

**BOROUGH OF WINDBER**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
**Monday, June 9, 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, Dr. Doug Ledney, Herb Moore, Joe Pallo, and Rich Rummel. Pete LaMonaca was absent. Attorney Joseph Green was absent. Manager Ron Allison and Mayor Michael Thomas were present.

**Approval  
Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Dr. Ledney to approve the minutes of May 12, 2025. One absent, Mr. LaMonaca. Motion carried.

**Visitors**

David Maddy asked if there is anything that be done with the people with all the dogs at 1911 Cambria Avenue. The Pitbull comes into his yard all the time. They ran up one evening and grabbed a hold of his friends Yorkie and rolled it.

Mr. Maddy said he sent Frank Meyers a message on Facebook. Frank said he has been to that address numerous times. They have two Pitbulls and 17 puppies and when they let those dogs out, they bark and bark and bark and it is ridiculous. They just open the front door for the mother and father and they are running all over town. It is all over Facebook and everyone has been complaining about it. On "All Things Windber" it was said the dog tried to bite a kid at the bottom of Somerset and 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

**David  
Maddy**

Mr. Maddy said he likes dogs but these dogs are not on a leash and they are running up towards the high school.

Mr. Maddy said across the street is an 84-year-old lady who is said to have dementia and she has all these cats. There are so many cats right now that they are starting to spray on his building. Her garage door is open and she is feeding these cats left and right and it is like a pow wow when you come around the corner there is 10 cats.

Mr. Rummel understood what Mr. Maddy was talking about. He said he would contact Mr. Meyers. He asked Chief Frear if they should do a police report first or just call Mr. Meyers. Chief Frear said he will also contact the Humane Society Officer also, but he has not received any calls regarding this. Mr. Maddy said he did not call the police instead he sent a message to Frank Meyers. Chief Frear told him to please contact the police when there is an issue.

Mr. Maddy said the other issue is with the pipe and he asked if he can get something on paper saying there is no issues before he does anymore work. Manager Allison asked him what pipe he was referring to because at their last meeting he had to apply for the proper permitting. Mr. Maddy said there are no permits.

Mr. Ferrante from EADS said Mr. Maddy, installed a 12“ pipe from the catch basin up the alley and he wants extend the pipe further onto the neighboring property. Manager Allison asked if we were requesting anymore information from Mr. Maddy on that. Mr. Ferrante said he does not believe so. Manager Allison asked Mr. Maddy if he was planning on expanding out further from that or just completing what he has already started. Mr. Maddy, said he was going to put a French drain there so the water would go down the French drain into the culvert to go to the creek, so there will not be any stagnant water.

Mr. Ferrante said his only concern would be the catch basin on the upper side of Mr. Maddy’s house, extending that pipe. The more you do the more water you’re inducing to the public system and there is no evaluation on how much. There is a lot of water that comes down from the mine to where these French drains would be when it rains. He doesn’t see an issue with putting one above the alley way but the other one should be discussed. Manager Allison told Mr. Maddy to call him on Wednesday to further discuss.

**Barb  
Shark**

Mrs. Shark asked council if they could have the pickleball court surface cleaned. There is a residue on the court. Manager Allison had the tree removed in the back corner and they have been putting up the screens themselves. The coal dust and residue are making it difficult to play. Manager Allison said he would look into having it pressure washed.

Mrs. Shark asked if the light poles on the side of the court belonged to the borough or if it was the property previously owned by Doctor Bell? One of the lights is lit and the other is not and it is very dark at night she said. Manager Allison will take a look at them and see what we can do. Mrs. Shark thanked him.

**Ed  
Marcinko**

Mr. Marcinko said last month it was mentioned that he was possibly harassing some of his neighbors as far as calling on them at times. He said as far as his neighbor at 709 he has looked into him and he knows enough about him that it will not be a closed deal but an ongoing continuing thing, depending on him.

Mr. Marcinko said this is the type of person Windber Borough has opened itself up to by allowing the Section 8 Housing and the relocation of the low-income housing from the Philadelphia lower income areas and projects.

Mr. Marcinko said he has been told that he needs to accept the situation and be neighborly in the hopes that the situation will resolve itself and go away. A back ground such as this individual has, he does not see that as a possibility.

In Mr. Marcinko’s opinion the situation is just beginning to develop because he has only been there for a very short time. He has had run ins not only with Mr. Marcinko but also several other neighbors. There have been multiple complaints. The situation is there and it is not going to go away. The current situation we have him is with the loud music late at night and during the day. He has no consideration for the neighborhood.

Mr. Marcinko said they got the dog issue taken care of after the second time he was cited a \$1,000 fine and if the dog is out on the third one, they are getting arrested and going to jail. He said for right now they got rid of the dog. Mr. Marcinko said he just wanted to update everyone about what is going on up there.

**Todd Koehler** Mr. Koehler did not have any remarks at this time.

## Correspondence

1. Somerset County Borough's Association Dinner Meeting.
2. Windber Area Authority Minutes of April 9, 2025.
3. Thank you, card, from Conemaugh Township EMS.

Mrs. Gates said we received a letter today for the "For the Fallen Run". She said if council is okay with it, she will tell them to proceed with their paperwork and we will officially approve them on July 14, 2025 meeting. Council agreed.

Mr. Rummel noted the thank you from the Conemaugh Township EMS for our donation. He also noted the Somerset County Borough's Association Dinner on July 26, 2025. Mr. Rummel and Mayor Thomas will be attending.

**Approval Bills** A motion was made by Mr. Baborik and seconded by Mr. Pallo to approve the bills for May 2025. One absent, Mr. LaMonaca, motion carried.

**Approval Payroll** A motion was made by Mr. Baborik and seconded by Mr. Pallo to approve the payroll for May 16, and 30, 2025. Question; Mr. Moore asked if the dates were correct? Mrs. Gates said yes, there was a typo on the agenda. One absent, Mr. LaMonaca, motion carried.

## **Engineer's Report** PENNVEST Sewer Project

- a. Act 537 Plan Update
  1. Final Draft Prepared, available for review
- b. Uniform Environmental Review
  1. Need to confirm alignment for environmental fieldwork and report.
- c. Field work has commenced.
- d. Schedule:
  1. Spring 2025: Complete Survey & Mapping; begin Preliminary Design
  2. July 2026 PennVest submission (Tentative)
- f. Rules and regulations

### 2025 PA DCED Small Water & Sewer Program

- a. 27th Street Stormwater Culvert Replacement Project submitted
  1. SCRA-Matching funds commitment of 20%

### 2025 PA DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program

- a. Graham Avenue Sidewalk and Light Pole Replacement Project
  1. Can request 30% match requirement be waived.
  2. Application due by July 31, 2025; \$100 Application fee.
  3. Resolution needs to apply.

### 2024 LSAS Grant Application

- a. Submitted 27<sup>th</sup> Street Stormwater Culvert Replacement Project.

24<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Project

- a. Construction planned for 2025.

22<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge Project

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

Council will be setting up a workshop to discuss the rules and regulations for pressure testing and sewer lateral connections and process.

Debris Basin

- a. Reached out to the conservation district to see what we can do with the debris from the basin. We are trying to work out a deal with the owner of the trolley yard to take it and use it as fill. This will be cost effective for the borough.

**Cash Bal.,/  
Treasurer  
Report**

Mr. Rummel had a question about the Dog Park Account on page 2. There was a large deposit. Mrs. Gates said the deposit was put into the wrong account you will see that come off next month.

**Council Liaison Reports**

**Ledney/  
WAA**

Dr. Ledney said the sewer project/plant is ongoing and is a multimillion-dollar renovation.

**Rummel/  
Library**

They had an electronics fundraiser that went really well and they are going to do it again next year. They are getting their parking lot resurfaced and lined. Mrs. Norwich is also back on The board.

**Mayor's  
Report**

Mayor Thomas said it was good to be back.

1. On Memorial Day, Mayor Thomas participated in the annual Veteran's Day Memorial Day parade and ceremony. He was honored to give the welcoming address.
2. Mayor Thomas and Council President Richard Rummel attended the annual PSAB Spring Conference June 1-4. Once again there were many informative sessions along with the opportunity to interact with other borough leaders, along with officials from PSAB.
3. Mayor Thomas was honored to be asked to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania State Mayor's Association.

Mr. Rummel said at the PSAB Conference Mayor Thomas and he broke off into different sessions. He said he went to the boroughs between 1,000 and 4,000 so we could pow wow about good things and bad things and how are they are dealing with problems.

It is nice to see that we are not as bad as he thought we may be. We are pretty good compared to other people's problems. There are a lot of boroughs trying to get police officers now and start a police force. It was nice to say and raise his hand that we already have one and they asked how did you get it going. Luckily, we were already established when he got on council.

Mr. Rummel said there are boroughs out there trying to start a police force and he feels very fortunate that we already have ours. It's hard; the funding, the building, the personnel and cars cost a lot of money to start.

Mr. Rummel said the fire departments were another issue. He attended that meeting and they had all the state fire commissioners there and Anson was part of that and it was nice to see him up there. There were nine of them there answering questions. A lot of the questions were in regards to funding and grants.

Mr. Rummel said he did not know this but they cannot just go to the governor and ask him for money. They work for the governor. He knew they worked for the governor but he did not know they could not just knock on his door and say we need this or that. They can not lobby for money. They can't actually politic for more money. All the fire commissioners kept saying was work with your borough's and apply for grants.

Mayor Thomas said they did a resolution to raise the number for civil service from three to ten. These are resolutions that our lobbyist work for.

Mr. Rummel said he talked about the land bank last year but now it is at the state level. The land banks currently have to be at a population of 10,000 or more. Now they are trying to waive the population requirement and open it to everyone.

A land bank is if there is a dilapidated building and we have a land bank established, we can go to the county tax sale and we have first dibs on it.

Also, Mr. Rummel said he didn't know this, but it makes sense now is when he goes to the tax office and looks for delinquent properties and tax sales all of a sudden it is on there, and then when he is waiting for it to go to sale and it is gone. Apparently, there is a loop hole for LLC's. They can go and petition and get a property basically before a land bank can get to it. So, they are trying to take out that loop hole the LLC's found.

Hopefully they are successful with that and the LLC's that we have a problem with here. He doesn't know the specifics of it but they are trying to take it off the books. A lot of boroughs are in the same boat as us and want a land bank.

Mr. Moore asked if people who rent in the borough pay any taxes. Manager Allison said no, only per capita tax. Mr. Moore said we have to find these people then to pay the per capita tax.

## **Manager's Report**

**Public Works-** Comment on the sweeper from last month's meeting. I want to remind council we use the sweeper for "credits" towards our MS4 Permit. The crew completed 14 PA 1 calls, vehicle maintenance and clean up, Borough grass cutting has resumed and on, going pothole patching. Borough Crew is assisting in reporting high grass properties while on the road. Will be replacing catch basins and pipe at 26<sup>th</sup> and Cambria in the near future.

**Ballroom-** I have had several meetings with the Executive Director of the Ballroom and restructuring is well under way. She will be reporting next month. Prices are being evaluated and made competitive. Stay tuned.

**Christmas 2025-** we had a progress and planning meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Planning is going well and the event will be focused from December 6<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. You will see reporting on this from the Executive Director of the Ballroom in the coming months.

**Fire Department-** Mr. Rummel and I met with the merged fire departments and the discussion topics were the Ladder Truck being offered for sale and the concerns I had with number one, owning it and the necessity to sell it, and number two, do we need it. I was told by Mr. Statler that it is not a necessary piece of equipment at this time. We have enough local support from other companies should the need arise. The Fire Department takes ownership of that viewpoint. The sell of the unit will be used to financially restructure the department to be able to move forward.

Chuck Boyer remarked that it is absolutely necessary for the Borough and Paint Township to commit to three mills a year for the next five years to continue which is on the agenda tonight for next year. Representatives of Paint Township are aware of the critical situation. If the request is not met then contracting may become a reality. The tanker truck is about 60 days out on delivery and a loan is needed for that. I will be meeting with Mr. Boyer and bank representatives to assist in that.

Mr. Pallo asked what it meant when it was said if the request was not met then contracting may be become a reality. Manager Allison said if we do not commit to the three mills the fire department will offer a contract and we can either sign that and pay that or look for another fire department.

Mr. Rummel asked if council read the review from DEP regarding Mine 35. DEP has received a proposal from Ridge Energy to enter into a government financed construction contract to remove incidental and necessary coal from and to reclaim an abandoned land.

Mr. Rummel said this has been happening more frequently in the area. Apparently, there is coal in there and there is a company that wants to do that and the term of the contract is two years. It is in the early stages.

**Solicitor's Report** Solicitor was absent, no report at this time.

**Codes Report** There was no report at this time.

**Ballroom Report** Mr. Rummel said Alexis is very enthusiastic and it looks good, time will tell. Mr. Bahorik said she constantly has information on Facebook about events which is good.

**Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance** Manager Allison said he wanted everyone to have a copy of the current ordinance that we will be discussing in the near future. He doesn't feel the ordinance holds water. It makes it less strict than the state code.

Before we tow any vehicles, he wants the solicitor to give us an answer. The vehicles on the road have been on the road a very long time. Some they could be considered safety hazards. If we are going to look at changing this ordinance at all he would like to do that in the upcoming months.

**Misc.**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore for approval, to permit putting a Windber Borough Real Estate Tax increase option on the November 2025 election ballot and have the people vote and make the decision to increase taxes and not Windber Borough Council. This would be effective today June 9, 2025 to January 1, 2029 for a period of three and a half years.

Mr. Moore said that he has documented reasons for this here. He is not just making this up. Two years ago, we were 87% over budget and taxes were raised three mills. Last year we spent approximately \$70,000 or more on budget and taxes were raised 2 mills but actually 1.7 brought down. An additional two mills, \$100,000 was transferred from the General Fund to meet the budget. Taxes were raised three out of the last five years and the borough wants a three-mill commitment for the fire company for the next five years. We need to learn to live within our means because our money management today is obviously inadequate. Motion seconded by Mr. Klonicke.

Mr. Klonicke said he has a request also, Mr. LaMonaca asked that we table item number c, approving an assistant event coordinator so he can be here for that. He has a question on it.

Mr. Rummel said back to Mr. Moore's motion, Mrs. Gates said she has a remark. She said what Mr. Moore explained is not true and it is hard to pass something that is not true. Mr. Moore said he can document it he has it at home. Dr. Ledney said he would like to see Mr. Moore's documentation before a vote is taken. Mr. Moore said he can do that but there is a motion on the floor. Dr. Ledney said you can always table that.

Mr. Rummel said keep in mind that what the fire department is asking for, we already give them close to two mills as it is. If we go into the budget without raising taxes it would be very difficult. We are not raising three mills more than we already have, just making up the difference.

Manager Allison said it is not the borough, us, or council asking for it, your fire department came here and said we need to progress so one thing you need to consider before you make these votes is that they may be coming at you with a contract that if you do not pay them, they can walk out the door. They have had meetings showing us what it is going to take to run that fire department. They are in consultation with banks and financial people to keep that department running. If you do not give them what they need to survive they are not going to be here. It is the borough's obligation to make sure the residents have fire protection.

Mr. Rummel said there has been talk too, that they are merging but the merger is not complete. They can still pull out of the merger. If Scalp does, Windber is definitely done and then we have to look for a fire department.

Mr. Moore asked what happened to the volunteer fire company? Mr. Moore said what happened they used to always raise money and we did not have to give them any. Mrs. Gates said there is a lack of volunteers. Mayor Thomas said plus the equipment they need now a days, the federal standards have skyrocketed. Mr. Moore said there are grants for a lot of that. Mayor Thomas said there is a huge competition for the grants out there. Every fire department is applying for the same grants. Manager Allison said they only have one paid person right now through a grant the rest are volunteers. Mr. Moore asked about the secretary? Manager Allison said he did not know you would have to ask them.

Mr. Maddy said you have to remember that this is not all about fires. How many vehicle accidents are there. With him being home now he never realized how often those whistles go off and those firemen run their butts off every day. He would have never thought because he used to be working all the time but they are running all day long and without them we are screwed.

Dr. Ledney said you do think about the millage but also without a fire department your homeowner's insurance will go up. Mr. Bahorik said your cutting your nose off to spite your face. Dr. Ledney agreed.

Roll call vote: Mr. Moore, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. Bahorik, no; Mr. LaMonaca, absent; Dr. Ledney, no; Mr. Pallo, no; and Mr. Rummel, no. Motion failed.

**Dedicate  
Millage to  
Fire Dept.**

A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to dedicate three mills of tax in the 2026 budget to Northern Regional Fire Department. Roll call vote; Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Bahorik, yes; Mr. Konicke, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, absent; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Moore, no; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Approval  
Officer**

A motion was made by Dr. Ledney and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve Jeff Keyser as a part-time police officer for Windber Borough Police Department. Roll call vote: Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Bahorik, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, absent; Mr. Moore, no; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Article of  
Agreement  
Berwind**

Manager Allison said what happened over the years is our borough shed sits on a narrow piece of property and the surrounding parts is owned by Berwind. We have been using part of their property and have a few structures sitting on it. He spoke to Berwind and they were fine with it and approved a lease agreement. It is \$500 a year with a small increase annually.

Mr. Klonicke asked if they are going to maintain that property. Manager Allison said no, they are not going to maintain the area, they are leasing the area to us to keep our sheds on. Mr. Moore asked if we had a lease up until now. Manager Allison said no, it was brought to his attention so he acted on it.

Mr. Moore said in the past Wilmore Coal Company gave a lot to the community, did anyone approach them and ask them. Manager Allison said he asked them what they could do for us and that was the offer they made. They told him that there is a hold on selling property right now or any agreements. Mr. Moore said maybe eventually we can buy it. Mr. Rummel said maybe down the road.

A motion was made by Mr. Bahorik and seconded by Mr. Pallo to approve the Article of Agreement (Lease) of Property at 21<sup>st</sup> Street shed from Wilmore Coal Company in the amount of \$500 annually. Roll call vote: Mr. Bahorik, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, absent; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Moore, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Dr. Ledney and seconded by Mr. Moore to convene to an executive session at 7:58 p.m. for personnel issues. One absent, Mr. LaMonaca, motion carried.

Mr. Koehler asked what the status was on the Dollar Store. Mayor Thomas said he spoke with the developer and there are still a few odds and ends to wrap up with the Redevelopment Authority. They are planning on breaking ground by the beginning of fall.

Council reconvened from an executive session by Council President, Richard Rummel at 8:19 p.m.

**Event  
Assistant**

A motion was made by Mr. Klonicke and seconded by Mr. Moore to table the motion to hire a part-time assistant event coordinator (Montana Stopko) until Mr. LaMonaca can be present. Roll call vote: Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. Moore, yes; Mr. Bahorik, no; Mr. LaMonaca, absent; Dr. Ledney, no; Mr. Pallo, no; and Mr. Rummel, no. Motion fails.

A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve to hire Montana Stopko as a part-time assistant event coordinator for the ballroom. Roll call vote: Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Bahorik, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, absent; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Moore, no; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Next  
Meeting**

Next council meeting will be July 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by Council President, Richard Rummel at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates  
Administrative Assistant