

Borough of Windber
Borough Council Meeting
Monday, February 9, 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: Brian Bahorik, Barry Jerley, Greg Klonicke, Pete LaMonaca, Ed Marcinko, and Rich Rummel. Herb Moore was absent. Mayor Mike Thomas, Manager Ronald Allison and Attorney Joseph Green were present.

Council convened to an executive session at 7:02 p.m. for a personnel matter.

Council reconvened from an executive session at 7:20 p.m.

Resignation Mr. Bahorik stated that he was resigning effective immediately and that he had a change in residency and so now he is not in the Borough. He told council good luck and left the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to accept the resignation of Brian Bahorik from Council. One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

Approval Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve the Minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting. One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

Visitors Chris Miller from Miller Martial Arts asked for permission to hold their annual block party on June 27, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. They are requesting that the 900 block of Graham Avenue be closed during this time period and will file the paperwork with PennDot. They are also requesting that 10th Street beside their business be closed.

Mr. Miller said they expanded it a little bit more this year. It is getting bigger and bigger and is good for the community. They are doing a mini battle of the bands this year and will obviously be raising more money for the cancer benefit and they will have food trucks.

Mr. Jerley asked if he had to have EMS on site. Manager Allison said if he has more than 300 people there. Mr. Miller said he believes they were under last year and they have people coming and going. The fire department is there anyway. Last year they sold the beer. They also have someone from the medical profession on their staff.

Mrs. Gates said he will be coordinating with Mr. Larson our EMC. Chief Frear said we also need more road closed signs than last year.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve permission for Chris Miller of Miller Martial Arts to hold their annual block party on June 27, 2026 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

**Dave
Kormanik**

Mr. Kormanik said he is not opposed to the ATV Ordinance but he had asked for some reasonable restrictions concerning Park Avenue from 9th Street up and at the end of 4th Avenue to limit traffic and ATVs around the cemetery due to services and so forth. He said a petition was presented to council and signed off by 90% of all the residents on Park Avenue from 9th Street up. They are calling him asking why it has been posted at the top of the street instead of the bottom of the street which is where we left it last meeting understanding that it would be taken care of.

Mr. Kormanik said they missed the December and January meeting so they are looking for some clarification as to why and assurance from borough council, they left with the impression council was going to handle this. The signs went up and nothing has happened. Can you move the sign down to the bottom and put one up at 4th Street, it is that simple.

Manager Allison asked Attorney Green if it would have to be in the ordinance because in the ordinance, we opened up all borough roads. Do we have to change the ordinance to take that out. Mr. Rummel said the end of Park is Richland not ours. Mr. Kormanik said if you want to let that sign there and have some kind of requirement that it has to be there fine, but there should be no reason the borough cannot put additional signs up for public safety or whatever reason. He is sure the ordinance has something in it that allows us to do that.

Manager Allison said the placement of the signs is determined by DCNR, we did not determine that. We submit our ordinance to DCNR, he reviews our ordinance with our map and he decides where the signs go. Mr. Kormanik said then it was submitted improperly. Manager Allison said that is why he is asking Attorney Green do we need to make amend the ordinance to change the ordinance. Mr. Allison said so where we have to close it off, he is sure DCNR wouldn't mind but we are going to have to reflect it somewhere to do that.

Mr. Rummel said a "No ATV" sign at the bottom. Mr. Kormanik said it is real all the neighbors are concerned and call him, just because of our graphic location they are coming up the street and that is where they are going to go. So, if people want to ride, they are going to come right up that way. It's been that way in the past and that is the history of it. All the residents know it and want to see council take care of it.

Manager Allison said you could turn it off at the bottom of Park Avenue. Before you cross 160 or 9th Street you could put it right there, nobody goes up Park Avenue. Mr. Rummel said if they come in the other way that is Richland. Mr. Kormanik said they will deal with Richland if they can get council to get the road posted properly so the cemetery and their street is not a four-way, then they can go to Richland Township and say hey Windber has posted this accordingly we would like to see if you guys will do it.

A motion was made by Mr. Rummel for “No ATV” signs be placed at the bottom of Park Avenue joining 9th Street. We have a petition for it. Motion seconded by Mr. LaMonaca. Remarks: Manager Allison said basically we are shutting down Park Avenue area. Mr. Kormanik asked if they were going to do anything with the 4th Street end and can they add that to it. Mr. LaMonaca said we did promise them that. Mr. Rummel said 4th Street going into the cemeteries. Mr. LaMonaca said we will take care of it. One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

Attorney Green asked what if you have a resident with a side by side in that area. Mr. Kormanik said if that resident quietly putters along and doesn’t bother anyone, no one will say a word. Now if that resident gets out his racing ATV and comes zipping up the street all hell is going to break loose and people will be upset. Manager Allison said he could just leave and cross 160 and be out of there. They can cross the state road. Mr. Kormanik said he doesn’t see this as a problem as long as they leave quietly.

Todd Koehler Mr. Koehler welcomed the new council members and said he was just wondering what the signage for the ATVs was about that is on the agenda. Manager Allison said the only thing we’re going to discuss is that we are not open yet because the signs are not all up yet. We are asking for patience because we do not have 28 sign covers to cover them all up. We are also waiting for the ground to soften up so we can pound them in. Mr. Koehler said he understands that. Manager Allison said the real driving point is we are not open for business yet.

Correspondence

1. Windber Area Authority Minutes of December 10, 2025.
2. PSAB Update.
3. Windber Municipal Authority meeting minutes of December 9, 2025.
4. Letter from the Norther Regional Fire Department inviting Council to an informational meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Attached is the 2025 consolidated financial statement and 2026 budget.

Mayor Thomas, Mr. Rummel, Manager Allison and Mr. Jerley said they would like to attend. Manager Allison said in case he is not there, on their budget, they are anticipating \$132,000 from us and it should actually be \$129,288 which is what our budget shows.

Approval Bills A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve the bills for January 2026. One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

Approval Payroll A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve payroll for January 23 and February 6, 2026. One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

Engineer’s Report **Stormwater – MS4 (PAG136340)**
a. Review of Stormwater Management Program at March 9, 2026 Meeting.

PENNVEST Sewer Project

- a. Current tasks:
 - i. Act 537 Plan Update has been submitted to DEP
 - ii. Preliminary Design & Permit Application Preparation
 1. Additional work needed for 27th Street & 13th Street Stormwater Projects.
 - iii. Rules and Regulations

Mr. Ferrante said at the last workshop it seems like it is very important to try and address the issue of where you think you're at as far as do you want us to move forward with designing and permitting, for 13th and Graham Avenue like a 36" replacement across the tracks or do we study the whole basin and size it to 48" or whatever it ends up being for the whole replacement.

Mr. Ferrante said we have talked about it enough and it effects a lot of the businesses and the traffic going through the middle of town. There are some alternatives for the sewer project that are pretty much stand alone primarily 9th and 10th Street where you have from the interceptor down by the levee up to and just shy of Graham Avenue like 1,100 feet or so. So, if you are looking to fix that and not increase the project and attack the stormwater issue there are some parts and pieces of the sewer that we can postpone or see what the bids come in at and evaluate that.

Mrs. Gates asked if it was correct that 13th Street and 27th Street are what will delay the application if they need to be included. Mr. Ferrante said yes, because the design will need permitting. Mrs. Gates asked if that will take an extra three to six months longer. Mr. Ferrante said yes, due to the railroad and he has already spent time trying to get a contact to obtain an evaluation map so they can submit a permit based on their information.

Mrs. Gates asked if there would be grant and loan funding available through PennVest? Mr. Sewalk said he spoke to them and we still have the same funding package through PennVest. Mrs. Gates asked if we have the opportunity to get grant money then also. He said yes. Mrs. Gates said because 13th Street is never going to go away, it is always going to be there and it is always going to be a problem because she knows water runs into those businesses and we have seen it rushing down Graham Avenue.

Mrs. Gates said 27th Street is a huge concern because it is falling in. It is a huge sinkhole. We need to do something there quickly. Her concern is waiting six more months on 27th Street because it is bad. Manager Allison said if we have the funding from the county, can we do that in phases or does that screw up the way we go. Mr. Sewalk said if we submit to PennVest in January we would probably be in construction in June. Manager Allison said he doesn't know if we want to wait that long up there. That property is already showing signs of problems with the garage.

Manager Allison asked if there was anyway to do something with the funds from the county and then move forward. Can we do two phases. Can we take the CDBG Funds and get us past what is affecting the garage and property on the lower end. Mr. Ferrante said he doesn't believe \$215,000 is not going to get you far.

Mr. Ferrante said whenever they were out there last it is settling from the head wall across the alley, across 27th Street, now instead of just being at the corner of the garage its going up 27th Street. The sidewalk there has a hole through it, which is the storm structure itself and you can see straight down to the bottom of the structure.

Mrs. Gates asked how we get through a year without that falling in. Mr. Ferrante said the only other option he can see is if the borough came up with the money and did that as a stand-alone project. Mrs. Gates asked what the cost was on that? Mr. Ferrante said close to \$400,000. Mrs. Gates said we would have to come up with \$170,000 from our sewer fund.

Mr. Ferrante asked Mr. Sewalk of they did that this year is there anyway to lump that in with the project. Mr. Sewalk said no.

Mrs. Gates said we are taking money from sewer to pay the interest on the line of credit for the engineering for the PennVest Project until we are reimbursed from the PennVest loan then it pays it off. We also borrowed \$120,000 out of that until the end of March until taxes start coming in and then that gets paid back.

Manager Allison said we have to make some decisions at the next meeting. Mrs. Gates asked Mr. Ferrante what his thoughts were on 27th Street. Mr. Ferrante said if you cannot come up with difference between the \$215,000 and the \$385,000 this year, then keep the road closed so it's safe and lump it in with the project. Pushing back the PennVest submission we will still have construction in June 2026.

Manager Allison said the real question is do you think we are ok up there. Mr. Ferrante said there has been no analysis of what exactly is happening up there. Mr. Rummel asked if we can open it up for bids. Mr. Sewalk said if you submit it today you may not get the permit for three to six months. He said if you set a goal right now you can probably get a design and permits together in two months to get it done. Till you submit and get the permit back it could be October.

Mrs. Gates asked Mr. Ferrante if he is asking for a definitive answer by next month of which way Council wants to proceed or do you need an answer right now for both 13th and 27th Street. Mr. Ferrante said the sooner we get an answer the sooner we can start working on it.

Attorney Green asked what the problem is. Manager Allison said if you go up Graham Avenue and make a right hand turn onto 27th Street we have had it closed for

almost a year now. We closed it off at the bottom because everything in there is undermined from the stream coming down across Graham Avenue. Its all under ground until it gets to the other side of 27th Street to the property owner there where it breaks out to the field. It is a mess. The borough repaired it several years ago. They tried to pour a wall and it probably wasn't done 100% correct, it just bought a little time. It's getting worse by the minute.

Attorney Green asked if this was natural stream erosion? Manager Allison said yes. Mr. Ferrante said there is an old stone structure that was repaired about 20 years ago. The up-street side of repairs was a 48-inch pipe put in at the head wall at the top end and then it goes through several properties crosses Graham Avenue and then once you get across Graham Avenue and go down 27th Street and its underneath. As your looking down 27th Street on the right-hand side there is a sidewalk. That sidewalk appears to be the top structure, or roof structure of a box culvert. It is an essential stone box culvert with a concrete cap. Mr. Sewalk said a make shift box collar. Mr. Ferrante said at the end of that is a piece of corrugated metal that has corroded through at the end of it and just crosses the alley and the rest seems to be the original structure with a cap on it.

Mr. Ferrante said it started with above the metal corrugated pipe there was in the corner of the gentlemen's garage a sink hole that he believed they had repaired multiple times not knowing what the problem was. It got to the point where it was a recurring issue and it didn't solve the issue. Someone reached out and it was one of the stone rails caving in further up above closer to the house. They formed it and poured it and you can see cracks in that structure and the bottom of the wall is removed. Now somewhere between where they did the repair and the sink hole is where there is a hole straight through the concrete sidewalk. You can see along the curb of that guy's property. A change where it is dark, where it was exposed to the weather, and where there is a about an inch exposed of lighter concrete indication that it has started to settle there.

Mr. Ferrante said he would say the whole thing from somewhere in the ball park of edge of Graham Avenue to the headwall of the other side of the alley is compromised. How bad he does not know because he has not crawled inside it. It seems to be settling on both ends.

Attorney Green asked if this was storm water? Mr. Ferrante said yes. Manager Allison said our hope was to use the CDBG money coupled with grant money to do that project but we did not get the grant. Right now, we have \$215,000. If we can stretch it out to the project then we can get it done there. The fear is what if something happens between now and then. Mr. Sewalk said that PennVest does not have a problem with us doing that, it takes time.

Attorney Green asked how big the cement box. Mr. Ferrante said 48" on the top and bottom. Manager Allison said big enough that they were walking in there and forming

the wall. Attorney Green said does it go 20 feet or 50 feet. Mr. Ferrante said long from Graham Avenue down to the head wall is about 170 feet. Attorney Green asked the engineers if it was their impression that is failing? Mr. Sewalk said yes, it is settling, it is collapsing. Manager Allison said it washes out and comes down and washes out and comes down. It is going to be which storm is going to take it out. Attorney Green said so if we put it on the sewer project it will delay it six months. Mr. Ferrante the biggest delay would be from 13th Street and the Army Corp, the railroad, and PennDot. We would have a decent amount of field work.

Attorney Green asked which one is our worst location? Manager Allison said probably 27th Street just because of time involved. Attorney Green asked if that would delay the project if we just added 27th Street to it. Mr. Ferrante said by like three months. The difference in submitting in July and submitting in October should not affect the construction. Now submitting in January, we push construction back a couple months. Even if you we started working on 27th Street now we are looking at the end of the year till we get the design and permits back.

No one knows what is going to happen but now you're looking at a matter of months to see if we can come up with the money to do it right now or lumping it in the project. Attorney Green asked if we have the money to do it. Mrs. Gates said she would have to review the finances; it is hard right now because we have the line of credit. Attorney Green asked if we have money in the Sewer Fund? Mrs. Gates said under \$400,000. Next month we will be putting \$120,000 back. Attorney Green believes there is absolute liability there. Do we have insurance to cover it he doubts it.

Manager Allison said he doesn't like waiting that long. Mr. Rummel asked how much it progressed from last year. Manager Allison said enough that you can see it. Someone asked if it can be inspected with cameras. Mr. Ferrante said his knowledge is someone actually went into the pipe and it is corrugated pipe and took photos of the walls where the concrete cracked.

Attorney Green asked if we need permitting for that? Mr. Sewalk said yes. Attorney Green asked what if we declare an emergency? Mr. Sewalk said he did not know they would call and ask.

- iv. Uniform Environmental Review
- b. Schedule:
 - i Q2 2026: Complete preliminary design & submit permits
 - ii. October2026/Jan. 2027: PENNVEST Submission (Tentative)

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

22nd Street Bridge Project

- a. Construction tentatively planned for 2026

2025 LSAS Grant Application

- a. Police Station Renovations: submitted November 24, 2025

Grant Funding Not Received for the Following Projects:

- a. 2025 PA DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program.
 - i. Graham Avenue Light Pole Replacement Project Phase 1
- b. 2024 LSAS Grant & 2025 PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program.
 - ii 27th Street Stormwater Culvert Replacement Project.

**Cash Bal/
Treas Rpt.** Mrs. Gates said next month you will see the revenue increase with the tax revenue coming in. Other than that, we are working on preparations for the annual audit.

Council Liaisons

**Rummel/
Library** Mr. Rummel said he had nothing new from the library. At the last meeting they put a new floor in and are open for business.

**Mayor's
Report** January 20th Mayor Thomas received word that he had been elected to the Board of Directors of the Mayor's Association of Pennsylvania. He was previously nominated for this position and formally elected in January.

January 14th Mayor Thomas completed a PSAB webinar – The Role of the Mayor.

Mayor Thomas completed a PSAB webinar on January 21st – Parliamentary Procedures.

Mayor Thomas commended public works for their handling of the snow during the recent heavy snow storms.

**Solicitor
Report** Attorney Green said the Noise Ordinance is done but he will have to change the dates on it and add the mayor for signature. Mrs. Gates said she already changed the date and will add the mayor's signature line.

Attorney Green asked if the alley behind Sheetz was a named alley. Council said no. Attorney Green said its easier if it is named but that is fine.

**Manager's
Report** **Public Works-** Handled 5 PA 1 Calls for the month. After the storm we had a local contractor from our snow removal list come and haul snow off the corners and JWF kindly allowed us to dump in their open lot this took 3 days. They handled equipment maintenance as needed and I did not receive any major complaints. The Department did an excellent job.

Windber Borough Backhoe – Manager Allison said they had a major break down on the backhoe. They lost the alternator and when they lost the alternator, they found out the radiator was not good. We are not sure but when the belt broke it may have taken out the radiator with it. The worst-case scenario is \$9,800. They were supposed to be working on it today but he was unsure how far they got. The salt is what wears on it.

NIMS Training Link-<https://training.fema.gov> for EMA requirements and certification. I'm asking again that all council members please complete this training and get the certificates turned into the Borough Office for filing. I cannot stress the importance of this enough. I encourage all new and existing council members to participate in the PSATS training offered and also get your certificates from this NIMS training

Windber FPP Debris Basin Restoration GP-11 Permit- Follow up meeting being scheduled to plan the sedimentation pile removal from the flood plain. The property owner adjacent to the project is allowing the soil to be moved onto the property out of the flood plain. Rose Bud Mining will complete the work. This work will be completed prior to the end of June when the permit expires.

Ballroom Committee- Manager Allison would like to see the formation of a Ballroom Committee. This to involve council on decisions on its future.

Mrs. Gates reminded council that we are holding the Valentines Event on Saturday so if you are interested in tickets let her know.

Codes Report

There were no questions at this time.

2-hour Parking

Mr. Rummel said this was brought to his attention by the owner of the Windber Hotel. During heavy snow the tenant in the building next to the hotel left his vehicle out there for weeks. If there were signs there that would not have happened.

Mr. Rummel suggested signage for two-hour parking on 15th Street since the dollar general will not be there much longer anyway.

Mr. Jerley asked if it would include both sides? Mr. Rummel said yes. Mrs. Gates asked if that has to be done by ordinance or can it be an amendment. Attorney Green said it can be done by amendment. Mr. Rummel said he thought there was two-hour parking above the tracks? Chief Frear said yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Rummel and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to place “two-hour” parking signs on 15th Street between Somerset Avenue and Graham Avenue. Attorney Green asked Manager Allison to send him the current parking ordinance. One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

Veteran's Banners

Mr. Rummel said the Son's of the American Legion are in the process of getting banners made for the veterans to honor them. They want to just verify and make sure the borough is

going to put them up. Mr. Rummel told them yes. Mr. Jerley asked who is going to physically put them up. Manager Allison said Barclay Electric. Mr. Rummel said Dan Hiteshew's banners will be on the bottom and the Veteran's will be up above his.

Noise Ordinance A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve to advertise Ordinance Number 2026-1 the Noise Ordinance. One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

One-way Alley Ordinance A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve to advertise Ordinance No. 2026-2 creating a partial one-way alley behind Sheetz. One absent, Mr. Moore Motion carried.

Resignation Off. Krisay A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to accept the resignation Officer Kent Krisay as a part-time officer. (effective 2/23/2026). One absent, Mr. Moore, motion carried.

Next Meeting The next borough council meeting will be March 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. A workshop regarding sewer rules and regulations will take place at 6:00 p.m. on March 9, 2026.

Adjourn Meeting adjourned by Council President Barry Jerley at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates,
Administrative Assistant