

Town of Rockbridge
2025 BUDGET MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2025

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Call to Order: Chairman Perna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. noting it had been properly posted.

Roll Call: Town Chairman Nick Perna, Supervisors, Doug Duhr, Jeff Falk Treasurer Beth Kepler, and Clerk Sharon Miller were in attendance. Also attending were Zoning Administrator Scott Banker, Scott Glass, Becky Glass, Michele Brewer, Michele Stolzman, James and Gabrielle Gjefle, June Spencer, Linda M. Kalish, Steve Kalish Tom Perry, and Dean Berry.

Open Discussion: Chairman Perna asked if there were any questions from the floor. Scott Glass inquired as to the reason for a decrease in the Workmen's Comp amount in the budget. The clerk noted that there is an audit done every year on the town wages and salaries which weigh heavily on the amount charged for workman's comp. Although Patrolman Clary had an increase in wages, he was putting in significantly less hours. Scott Banker noted the importance of raising the town's levy. Due to inflation, and the cost of labor and supplies, it is needed to maintain the town's infrastructure, such as maintaining the roads and bridges for example. Everyone agreed.

Adjournment: Chairman Perna moved to adjourn the Public Budget meeting at 6:50 p.m. seconded by Supervisor Duhr. All in favor, aye; motion carried.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS

Call to Order: Nick Perna called the Special Town Meeting of the Electors to order at 7:00 p.m., noting it had been properly posted. The above-town officers were present, as were the attendees at the previous meeting noted on the official roll call of the Public Budget Hearing.

Open Discussion: Scott Glass asked where the money would come from, which would be about \$200.00 per parcel to raise the town's levy. Nick responded it would be paid by the residents through their taxes, again necessary due to the costs of inflation and upkeep of the town roads. Tom Perry asked if it would then be based on the property value. The board noted it would be based on parcel, not value. Nick then read the resolution, and everyone voted to approve the raise of the levy to \$160,286.

VOTE: AYE.....15
NAY.....2
ABSTAINING.....0

Results: Passed by a Majority Vote

Approval of the 2025 Town Tax Levy: (To be collected in 2026) A motion was made by Doug, seconded by Jeff, to approve the 2025 Town Tax Levy of \$160,286. All in favor, aye; motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Doug at 7:30 p.m., to adjourn the Special Town Meeting, seconded by Jeff. All in favor, aye; motion carried.

MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Call to Order: Nick Perna, town chairman, called the monthly town meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., noting it had been properly posted, then followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call: All Officers were present for roll call, as were all others previously listed electors.

Approval of Agenda: Doug moved to approve the Agenda, Jeff Seconded. All in favor, aye: motion carried.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Everyone looked over the minutes of the last meeting. Jeff moved to approve, and Nick seconded. All in favor, aye; motion carried.

Action on the 2025 budget: Doug moved to approve the 2026 Budget, Jeff seconded the motion. All in favor, aye; motion carried.

Rural Fire Report: Scott reported there were no fires in the town of Rockbridge to report at this time.

Driveway and Zoning Permits: James and Gabrielle Gjefle applied for a permit for a house to be built on a floating slab. Nick moved to approve the permit and Jeff seconded, all in favor, aye; motion carried. A \$264.60 fee was paid by the Gjefle's. Chris Servis paid a \$500.00 fee ahead of applying for a permit for building on Anderson Lane.

Financial Report: Treasurer Beth Kepler gave the financial report, noting we had received our third quarter transportation aid of \$22,719.54 with an ending balance of \$142,198.55.

Bills Report: The clerk presented the bills to the board with an ending balance of \$11,034.69, after a short discussion there were no questions, so Nick moved to approve and pay the bills as presented, seconded by Jeff. All in favor, aye; motion carried.

Patrolmen Report: Austin was not present, however, Nick commented that there was a tractor loader to be scrapped and it would need to be posted to the public for sale. Jeff commented also there would be running gear as well. It will be put on marketplace and the town webpage, with sales starting at \$100.00. Nick also noted that Steve Miller from Hustler's Ridge had made a complaint that Austin had pulled out his fences while cutting roadside brush and removed several of his no trespassing signs with just days before the start of the nine-day deer season. He wanted the town to repair the fence and replace the signs before the season started. There was a short discussion on obtaining culvert markers which could come from Decker Supply in Madison, two would be needed per culvert. There will be more research on pricing before a purchase. Nick also said, Austin was requesting to have the day before Christmas off. It was moved by Nick, seconded by Jeff to approve. All in favor, aye; motion carried.

Items for Discussion and possible Action: There was no other discussion or action taken.

CWD test site request: The Natural Bridge Store had been sold in the middle of the 2025 deer hunting season, where the CWD (chronic wasting disease) had been run for years. To finish out the 2025 deer hunting season, Sharon Miller asked to use the town property to complete the month of December and pay \$100.00 to rent the area. Doug moved to allow the site to finish at the town property, and Jeff seconded. All in favor, aye; motion carried.

Updated EMS contract report: Doug gave this report by noting that by December of 2026 the county will no longer provide service to the townships, nor are they required by law to do so. Statute states, Counties **MAY** provide, and Townships **SHALL** provide. Last year's contract for EMS was \$3,800.00 and the new contract will be \$5,000.00 through December of 2026. Nick moved to approve the contract through December of 2026. Doug seconded, all in favor, aye; motion carried.

Equipment: It had been approved at the previous meeting to buy a 550 truck; however, Jeff was still looking therefore, this item will be tabled until next meeting.

HP Laser Jet P2035 Printer: Beth asked as to what to do with an old Laser printer Chris had left for her to use. For now, it will be left at the town hall.

Building Inspector Proposal: There will be follow-up on GES.

Board of Appeals: Tom Perry has agreed to take the position for a three-year term.

Hub-Rock Sanitary Budget Report: Dean Berry had forgotten to bring the budget; therefore, it has been tabled until the December meeting.

Approval of the 2025 town levy: Nick read the resolution and there was a vote of the town electors.

Aye.....12
Nah.....3
Abstaining.....0

It should be noted that James and Gabrielle Gjefle left the meeting, reflecting a difference in vote.

Again, passing by Majority Vote.

Brewer Lane: At the previous meeting Kevin Burkhamer and Nick Williams asked on behalf of Kie Wang if the town would close the Brewer Lane Road. They were not present at this meeting, however, representing Brewer Lane to keep it open as a town road were Michelle Brewer, Michelle Stoltzman, and Becky and Scott Glass. Michelle Brewer and Michelle Stoltzman described an easement to a Spring which waters their cattle, a road that has been open for many years and is used by neighbors for a walking road. Nick noted it would be an extensive process and at this time there will be no change and the road will remain a town road, in which the township receives transportation aid for.

Citizen Comments/Old Business/New Business: Linda Kalish brought up discussion on the mowing of the property at 25453 once owned by the Pliner's, who are both deceased, and now the property is owned by the County. The town will turn the property mowing over to the County in 2026 and no longer pay to have it mowed. Also, there was discussion of a dispute with a neighbor, which the board said was out of jurisdiction for them to address and considered a civil dispute. It was then brought up that Steve Davidson still had several vehicles parked on residential property obstructing view from the stop sign and was still on occasion allowing customers to block the roadway to emergency vehicles. Jeff had a discussion with Steve but got no results. Nick will write a letter to Steve Davidson. The board will check out the property of John Michelle Brewer inquired about fixing a medal culvert at the property of 26520 County Hwy D at Brewer Lane, the board will have Austin look at it.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be December 18, 2025.

Adjournment: Nick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m., Jeff seconded the motion, all in favor, aye; motion carried.

Sharon Miller, Clerk