

The Town Council of the Town of Burns Harbor, Porter County, Indiana, met for a special meeting session on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, in the Town Hall and streamed electronically with YouTube. The meeting was called to order by Council President Jennifer McHargue at 7:15 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Roseann Bozak ----- Present
 Councilwoman Lisa Draves ----- Present
 Councilwoman Toni Biancardi-----Present
 Councilman John (Jack) McGraw -----Present
 Councilwoman Jennifer McHargue --- Present

Clerk-Treasurer Nick Loving was present. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present: Attorney Clay Patton, Police Chief McHargue, and Fire Chief Nowacki.

New Business:

Encumber POs

Councilwoman Biancardi stated to start with, we will need to encumber \$7,097.65 for insurance for the Fire Department, which is remaining in the budget for this year. The following are POs from the Fire Department:

- PO #3377 for \$2,485, for Mac Queen
- PO #3376 for \$1,869.80, for Bartronics,
- PO #3384 for \$4,950, for MC Madd Wrappers, Inc.
- PO #3388 for \$2,270 MES
- PO #3378 for \$3,239 MES

We have one for GM, PO #3349, for \$16,665 for Brown Equipment Company.

The following is for the Police Department:

- PO #3390 for \$4,464 to Decatur Electronics, LLC
- PO #3389 for \$1,030 for Plastix Plus, LLC
- PO #3364 for \$4,483.48 for Strobes N More
- PO #3367 for \$855 to Rugged Mobile Technology
- PO #3366 for \$842.10 for Uline
- PO #3363 for \$7,587.34 for Menards
- PO #3365 for \$1,845.76 for Kiesler Police Supply
- PO #3361 for \$4,343.52 for Kaiser Auto Valpo

Clerk-Treasurer Loving stated I have two more to add for the Fire Department:

- PO #3279 for \$2,076.70 for Industrial Inspection and Analysis
- PO #3312 for \$3,478 for Bartronics

Councilwoman Biancardi made a motion to encumber all the POs and purchases. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye. Motion passed.

Approval to place the order for a new squad car from 2026 CCD

Councilwoman Biancardi made a motion to approve placing the order for the new squad car, and the PO will be for 2026 out of the CCD fund. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Abstain. Motion passed.

Police Chief McHargue stated that we had funds to contribute to what was left in our department, if those wanted to be encumbered. Councilwoman Biancardi stated I personally think it will benefit the Town of Burns Harbor either way to roll back.

Taser PO- Police Department

Councilwoman Biancardi stated this is PO #3362 for \$35,797.40 for a Taser 10 package. Councilwoman Biancardi made a motion to approve PO #3362 for \$35,797.40 for the Taser 10 package. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Abstain. Motion passed.

INCORP Contract

Councilwoman Biancardi made a motion to approve the 2026 Volunteer Fire Department, INCORP contract for \$66,000 payable on November 30, 2026. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye. Motion passed.

Cleveland Cliffs Tax Abatement Amendment

Councilwoman Biancardi stated that we will have this for the January meeting.

Pay Claims with 3 or more signatures

Councilwoman Bozak made a motion to pay claims with 3 or more signatures. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Abstain. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Biancardi stated that we are still paying the Frontier bill for the number that is disconnected. Clerk-Treasurer Loving stated that I will figure that out tomorrow.

Reorganize

Councilwoman Draves made a motion to elect Toni Biancardi to Burns Harbor Town Council President, effective immediately. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye. Motion passed.
Councilwoman Draves made a motion to elect Jennifer McHargue to Burns Harbor Town Council Vice President, effective immediately. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye. Motion passed.

Liaisons

Councilwoman Biancardi stated the liaisons are the following: Councilman McGraw- Building, Councilwoman Draves- Fire Department, Councilwoman Biancardi- Police Department, Councilwoman Bozak- Park Department, and Councilwoman McHargue- Street Department.

Appoint Board Seats

Councilwoman Biancardi stated on the Board of Zoning Appeals, we have Jim Meeks, and he did apply to stay. Councilwoman Bozak made a motion to appoint Jim Meeks to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Biancardi stated Bernie Poparad's seat is also up, but he is appointed by the Plan Commission. We have Brijean Hogge's who is up on December 31, 2025, at the Park Board. Councilwoman McHargue made a motion to appoint Brijean Hogge to the Park Board. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Biancardi stated that the Sanitation seat will be myself instead of Councilwoman McHargue. Councilman McGraw's term is up on the Stormwater Board, so I would like to take over that since they go together.

Councilwoman Biancardi stated Michelle Watkins' term is up on the Plan Commission Board, but she is going to stay. Jeremy McHargue's term is also up, so I will be replacing him on the Plan Commission Board. As the Council President, I am going to reappoint Bernie Poparad to the Plan Commission. Councilwoman McHargue made a motion to appoint Michelle Watkins and Roseann Bozak to the Plan Commission Board. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Biancardi stated that all the Redevelopment Commission Board members are up. I would like to reappoint Kylane Tumblin, Brad Enslen, and Roseann Bozak to the Redevelopment Commission. Councilwoman McHargue made a motion to stay on the Redevelopment Commission and to reappoint Jack McGraw. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue –

Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye. **Motion passed.**

Councilwoman Biancardi stated that Lisa Drave's seat is up on the Police Commission. I would like to reappoint you to the Police Commission.

Councilwoman Biancardi stated that we are still looking for an Engineer for the Sanitation Board.

Good of the Order of the Community:

Clerk-Treasurer Loving stated that I need a motion to clean up the salt shed project, Pay app #3, originally \$30,200 from ARP. I need a motion for that to be amended to \$22,310.06 from CCD Miscellaneous Services and \$7,889.94 from ARP. Councilwoman McHargue made a motion to pay the salt shed pay app #3 for \$22,310.06 from CCD Miscellaneous Services and \$7,889.94 from ARP. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye. **Motion passed.**

Clerk-Treasurer Loving stated we are off by \$1 for October's reconciliation. Councilwoman McHargue made a motion to approve the variance of \$1 for the October reconciliation. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye. **Motion passed.**

Clerk-Treasurer Loving stated the last thing I have is insurance. Councilwoman Biancardi stated that the property and casualty insurance, we need to confirm vehicles and property that need to be insured. The premiums went up to \$32,000 this year, which we were not anticipating. It is not budgeted for in the departments, and we would like to pay this in the first week of 2026. I would suggest we make a motion that what is not budgeted in each department's that the difference be paid from CEDIT. Councilwoman McHargue made a motion that the insurance premium difference be paid from CEDIT. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye. **Motion passed.**

Police Chief McHargue stated I am looking for clarification on PO #3362 from Axon, whether that was encumbered as well or just simply approved. Councilwoman Biancardi stated it was simply approved. Police Chief McHargue stated I do not know what I need to do to have that encumbered. It was submitted on December 9, 2025. We will not have the product in hand by the end of the year. Councilwoman Bozak made a motion to encumber PO #3362 for \$35,979.40. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Abstain, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye. **Motion passed.**

Councilwoman Draves made a motion for any invoices received up to December 31, 2025, be paid in the 2025 budget by the Clerk-Treasurer. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi-Aye.
Motion passed.

Fire Chief Nowacki asked if I was able to get any of said requests or purchases before the new year to prevent encumbering, do you guys want those invoices submitted as soon as possible? Clerk-Treasurer Loving stated yes.

Councilwoman Bozak made a motion to adjourn. Councilman McGraw seconded. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Biancardi- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye. **Motion passed.**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 7:51 p.m.

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF BURNS HARBOR

Toni Biancardi, President

Jennifer McHargue, Vice-President

Lisa Draves

John (Jack) McGraw

Roseann Bozak

ATTEST:

Nick Loving
Clerk-Treasurer