

**BOROUGH OF WINDBER**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
**Monday, September 8, 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, was absent. Manager Ron Allison and Mayor Michael Thomas were present.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Moore to convene to an executive session at 7:03 p.m. for personnel issues.

Council reconvened from an executive session at 7:07 p.m.

**Approval  
Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve the minutes of August 11, 2025. Motion carried.

**Visitors**

Michael Ashbrook said he was born and raised here and grew up in Paint Township and went to Windber School. He said he is here for the side-by-side issue. He thinks it is a good thing. Paint Borough has it, Paint Township has it, and Ogle Township has it. It brings revenue into the community. He does not know what council has talked about or what they are planning on doing. It would be a really good thing and they should at least try it. He does not feel it will be a problem.

**Michael  
Ashbrook**

Mr. Ashbrook said as far as people bar hopping on a side-by-side, truthfully, they deserve to get busted because that is stupid. You will not have to worry about that. He also does not think there should be a moratorium or charge to do that here. Paint Township does not charge. Mr. Ashbrook said just give it a go, give it a chance.

**Todd  
Koehler**

Mr. Koehler said he will wait until the end when they discuss the side-by-side and ATV's.

**Joanna  
Hankinson**

Ms. Hankinson requested to have rosary rally at the square. Mr. Rummel asked her to submit a written request and then they will approve it. She said the date would be October 11, 2025. Mrs. Gates asked her if she is asking for the road to be closed. Ms. Hankinson said no. Mrs. Gates said put it in writing with the details and we can approve it on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Diana  
Hockins**

Ms. Hockins said she hesitates to allow anything even if it is considered small, what they have now sneaking around is loud and crazy. Things go on out of sight but not out of hearing with trucks running. She has a feeling that people will be coming from miles and miles away to have

access to roads that people pay to use. Ms. Hockins said halt it now and don't allow it. They have enough with the trucks, more than enough.

## **Correspondence**

1. Windber Municipal Authority Report for July 8, 2025.
2. Windber Area Authority Minutes of July 9 2025.

## **Approval Bills**

Mr. Moore said at the last meeting he brought up about some bills being paid twice. Mrs. Gates said there were Amazon bills and visa bills. The amazon bills were paid with the visa card so they were put on twice when they should have just been put under the visa bill. Mr. Moore said that was a mistake then? Mrs. Gates said yes.

Mr. Moore said he noticed there was a run on paper towels under the Staples bill. In July there was 2 cases by the borough at \$111.50 and 167.25 for the police department and then there were some for the ballroom too at \$111.00. He called Staples to see how many were in a case. They said there were 15 in a case and he cannot imagine using 90 rolls of paper towels a month.

Mrs. Gates replied when you say paper towels, we are not buying "bounty" paper towels we are purchasing the towels for dispensers and there are 6 in a case.

Mr. Moore said that in July and August there are some expenses that are exactly the same amount and he doesn't understand how that can happen. He said Windber Borough Street lights for July was \$8,500.64 and it is the same thing to the penny. He said there are four or five that are exactly the same and all the other ones are different.

He said it is not just the electric bills but in other items too. He asked if we pay our borough trash monthly or every three months. Mrs. Gates said every month. Mr. Moore said sometimes we pay more for the ballroom. Mrs. Gates said that will happen from time to time we may have a wedding or event and need an extra pickup. Mrs. Gates told Mr. Moore if he has questions like this he can stop in and ask us and we will explain that to him. He said he likes to do it so the other council members can hear this.

Mr. Moore asked if the bill for cleaning of rugs is the same every month. Mrs. Gates said yes that is for the police station. Mr. Moore said he just wanted clarification, that's all.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve bills for August 2025. Motion carried.

## **Approval Payroll**

A motion was made by Mr. Klonicke and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve payroll for August 8, 22, and September 5, 2025. Motion carried.

## **Engineer's Report**

1. PENNVEST Sewer Project

- a. Preliminary Design
  - i. Need to uncover buried manholes to access sewers that are not mapped.
  - ii. EADS to contact several homeowners for information and/or access to sewers.
- b. Act 537 Plan Update
  - i. Revised per DEP comments, public notice published in Tribune Democrat.
  - ii. Council can approve Act 537 Plan Update at October council meeting.
- c. Uniform Environmental Review
  - i. Working on alignments and environmental work.
- d. Schedule:
  - i. Summer 2025: Complete Survey; Continue Preliminary Design
  - ii. Fall/Winter 2025-2026: Complete preliminary design & submit permits
  - iii. July 2026: PENNVEST Submission (Tentative)
- e. Rules & Regulations

Mr. Moore asked how far they are going this year with the outside sewer work. Mr. Ferrante said they are only working on design right now. Mr. Moore said then nothing physical. Mr. Ferrante said no.

- 2. 2025 LSAS Grant Application
  - a. Project costs of \$25,000 to \$1,000,000; 100% grant.
  - b. Applications due November 30, 2025; \$100 application fee
- 3. 24<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Project
  - a. Scheduled to open new bridge to traffic October 1<sup>st</sup> (possibly earlier).
- 4. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge Project
  - a. Phase 2 Archaeology field work started 9/2/2025.
  - b. Construction planned for 2026.
- 5. 2025 PA DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program
  - a. Graham Avenue Light Pole Replacement Project Phase 1
- 6. 2025 PA DCED Small Water & Sewer Program
  - a. 27<sup>th</sup> Street Stormwater Culvert Replacement Project submitted
    - i. SCRA - Matching Funds Commitment of 20% (15% min. required)
- 7. 2024 LSAS Grant Application
  - a. Submitted 27<sup>th</sup> Street Stormwater Culvert Replacement Project.

**Cash Bal./  
Treasurer  
Report**

There were no questions at this time.

## Council Liaison Reports

**LaMonaca/  
WMA** Windber Municipal Authority Meeting is tomorrow night.

**Ledney/  
WAA** Dr. Ledney said the Windber Area Authority continues to proceed with the upgrades to the sewer plant.

**Bahorik/  
Fire** Mr. Bahorik said Windber received the tanker. Barry Jerley donated \$20,000 out of the Ray DiBattista Fund. \$15,000 went towards the tanker and \$5,000 for the paperwork. Somerset Rural Electric donated \$9,200 to the fire department. Manager Allison asked if they still had the ladder truck up for sale. Mr. Bahorik said yes.

Mr. Bahorik said the fire department did send a letter to the Paint Township requesting the three mills. Paint Township gave them a number of \$126,000. The fire department sent them a letter to try and get it bumped up to 3 mills.

**Rummel/  
Library** Mr. Rummel said there is nothing new with the library other than they are getting ready to paint the front door.

**Mayor's  
Report** On Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> Mayor Thomas was invited and attended the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church. He was honored to present the pastor and congregation with a proclamation, declaring August 24, 2025 a day of celebrating the milestone anniversary with congratulations from Windber Borough.

Mayor Thomas received an invitation to become a member of the 2026, Spring PSAB Conference Committee. He will be attending this meeting Thursday and Friday of this week in State College. We will be planning the conference schedule and sessions for the next Spring conference. This will be at no cost to the borough.

**Manager's  
Report** Mandatory Workshop September 29, 2025 7pm- I have arranged a workshop for this date and time for a representative of Kotzan CPA to come in and address/readdress with Council all related concerns raised by the Vice President of Council. I have redirected time to address any and all of his concerns during this meeting as well and have met with President Rummell and Councilman Dr. Ledney to comprehensively review the packets given to them by the Vice President.

**Public Works-** 12 PA1 calls answered, ongoing manhole location with EADs for the sewer project. sinkhole near the hospital on 7<sup>th</sup> St. Finished repair work at 29<sup>th</sup> St. catch basin and pipe replacement. All crosswalks painted on Graham Ave. and Somerset Ave. On going road patch work. Tree removal from the levee along 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Ballroom:** Working to get deteriorated tree removed to the rear the ballroom.

**Utility Truck:** I'm currently working on getting a quote for a new utility truck for our sewer work to replace the oldest Ford for next year's budget. This unit will be complete with a utility

bed, a hoist (for manhole covers and such) and equipment compartments for the necessities in the field. The Road Crew Department has only ever had the pick-up trucks and this is not an efficient way for doing work. The truck will also be equipped with a salt spreader and plow to make up for the truck we're retiring with council approval. This truck will also minimize the chance of injuries with the safety equipment attached. (Example-manhole hoist)

**NIMS Training Link**-<https://training.fema.gov> for EMA requirements and certification

Mr. Moore said on the auditor's coming in, he wants to apologize to council because that is his fault. He brought up something in the council meeting and Dr. Ledney was gracious enough to say that he wanted to see the documentation and that was the only reason that he submitted that and he is glad he did so you can see. President Rummel wanted to see it too and that is why he submitted it to him.

Mr. Moore said he is looking forward to meeting with them and he is going to relish it but it is really not necessary because we will not get anywhere with it. He wants to know why on here Vice President was mentioned and Manager Allison always called him Mr. Moore. Mr. Allison said he meant no disrespect by it. Mr. Moore said he doesn't mean any disrespect either but if the vice president asks the manager for something and the manager says he is not going to get it for him unless there is a vote made by council, he thought that was a slap in the face to him and that is why he did that.

Manager Allison said to bring that up again he feels is a slap in the face because he gave the books to Mr. Moore and he did not look at them. Mr. Moore said when he wants information he does not say come down and look at my books. He took the time to show them that stuff and if the vice president asks you for information you should be willing to give it to him without a vote by the board. Manager Allison said the solicitor addressed that and if the rest of council wants him to put the time and effort into that he would gladly do it but now that you bring it up again, we are doing that for you. The resources we have we are going to go through it. Mr. Moore said you wouldn't have to go through any of this if you would have done it from the beginning. Manager Allison said he handed those books to him when he was here. Mr. Moore said he shouldn't have to do that. Manager Allison said we will see you on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Meeting called to order by Council President.

Dr. Ledney asked Mr. Moore what he meant when he said on the 29<sup>th</sup> that won't do any good. Mr. Moore said we will have that meeting and everything will still probably be the same he thinks. Dr. Ledney said let's see what they have to say.

Manager Allison said at that meeting Mr. Moore tell him whatever it is that he thinks he is hiding. Mr. Moore said he doesn't think he is hiding anything he wants explanations for things and he doesn't get it. Council President called meeting to order.

**Solicitor's Report** Attorney Green was not present at this time.

**Codes** Mr. Rummel said codes continues and there are eight pages of issues and matters being

**Report** addressed.

**Ballroom Report** Will be addressed later.

**Discussion ATV's/Side By Sides** Mayor Thomas said it was in the news the other day that Somerset County received \$80,600 in Grants from Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources to prepare a county wide ATV trail plan. Two ATV trails have been awarded the state funds to work towards opening up the regional recreational riding. That includes a county wide ATV trail in Somerset County but will utilize a network of mostly township roads and open up local communities for recreational tourism.

Mayor Thomas said they are getting \$80,000 for a grant and he does not think we should jump right into but wait and see what this study comes up with. If we are a part of that and it is going to do something for us then he thinks we should maybe go ahead but we should wait and not be pushed into this.

Mr. Bahorik said they need something to study. Mayor Thomas said there is a lot to study according to Mr. Fochtman. They can study our streets and our town. That does not mean we have to open it to them before the study.

Mr. Rummel said Tioga County is opening up their trails and what not. The proposal on this is not to open up the entire town and become a free for all. It is more or less just passing through from one side to the other stopping for lunch, get gas in the vehicles and pressing on.

Mr. Rummel said a lot of guys are going to like passing through hit a trail and they are gone. Mayor Thomas said the ordinance Joe proposed said all borough streets. That opens it up to everybody. Mr. Rummel said we can discuss which streets. Mayor Thomas said all he is asking is that we have a plan.

Manager Allison said what we really need to do from here is have a workshop so everyone can come to some sort of agreement and meet in the middle. The solicitor did have all streets in the proposed ordinance and he does not believe anyone at this table wants that. Number two it was brought up tonight about no money coming into the borough and he believes you will need more law enforcement presence with that and you will have to think about how to fund that extra person.

Mr. Koehler said there is no other specific vehicle that has a tag and is registered in this country that has to apply for a permit to drive through this town. That person will either come here in a pickup, motorcycle, or a side-by-side and you're not increasing the population of this town by far. What good is a sticker going to be? Is the sticker for you? If my grandkids are with me, do they need stickers? Manager Allison said that is for the vehicle the way he interpreted it.

Mr. Koehler said no other place is like that. You can take five days at Hatfield and McCory, he gets a sticker for his hardhat when he is riding the trail. He can ride anyone of his vehicles; he

is the one who is tagged. How are you going to enforce that? Manager Allison said these are public roads not a trail. Mr. Koehler said he gets that and he is out on public roads with his car and has to have insurance and registration through the same company and same state. Manager Allison said he thinks we should give it a chance. We could try it with out another officer but he does not think it is going to work but by all means try it.

Mayor Thomas said one issue is the plate on those are not kept in a data base for the state so if someone breaks the law and we get the plate number the police can not run it. Mr. Rummel said they can run it, DCNR can run it. Mayor Thomas said not on weekends.

Mr. Bahorik said if you are doing something wrong then your getting pulled over. Your first thought should not be about if you see a side-by-side you immediately want to run the plate. If he is doing something wrong then you get him. If you're just driving down the road and they are not doing anything wrong you should not have to worry about the plate. Mayor Thomas said a lot of them will run, if they are doing something illegal. Mr. Bahorik said it will be legal so there will be no reason to run. Mr. Rummel said the ones doing it wrong are already doing it wrong.

Mr. Koehler said he doesn't think this is about the trail system coming through here it is about someone buying a house up there that wants to take their grandkids on the side-by-side. They are \$30,000 machines now; they have harnesses in them and seat belts now. They are perfectly fine. They can go down to the Rambler and get an ice cream cone and go back home. Maybe you can sell a house now to someone in Windber other than bringing a Section 8 family in.

Mr. Koehler said the side-by-sides are so family oriented now, they have four seats now and the kids in the back with helmets and goggles on giggling and having a good time. It's not the bar hopping scene everyone thinks it is.

Mayor Thomas said he agrees with him but in the same token you see in the past month almost every weekend someone is killed on one. Mr. Koehler said look at the car crashes. Mayor Thomas said he understands but that is going to take our police or state police more time and more cost on us. We have to do something to make some money on it. Mr. Rummel said there was just a motorcycle chase through town this past week. They are legal but there still a chase. We have some bad apples and it happens.

Mr. Ashbrook said council thinks there will be hundreds of machines running through Windber and that will not be the case. You might on a weekend see 20 and that is at different times. They are not going to be up and down the street every day, you will not see that.

Mrs. Thomas asked what the big deal is to get them then and they are supposed to bring in money. Mr. Ashbrook said everyone that borders Windber has them. He said they are no louder than a Harley. Mrs. Thomas said we were told on 17<sup>th</sup> Street coal truck were going to be few and far between and now we do not have a second where there is not a coal truck going past. Mr. Ashbrook said we are not a coal truck.

Mr. Marcinko said come up to where he lives and listen to them going up down that rock dump up there with open pipes and modified exhausts. Mr. Koehler said they are illegal. Mr. Marcinko said no one is stopping them. Mr. Ashbrook said a lot of them are under the age of 16 and they are breaking the law and their parents are allowing them to do it. He said if he comes into town with his machine, he will be absolutely legal with insurance and plates on it.

Mr. Koehler asked what the borough has right now as far as rules. Mayor Thomas said we have a draft right now. Manager Allison gave Mr. Koehler his copy to read. Mr. Rummel asked council if they were ready to vote on this at the next meeting. He said we will tag it onto the workshop on the 29<sup>th</sup> and make sure it includes what we want, yes or no and proceed on next months agenda. Mrs. Thomas asked if there will be roads they are limited to and a trail system for where they will come and go from. Mr. Rummel said yes. Mrs. Thomas said that has never been addressed. Mrs. Thomas asked if the state still has to approve that too. Mr. Rummel said yes. If it gets approved it will be ahead of the time Somerset is submitting all the proposed roads in one bundle. When the commissioners send it up the chain to the state it will be one approval letter. If we do not hit that approval letter with all the roads then we have to do it ourselves. If it gets passed in time, we can be part of the bundle if we do not pass it then there is no reason to submit it.

Mrs. Thomas said so there is no real rush to submit it before the study because the study is going to examine all that plus the potential income but you're saying there is a rush to get it through? Mr. Rummel said yes if we want to get attached to the letter submitted by the county to the state. Mrs. Thomas asked what the date to submit is? Mr. Rummel said he knows it is getting close, otherwise we have to push it through ourselves.

Mr. Rummel said we will discuss this some more on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the workshop and then vote on it at the next meeting. Mr. Bahorik asked if we can vote on it on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Gates said you have to first vote to advertise and then you vote to approve. Manager Allison said that would put us to November. Mr. Bahorik asked why we can't vote on it now? Manager Allison said we need to have everyone sit down, meet, and discuss what everyone wants in it. Mr. Bahorik said lets just open it. Manager Allison said he believes if you take a vote on it right now, he believes it will be a no, and he is not pushing it either way.

Manager Allison said we cannot advertise an ordinance that the changes are not in. He said we can turn the workshop on the 29<sup>th</sup> into a meeting and make the necessary changes and vote to advertise that night. Council agreed.

Mrs. Thomas said she just so the public has time to be made aware of it and you have an open meeting for public comment because she honestly doesn't think the concern of the residents have been fully addressed and they are not aware of it. Mr. Rummel said we will have a meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> come up with the ordinance and advertise it and then vote on it in October.

Mr. Moore asked if there were speed limits on the ATV's? Mr. Bahorik said what ever the road is currently posted.

<b>Public Nuisance</b>	Mr. Rummel said he would also like to discuss another ordinance to clarify public nuisance, disorderly conduct and stuff like that. He has been getting more personal calls about loud music and stuff like that. Mr. Rummel said he knows there is quiet time at 10/11 p.m. He said he went to the persons house as a courtesy and while he was there the neighbor turned the music up and it is very loud and very vulgar. The neighbor calls the police they come and they turn it down and say thank you and they leave and five minutes later he turns it back up. Can this ordinance be changed to cover vulgar language or something else. Mayor Thomas said we need to look at our ordinance because the state already has what disorderly conduct is.
<b>Approval Vacate Portion Alley</b>	<p>Manager Allison said Dollar General made a request to the borough to vacate a small piece of the alley width behind the lot of where the new Dollar General will go. Manger Allison and Mr. Rummel have copies of it if anyone would like to see it. To the rear of the proposed building, they need a little extra room because they have some liters coming off the back for the storm water coming off the roof and with that they will need some guard protection. The two together could take up to three feet of road back there.</p> <p>Manager Allison said they want to put a PennDot spec guardrail the length of the building to protect it. They are asking for an easement for those items. It will be their responsibility we do not have to pay for anything. They are asking us to forfeit three feet of that alley for them to do that. On their plan it shows a 20 foot right of way for the alley and he went up there and it appears to be pretty acuate and he does not see an issue.</p> <p>Manager Allison said the other part is they submitted for a temporary alley closure for construction. There will be a total closure with the exception of the people that live back there. That will run for two months and then it will be intermittent. If anyone has a question he can call the contact for Dollar General. He said the easement agreement will go to Attorney Green for review once approved before it is sent onto Dollar General.</p> <p>A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve the easement to vacate a portion of the alley width behind the proposed Dollar General. Motion carried.</p>
<b>Resolution Shared EMC</b>	A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve Resolution No 2025-5 Agreement to share one appointed Emergency Management Coordinator (Bob Larson) with Ogle Township. Remarks; Mr. Moore said he spoke to the previous EMC person and he said he was only called one time and did not know he was off the job and he hopes there is better communication with Bob Larson. Mr. Rummel said we will discuss this in executive session, it is a personnel matter. Motion carried.
<b>Amending Fee Schedule</b>	A motion was made by Mr. Klonicke and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve Resolution No. 2025-6 amending fee schedule for lien letters, \$15 to \$20 and zoning hearings from \$350 to \$1,200. Remarks; Mrs. Gates said that right now hearings are costing around \$850 which includes the attorney and stenographer. Motion carried.
<b>Officer Resignation</b>	A motion was made by Mr. Bahorik and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve to accept the resignation of Karissa Lupton, part-time police officer for Windber Borough. Effective August 28, 2025. Motion carried.

**Approval  
Special  
Events fee** A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Pallo to approve the Special Events Fee Agreement with Windber Area School District increase from \$35 an hour to \$40 an hour for officers who work special events. Remarks; Mr. Moore asked if that gets paid directly to the police officer. Mrs. Gates said no, it is a payroll line item. Mr. Moore asked if they get paid time and a half to do that? Mrs. Gate said no, they get \$40 an hour. Mr. Rummel said the only thing he saw in there that he was wondering about is if we have two or three officers at a football game and they are allowed to leave do they not get paid then or do you leave one down there? Mayor Thomas said if there is an incident they do not leave the game totally abandoned. There are always two guys on the street at all times. Motion carried.

**Approval  
Invoice** Mr. Rummel said this was an emergency item that needed repaired right away. The air conditioning unit stopped working at the police station. Mr. Moore asked what happened to it. Manager Allison said it served its life. It was 12 years old and it got to the point the copper was so brittle they could not repair it anymore. Mr. Klonicke asked if it was put out to bid. Manager Allison said no, it was under \$12,500 so it did not need to be bid out. Mr. Moore asked if that was there before we bought the station? Manager Allison said yes.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to pay the invoice of \$6,892.00 to Yeager's Heating and Cooling from the Capital Improvement Fund. Roll call vote: Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Bahorik, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Moore, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Klonicke for Council to convened to an executive session at 7:59 p.m. for personnel matters.

Council reconvened from executive session at 8:25 p.m.

**Approval  
Temp.  
Clerk** A motion was made by Mr. Bahorik and seconded by Dr. Ledney to approve Janice Zeigler as a temporary part-time clerk for six weeks while the borough clerk on medical leave. (\$16/hr.) Roll call vote: Mr. Bahorik, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Klonicke, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Moore, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Relieve  
Employee** A motion was made by Mr. Bahorik and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to relieve Alexis Michel Angelo as the full-time executive director of the Windber Grand Ballroom. Motion carried.

**Approval  
PT Event  
Coordinator** A motion was made by Mr. Bahorik and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve Jessica Brehm as a part-time event coordinator for Windber Grand Ballroom (16/hr.). Roll call vote: Mr. Bahorik, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Klonicke, absent; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Moore, no; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Next  
Meeting** Next council meeting will be on September 29, 2025 at 7 p.m.

**Adjourn** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Council President Richard Rummel.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates  
Administrative Assistant