

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
APRIL 14, 2026**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:00 PM

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution for the Closed Session Meeting to discuss:

- Pending Litigation – Kazimir v. Dumont
- Potential Litigation – Recreation
- Pending Litigation – CSX
- Attorney Guidance

Council President Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:11PM.

Flag Salute, Moment of Silence

Sunshine Law: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, Notification of this Meeting has been sent to our Official Newspapers, posted on the Borough website and Notice posted at Borough Hall and filed with the Borough of Dumont.

Roll Call:

Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - Present
Mayor John W. Russell – Absent

Also in attendance: Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Jeanine Siek, CFO Christopher Rutch, Borough Engineer John Dunlea, and Borough Attorney Deena Rosendahl

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman Sciarrino

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo; all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve February 17, 2026 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry – yes

Motion to approve February 17, 2026 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: Councilman Armellino

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

**2026 BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND PUBLIC HEARING -
Memorial Park Minor League Field Improvements**

Borough Engineer John Dunlea informed the public that the Borough is considering the submission of a Bergen County Open Space grant application pertaining to the minor league field in Memorial Park, which is located to the northeast of the concession stand and the basketball courts. The project is for improvements to the baseball field that includes the redoing of the clay surface and the outfield grass and also, the regrading of the grass to improve drainage and improve underdrainage in the outfield. The goal of the project is to improve the durability

and the usability of the field and to ensure that the field is more user friendly after rainfall events. The total estimate for the project is \$401,660. The Bergen County Open Space grant is a matching grant.

Councilman Armellino inquired as to whether the proposed work will be scheduled during the sports season or off. Mr. Dunlea assured the councilman that every effort will be made to time the work so as to not interrupt sports season.

Motion to open to public for comments on the 2026 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Public Hearing – Memorial Park Minor League Field Improvements: Councilwoman Rossillo Second: Councilwoman Petry; all in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, inquired as to what encompasses the cost of the project. Mr. Dunlea stated the cost includes the underdrain system, the clay infield, and the resodding of the entire field. She clarified that all the Borough would be responsible for is matching whatever grant monies were awarded. She also confirmed that the lighting is not part of this grant.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Armellino; all in favor.

2026 BERGEN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND PUBLIC HEARING – Dixon Homestead Library Improvements

Library Director Kate Gorman gave the public an overview of the project. She stated the oldest part of the Dixon Homestead Library is the historic home and the grant that the Borough is applying for through Bergen County is for repairs to the historic part of the library. Repairs include rotting wood trim, window replacement, pointing on the stone work. She has been working with Connolly & Hickey, historical architects, to come up with a list of work that needs to be done, along with the cost. Work would also include regrading of the perimeter of the building, repair to the concrete walks, work on the bricks in the stairwell, new woodwork on doors and frames, repairs of some windows in the attic and basement, and painting. This is a matching grant and the Borough would only be required to match whatever the county awards.

Councilman Armellino asked whether the estimate of total project costs of \$315,000 includes the “optional packages” that are indicated in the estimate. Ms. Gorman stated that the number only includes the main project and not the optional work.

Motion to open to public for comments on the 2026 Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Public Hearing – Dixon Homestead Library Improvements: Councilman Armellino Second: Councilwoman Petry; all in favor.

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo; all in favor.

General Order of Business – Introduction of the 2026 Municipal Budget

CFO Christopher Rutch stated that the adoption and formal public hearing for the 2026 Municipal Budget on 5/19/26. The Borough Auditor Gary Vinci will be present. Thank you to the Finance Committee, BA Siek, and all the department heads for their work. The increase in state health benefit costs had a major impact on the budget.

Motion to pass Resolution #26-125 – Introduction of the 2026 Municipal Budget (CFO):

Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Armellino

Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Aponte –

- *Recreation* – Summer camp registration is still open. So far there are 400 registrations. Fall programs will be open by next week. Seasonal water meters have been installed at the bathrooms. One of two bathrooms at Gina's Field are operational. We are waiting on a part for the other one. Both food huts were cleaned. Babe Ruth Field repairs on track. Next week the leak in the sprinkler system valve will be addressed. The LED light upgrade will happen before the end of April. The field will be ready for the beginning of May.
- *Senior/Social Services* – Councilwoman Aponte reported on numerous upcoming parties and activities for the seniors. The food pantry is in need of donations. Please donate.
- *Police* – For the month of March 2026, 2,155 calls for service; 103 calls for medical service; 23 calls for fire; 7 calls for commitment, and 1 case of animal cruelty. Patrol issued 300 traffic summonses: 126 for parking; 174 moving violations; 27 motor vehicle crashes were investigated; 14 burglar alarms were responded to; 3 warrants were served or executed; 18,084 miles were traveled for patrol activities; 6 street lights and 0 decorative lights were reported not functioning; 0 car seats were installed/checked; the Detective Bureau had 4 total arrests for harassment/juvenile; 1 DWI, 3 for contempt of court. There were 16 domestic violence incidents investigated; e-screenings for BCPO on indictable arrests were conducted; 7 expungements; 20 firearm investigations and carry applications; 36 criminal cases were investigated. There is an ongoing narcotics investigation with the BCBPO. LEAD and Adopt-a-Cop officers continued seeing their assigned classes. Sgt. Foglio is preparing a guest speaker for the Dumont High School freshman class to raise awareness against drugs.

Councilwoman Rossillo –

- *Board of Education* – The next meeting is this coming Thursday. The Dumont High School just finished their production of Matilda. Congratulations to the theatre department.
- *CAIDC* – Touch A Truck will be on 4/18. Artwork for the Asian Pacific Art Show will be received on 4/30 and 5/1. Set up for the art show will be on 5/1. The art show will be on 5/2. The Dumont PRIDE event date will be changed due to prom. The new date has not been announced yet.

Councilman Armellino –

- *Library* – Renovations continue. The library was closed for a short period of time due to asbestos remediation. A poetry festival will be on 4/25. There are a lot of other activities scheduled. Please refer to the library website for additional information.

- *Shared Services* – There is resolution for shared services with Bergenfield for vegetative waste on the agenda tonight. This resolution is advantageous for Dumont.
- *JLUB* – There is 1 application for April and 2 pending for May. The Board is adopting a new and simpler application form for permits.
- *DPW* – In addition to the normal activities of the DPW, since the weather is getting nicer, there is an increased focus on the parks – cleaning and assembling 2 new bleachers at Memorial Park ball fields. In March, they placed over 18 tons of asphalt. They continue to address potholes. Vegetation pick-up began on 3/10 and continues through October. For recycling, there is a Dumont calendar contest. Submittals are due 4/24. These are America's 250th anniversary and Keep America Beautiful. Dumont also participates in the free Recycle Coach app, where you can get a personalized collection schedule. The Borough hosted a shredding event on 4/11. There is another one scheduled on 9/19.

Councilman Sciarrino – no report.

Councilwoman Petry –

- *Fire* – The Dumont Fire Department handled 18 emergency incidents, structure fires, and mutual aid structure fires; 3 cooking appliance fires; 3 outside rubbish fire; 7 electrical fires. The department handled 13 motor vehicle accidents involving hazardous materials and airbag deployment; 3 fuel hazmat spills; 23 incidents involving natural gas odor/leak calls; 2 unknown odor investigations; 9 smoke incidents; 32 fire alarm activations; 5 carbon monoxide investigations. There were 2 public assistance and non-emergency calls; 2 weather-related standbys; and 1 fire watch standby; 103 total emergency calls. There were 2779 total man hour; 51 events for department training; total training man hours is 421; and a grand total man hours is 3200. There were 4 incidents forwarded to the building department for follow-up investigation; 4 follow ups conducted. There were 16 incidents forwarded to the fire prevention department for follow-up; and 2 follow-ups conducted. The fire department will be at the Touch A Truck event on 4/18. The Dumont Fire Department has been invited to participate in the FIFA World Cup games in June and July. Ladder Truck pricing and specification is being finalized to be move forward with Truck 2 replacement. Thank you to public safety telecommunicators for all their work.

Councilman Kelly –

- *New Development/50 Wash/Affordable Housing* – A meeting was held about a week ago to go over next steps with Wells Fargo property development. The next step is a developers agreement. There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to authorize the potential for a PILOT. Regarding Dunkin Donuts, foundation work will start shortly.

Councilwoman Petry also announced that there will be an ABED meeting tomorrow at 7:30 pm.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

BA Siek reported on the grant applications on tonight's agenda. Three funding requests through Senator Booker's office were submitted on behalf of the Borough. These include \$1.5 million for Aerial Truck Replacement Project Phase 2, \$900,000 for Sewer and Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements Project, and \$1,070,000 for the Dumont Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation and Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project. These funds are not guaranteed. There was a productive Ordinance Committee meeting on 3/26. There are two ordinances on tonight's agenda for introduction as a result of that meeting. The 2026 Budget and General Municipal Multipurpose Capital Bond Ordinance is being introduced tonight. Dumont Construction Official Bobby

Sherrow has resigned, effective tomorrow. The Borough is currently looking for a replacement. Borough road paving projects are underway. PSE&G has given notification that they will be back in Dumont to do additional high pressure gas line replacement. More information should be given at the next meeting.

ENGINEER REPORT

Mateo Luzuraiga from Neglia reported on projects in the Borough for the month of April. Projects include the 2026 Riverside Coop Paving Program. Bids were received and Dumont's portion came in at \$343,624.56. The apparent low bidder was DLS Contracting. Roads included in the Riverside Coop program are Wyandotte Ave., Oneida Ave., and Concord St. A contract should be awarded shortly to DLS. Regarding the PSE&G work, Neglia is trying to ensure PSE&G gets in before our paving. The Phase I Watershed Improvement Plan is a requirement of the DEP. The plan was submitted for review by the DEP on 4/7. The annual report and supplemental questionnaire will be submitted in May.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Rosendahl - no report.

Ms. Siek indicated that Resolution #26-156 will be pulled from the agenda.

The Municipal Clerk read the Review of Consent Agenda Items. All items with an asterisk are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a Council member or member of the public. Any item may be removed for further discussion or roll call vote, in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

RESOLUTIONS

#26-126 – Bills List *

#26-127 – Authorization of Emergency Temporary Appropriations – 2026 Budget *

#26-128 – Approval of 2026 Temporary Capital Budget – Parks & Recreation *

#26-129 – Refund of Building Department Escrow Fees *

#26-130 – Authorization of Settlement – Borough of Dumont v. CSX Transportation, Inc. *

#26-131 – Establishment of Outdoor Dining Process *

#26-132 – Hire Travis Morgan as DPW Probationary Driver-Laborer *

#26-133 – Authorization to Submit FY26 BC Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant Application *

#26-134 – Authorization to Submit FY26 BC Open Space Municipal Park Improvement Grant Minor League Field Improvements *

#26-135 – Authorizing of Agreement for Redevelopment Financial Consultant Services – Acacia Financial Group *

#26-136 – Approval of Danilo Duarte Corp., LLC Limousine Permit *

#26-137 – Authorization of Liberty Elevator Maintenance Agreement *

#26-138 – Certification of EEO Compliance for Budget *

#26-139 – Authorize Boiler & Water Heater Maintenance Agreement with Reiner Group * (

#26-140 – Engineering Traffic Study Proposal for All Way Stop Sign Assessment *

#26-141 – Engineer Proposal – MS4 Report *

#26-142 – Engineer Proposal – Washington Avenue Sewer Emergency Repairs *

#26-143 – Accept Shannon Hey’s Retirement *
 #26-144 – Refund of Concealed Carry Permit Fees *
 #26-145 – Hire NJ Licensed Tree Expert – 4th Community Forestry Management Plan *
 #26-146 – Appointment of Municipal Engineer as Floodplain Administrator *
 #26-147 – Award of Contract for Annual Emergency Generator Maintenance Agreements *
 #26-148 – Refund Overpayment of Taxes - Veteran Tax-Exempt Status - Block 707, Lot 8 *
 #26-149 – Refund Overpayment of Taxes - Veteran Tax-Exempt Status - Block 413, Lot 12 *
 #26-150 – Refund Overpayment of Taxes - Veteran Tax-Exempt Status - Block 1010, Lot 12 *
 #26-151 – Refund Overpayment of Taxes - Veteran Tax-Exempt Status - Block 102, Lot 4 *
 #26-152 – Approval of 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption – Block 407, Lot 30 *
 #26-153 – Approval to Impose Liens & Collect Delinquent Taxes *
 #26-154 – Approval of 2026 Temporary Capital Budget – Multi-Purpose *
 #26-155 – Shared Service for Disposal of Vegetative Waste *
 #26-157 – Accept Robert Sherrow’s Resignation as Construction Code Official/Building Inspector/Zoning Officer *
 #26-158 – Authorization to Advertise for Full-time Construction Code Official/Building Inspector/Zoning Officer *
 #26-159 – Authorization to Advertise for Part-time Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement Official *
 #26-160 - Agreement for a Temporary Part-time Construction Code/Building Subcode Official and Zoning Officer *

Public Comment – Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items only: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo; all in favor

1. Bruce DeLyon, had clarification questions regarding the numbers in #26-130. He asked what the actual cost to repair damages and attorney fees. Additionally, he had a bonding question regarding #26-154, #26-159 and why the position is coming back, #26-160.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Armellino; all in favor.

Motion to Adopt Consent Agenda with Resolution #26-156 Removed: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Armellino

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry – yes

Ordinances

2nd Reading

#1662 Calendar Year 2026 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45-14)

Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Armellino; all in favor.

No comments from the Council.

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; all in favor.

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Sciarrino; all in favor.

Motion to **ADOPT** on 2nd reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Sciarrino

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

2nd Reading

#1663 Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Undertaking of Various Park and Recreation Improvements in, by and for the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to Appropriate the Sum of \$145,000 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to Make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds

Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Sciarrino; all in favor.

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; all in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, asked for an explanation of what is covered in the ordinance.

2. Bruce DeLyon, had question about what is covered in the ordinance.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Sciarrino

Second: Councilwoman Petry; all in favor.

Motion to **ADOPT** on 2nd reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Sciarrino

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

1st Reading

#1664 Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Making of Various Public Improvements and the Acquisition of New Additional or Replacement Equipment and Machinery, New Communication and Signal Systems Equipment, New Information Technology Equipment and New Automotive Vehicles, Including Original Apparatus and Equipment, in, by and for the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to Appropriate the Sum of \$2,060,000 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to Make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriations and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds

Motion to Waive Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Sciarrino; all in favor.

Borough Administrator Siek provided detail on Ordinance #1664. This is a general municipal bond that contains the departmental needs for the year. Included for the Fire Department is a radio communication replacement that is done every year to keep radio communication up to date in the amount of \$50,000; and the purchase of 10 sets of turn out gear in the amount of \$60,000. For the municipal portion, included is the purchase of computer notebooks for the governing body in the amount of \$5,245; and installation of decorative street lights in the amount of \$30,000. Included also are funds for the 2026 Riverside Paving Program in the amount of \$450,000; the PSE&G Gas Main Replacement Road Restoration Program in the amount of \$350,000; and the CDBG Sunnyside and Shadyside Road Improvements in the amount of \$390,000, of which, \$135,157 will be reimbursed to the town through a CDBG grant. For the Recreation Department, LED portable light towers in the amount of \$25,350. For the DPW, the

replacement of antiquated equipment including a tree truck and a chipper in the amount of \$400,000; 3 trucks, a mechanic's scan tool, security cameras for the DPW yard, an open trailer for the paint machine, enclosed landscape trailer, a steel door and operator for the salt shed for a total of \$681,650. The total municipal bond is going to be \$2,060,000.

Motion to Pass on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Sciarrino

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

1st Reading

#1665 Bond Ordinance to Authorized the Making of Various Public Improvements in, by and for the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to Appropriate the Sum of \$1,220,000 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds

Motion to Waive Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Armellino; all in favor.

Councilman Armellino noted an error in the dollar amount on the first page of the ordinance. Borough Administrator Siek will look into it and correct it.

Borough Administrator Siek provided detail on Ordinance #1665. This bond is separated out because they are both NJDOT funded projects. There is no 5% down payment required in the capital improvement fund. There are two projects that the municipality is receiving back a significant amount of what is being bonded through the NJDOT grants. The first project is the Depew Street Roadway Improvements Project. The total amount estimated for the project is \$310,000. Of that, \$228,060 will be returned by the NJDOT. The second project is the Madison and Washington Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project in the amount of \$910,000. Dumont would be getting \$800,000 back from the NJDOT. There is no 5% down payment required so it does not impact the capital improvement fund in the operating budget.

Motion to Pass on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

1st Reading

#1666 An Ordinance Amending and Modifying Chapter 209 of the Dumont Borough Code – Fee for Traffic Control Officer

Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo; all in favor.

BA Siek gave a brief overview of the ordinance. This ordinance was discussed at the Ordinance meeting. It came as a recommendation by Police Chief Totten and replaces an antiquated version.

Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Aponte

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

1st Reading

#1667 An Ordinance Amending and Modifying Chapter 21 of the Dumont Borough Code – Parking Prohibited Between the Hours of 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilman Sciarrino; all in favor.

BA Siek gave a brief overview of the ordinance. This adds to an already-existing ordinance and adds Nell Court.

Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

Public Comment – General Comments

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Petry

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; all in favor.

1. Cary Stopsky, had questions regarding the traffic coming into the Dunkin Donuts, the yellow curb lines on Dumont Ave., and Dumont resident stickers for parking.
2. Raymond Garing, resident of Bergenfield, spoke about requesting a memorial plaque for Stephanie Bialko.
3. Bruce DeLyon, had a question regarding questions asked by the public during the 1st reading of an ordinance.
4. Maryann Russini, had questions regarding total amounts in bonds owed. She also spoke about ABED's fundraiser for the 2026 veterans banners at Tri-Valley.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Aponte

Second: Councilman Sciarrino; all in favor.

Motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; all in favor

The meeting ended at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk