



LEBANON BOROUGH COMMON COUNCIL
Wednesday, April 15 , 2026
7:30 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Lebanon Borough Common Council was called to order by Mayor Pittinger 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 Mayor Pittinger.

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

Absent:

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

RESOLUTION #70-2026:

**Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 70-2026 the Consent Agenda.
With a second by Councilwoman Durange.**

BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #77-2026

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

Introduction and adoption: May 20, 2026

Ayes:

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 20th day of May 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Resolution has not been amended or repealed; and that it remains in full force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.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: May 20, 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:

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.

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.

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 March 18, 2026, minutes and the April 8, 2026 minutes seconded by Councilman Valliere.

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 #71-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 71-2026. With a second 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 #72-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 72-2026. With a second 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:

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION 2026 BUDGET:

Councilman Burton made a motion to open the public session for the 2026 Budget.

Councilman Berger seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was opened.

No 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.

RESOLUTION #73-2026:

Councilman Berger made a motion to approve Resolution 73-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

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

RESOLUTION #73-2026

**MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTICE
(adoption)**

Section 2 Upon Adoption for year 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, Council Members of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation of the purpose stated in the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

- (a) \$ 1,525,000.00 (item 2 below) for municipal purposes
- (b) \$ _____ (Item 3 below) purposes and Type I school districts only (N.J.S.A 18A 9-2) to be raised by taxation
- (c) \$ _____ (Item 4 below) to be added to the certificate of amount to be raised by taxation for local school purposes in Type II school districts only (N.J.S.A 18A 9-3) and certification to the county board of taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.
- (d) \$ _____ (Sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historical Preservation Trust Fund Levy
- (e) \$ _____ (Sheet 44) Arts and Culture Trust Fund Levy
- (f) \$ _____ (Item 5 below) Minimum Library Tax

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

1.	General Revenues		
	Surplus Anticipated	08-100	\$439,000.00
	Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	13-099	\$423,695.31
	Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	15-499	\$ 70,878.10
2.	AMOUNT TO BE RASIED BY TAXATION FOR MUNCIIPAL PURPOSED (Item 59a) Sheet 11)		\$1,525,000.00
3.	AMAOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY		
	Item 6 Sheet 42	07-195	\$ _____
	Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (NJSA 40A 4-14)	07-191	\$ _____
	TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RASIED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOL IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY		
4.	To Be Added TO CERTIFICATION FOR THE AMOUNT TO BE RASIED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE II SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY		
	Item 6(b) Sheet 11 (NJSA 40A 4-14)	07-191	\$ _____
5.	AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY TAX	07-192	\$ _____
	Total Revenues	13-299	\$2,458,573.41

Sheet 41

Introduced and adopted: April 15, 2026

Recorded Vote:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Marlene G. Baldinger

Borough Council President

ATTEST:

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator / Clerk

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 15th day of April 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: April 15, 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 #74-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution #74-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

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

RESOLUTION #74-2026

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS, NJAC 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NJAC 5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Borough of Lebanon has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Borough meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2026 budget year, so now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Lebanon that the in accordance with NJAC 5:307.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officers certification. The governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met (Complies with the "CAP" law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and NJAC 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised, and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of NJSA 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVED BUDGET

It is hereby certified that the Approved Budget complies with the requirements of law and approval is given pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-78b and NJAC 5:30-7.

It is further certified that the municipality has met the eligibility requirements of NJAC 5:30-7.4 and 7.5, and that I, as Chief Financial Officer, have completed the local examination in compliance with NJAC 5:307.6.

April
2026
Dated

By: _____

Chief Financial Officer

15,

Introduced and adopted:

April 15, 2026.

Ayes: Durange, Baldinger, Berger, Burton, 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 April 15, 2026, force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: April 15, 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 #75-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution #75-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

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

RESOLUTION 75-2026

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF LEBANON,
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR LIVE
STREAMING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (“OPMA”), known as “The Sunshine Law” (NJSA 10:4-6, et seq.) was enacted to ensure that decision-making Government bodies in the State of New Jersey conduct their business in public for public observation, except in specific circumstances where exclusion of the public is needed to protect the privacy of individuals, the safety of the public or the effectiveness of government in such areas as lease or acquisition of property, personnel matters, investigations or other areas of exception as created in NJSA 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Lebanon strictly adheres to the Open Public Meetings Act providing advance notice of public meetings, which are open to the public and during which meetings of the Borough, designated opportunities are provided in the Agenda of the meeting for open public participation; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk of the Borough of Lebanon is responsible for production of the minutes of the actions taken by the Governing Body, which minutes are memorialized in written form, reviewed by the Governing Body, and accepted by Resolution as the official actions of the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act does not require live video streaming of public meetings, but permits Governing Bodies to provide additional methods of public access as a convenience to residents; and

WHEREAS, the Lebanon Borough Council desires to enhance transparency and public access by providing live video streaming of public meetings using Microsoft teams or similar technology, when feasible; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council recognizes that internet conductivity, software platforms and live streaming technologies are subject to unanticipated interruption or failures beyond the control of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Lebanon Borough Council to ensure continued compliance of OPMA while allowing meetings to proceed in a lawful manner when such technical interruptions occur.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Lebanon, as follows:

1. Live streaming of public meetings via Microsoft teams, Town Hall, Live Event or similar platforms is provided as a courtesy and enhancement to public access, and is not the sole means of public attendance, unless explicitly stated in the meeting notice.

2. All regular and special meetings shall continue to provide physical, in-person public access at the meeting location identified in the official notice, except where otherwise permitted by law. No accommodation is made for public comment as the stream is simply an enhanced courtesy provided by the Borough. Public participation and comment are available at the location of the Open Public Meeting.

3. In the event that live streaming or remote access is interrupted due to internet outage, power failure, platform malfunction or other technical issues:

(a) The meeting may continue provided that in-person public access to the meeting remains available.

(b) The presiding officer shall announce the technology interruption on the record when it occurs, if known.

(c) Reasonable effort shall be made to restore the live stream or remote access when practicable.

(d) The interruption or corrective action shall be documented in the meeting minutes.

4. The live stream recording or internet delivery of the public meeting shall not be an official record of the actions of the Borough Council; however, the Borough shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the internet delivered video feed of such meetings are made available in an accessible manner for a reasonable period of time subsequent to such public meeting, in accordance with applicable governmental requirements.

5. The Communications Subcommittee of the Lebanon Borough Council shall continue to evaluate and recommend additional opportunities for public transparency of governmental actions.

Introduced and adopted:

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

Nays:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Karen M. Romano, RMC, CMR

Marlene G. Baldinger
Council President

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Common Council at a meeting duly held on the 15th day of April, 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: April 15, 2026

Karen M. Romano, RMC, CMR
Lebanon 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 #76-2026:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution #76-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

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

RESOLUTION 76-2026

**Certifying Compliance with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's
'Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in
Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964'**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

Introduced and adopted:

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

Nays:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Karen M. Romano, RMC, CMR

Marlene G. Baldinger Council President

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Common Council at a meeting duly held on the 15 day of April, 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: April 15, 2026

Karen M. Romano, RMC, CMR
Lebanon 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 EXPENDITURES: Councilman Berger made a motion to approve the Bill list for April 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:

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 for the 100th year celebration Joe Hauck will be having a History Talk, the Poetry contest is underway, research is being done on a Time Capsule, and there is a Somerset Baseball Game Scheduled in July.

Personnel: Requested the MEL manual template

MISCELLANEOUS:

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BODY April 15, 2026

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- 2026 NJSAGE recreation Grant denied
- Dutchman is currently installing rebar for Barn and pavilion
- Met Engineers and Contractor to discuss concrete between two buildings
- Playground equipment installation began
- Order garbage cans
- Met with Infrastructure committee regarding picnic tables and tables and chairs
- Worked with JCP&L to obtain contract, pricing and installation for Park

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE/ INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

- Joe Novak joined the meeting and discussed resolution vs ordinance
- Discussed streaming meetings and equipment
- Discussed storing recording of streaming
- Discussed website
- Discussed Notification systems.
- Civic Plus joined the meeting to discuss Website, streaming and Notification System

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Worked with PSD regarding removing wood in the park
- Worked with PSD regarding moving bricks into shed

- Purchase of Radios for Fire Department

REGISTRAR

- Quarterly report filed with the State

LICENSING

- 1 dog still need to be licensed for 2026. Late notices have been sent.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Working on 2026 12-point report

SENIOR CLUB: Senior meeting was 3-25-2026

- **Summary:** new officers for 2026
President: Rose Hrehowesik
Vice President: Carol Ford
Secretary: Joyce Foertsch
Treasurer: Jeanette Luciano
Membership: Dot Kasson

A speaker from the AARP speaker bureau attended the meeting and the topic for discussion was government fraud. Refreshments were served

RECREATION:

Meeting: 4-6-2026

BINGO UPDATE

Snack Attack bingo was a success with 60 residents attending

EASTER EGG HUNT

Everyone had a great time at the Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks to Pastor Tom for the use of the property for the Easter Egg hunt and craft the church supplied for the children. Pastor Tom would like to help again with next year's Easter Egg Hunt and provide a craft for the children.

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)
History Talk	May 21 st (Thursday) at 6:30PM in the council room
Somerset Patriots	July 30 th (Thursday)
	Baseball night: Fireworks/Sonic the Hedgehog theme night
Music in the Park	September 12 th
Movie Night	TBD
Halloween Party	October 24 th (Saturday)
Centennial Gala	December 4 th (Friday) (time to be determined)
Tree Lighting	December 6 th
Burning of the Greens	January 6 th , 2027

ENVIRONMENTAL/SHADE TREE

- Meeting Canceled

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

- Meeting Canceled

WELCOME BAGS:

New Residents: welcome bags delivered

- Four New Residents

ADJOURN:

Councilman Berger moved, and Councilman Burton seconded a motion to adjourn, there being no further business to come before Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm by unanimous vote.

Karen M. Romano,
Administrator/Clerk

