GRATZ BOROUGH COUNCIL
N CENTER STREET
PO BOX 305
GRATZ, PA 17030

September 9, 2026

The regular meeting was held in the Gratz Boro Meeting room at 7:00 pm with the following persons attending: President William Reed, Jem Jeffries, Coy Rickert and Mayor Lynn Schadle. Councilwoman Lori Williard and Councilman Nathan Steinbach were absent.
JHA: Absent
Solicitor: Sean Logsdon, Esq. via Zoom
Lehigh Engineering: Absent

Citizens: Sargeant Hillary Faust, Mike and Christina Conrad, Kylie Bender, Troy Schadel, Tim Lesher, Rusty Hubler, Lacie Engle Kahler and Tyler Kahler and Hailey Hubler.

This meeting is being recorded.

Pledge to the Flag

Minutes: On a motion made by Jem Jeffries, and seconded by Coy Rickert to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Report of Engineer: No official report. There was a discussion regarding an issue with A&A Contracting, that wants to build a 2500 foot addition. For an addition of that size, a storm water management system is required. Ed is working with A&A on this issue.

Citizens to be Heard: Kylie Bender reported that a slow pitch softball league in Herndon would like to bring the league to Gratz, and wants the Borough's consideration. The league would do lighting and fencing at their expense. They will also cover the cost of maintenance other than mowing. Kylie indicated that contracts would need to be drawn up by Sean. This project would have the fields in use from May to November, and bring additional revenue to Gratz. A motion was made by William Reed and seconded by Jem Jeffries to proceed with further investigation into this collaboration and to have Sean work on the contracts.

Sargeant Hillary Faust is the new station commander at the Lykens barracks. She provided some statistics on criminal events in Gratz, and stated that Gratz is relatively quiet. In the 6 month period discussed, there were 2 crashes due to distracted driving, 9 citations, 6 warnings, 11 criminal investigations resulting in 4 arrests, etc. She wanted to see what areas of concern the Borough has where there is a need for more police coverage. Various things were mentioned including traffic control when MI shifts

change, speeding by the park, ATVs on the streets, etc. Sgt. Faust indicated that we should call them if we need assistance with the ATVs, but there will be an increased police presence in the Borough and especially during the fair.

Sewer Authority/Water – No report.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Schadle reported that he and Tim are working on the local share gaming grants for the Borough, Historical Society, Municipal Authority and Water Company. He has done a letter of support for the fire company already. The letters of intent are due by October 3, 2026. There has been no contracts received to have the funds released from the last round.

Community Center/Gratz Boro Auth: Laci Engle Kahler reported that they did a walk through and it appears that the door entering the gym is broken. Tim indicated that he will check it as it may not be broken but overtightened. Laci also indicated that she would like to clean out some of the 'catch all' rooms. She also stated that she would l8ike to rent the room between the Food Bank and the new bathrooms to use as a hair and nail salon. She is willing to pay up to $500 in rent, due to the increased water and electric. She would need water run to the room, with 4 connections for hair bowls and Pedi chairs. Mayor Schadle stated that the room should be drywalled by the Borough, and a water heater installed. Tim and Laci will meet to discuss what is needed. Mayor Schadle also stated that the bathroom project needs to be completed as there are event scheduled for the building in October and November. The epoxy floors are not completed which is putting a hold on the rest of the project. Tim will contact Peachey Crete to check on the status.

Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg. Permits: The Board reviewed a report from Lehigh Engineering. There are 6 citations on 501 E Market St that are headed to court.

Planning Commission: Sean Logsdon reported that there was a meeting last week. They recommend that the salvo ordinance be completed. He also mentioned a land use consultant be involved. Another recommendation was that the Borough look into E360 which codifies ordinances and makes them easier to find. This program is costly so it might be something to pursue with grant funding. Another item discussed was having the Commission members listed on the website. President Reed stated that in reviewing the minutes of the last Planning Commission meeting, some of the items should not be addressed at the Planning Commission meeting; Sean will remind the members.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Recreation: No report

COGS: No report

Highway: The 20 mph speed limit signs were picked up by Rusty and need to be installed.

AG Security: No Report

Finance Committee: No Report

Insurance: No Report

Solicitors Report: Sean Logsdon questioned who was bonded. As far as we know, only Cindy, Elaine Henninger and Tracy Bixler (both with sewer/water) are covered. Sean is concerned that there may be language in the bond paperwork that would require above and beyond, so he wants to renew. We may wish to consider having bond insurance on Bill, Lynn, Dave and Brian as they sign checks.

MI Windows has submitted a land development plan which is the same as what Borough Council approved before; it was just never filed. Upon a motion by William Reed, and seconded by Jem Jeffries it was agreed to re-sign the forms. Motion carried.

The resolution regarding the park as discussed. The revised ordinance 09092026 was approved unanimously, based on a motion by Coy Rickert and seconded by William Reed.

Nathan Steinbach's resignation was not accepted last month. A motion was made by William Reed, and seconded by Jem Jeffries to accept Nathan's resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

There were 2 applicants to be the new Council member. The applicants were Douglas Dockey and Mike Conrad. A vote was taken verbally with Mike Conrad receiving 3 votes. He will be sworn in at the next meeting by Mayor Schadle.

Tim Lesher attended the first meeting on the Northern Dauphin Emergency Service Authority. Upon a motion by William Reed, and seconded by Coy Rickert, it was decided to nominate Tim to represent Gratz at these meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Any Other Business: President William Reed reported that the website is being revamped, and should be done within the next two weeks.

Tim Lesher indicated that he had been in contact with a few companies about the electricity at the Community Center. Some of the electricians indicated that they were not interested. He will contact a few others.

Treasurer's Report: Upon a motion by Coy Rickert and seconded by Jem Jeffries, the Treasurer's report was accepted.

Expenses to be Approved: Upon a motion by Jem Jeffries and seconded by Coy Rickert, the September 2026 expenses were approved.

Adjournment: No further business; upon a motion by Coy Rickert, and seconded by William Reed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracy Bixler
Recording Secretary for Cindy Shade

These notes are intended as an overview of the meeting's discussions and not intended as an exact word account of what was said. If there are any comments, concerns or objections to what is written with this report, please forward those comments and we will make any adjustments after the approval of the Gratz Borough Council meeting.