



LEBANON BOROUGH COMMON COUNCIL
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
7:30 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Lebanon Borough Common Council was called to order by Council President Baldinger at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in person and virtually.

The meeting was convened in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975; notice was sent to three local newspapers and posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Baldinger

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Please join me in a moment of silence for all
US service members and First Responders who have given their lives for our country.

On behalf of a grateful nation, they are truly heroes.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council President Baldinger, Councilman Burton, Councilman, Berger,
Councilwoman Porcello, Councilman Valliere and Councilwoman Durange

Absent: Mayor Pittinger

Also, Present: Administrator/Clerk Karen M Romano RMC,
Borough Attorney Joesph Novak Esq.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION #1:

Councilman Burton made a motion to open the public session. Councilman Berger seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was opened.

Trooper Delorenzi Report for the month of February there were 5 Investigations, 10 Operation Stops and 2 Accidents.

Councilman Durange made a motion to close the public session. Councilman Berger seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was closed

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #61-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 61-2026 the Consent Agenda. With a second by Councilman Burton.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #61-2026
CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are routine by the Governing Body of Lebanon Borough and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these matters. If discussion is desired that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

1. Animal Control
2. Fire Dept Report
3. NJDOT Guardrail letter

Introduction and adoption: March 18, 2026

Ayes: Baldinger, Durange, Berger, Burton, Porcello, Valliere

Nays:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Marlene G. Baldinger, Borough
Council President

ATTEST:

Karen Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/ Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Borough Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on the 18th day of March 2026; that this Resolution has not been amended or repealed; and that it remains in full force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: March 18, 2026

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/ Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Burton made a motion to approve the February 18, 2025, minutes and the March 11, 2026 minutes seconded by Councilman Berger.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #62-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 62-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #62-2026

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the CFO is hereby authorized to make the following payment for redemption of tax sale a certificate.

Block	Lot	Qual	Cert #	Name/Address	Amount
8	9.03		24-00007	Black River Acquisition, LLC	\$486.87

PO Box 303
Pottersville, NJ 07979

Introduced and adopted: March 18, 2026
Ayes: Durange, Baldinger, Berger, Burton,
Porcello, Valliere
Nays:
Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Marlene G. Baldinger, Borough

Council President

ATTEST:

Karen Romano
Borough Clerk

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Borough Council at a meeting held on March 18, 2026.

Karen Romano
Borough Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #63-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 63-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #63-2026

INTRODUCTION OF 2025 BUDGET

2026 Available in the Clerk's Office

Introduced and adopted: March 18, 2026

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ayes: Durange, Baldinger, Berger, Burton, Porcello, Valliere

Nays:

Absent:

Marlene G. Baldinger
Borough Council President

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Lebanon Borough Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Common Council at a meeting duly held on the 18th of March 2026; that this resolution has not been amended or repealed; and that it remains in full force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: March 18, 2026

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/ Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #64-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 64-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

BOROUGH OF LEBANON

**COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #64-2026

**Tax Levy
North Hunterdon High School**

WHEREAS, regulations of the State of New Jersey provide for the deferral of school taxes in an amount not to exceed fifty percent of the annual school tax levy when such taxes are raised on a fiscal year basis (school year July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, said taxes subject to deferral have not been requisitioned by or paid to the school district; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire and intent of the governing body of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, to avail the Borough of the deferral as permitted by regulations promulgated by the Local Finance Board, Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent of the school tax levy of the North Hunterdon Regional High School District is \$873,470.50.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough to defer \$476,740.15 of school taxes as permitted by the aforementioned regulation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough and the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs.

Introduced and adopted:

March 18, 2026.

Ayes: Durange, Baldinger, Burton, Berger, Porcello, Valliere

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Marlene G, Baldinger, Council President

ATTEST: _____

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/ Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on March 18, 2026, force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: March 18, 2026

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #65-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 65-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #65-2026

**Tax Levey
Lebanon Borough School**

WHEREAS, regulations of the State of New Jersey provide for the deferral of school taxes in an amount not to exceed fifty percent of the annual school tax levy when such taxes are raised on a fiscal year basis (school year July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, said taxes subject to deferral have not been requisitioned by or paid to the school district; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire and intent of the governing body of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, to avail the Borough of the deferral as permitted by regulations promulgated by the Local Finance Board, Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent of the school tax levy of the Lebanon School District is \$1,495,948.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough to defer \$1,466,615.50 of school taxes as permitted by the aforementioned regulation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough and the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs.

Introduced and adopted:

March 18, 2026.

Ayes: Durange, Baldinger, Burton, Berger, Porcello, Valliere

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Marlene G. Baldinger, Council President

ATTEST: _____

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/ Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on March 18, 2026, force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: March 18, 2026

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #66-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 66-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #66-2026
Grant Revenue**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Lebanon desires to anticipate as an item of general revenue with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Lebanon that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of general revenue in the 2026 Budget under the following caption and amount:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hunterdon County Open Space	\$86,685.31
Hunterdon County Recreation	\$35,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TWO certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services

* * * * *

Introduced and adopted:

March 18, 2026.

Ayes: Durange, Baldinger, Burton, Berger, Porcello, Valliere

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Marlene G. Baldinger, Council President

ATTEST: _____

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/ Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on March 18, 2026, force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: March 18, 2026

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

STREET OPENNING: 59 Brunswick Ave and 6 Cokesbury Road for Elizabethtown Gas

Councilwoman Durange made a motion to approve Street Openings at 59 Brunswick Ave and 6 Cokesbury Road. With a second by Councilman Burton.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES: Councilman Berger made a motion to approve the Bill list for March 2026. Councilwoman Porcello seconded the motion.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

DISCUSSION:

Special Meeting April 8 at 11am

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to open the public session. Councilwoman Porcello seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was opened.

There being no further public comment Councilman Burton made a motion to close the public session. Councilman Berger seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was closed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Recreation: Councilwoman Porcello reported. Bingo went Great. Recreation collected a \$100 donation. The Budget for the 100-year Celebration was distributed. The Egg Hunt is Saturday March 28th at the Reform Church.

Personnel: The handbook is under review.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Attorney Joe Novak reported. The Town Center project is moving along. The Planner is working on a Redevelopment Plan. Zoning and the Master Plan are under consideration. Bob Powell is reviewing the finances of Town Center and the possible PILOT program.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BODY March 18, 2026

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- Filed 2026 Recreation Grant with NJ Green Sage
- Dutchman will begin installation March 23rd
- Met Engineers and Contractor to reestablish the contrition fence
- Curbing for Playground to be poured March 30th weather permitting
- MRC to install Playground after curb cures

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

- Discussed streaming meetings
- Discussed storing recording of streaming
- Discussed moving email to Experience IT Solutions
- Discussed Notification systems. Karen will put a spread sheet together comparing final three companies.
- Meeting with Civic Plus on April 8th to discuss Website and Notification System

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Worked with PSD regarding South Branch
- Worked with PSD regarding the Storm/ Tornado warnings March 16th
- Worked with JCP &L to get the lights back on Rt 22 west

- Worked with JCP&L, Fire Department and PSD to solve fire, pole and tree down on Main street on March 17th

REGISTRAR

- Quarterly report filed with the State

LICENSING

- 4 dogs still need to be licensed for 2026. Late notices have been sent.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Working on Jet Vac dates

SENIOR CLUB: Senior meeting was Canceled Due to the Storm

- **RECREATION:** (Lisa Porcello will also give a committee update)

Meeting: 3/4/2026

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2026

Family Bingo Night	March 13 th 7:00 to 8:30
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday March 21 st 10:00AM (Rain Date: March 28 th 10:00AM)
Yard Sale	May 9 th (Bulk pick up May 13 th)
Music in the Park	September 12 th
Movie Night	TBD
Halloween Party	October 24 th (Saturday)
Tree Lighting	December 6 th
Burning of the Greens	January 6 th , 2027

BINGO NIGHT

Friday, March 13th from 7:00 to 8:30PM. The theme of bingo is Snack Attack Bingo. Bingo prizes will be food/snacks and gift certificates.

EASTER

Easter Egg hunt will be Saturday March 21st at 10:00AM.
(Rain date Saturday March 28th at 10:00AM)

It's confirmed the Easter Egg hunt will be located at The Reformed Church on Brunswick Ave due to the park renovations.

TIME CAPSULE

Lisa Porcello is looking into the price for the time capsule. The committee would like the time capsule to be buried in the front lawn of borough hall and will have a marker to show the exact location where it's buried.

TEE-SHIRTS

Jen Fink presented a recreation tee shirt design for the 100-year anniversary. Jen will work on a few changes to the design and present at our next meeting.

Tee shirts will be available for residents to purchase.

100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Poetry Contest

History Talk

Recreation 4th of July parade float

Somerset Patriots Game

Time Capsule

Music in the Park

Centennial Gala

Jim Pittinger and Lisa Porcello will update council on the extra events for the anniversary year and an estimated cost of each event.

HISTORY TALK

Joe Hauck will give a history talk at the end of April. Refreshments will be served.

CHRISTMAS HOUSING DECORATING CONTEST

The winners of the housing decoration contest were: 12 Chestnut Place, 99 Brunswick Ave and 16 Main Street.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SHADE TREE

- Meeting Canceled

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

- Meeting Canceled

WELCOME BAGS

- One New Residents

ADJOURN:

Councilman Berger moved, and Councilman Valliere seconded a motion to adjourn, there being no further business to come before Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm by unanimous vote.

Karen M. Romano,
Administrator/Clerk

