

THE TOWN OF UNION BRIDGE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2025

The Council met in the Union Bridge Town Hall, on Monday, September 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., for their monthly council meeting. Notice of the meeting was given by posting the agenda at the Town Hall, on the Town's website, and provision to the Carroll County Times. Mayor Jones presided over the meeting with councilmembers Laura Conaway; Anthony Bowman; Ellen Cutsail; Bret Grossnickle; and Logan Grossnickle; and Town Attorney, Mandi Porter. The attendees' sheet is attached to and made a part of these minutes. **Councilmember Ellen Cutsail motioned to approve the August 2025 operating statements; August 25, 2025 council meeting minutes and September 8, 2025 work session minutes. Council President Laura Conaway seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Council President Laura Conaway motioned to approve Quantum's financial statements for August 2025. Councilmember Bret Grossnickle seconded and the motion passed 3-2. Councilmembers Anthony Bowman and Ellen Cutsail recused themselves due to a conflict of interest.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

-Mayor Jones read the following statement out loud. "Any proposed public events on town properties, including plantings, picnic tables, benches, grills, etc. and volunteer work must be presented to and approved by the Union Bridge Town Council."

LITTLE PIPE CREEK PARK/DONALD D. WILSON WALKING TRAIL

-After Mayor Jones read the statement above, several people had questions and concerns.

-Ed Humphries, Union Bridge Road asked if it was okay if he picked up sticks along the trail. Council said that is permitted and not something he would have to ask permission to do.

-Ilene Weeks, Lions Club Member, Green Valley Road, stated that the Lions Club has been talking with Donald Wilson for years about wanting to do some things at Little Pipe Creek Park/Donald D. Wilson Walking Trail but never had the time to put it into action.

The Lions Club have already installed:

Two (2) picnic tables,

One (1) bench with Lion statues

Planted some flowers/bushes

Mowing a specific area near the front of the park

*Ms. Weeks talked about wanting to take a few dead trees down, Mayor Jones stated that the Town will take care of the removal of any trees at the park.

*Ms. Weeks was approached by someone who would like to donate a picnic table for the area. Council President asked to see a photo of the picnic table, Ms. Weeks said she could get one.

*The Lions Club would like to offer people to donate a bench with memory plate on it.

*Ms. Weeks asked if the Lions Club had to come to Council for permission every time, they wanted to plant something, or if they could just have a general plan with the Town. Mayor Jones read the statement once more and said that would have to be a council decision.

*Councilmember Ellen Cutsail recommended that the Lions Club come to the October 6th work session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss in further detail what they would like to do at the park.

*Mayor Jones recommended that the Council take a tour of the area prior to the work session meeting.

-Dale Wootten, Lions Club Vice President, E. Broadway, apologized for not seeking the Council's permission and he sees nothing wrong with the Council's request. He doesn't want to have to ask permission every time he wants to mow or trim branches in the Lions Club area. Mr. Wootten said that the Lions Club would like to partner with the Town to continue to nurture the park area as their environmental project for the Lions Club.

-It was recommended that this be discussed in further detail at the October 6, 2025 work session, with the Lions Club in attendance. Also, mentioned was for the Council to walk the area prior to the work session meeting.

ATTORNEY REPORT – MANDI PORTER

-Mandi advised Council that Mr. Kelly was sent the appraisal for the Ladiesburg Rd. Town property adjacent to 4714 Ladiesburg Road. Mr. Kelly would like to purchase the property at the appraised price of \$3,600.00. Council gave Mandi permission to reach out to BPR Surveyors to do a Metes and Bounds description for the property. Mandi would like to have a public hearing on this issue at the November Council meeting.

-Mandi informed Mayor and Council that the Stormwater Management Easement for Flood Zone may be discussed within the next month. When Ms. Porter has more information on the subject, she will let Mayor and Council know.

CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DEPUTY MCGINNIS

-Deputy McGinnis reported that between August 25, 2025 and September 22, 2025 there were 22 calls for service within the Town of Union Bridge. Out of those calls for service one (1) was found to be reportable. A copy of Deputy McGinnis' report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER/SEWER

- Mr. Grossnickle stated that Union Bridge is still waiting for MDE to approve the Preliminary Engineering report for the new Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Mr. Grossnickle stated that Union Bridge is waiting to hear from MDE on the PFAS Project.

STREETS

- Mr. Bowman reported that the newly-painted parking space issue on Penrose has been rectified.
- Mr. Bowman attended the Quarterly Maryland Municipal League meeting, MS4 Winter Operations meeting that Carroll County hosted and the Salt Management Plan meeting with the Clerk-Treasurer, Dawn Metcalf and Public Works Employee, Herb Howard.

COMMUNITY CENTER

- Ms. Cutsail had no new business.

POLICE/MOWING/CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

- Ms. Conaway attended the Carroll County Downtowns meeting.
- Ms. Conaway worked with Leda, Ellen, Dawn and Deputy McGinnis throughout the month regarding parking issues.
- Ms. Conaway's full report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

STREET LIGHTS/TRASH

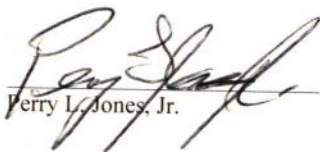
- Mr. Logan Grossnickle reported two (2) street lights in need of repair since the last council meeting.

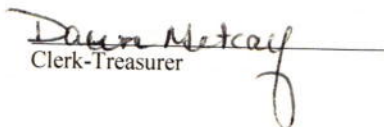
PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

- Cheri Thompson supported the Lions Club additions to Little Pipe Creek Park and expressed her perception of being suppressed during her term as a Union Bridge Councilmember.
- Councilmember Bret Grossnickle stated that the Town retains ownership of the park and the Town Council bears the legal responsibility for supervising its use and ensuring appropriate conduct and activities within the park grounds.
- Town Attorney, Mandi Porter gave her legal point of view informing town residents that it is not the intention of the Mayor and Council to suppress anyone, they are protecting the liability and well-being of the Town and the people who live here.
- Council President, Laura Conaway stated that Facebook posts are not a good way to reach out to the Town Council. The best and proper way to communicate with the Town Council is to attend meetings, directly call the councilmember, email or call the Town Hall.
- Councilmember Tony Bowman stated that this statement was not meant to be adversarial.
- Debbie Doxzon expressed how beautiful the Little Pipe Creek Park is and how much safer she feels with the trunks of the trees exposed to help with visibility. She also said that the addition of the Port-A-Pot was a good idea.
- Kent Doxzon, stated how accessible the park is for fishing and that the stream is stocked with trout. Mr. Doxzon is concerned with the area becoming over-developed and he urge caution on how much is allowed. Also, some fishermen are not the most responsible and don't clean up after themselves and that can become a problem. Mr. Doxzon stated that the purpose of that area is to retain water and let it drain slowly, and the Town needs to be cautious of over-developing the areas along the stream as it can cause problems and you need to protect the stream bank from erosion.

Councilmember Tony Bowman motioned to adjourn the Council meeting. Councilmember Laura Conaway seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next council meeting will be held on October 27, 2025.
The next work session will be held on October 6, 2025.
The content of the council meeting is contained on a zip drive.


Perry L. Jones, Jr.


Dawn Metcalf
Clerk-Treasurer