, Jay Johnson, Brenda Shull Pollard, John Menges, Boro Superintendent, Ron Cooper, and Mayor David Laughman.

Guests: N/A

CALL TO ORDER: Being there was no quorum present, Ken Shafer declared the meeting recessed to reconvene on December 22, 2025, at 4:30 pm.

TIME RECESSED: 4:31 pm

RECONVENE: December 22, 2025, at 4:30 pm. Present: President Jay Johnson, Brenda Shull Pollard joined at 4:37, Chris Swartz, John Menges, John Campo, Ken Shafer, Mayor David Laughman, Boro Superintendent, Ron Cooper joined at 4:37, and Secretary Maddi Kuhn. Absent: Paula Martin.

CALL TO ORDER: President Jay Johnson, called the Council meeting to order at 4:30 pm and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge to the American flag.

GUESTS: Reporter Mary Grace Kauffman, April Jones joined at 4:33, and Karen Menges were in attendance.

MINUTES: A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOHN CAMPO AND SECONDED BY JOHN MENGES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2025, MEETING. MOTION CARRIED BY A 5/5 VOTE.

BILLS: A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN SHAFER AND SECONDED BY JOHN CAMPO TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 2025 BILLS: GENERAL - \$20,612.10; WATER - \$37,412.23; SEWER - \$28,164.39; PAYROLL - \$18,424.83 STATE -N/A. MOTION CARRIED BY A 5/5 VOTE.

BOROUGH SUPERINTENDENT:

- General Boro: Superintendent's report was reviewed. It was again a busy month for the guys. We finally found the leak that has been making our daily average high. The average gallons pumped per day in November was 61,290. The leak was located on Victor Drive, thanks to a resident who was walking and saw water running and called it in. The guys were able to get it repaired in the same day, and our daily water average has come back down to normal since the repair.
- Water and Sewer:

- The November 2025 Water/Sewer report showed the average gallons of water pumped per day were 61,290; average gallons of sewer treated per day were 45,433; average difference was 15,857.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Was reviewed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The October 2025 Mayors Report was reviewed. We thank David for the last 8 years he served as Mayor.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- No active gym membership currently. Council is in agreeance that the gym can only be used for basketball and no longer used for soccer as it caused damage to the floor.

FINANCE:

- Council stated that fund balances look good!
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council Members entered executive session at 5:02 pm to discuss pay increases.
- **RECONVENE:** At 5:38 pm Council reconvened into regular session.
- There was much discussion about whether to raise or not to raise the water rates. Currently, the water rate is a flat fee is \$80 per EDU. Ken Shafer requested everyone's individual thoughts on the increase. John Menges, John Campo, and Jay Johnson were in favor of raising that \$80 to \$90. Brenda Shull Pollard, Chris Swartz, and Ken Shafer were in favor of raising the \$80 to \$85. Given that there was a tie, Mayor David Laughman was the tie breaker, and voted to raise the \$80 to \$90. The final decision was to raise the flat fee per EDU from \$80 to \$90 starting in 2026. Everyone was in agreeance about raising the overage fee from \$6.50 to \$8.00 for every 1,000 gallons of water they used over 7,000 gallons.
- **A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN SHAFER AND SECONDED CHRIS SWARTZ TO APPROVE THE 2026 BUDGETS. MOTION CARRIED BY A 5/6 VOTE. JOHN MENGES OBSTAINED.**

WATER/SEWER/HIGHWAY: N/A

PERSONNEL:

- **Snow Days:** There was much discussion about the office policy for snow days. Currently, there is not a policy to follow for inclement weather days, and no expectation written in the handbook. Council threw around ideas about adding to the voicemail that we follow UASD schedule. Example if they are closed the office is closed, if they have a 2 hour delay the office does as well. This doesn't mean office staff aren't working, it just means they would work remotely that day. Until the personnel committee writes a policy, and gets that approved, office staff is to use their judgement and text the council President and Chris Swartz if they are not coming in on a snow day. More to come on this.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No Meeting

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY: No Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE:

- November 2025 State Police Report- Not Submitted

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor**
- **A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOHN MENGES AND SECONDED BY BRENDA SHULL POLLARD TO APPOINT ANDREW BENCHOFF OF KORNFIEND AND BENCHOFF ASD THE ZONING HEARING BOARD SOLICITOR AND TO SIGN THE ENGAGEMENT LETTER. MOTION CARRIED BY A 6/6 VOTE.**
- **Arendtsville Lions Club Plant Trees behind Sewer Plant- Update**
 - They were able to plant over 3,200 trees on December 5th, 2025. President Jay Johnson stated that they did a great job, and that everyone should go down to check it out.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2025-5: No Tax Increase
- **A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN SHAFER AND SECONDED BY BRENDA SHULL POLLARD FOR NO TAX INCREASE FOR 2026. MOTION CARRIED BY A 6/6 VOTE.**
- Resolution 2025-6: Water/Sewer Fees
- **A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN SHAFER AND SECONDED BY JOHN MENGES FOR THE WATER RATE TO GO UP TO \$90 PER EDU AND THE WATER-OVERAGE CHARGE TO GO UP TO \$8, WITH SEWER GOING UP TO \$126. MOTION CARRIED BY A 5/6 VOTE.**
- Resolution 2025-7: Water Surcharge Fee
- **A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN SHAFER AND SECONDED BY JOHN CAMPO FOR THE WATER SURCHARGE FEE CHANGES FROM \$1.00 TO \$2.00 FOR USE OVER 7,000 GALLONS, AND THIS MONEY WILL GO TOWARDS THE WATER LOAN. MOTION CARRIED BY A 6/6 VOTE.**
- Tax Collector Update: With no write ins taking on the position, we will be able to approve Crissy Redding again for a 2-year term. I have spoken with her and Angie at the County, and everything is as lined up as it can be until we receive paperwork in the mail from the County to move forward.
- Planning Commission Appointments: Tom Leedy Term Expiration 12/31/2029
- **A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS SWARTZ AND SECONDED BY JOHN CAMPO TO APPOINT TOM LEEDY TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A 4-YEAR TERM, 01.01.2026-12.31.2029. MOTION CARRIED BY A 6/6 VOTE.**
- Municipal Authority Appointments: Terms Expiring 12/31/2030
- **A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOHN MENGES AND SECONDED BY JOHN CAMPO TO APPOINT KEVIN HARDY, LINDA RITTER, AND WILLIAM STERRETT FOR A 5-YEAR TERM, 01.01.2026-12.31.2030. MOTION CARRIED BY A 6/6 VOTE.**
- 2026 Meeting dates will be the second Wednesday of every month, at 6:30. The January meeting will be held on January 5th, 2026, which is a Monday as it is our reorganizational meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

RECONVENE: N/A

TABLED BUSINESS:

- 660 Winding Road Water Agreement (Jay)
- Sidewalks (Karen)
- General Code (Karen)
- Newsletter (Maddi)
- Hometown Hero: (Maddi)

WORKSHOPS, SEMINAR, CONFERENCES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ❖ Office will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and well as New Years Eve and New Years Day

There being no further business, **A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOHN MENGES AND SECONDED BY KEN SHAFER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED BY A 6/6 VOTE.** Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

NEXT MEETING: January 5, 2026: 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Madeline D. Kuhn
Arendtsville Borough Secretary