

**Borough of Windber  
Borough Council Meeting  
Monday, April 13, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of Windber Borough Council was called to order by Council President, Barry Jerley at 7 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The following council members were present: Barry Jerley, Greg Klonicke, Herb Moore, Ed Marcinko, Pete LaMonaca, and Rich Rummel. Mark Rager was absent. Mayor Mike Thomas, Manager Ronald Allison and Attorney Joseph Green were present.

**Approval  
Minutes**

Mr. Moore said on page 2, the vote for the vacant seat on council, his vote is not there for the roll call vote. Mrs. Gates said it is in the third paragraph up from the bottom it says that Mr. Moore abstained. Mr. Moore said Marcinko abstained. Mrs. Gates said you also abstained. Mr. Jerley said yes, Mr. Moore abstained.

Mr. Moore said on page 4, he wants it to be in the minutes that he mentioned that he would like to be considered for the ballroom committee.

Mr. Moore said when we talked about advertising the council vacancy one form of the advertisement mentioned was the minutes but the minutes are not put up until 30 days later and we had to act within those 30 days so he does not consider that proper advertisement. Mr. Rummel said there doesn't have to be an advertisement by law. Mayor Thomas said it is a moot point. Mr. Moore said someone said that was a form of advertising.

Manager Allison said Mr. Moore had asked him to look at something on the ballroom regarding discoloration. Manager Allison said he had made the comment that the whole ballroom was stained and that was not true. Everything was stained except the dormers because he did not have anyone to go up that high. Mr. Moore said that is why he brought it up so someone would look at it now. Manager Allison said he does not believe it is deterioration but the color is different.

A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve the Minutes with noted changes. One absent, Mr. Rager. Motion carried.

**Recognition** There were no visitors at this time.  
**Visitors**

**Correspondence**

1. Windber Area Authority Minutes of February 11, 2026.
2. PSAB Update.

**Approval Bills**

Mr. Moore said on page 1, of the police bills what are the 10 licenses for. Mrs. Gates said that is under In-Synch. Chief Frear said those are for reporting systems. The license is renewed every year. Mr. Moore asked if End2End Public Safety was similar? Chief Frear said those are for support and maintenance

Mr. Marcinko asked why we have four different cellular carriers? Mrs. Gates said they are not all for cell phones. Comcast is for internet, AT&T is for the manager’s hot spot and Verizon is for police, and consumer cellular is for two cellphones. Mr. Marcinko asked if they could be combined to get a cheaper rate. Mrs. Gates agreed Comcast is high and we are constantly working on lowering those bills.

Mr. Marcinko said one of these carriers should be able to provide something the other does and we should be able to get rid of at least one. Mrs. Gates said we are always looking for the better deal that is why there are three for different things. Mrs. Gates every year our clerk is on the phone working to get these lowered. Manager Allison said Verizon for example works for the police because of what they use for the cars.

Mr. Marcinko said you mean Verizon can’t add on public works for a better deal. Chief Frear said certain carriers work better in our area for certain things we use as far as service. Service isn’t as good here for Verizon. Mrs. Gates said she understands what Mr. Marcinko is saying and we are always looking for ways to lower costs. Mr. Marcinko said he isn’t saying cut back services but maybe bundle them together.

A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve the bills for March 2026. One absent, Mr. Rager. Motion carried.

**Approval Payroll**

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve payroll for March 20, and April 2, 2026. One absent, Mr. Rager. Motion carried.

**Engineers Report**

1. PennVest Sewer Project

a. Current Tasks:

- i. The second PennVest Planning Consultation Meeting for this project was held on April 2, 2026.
- ii. Act 537 Plan Update & Uniform Environmental Review have been submitted to DEP.
- iii. Intermunicipal Agreement – Paint Township
  1. Attended March 17 & April 7 board meetings.
  2. Paint Township is agreeable to sharing maintenance costs of shared lines.

Mr. Ferrante presented an estimate to Paint Township of all the shared lines, which came out to a little more than 1.1 million dollars. Based on their current estimate and based on how

many residents they have using those lines and how many the borough has it is split somewhere in the ballpark of \$520,000 for them to replace 630/600 in change of the borough. A little more than half, of that is borough residents. Paint Township residents will only pay Paint Township for the sewer collection fee moving forward if they help replace the lines being shared. They seemed agreeable to everything and there are some details to work out. They are okay with paying that half million dollars and they talked to PennVest and they said they would be able to fund that. We are waiting for details as to whether they would have to apply on their own separately just for the borough's portion of the project for funding or tie it into one of their anticipated submissions. Asking Borough Attorney to draw up new agreement.

2. New agreement to extend through term of PennVest funding.
  - iv. Preliminary Design & Permit Application Preparation
  - v. Rules & Regulations
- b. Schedule:
  - i. Q2 2026: Complete preliminary design & submit permits
  - ii Oct. 2026: PennVest Submission

Mr. Ferrante said once the rules and regulations are in place they will start meeting with people explaining what they are doing and what we need the rules and regulations to establish.

Mr. Ferrante said at the first planning consultation meeting where they tell you what you need we had a 10-million-dollar project and two out of the three areas we were planning on doing. At that time, they said looking at 10 million dollars, somewhere around 8 would certainly be loan and beyond that would be grant eligible not guaranteeing any grant money. At this recent meeting they are now saying that this entire project looks like it may be loan.

Mr. Ferrante said PennVest did not give an explanation and so circled back and nothing had changed other than they have had more applications than recent years and are anticipating more projects this year. They probably have the same amount of grant money but are now spread thinner.

Mr. Ferrante said he doesn't know if they are trying to go in the opposite direction so you don't expect as much as was said previously. It's hard to say. At this point in time, we are most of the way through. As he sees it, we might as well submit it as a whole package and whatever they offer they offer and council can go from there. Right now, it is a 16 million dollar estimate now and we submit for that and if we do not get a good grant offer, we do not have to construct the whole thing right now. We can do the two thirds we were initially planning on doing. At this point we are most of the way through getting all the permits prepared and the design is done, not finalized but pretty much done.

Mr. Ferrante said this is obviously not the news anyone wanted to hear. Manager Allison said he just can't express how disappointed he is. They gave the municipality beside us 60% for their project.

Mr. Moore asked if it was because they started earlier than us? Mr. Sewalk said it could be, at this stage of the game he doesn't know how they are doing things. He said the design is done and the permits are almost ready to go and we will have them in a couple of weeks; we submit it and see what offer we get back and we trim it. We will look at what the rate structure will be for whatever you accept. Mr. Moore said we can not stop now. Manager Allison said we already have a lot invested through the line of credit. Mr. Sewalk said we can always go back to that 10-million-dollar project.

2. Flood Protection Project
  - a. 2025 DEP Annual Inspection
    - i. Develop O&M Program to address deficiencies.
  - b. Project Funding Resources
    - i. PA DCED Flood Mitigation Program.
    - ii. PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program.
3. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge Project.
  - a. Construction tentatively planned for 2026
4. 2025 LSAS Grant Application.
  - a. Police Station Renovations; submitted November 24, 2025.

**Prepare  
Inter-  
Municipal  
Agreement**

A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve for the solicitor to prepare a new Intermunicipal Agreement to be presented to Paint Township. One absent, Mr. Rager, motion carried.

**Cash Bal./  
Treasurer  
Reports**

There were no questions at this time.

**Council Liaison Reports**

**Klonicke/  
Library**

Mr. Klonicke said the library is going to be holding their annual electronic recycling event May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will take place in the library parking lot. Mr. Rummel said it is a good fundraiser for the library.

Mr. Moore asked how many people are paid there? Mr. Rummel said there is head guy and three part-time librarians. Mr. Moore asked if the librarians were volunteers. Mr. Rummel said they do not get a whole lot. Most of it goes to the head librarian. Mr. Moore said some of our donations are very large and he thinks this is where we should start to try and save money.

**LaMonaca/  
WMA**

Mr. LaMonaca said the Windber Municipal Authority meets tomorrow.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Thomas attended a meeting with the Somerset Redevelopment Authority and others regarding projects that they have planned in the Borough.

Mayor Thomas along with several other Councilmen met with the management of Kitron Manufacturing. They gave us a tour of their plant and explained some things that possibly the borough and or the state could possibly help them with. They are currently in need of engineers and entry level employees.

Mayor Thomas also attended the annual WAVE Easter egg hunt for children which despite the cold weather was well attended.

Mayor Thomas passed along to the Windber Area School District, information that he received at the last Somerset County Borough's Association meeting regarding the Pipe-fitter's union having a need for 800 pipe-fitters over the next 5 years. They have an apprentice program that will take interested high school graduates and train them with pay to become a journeyman pipe-fitter.

Mayor Thomas said they had some damage to the wall in the holding room when a prisoner put his head through the dry wall. We have an estimate for \$750. We are going to have T1-11 siding put on the interior wall so it will not happen again. That should be recouped in his charges.

Mr. Moore said to add to Kitron, the entry level is about \$18 an hour. Mr. Jerley said they also offer good hospitalization.

**Manager's Report**

**Public Works-** Handled PA 1 Calls. Crew began patching borough roads. Repaired and cleared broken sewer line at 14<sup>th</sup> and Somerset Ave. Street sweeping has resumed. Patch repairs made at 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. catch basins. Sweeping and clearing of sidewalks. Removed salt machines from trucks. Prisoners were in for a week to begin curb painting.

**Ballroom-** We have been taking in events as they come, with weddings and other events without advertising it has been slower than what we were in the past.

**Redevelopment Meeting-** I attended a meeting with members of council and the mayor on the future of the Eureka Building and possible hotel plans. Many marketing ideas were shared on how to bring in interest from a developer.

**Sewer Project-** I attended a planning consultation meeting with EADs Group, PA DEP to reexamine the project with new members of DEP now being involved.

**Paint/Windber Sewer Agreement-** I met with Mick of EADs to discuss the possible structure and agreement of shared cost of the municipality and township main line replacements.

**New GMC Utility Truck-**Truck is still in production and is expected in May, the bed has been ready and is stored at Hercules Equipment awaiting the trucks arrival

**Solicitor Report** The solicitor had nothing to report at this time.

**Ballroom Committee** Mr. Jerley appointed Rich Rummel, Mayor Thomas, and Pete LaMonaca to a committee.

Mr. Moore asked if committees were supposed to be all council members? Mr. Jerley said no.

Council convened to an executive session at 7:35 p.m. for police contract matters.

Council reconvened from an executive session at 8:00 p.m.

**Ordinance 2026-2 One-way Street** Mr. Marcinko questioned the wording of the ordinance. Mrs. Gates said council had the copy of the old ordinance and that Attorney Green made the necessary changes since then. The new ordinance that was sent to Mrs. Gates from Attorney Green was the one that was advertised.

A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve Ordinance No. 2026-2 as advertised, making a portion of an unnamed alley that leads to 14<sup>th</sup> Street one way. Roll call vote: Mr. Rummel, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Jerley, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. Marcinko, yes; Mr. Moore, yes; and Mr. Rager absent. Motion carried.

**Ordinance 2026-3 2-hour Parking** A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve Ordinance No. 2026-3 adding 2-hour parking limit signs on 15<sup>th</sup> Street between Somerset Avenue and Graham Avenue. Remarks; Mr. Moore said this is because of the one car parked there? Mr. Rummel said yes, the car was left there in the winter time. Roll call vote: Mr. Rummel, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Jerley, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. Marcinko, yes; Mr. Moore, yes; and Mr. Rager absent. Motion carried.

**Approval Of MOU Police Wages** A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve the Memorandum of Agreement w/Teamsters Union 110 regarding fulltime officer salary. Roll call vote: Mr. Rummel, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Jerley, yes; Mr. Klonicke, no; Mr. Marcinko, no; Mr. Moore, no; and Mr. Rager absent. Vote tied three no and three yes. Mayor Thomas breaks tie and votes yes. Motion carried.

**Purchase Tasers** Chief Frear said when the Taser first came out it was called an M23. We are currently carrying the X26 which is the second one. We do have one X26B which came out after that. Currently the newest model is the Taser 10 obviously it deploys 10 shots. Taser 7 is the one he carries at the University of Pittsburgh.

Chief Frear said they completely revamped everything with the tasers. Currently when we buy these tasers there is a total of seven of them and everything comes with them for a five-year period including a warranty. The total price tag for the seven is \$38,000. He was able to raise \$10,000 from the state's game of chance and the Whalley Charitable Trust. He does know there is another donation coming to them but that will be put towards next year's purpose.

Chief Frear said he spoke with Mr. Jerley about funding from the DiBattista Trust. This year will be paid for from the money that was donated. It is four years at a \$7,400 cost that will be paid from the DiBattista Trust. There will be no additional cost to the borough.

Chief Frear said everything is included like he said all the tasers, cartridges and training for the at five-year period. Mr. Moore asked if tasers can be reconditioned or do you have to buy new. Chief Frear said there is no refurbishing from Taser 10 and down. Mr. Moore asked if an officer decides to leave does he take the taser with him. Chief Frear said no. Mr. Moore asked if \$38,000 is what we have to pay including his donations? Chief Frear said \$38,000 is what we have to pay but we have \$10,000 to put down and the rest will come from the DiBattista Trust over the next four years. There will be no cost to the borough. Mr. Koehler asked if they had to be purchased every five years. Chief Frear said you can continue to use them but there is no warranty and you would have to buy the cartridges and the batteries. The batteries are rechargeable and go into a server and all the updates from Taser are done via the server. The technology is amazing but it is extremely expensive.

Mr. Marcinko asked if they would sell the old ones and Chief Frear said no they will go back, that is part of the package to get the lowest price. It's like a \$4,000 rebate.

A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve the purchase of tasers for the Windber Borough Police Department. Mr. Rager absent, motion carried.

**Approval  
USDA  
Grant**

Mr. Moore said he is not in favor of purchasing another vehicle, we have an obligation to keep them going and there is a 25% match and our financial condition does not warrant us, in his opinion, spending more money than we have to.

Chief Frear said obviously a USDA Grant pays 75% for the car and we would pay 25%. Part of that 25% would come from a trade in with Memorial Chevrolet. Making us responsible for about 8% of the car. You would be getting a car for a small amount of money.

Mr. Moore said we have four or five cars now he does not think we need another one. He said you should vote for stuff that you need not that you want. Chief Frear said they just paid \$1,000 for the car they want to get rid of. We talked about getting a car this year but we are not doing that because we are paying for the building. That money is constantly going into the car; it has about 120,000 miles on it. There is a constant cost for it with repairs. Manager Allison stated we are going to get trade value out of it.

Mr. Jerley asked what the 80% comes to. Chief Frear said probably around \$60,000 and our responsibility would be around \$15,000 plus we will should get around \$4,000 for the old car. This is if we even get the grant. Mr. Moore asked if we got a new cruiser last year? Chief Frear said the year before. This opportunity came up. Mr. Klonicke asked how soon would we find out about the grant? Chief Frear said we have not submitted anything yet. We have to approve moving forward first. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Jerley if he would make up the difference? Mr. Jerley said he will try and help.

A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve the borough proceed with USDA Grant to purchase a new cruiser at a 25% match from the borough. Roll call vote: Mr. Rummel, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Jerley, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. Marcinko, yes; Mr. Moore, no; and Mr. Rager, absent. Motion carried.

**Approval  
Traffic  
Study**

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve to move forward with a traffic study at 56 and 160, to have a left arrow added to traffic lights coming down 160 from Pomroys Drive. Remarks: Mr. Moore asked who was paying for that? Mr. Allison said there would be some cost from the borough. Mrs. Gates said we had spoken with the managing director at Kitron and they said they would consider helping with costs. Mr. Allison said some of the base numbers he got was most traffic studies start around \$3,500 for Penndot. Once you initiate it there is no going back on it. Meaning once we propose it and ask for it, they move forward.

Mr. Marcinko said with Kitron and this is not their only location they are a multi-city location and are pretty big, \$3,500 he is sure is not going to hurt them and the accountants can probably write that off.

Mr. Jerley said they are looking to hire 150 to 200 employees on so we are going to gain. They would like to get this expedited too. Mr. Koehler asked about an arrow at 21<sup>st</sup> Street also. Manager Allison said he would ask them.

Motion was made. One absent, Mr. Rager, motion carried.

**Library  
Donation**

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve the library donation in the amount of \$15,000, (as budgeted). One absent, Mr. Rager, motion carried.

**Museum  
Donation**

A motion was made motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve the Windber Museum donation in the amount of \$4,000, (as budgeted). One absent, Mr. Rager, motion carried.

**Next  
Meeting**

Next meeting will be May 11, 2026 at 7 p.m.

**Meeting  
Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned by Council President, Barry Jerley at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates  
Administrative Assistant