

BOROUGH OF WINDBER
Borough Council Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2025
7:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of Windber Borough Council was called to order by Windber Borough Council President, Richard Rummel, at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The following council members were present: Brian Bahorik, Greg Klonicke, Pete LaMonaca, Dr. Doug Ledney, Herb Moore, Joe Pallo, and Rich Rummel. Attorney Joseph Green, Manager Ron Allison, and Mayor, Michael Thomas, were present.

Approval Minutes A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2025, meeting. Motion carried.

Recognition Visitors Barry Jerley presented a check in the amount of \$15,000 to pay for the difference left, after from the purchase of the new cruiser for Windber Borough. He said he has donated about half a million dollars into this borough in the last two years and you can thank Rich, Ron, Andy and Matt Grohal. They came to him on their own with their ideas and thoughts. It never would have happened without them.

Barry Jerley Mr. Jerley, said he was also here about the paper alley that goes through his property. He had his property surveyed and maps printed. It ends up he owns the paper alley. His attorney read it and he owns it but he wanted Attorney Green to read through it also. He handed Attorney Green the materials. The council thanked him.

Ed Marcinko Ed Marcinko said he noticed the other day when going to work a third party was removing the Christmas ornament streetlights up and down Graham Avenue. Throughout the years he noticed that they have been put up and removed. In talking to people over the years he has never heard anyone mention the Christmas ornaments. He is sure it costs a pretty penny to put them up and take them down because there is a third-party vehicle with a crew managing the removal of the ornaments. Depending on what the costs are, is that something we need to incur since we are such a small borough. We have a fantastic display in the center of town. This may be something the council would like to take under vote during the session to see if it is something they want to consider. Older people who have appreciated it in the past may not be around and the younger generation may not even notice them.

Mrs. Gates said first of all WAVE is the group that pays for those decorations. The groups president is Dan Hiteshew. That group also purchased those decorations. They are put up and taken down by Barclay Electric because they have to be hooked up to the electricity on the posts.

Mrs. Gates said these Christmas decorations bring a multitude of people and visitors here every Christmas. Our decorated town has been featured in at least two magazines if not more. Mr. Moore asked what does it cost us to do that? Mrs. Gates said around \$2,000.

Mr. Marcinko asked Mr. Allison why nothing has been done about the vehicles residing at 709 Railroad Street? Mr. Allison asked Mr. Marcinko if he returned the complaint forms, and he said yes. Mr. Allison said he could not answer that, it would be a question for PMCA. Mr. Marcinko asked who PMCA is. Mr. Allison said the Codes Enforcement is through PMCA.

Mr. Marcinko said he has five days to respond, and those vehicles are not inspected. He checked them last night before the Super Bowl. They still have a May and August 2024 inspection sticker on them. Mr. Allison said he is not arguing that, what he is saying is we do not handle the enforcement, PMCA does. They are the boroughs code enforcement agency.

Mr. Moore asked if code enforcement enforce vehicles. Mr. Allison said yes on private property. The police take care of vehicles on the roads and code enforcement takes care of vehicles on private property.

Mr. Marcinko said the old fine used to be \$1,000 a day or the vehicles were towed. He said they have flat tires and dry rot the trailer in the back is dry rotting. They are not going anywhere, and he is not doing anything with them. Mr. Rummel said we will call PMCA tomorrow and see where they are with this.

Mr. Marcinko asked when people move into a house how long do they have to transfer their plates from another state. Chief Frear said 30 days. Mr. Marcinko said it has been a year, and he still has a Texas plate on.

Mr. Marcinko said he was appalled by what he saw on the news that George Benitz' was given a free vehicle by the school district or veteran's group or whatever. He said he did not know if the council recalled the name, but his wife is Sandra Star Taylor who had the house on Railroad Street that had 30 plus dead animals in the basement. Their house at 1605 Baumgardner Heights is a dump. Somehow, somehow he qualified to get a free vehicle based upon him being a veteran. Mr. Rummel said that it was done at the school and has nothing to do with us. You would need to talk to the school district.

**Northern
Regional
Fire Dept.**

Marty Washko gave an update on where things stand with the merger of the fire departments. Mr. Washko said right now they are doing business as Northern Regional Fire Department but the financial issues must be resolved before they can actually merger the corporations.

Mr. Washko said at the same time they are working with Somerset on the alarm cards and getting predestination to the stations. As a group they will be Station 200. Somerset Avenue will be 201, Paint Borough will be 202 and Benson Borough will be 203 for the buildings. They moved an engine up here from Benson Borough and they moved one from Paint Borough down to Benson Borough.

Mr. Washko said they are still sorting things out as far as operations and relationships from various departments. The tanker that was to be coming in March is now delayed until June. They are looking at the finances for that. They are looking at refinancing Windber's old debt which is about \$400,000.00 and then the tanker. We are looking at around \$900,000 when it is ready.

Mr. Washko said some of the issues they had when they first started talking about the merger were looking at financial information from Windber which was slow to come. They found

about \$30,000 in costs that they did not anticipate. There was \$14,000 in late fees on an outstanding payment they will have to pay. On administering the Safe Grant there are \$4,000 in fees that need to be paid right now and \$4,000 more to be paid before the end of the grant. There is a lot of building maintenance that was let go over the years and they will probably have to spend about \$10,000 there. That will be their headquarters moving forward. The biggest thing was the heating system, there was apparently damage from the ice storm which was an ongoing issue every time there was ice.

A letter was sent out for a commitment in writing as to what we were going to get this year from each municipality. This is so we can go to the bank and formalize a refinancing application. He said he did go to Paint Township, and they still need to meet with some others but what they were really looking for this year was three mills from each municipality. The other municipalities were between two to three with the case being if there was money left over at the end of the year they would get more.

Mr. Allison asked if there was an insurance policy to cover the ice damage. Mr. Washko said it is being checked out now, but the deductible is \$2,500. Mr. Boyer said the challenge with the ice damage is that it is not sudden or accidental and therefore insurance is going to say it is a maintenance issue and you should have dealt with this a long time ago. He said they are getting quotes on it now. Mr. Washko said all of this is an additional \$40,000 more than where we want to be. Mr. Boyer is going to discuss the finances and where we are and where we want to be.

Mr. Allison asked what Paint Township is going to commit to? Mr. Washko said they have not received the letter yet, but it is to be \$44,000 and as the year goes on if there is money left over, they may receive more. They said in the past Paint Township only gave \$4,500 so it is a big step from that. Mr. Allison said they are still \$20,000 behind us and we need to look at all the municipalities involved. Mr. Washko said there are different things they have to look at like population. Mr. Allison said they are close to us. Mr. Washko said Windber stands out as the largest municipality out of all of them. Three mills Windber is more than three mills there.

Mr. Washko said certainly not getting three mills from everyone will hurt their plans and changes may have to be made down the road. Mr. Moore asked if they had not merged would we still have all these expenses. Mr. Boyer said you would have more.

Mr. Boyer introduced himself as the treasurer of the existing companies and Northern Regional Fire Department. He passed out budget overviews for council to review. He started at the bottom of the Windber Fire Profit and Loss Overview. This is a plan that he initially put together as Windber Fire as a stand-alone entity for 2025. This excludes EMS expense and revenue from the past.

Mr. Boyer said generally looking at what they had in revenues and expenses in 2024 and projecting that forward to 2025 Windber's net income and principal payment from their existing debt including the debt assumed for the tanker being purchased this year will drain \$245,000 in cash from that entity this year if nothing else is done. They only have \$22,000 in the bank. If nothing changes Mr. Boyer said they will go bankrupt and go out of business. They cannot sustain the debt load they have today.

Mr. Moore asked why they buy new tankers every two years. Mr. Boyer said the one they are running now is 37 years old. Mr. Moore said they bought one two years ago. Marty Washko said they bought a rescue engine six years ago. Mr. Rummel said our donation goes toward the payment of the tanker. Mr. Moore said he was told they buy new trucks every two years. Mr. Rummel said no.

Mr. Washko said the last new rescue they bought was in 2017, so it is now seven years old. Their ladder truck is 12 years old. Mr. Moore asked how many people with this merger are we paying now. Mr. Boyer said two awarded through a Safer Grant that was awarded by the federal government. Mr. Moore said the information he received was like five. Mr. Boyer said they got the grant on the employees that were EMT's. Some of those employees were both firefighters and EMT people. When the EMT people moved away the support for payroll for those half time EMT's/firefighters are no longer existing. Scalp Level and Paint Borough fire departments have never had any paid employees. Mr. Moore asked when we got into that? Mr. Boyer said it started two years ago and was all volunteer before that.

Mr. Boyer said the Windber Fire Department overview is basically a current state with current municipal contributions, current fundraising and fund drives in 2024. The second packet is current state for Scalp Level and Paint Borough Fire Department. They would add \$6,000 to their cash surplus next year. Not nearly enough to deal with a \$245,000 drain that Windber is looking to have.

The municipal contributions at the top of Northern Regional Fire Department's Budget came from discussion that was had back in August, when we had the group meeting at the fire hall with representatives from several municipalities. The numbers you see there were numbers that were tossed out verbally no firm commitments were made at that time. That level of funding would also allow us to refinance debt.

Windber Fire Company debt is eating up \$230,000 a year in cash. We have been working with Slovenian Savings and Loan to refinance all their existing debt which is at variable market rates in the 8% range. With a new mortgage from Slovenian about a below residential rate with a fixed mortgage that would recoup some of the debt load from the \$230,000 down to about \$135,000.

Mr. Moore asked how they got behind in making payments for the mortgage? Mr. Boyer said his understanding is at First Commonwealth during the dark days they got behind there and they started adding late fees every month. It is now accumulated at approximately \$14,000 with \$200 a month in late fees. The bank has never pushed them to collect.

Mr. Moore asked about the money that was embezzled years ago. Mr. Boyer said there is a restitution agreement with about \$1,400 a year paid to the fire company.

Mr. Boyer said he worked for Farmers Insurance for 32 years. He was an internal auditor and a bargaining representative. He is a certified internal auditor and a certified information systems auditor and a certified product examiner. He has handled the finances for the Scalp Level/Paint Borough Fire Company for the last five years. Before that he served as the support secretary for 12 years. So, he has been involved in the administration of the fire company for 17 years on and off during the different phases throughout his career.

Mr. Boyer said his challenge right now is the current level of municipal support the bank needs to lend to us. They want to feel comfortable we can afford \$165,000 in debt service every year for the next 10 years. The current level of support from all the municipalities with no change from what 2024 would bring us to \$125,000. The bank had no interest in lending to Windber Fire Company due to their debt of \$245,000 but were prepared to lend to the Scalp Level Fire Company and the merged fire company because Scalp Level ended with \$300,000 in cash reserves.

Without an additional level of financing from the municipalities and the ability to refinance the debts going through with the merger and draining the resources of Scalp Level and Paint Borough Fire Company just bankrupts both companies within a year.

Mr. Moore asked what guarantees they get if we give them more money, it is going to be handled correctly. Mr. Boyer said the president, secretary and treasurer and half the board of Northern Regional Fire Department all came from the Scalp Level/Paint Borough Fire Department.

Mr. Boyer said Scalp Fire Company has stepped up to the table to rescue Windber Fire Department but at the same time even though they are prepared to take the \$300,000 that they saved and put it towards rescuing the fire department and preparing it for the future we are not prepared to be the only ones doing that.

Mr. Boyer said their donators for years have supported them and it is not fair to them to take all the burden of rescuing the Windber Fire Company that would fall on the Scalp/Paint Borough Fire Company. We need the support of all the municipalities.

Mr. Moore asked him if they were hesitant in joining with Windber. Mr. Boyer said his perspective is and he has been with the fire department for 45 years, the way they have operated is no longer sustainable. The challenge they face and with most volunteer fire departments is every time a resident dies, we permanently lose a donor. Our fund drives last year in Scalp Level, 19% of the people we sent letters to send us a donation. Windber Borough kicked off their fund drive in September, 11% of the \$4,300 people they mailed letters to responded. Scalp kicked off the 2025 fund drive in January as of today 15% of those we sent too sent us money. The community does not support us.

Mr. Washko told the council that everything they have gone through, they have not found any theft or fraud, it is just bad management. Mr. Rummel asked how far back they have been losing money. Mr. Washko said it has been for a while. How they saw it was in how EMS was run. They would have people working part-time here and they would have trouble paying them for part-time work. EMS was subsidizing the fire company and that was hurting EMS. Mr. Rummel asked if the building was paid off now. Mr. Boyer said no, three of the four loans outstanding are mortgages on the building. The rescue engine has about three more years of payments on it. Mr. Boyer said you need financial people to do financing.

Mr. Boyer said in getting back to the original question why the merger, again the funding sources they relied on in the past, do not work anymore. Becoming a larger entity and positioning ourselves for the future and getting support from the municipalities is needed to move forward. He said they choose the three mills, the state says a municipality can pass a fire tax of three mills. He is not advocating for that but he also said from day one if a

municipality wants to do that he will go stand on the stage at the Arcadia and take the slings and arrows from the crowd who complain about their taxes going up. The reality is the people who vote are among the 20% who support us now. It is simply going to those people and telling them their generosity is subsidizing the person in front, behind and beside you that does not think it is important to financially support the fire department.

Mr. Boyer said the levels on the Northern Regional Fire Dept. Budget is not quite three mills for everybody, but it positions us there. It lets us service the debt and lets us as that debt drops off, to be able to buy replacement apparatus on a regular basis. Between the two of us our newest vehicle is 5/37 years old. We have a 2017 rescue, a 2013 ladder truck, a 2007 engine, and a 1994 engine. Before our accident with our ladder truck, we couldn't find tires for it anymore. Not because they didn't have money but because you can't buy tubeless tires anymore.

Mr. Moore asked if the three mills was the state mandate maximum right? Mr. Boyer said yes. Mr. Moore said not all the municipalities are at the maximum. Mr. Boyer said out of all the municipalities they serve only one Scalp Level Borough has a designated fire tax. Last year Windber Borough for Windber Fire Company was \$66,000, Ogle Township was \$4,500 and that is reportedly three mills of taxes in Ogle Township. Paint Borough historically has been at \$8,000, which is one mill and again the same verbal commitment we asked from everyone else was to go to two and a half mills with the object to eventually to get to three. Paint Township gave the two companies combined about \$7,000 a year. We had to submit invoices to them for payment. Their commitment now is to go from \$7,000 to \$44,000.

Mr. Rummel asked Mr. Boyer if what he is asking for, is a letter saying we want to contribute an ex-amount of millage as a fire tax? Mr. Boyer replied or a dollar amount. We chose the three mills because that is what you can do if so inclined. Three mills as we crunched all the numbers would position us (1) to get out of the hole and (2) position us for the future. Recognizing that donor support is going to continue to decline.

Mr. Moore told Mr. Boyer they sound so sincere but what is to keep this from happening down the road. Mr. Boyer said the municipalities either individually or as a collective group go form a regional fire department and fund it entirely out of tax money. Mr. Moore said what if it goes bad again. Mr. Rummel said that's with anything but there is a good history with Scalp.

Mr. Rummel asked if it would help them to write a letter for the bank for you guys. Mr. Boyer said he understands it is past budget time. He asked them to do what they could in the next budget to get to three mills. Do an Ordinance for a fire tax. What he asks for 2025, is if we can get to two mills he can satisfy the bankers. He will have enough dedicated money.

Mr. Rummel thanked Mr. Boyer and Mr. Washko and said they will discuss it and look at our budget and see where we are.

Correspondence

1. Windber Municipal Authority Report for December 10, 2024.
2. Windber Area Authority Minutes of December 11, 2024.

Approval Bills

Mr. Moore asked about the invoice for Overhead doors. Mr. Allison said three electric garage door openers were replaced and reprogrammed. Mr. Moore asked about the donation to Somerset County H.S.? Mrs. Gates said that it is a donation to the Somerset County Humane Society and is paid out of the Dog Officer’s expenses. We do that every year because dogs we pick up go to the Somerset County Humane Society because we live in Somerset County. Mr. Moore asked about Technology Enterprises in the amount of \$1,680.00. Mr. Allison said that is for the annual updates to the computers in the police cruisers.

A motion was made by Mr. Klonicke and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve the bills for January 2025. Motion carried.

Approval Payroll

Mr. Moore asked how many public works employees we have. Mrs. Gates said four and two part-time plow guys. Mr. Moore said it shows seven. Mrs. Gates said Clyde Block III is not part of public works he is the maintenance person at the ballroom. Mr. Moore asked if the other ones were seasonal. Mr. Allison said yes, they are seasonal employees for plowing. Mr. Moore said do we have four people working. Mr. Allison said we have four trucks, but we do not have four people working at the same time. The part-timers are on standby for the weekends. That saves us money.

A motion was made by Mr. Bahorik and seconded by Mr. Klonicke to approve the payroll for January 24, and February 7, 2025. Motion carried.

Engineer’s Report

1. PENNVEST Sewer Project

- a. USG to complete CCTV in project areas, weather permitting
- b. Working on Act 537 Plan Update and Uniform Environmental Review
- c. Continue mapping project areas with new aerial imagery
- d. Schedule:
 - Winter 2024-2025: Survey & mapping
 - Spring 2025: Begin Preliminary Design
 - August 2026: PENNVEST Submission (Tentative)

24th Street Bridge Project

- a. Construction planned for 2025.

22nd Street Bridge Project

- a. Let date is February 12, 2026; Construction planned for 2026.

DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program

- a. Submitted Graham Avenue Sidewalk and Light Pole Replacement project.

2024 LSAS Grant Application

- a. Submitted 27th Street Stormwater Culvert Replacement Project.

Ballroom Report

Lauren Smalley, the Event Coordinator for the Grand Ballroom said in January they started the Johnstown Bridal Showcase advertisement. That went into the Johnstown Magazine Bridal addition. We also had a booth at the bridal show and met with a lot of potential clientele. Many were interested in our new wedding package for micro weddings for 50 guests or less. There is

an uptick in the wedding industry and more couples are looking for those venues. It is another way to bring in additional income.

Ms. Smalley said we also did a raffle contest at the Bridal Showcase offering 25% off a wedding package. Someone did win and she reached out to them and is awaiting their call.

Ms. Smalley said we are having a Jr. High Valentines Dance on February 15th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and she had started advertising for that back in December and January. It is a formal event and open to junior high students in Somerset and Cambria County. Last year we made a nice profit, and it was a huge success. We will have snacks and drinks for sale at the concession stand.

Marketing: Ms. Smalley said we started an on-air broadcast on WJAC at the beginning of January and purchased commercial space for the commercial that she produced. The commercial will air for eight months on WJAC-TV during the morning and afternoon news as well as in the evening during the Big Bang Theory or Entertainment Tonight. Lauren said she has been receiving positive feedback from the commercial and potential clientele have seen it and reached out to her about the Grand Ballroom.

Ms. Smalley said that she continues to run ads on the META platforms (Facebook and Instagram) with commercials and ads running for 30 days on META. The ad has currently reached 146,000 Facebook Accounts.

Ms. Smalley has had a business reach out to her for the preferred vendors list, so we are going over our options with that as well to help engaged couples that come in as a one stop shop. They will come in and we will have a list of vendor options for them.

Ms. Smalley said there is no community outreach for January since we are having a Jr. High Dance in February.

We had one showing this month for a wedding for 2026. We had three parties; one conference and Richland High School had their winter formal at the ballroom also. She had great reviews from everyone, and everything went perfect and they were pleased.

So far booking for 2025 we have six weddings, 19 parties, one conference, a high school dance, three Grand Ballroom hosted events and three Northern Regional Fire Department Events.

Right now, there are no construction issues with the building, and she is in the process of looking for chairs and a gazebo for outdoor weddings. Once the weather breaks, landscaping will begin for the outdoor wedding venue.

Mr. Rummel asked if the weddings that were booked were looking for outdoor wedding space. Ms. Smalley said some are and some are having traditional church weddings. If we offer it, then it would become a one stop shop and they would not have to go elsewhere.

Mr. Rummel asked Ms. Smalley if she would speak to the school about them holding their football banquet or any of the sports banquets in the ballroom. She replied yes. Ms. Smalley said they have Richland Boosters coming in now.

Mr. Jerley asked Ms. Smalley how many chairs she would need for the outside venue, and she said approximately 100. Mr. Jerley asked her to get him a cost and he would donate that. Ms. Smalley thanked him.

Mr. Bahorik asked what people's reasoning is for not renting for an outdoor wedding. Ms. Smalley said usually in the summer it is because of the constant hubbub in the park. People are apprehensive about having an outdoor wedding in the summer because of the activities and traffic during the summer. They worry about kids running through the ceremony. Mr. Allison asked if a screened fence between the ballroom and the pool would help. Ms. Smalley said a privacy fence would work if we could put it up and take it down for weddings.

Mr. Jerley asked if there was a nice gazebo up there. Mr. Allison said it is on the wish list. Mr. Jerley asked if he had any estimates. Mr. Allison said we have seen the prices from \$2,500 to as high as \$7,000 and nice ones up to \$12,000. Mr. Jerley asked Mr. Allison to get some estimates for him.

Cash Bal., Treasurer Report

Mr. Moore said he noticed the expenses are higher than the income. He said we are overspending in our first month. Mrs. Gates said we are not overspending, and it is like this the first few months of the year until the tax revenues come in. Mr. Moore said he figured that it was something like that. Attorney Green, a lot of municipalities have to apply for tax anticipation notes to cover the beginning of the year until the tax revenues come in. Mrs. Gates said yes, we are fortunate enough not to have to do that.

Council Liaisons

Rummel/ Library

Mr. Rummel said the library is closed today due to the ice.

Mr. LaMonaca said tomorrow is the Windber Municipal Authorities meeting and Dr. Ledney said the Water Authority meeting is Wednesday.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thomas said on Friday, February 17, 2025, he participated in a "Careers in the Classroom Program" at the Windber Elementary School. He presented a slide show and had a discussion on his role as Mayor of Windber Borough.

Mayor Thomas shared his appreciation to Chief Frear and the Windber Police Officers. They were able to make an arrest in the case of an elderly woman who was scammed of almost \$9,000. The person was arrested last Saturday and is awaiting court action. The department was also able to take into custody the person trying to enter homes around 26th Street and 27th Street late at night. Just another example of why the borough needs police protection. The safety of our citizens is the priority of government. Without that you would not have a town.

Chief Frear said the new cruiser was parked outside for the council to see with the new look and the colors match our patches perfectly. Chief Frear said they were able to replace eight of the chairs in the police station. They were hand-me-downs from Watson Insurance Company.

Chief Frear said he is going to Key 95 this week to do some press and send a message out to the elderly due to a rash of scams out there now. He stressed people to ask questions and call 911 and ask questions before doing anything.

Manager's Report

Public Works- Public Works responded to 5 PA 1 calls this month. They responded and cleared a sewer main on 17th St and Baumgarner. They put the rest of their effort into snow removal and vehicle maintenance and continued sewer location at the police building.

Police Building- We have completed some visual exploration of the sewer system at the police building. Two things learned at this point are that the pervious Car Quest part of the building will need a new lateral and the owner has been made aware. The existing lateral from our building is badly damaged and at some point, will need replaced. As long as it is functional he will be holding off hopefully till 2026.

Borough Building Basement- The basement rehab is in process and nearing completion. The weather did slow the process and the process of getting the Christmas decorations down and to their new storage area. The electrical work to the building was also completed with additional circuits added to the offices as needed.

27th St.- I have had contact with PA DCED in reference to the LSA Grant that we have applied for, for this project. He informed me the earliest the grants could be awarded for this project would be September of 2025. He and I discussed the requirements of the grant, the process and what is expected of the borough to be eligible to receive it. We will remain in touch throughout the process. I also want to make the council aware there was a theft of a road closed sign at this location and our cones were moved. Jersey Barriers are going in place Friday February 7th. The theft has been reported to the police.

22nd St./Seese Run Bridge Inspection- I'm in receipt of the periodic bridge inspection report. During the inspection process it was noted there were missing signs in which Public Works replaced. If anyone has questions about it, I can have it available. There have been no real changes since the last inspection.

2nd Street Bridge Project: I had meetings with representatives of PENNDOT and EADs group to discuss ROW's. The Borough Property at the end of 22nd St. with the approval of council will be donated/dedicated to the project. This will be a paved extension named/dedicated as the 22nd St. extension. It is currently in a design phase.

Solicitors' Report

There was nothing to report at this time.

Codes Report

There were no questions at this time.

Approval Advertise Ordinance

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to advertise Ordinance No. 2025-2 Authorizing Windber Fire Company No. 1, Scalp Level & Paint Borough Fire Department and Northern Regional Fire Department to seek reimbursement for services and recognizing them as the fire departments for Windber Borough. Six in favor and one opposed, Mr. Moore. Motion carried.

Misc.

Mr. Rummel asked the council to think about the fire department and what we want to contribute or donate to the fire department in the future or do we want to place a fire tax. The council discussed some options.

**Next
Meeting**

Next meeting date will be March 10, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. by Council President Richard Rummel.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates
Administrative Assistant