

Meeting Minutes
MILL HALL BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
August 4, 2026
6:30 pm

Council Members in attendance: Derek Berry, Derek Caris, Tom Evers, Richard Hetzel, Karen Houser, Michelle Kunes, Anthony Walker.

Guests in attendance: Tom Bossert, Lenny Long, Elisabeth Lynch

Media in attendance: Laura Tarantella

Staff in attendance: April Bittner

The special meeting of the Mill Hall Borough Council was called to order at 6:35pm by President Berry.

Guest Comments

- Lenny Long and Tom Bossert both expressed their interests in continuing to find ways to move forward with the community pool. They said that they understood what the Council was facing but hated to see Council give back the grant money that had been received. Council members thanked the Dolphins (Tom Bossert, Lenny Long, Bob Dwyer) for all their dedication to this project.

NEW BUSINESS

A lengthy discussion regarding the Mill Hall Community Pool took place. Council evaluated the bid results in relation to the available funds and how they were going to sustain the pool in the future. It was moved by Mr. Caris and seconded by Mr. Walker to reject all bids and not move forward with the Mill Hall Community Pool restoration. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Many Council members thanked the Dolphins for their dedication and passion to this project.

It was moved by Mr. Hetzel and seconded by Mr. Walker to sell the air compressor that they have joint ownership of with Lamar Township and split the proceeds. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Bittner asked what day works best for Council to hold a special meeting to hire Code Assessment Professionals as the Borough's new BCO & Zoning/Floodplain Administrator. The meeting will be held on August 10, 2026 at 6:45pm, just prior to the Sewer/Highway committee meeting.

President Berry read a prepared statement:

It is with profound sadness that the Mill Hall Borough Council must inform the public that the Mill Hall Community Pool Restoration Project will not proceed.

Following two rounds of bidding, the proposals received were significantly above our expectations. An extra \$1.2 million is required to finalize the project.

Council, alongside the Dolphins (Tom Bossert, Lenny Long, Bob Dwyer) worked hard to secure Federal, State, and local grants to help off-set the cost of the pool restoration. In addition, many private donations of support were given to help the cause. The community rallied in our time of need. Unfortunately, it simply wasn't enough.

Mill Hall Borough Council would like to thank all those who worked with us to try and make this project a success...legislators, donors, grantors, volunteers, and especially the Dolphins...we could not have gotten this far with your help.

Thanks again to everyone that supported this community project.

In addition, As a governing body, we cannot, in good conscience, impose the additional financial burden of this pool restoration on the residents of Mill Hall Borough. The Council is not prepared to raise tax revenues in one municipality solely for the benefit of a community pool.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Hetzel at 7:00pm

Submitted by April Bittner, Secretary/Treasurer