

**BOROUGH OF WINDBER**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 24, 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, Herb Moore, Joe Pallo and Rich Rummel. Dr. Ledney was absent. Attorney Joseph Green was absent. Manager Ronald Allison and Mayor Michael Thomas were present.

**Tentative  
Approval  
General  
Fund**

Mr. Moore said on the next to last page under miscellaneous expenses, the total under the column January to November 2025 the total is \$1,217,441.22. It should be \$46,643.12. Mrs. Gates said she will fix that before she puts it out for public view. Mr. Moore said the total at the bottom page would then be \$3,054,294.84. Mr. Moore asked how that would effect our books? Mrs. Gates said it doesn't this budget is on excel.

Mr. Moore asked what is included under extraordinary expenses? Mrs. Gates said all kinds of things we do not have a line item for, like the special meeting we had, where we had to pay for the stenographer and accountants. She said she will go back to her office and print off the line item for him. Mr. Moore said he thought it was used for the ballroom because he knew we would need more than the \$46,000 that was used for the ballroom. Mrs. Gates said no the ballroom has their own line item. Mr. Moore said if you add the two together it would all come out.

Mr. Allison asked if the legal expenses for our lawsuit is in that line item. Mrs. Gates said hold on she will go print it off.

Mrs. Gates said there were several items one being the legal settlement came out of there. Mr. Moore said wouldn't that be legal fees. Mr. Allison said no it is part of the settlement. There was no other line item to take it from.

Mr. Moore asked where we are getting the extra money from the ballroom then above the \$46,000. She asked him if he was talking about next year? Mr. Moore said no, we still have two more months this year. Mrs. Gates asked Mr. Moore if he remembered our discussion when we had our first budget session to discuss the three budgets in the beginning? Mr. Moore said he did not remember that.

Mr. Moore said he noticed that there is a tendency for the general fund the last three years to increase gradually and in the amount of taxes. The general fund went from 2025 to \$81,056.93 and in 2024 it was 99,776.41 and in 2025 he had a hard time finding it because it changed from ordinary income to \$126,148.51. For 2026 the number quoted was sixty some

thousand and that was only for the general fund we were not including the ballroom in that and also a carryover. The amounts taken out of general fund are increasing and getting larger. We went from 1.92% up to 3%, and taxes we were at 2 now we are at 1.38 and they are going down and we are making up the difference by taking more out of our general fund.

Mrs. Gates said she didn't know what Mr. Moore is talking about. Mr. Moore said he will show her. Mr. Allison said show us all. Mrs. Gates said all your saying is numbers but not where they are coming from.

Mr. Moore proceeded to pass out papers to council with his budget comparisons. From 2023-2025. He said if you look on the back you will see that we increased taxes four times in the last six years. Mrs. Gates said we talked about this when the accountants were here. Mr. Moore said on this paper he just gave everyone you will see the contributions from the general fund and the mills it represents and the taxes it represents. At the right you will see what was carried over in 2023. Mrs. Gates asked Mr. Moore what contributions he was talking about. Contributions from the general fund for what? Mr. Moore said for us to operate for the year. Mrs. Gates asked Mr. Moore where we are getting contributions at. Mr. Moore said from the general fund, he will show them.

Mr. Moore passed out more papers to council. He said the first sheet will summarize the three sheets he is giving out for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025. He said we don't know yet if we are carrying anything over for 2026 because we have two months to go. Mr. Allison and Mrs. Gates both said we are not carrying anything over for 2026. Mr. Moore said we have to wait till the end of the year. Mr. Allison said we are not carrying anything over we talked about this a week ago.

Mr. Rummel asked Mr. Moore what the jest of this was? Mr. Moore said what he is trying to say is we are taking more money out every year out of our general fund to meet our budget. of course we are going to increase the taxes every year. The reason they went from 2 to 1.47 to 1.38. The reason they went down in numbers is because we took more money out of the general fund and you can see at the bottom there 7.3 mills you took out of the general fund in three years. Taxes were 4.85 and if you add that together in three years out of the tax increases and general fund is responsible for 12.15 mills. To him that seems like a lot. He thinks we overspend. We make enough money but we spend too much. He said the general fund should be used for incidentals and emergencies. It should not be used all the time to make up our deficits and we increase taxes on top of it.

Mayor Thomas said the general fund is the general fund it is the fund everything operates off of. Mr. Moore said the general fund is where we are pulling extra money out of. Mayor Thomas said where are you taking it to then? Mr. Moore said it comes from taxes. Mayor Thomas said what goes into the general fund comes out of the general fund. Mr. Moore said we are using it to equal our budget because we are not pulling in enough money in taxes to meet our expenses. We have to increase taxes to make it even. Mayor Thomas said everything goes up, your electric goes up, your insurances go up, everything goes up. Mr.

Allison said if we don't raise taxes where do you think we are getting the money from. Mr. Moore said we are spending too much.

Mr. Allison said where do you want to cut? We are just paying for what we have. Mr. Rummel said there are contracts where they get a percentage increase every year, public works, the police and the office staff. Mr. Moore said we are too lucrative with our contracts we give too much money out; we have too many people. Mr. Rummel said 3% is the average across the United States. Mr. Moore said it is not 3% it is 14%. Mr. Rummel said it was not 14%. Mr. Moore said they got \$2 the first year and that equals 12%. Mr. Allison said he sent an email out last week for anyone that had any questions to discuss it. Mr. Moore said he didn't want to talk to about it he wants to talk about it at the meeting.

Mrs. Gates said she will fix the excel blocks that added wrong. Mr. Rummel thanked Mr. Moore for identifying those.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Pallo to tentatively approve the general fund budget in the amount of \$2,101,751.91 for the Year 2026. Roll call vote: Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Baborik, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Dr. Ledney, absent; Mr. Moore, no; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Tentative Approval Sewer Fund** A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to tentatively approve the sewer fund budget in the amount of \$733,095.60 for the year 2026. Roll call vote: Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Baborik, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Dr. Ledney, absent; Mr. Moore, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Tentative Approval Liquid Fuels Fund** A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to tentatively approve the liquid fuels fund budget for the year 2026 in the amount of \$321,399.34. Roll call vote: Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Baborik, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Dr. Ledney, absent; Mr. Moore, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Tentative Approval Ballroom Budget** A motion was made by Mr. Baborik and seconded by Mr. Pallo to approve the ballroom budget in the amount of \$120,325.67 for the year 2026. Roll call vote: Mr. Baborik, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Dr. Ledney, absent; Mr. Moore, no; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Approval Advertise Budgets** A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Baborik to advertise the proposed budgets and to place for public view. One no, Mr. Moore, one absent, Dr. Ledney, motion carried.

**Approval Advertise Ordinance** A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Baborik to advertise Ordinance No. 2025-5 Levying a Tax of 23.77 mills for the year 2026. Two no, Mr. Klonicke and Mr. Moore one absent, Dr. Ledney. Motion carried.

**Approve Borrowing** A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Baborik to approve to borrow money from the sewer fund (as needed) for the general fund from January through March

**Sewer Fund** 2026. (4%). Remarks: Mr. Moore asked if we discussed the 4%. Mrs. Gates said yes, the accountant said we have to pay a percentage and it will be like \$100. Mr. Moore said everything is a \$100 here and \$100 there. Mr. Allison said take it out of his pay then. Mr. Rummel said no. Roll call vote: Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Bahorik, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Dr. Ledney, absent; Mr. Moore, no; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting** The next meeting will be December 15, 2025 at 7 p.m.

**Adjourn** Motion made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. One absent, Dr. Ledney, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates  
Administrative Assistant