

ROSE VALLEY BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
November 12, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on November 12, 2025 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Cheryl Harner, Kathryn Mehan, Shannon Prown and Tony Orr. Mayor Bill Hale, Controller John Neilson, Treasurer Chris Bourke and Secretary Paula Healy were also present. Solicitor G. Guy Smith was absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Lyn Finelli, Jim Flandreau, Peter Howell, Sue Keilbaugh, Ron Ploeg and Katie Rubin. Guests included Sandy DiCamillo, Leah Kulikowski, Elisabeth Lim and Siannon Lim from the Helen Kate Furness Free Library, and Lynn Kelley from the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the October 8, 2025 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leah Kulikowski, Director of the Helen Kate Furness Free Library, reported that the Library expects to see over 38,000 visitors and circulate over 135,000 items by the end of 2025. Since January, over 215 programs for all ages have engaged more than 4,600 attendees. The library's volunteer team of over 60 people have donated 2,300 hours so far this year. Board President Sandy DiCamillo discussed work performed on the Library's historic building including major repairs to both automatic front doors, installing larger gutters and addressing water infiltration and flooding of the lower level. Treasurer Elisabeth Lim reported that the Library set a 2025 fundraising target of \$141,500 and has raised \$122,000 so far through its annual appeal, the September 20 Well Red event which was attended by over 150 people and netted \$18,500, and the second Delco Gives Day which brought in \$16,406. For 2026, the Library is increasing its fundraising target to \$153,025, representing over 30 percent of its \$497,325 budget, and is requesting a \$35,000 contribution from the Borough, an increase of \$2,000.

Lynn Kelley, Treasurer for the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation (RVCF), reported that RVCF has received its fourth \$100,000 Keystone Construction Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to repair and refurbish Thunderbird Lodge to make it a proper home for the Rose Valley Museum. These grants are for two years and require 1:1 matching funds. The grant will be used to complete work on the exterior stucco and stone walls, replace the stair tower roof and refurbish windows as shown in the 2025 fundraising letter distributed to Council members. For 2026, RVCF is once again requesting a \$26,000 contribution from the Borough to help provide matching funds. Lynn explained that RVCF has also been able to raise roughly this amount each year from its donor base in Rose Valley and somewhat beyond enabling it to successfully match its \$100,000 two-year grants.

Peter Howell reported on planned activities of the Rose Valley Museum & Historical Society noting it has been asked to loan 15 items to the Philadelphia Art Museum for its 250th Birth of the United States Exhibit opening in July, 2026. RVMHS has a slate of interesting and informative programs planned for 2026 and is working on a book on the Rose Valley Arts & Crafts utopian experiment from 1901 to 1916 that they hope to have published in the summer of 2026. Peter noted that the RVMHS and RVCF have been working hand-in-hand on a Master Plan for Thunderbird Lodge and expressed its support for RVCF's request for matching funds to help complete work on the exterior of the building.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby reported on the following:

Deer Management Program: Two residents who attended the EAC meeting expressed opposition to any deer management plan because of the expense to taxpayers, its failure to significantly reduce the deer population, and support for deer as a part of nature. The EAC is aware that the number of deer harvested through the Borough's long-standing deer management efforts does not solve the problem of over-abundance of deer due to a lack of natural predators, and the resulting degradation of habitat for plants and trees and the other animals dependent on them.

However, the EAC believes that it is better to do something rather than nothing regarding the deer problem and that continuing the deer management program increases awareness about habitat preservation issues and problems resulting from the over-abundance of deer. The EAC therefore unanimously recommended that the same deer management program as last year be approved with archery hunting solely by Justin Franks and only in the Todmorden Woods. Hunting would take place on weekdays only from dawn to 9:00 am and from 2:00 pm until dusk during the weeks of December 1 and 8 and the weeks of January 5, 12, 19, and 26. Mr. Franks has been the sole provider of deer management services for many years with no complaints or concerns. He will be paid \$800 for expenses such as deer permits from the Pennsylvania Game Commission and corn for bait, plus \$150 for each deer harvested. Mr. Busby made a motion to approve the deer management plan, which was seconded and, after some discussion, unanimously passed.

October Stewardship Days: Mr. Busby expressed thanks on behalf of the Borough to the approximately 20 people who volunteered their time and talent for stewardship days in the Saul Preserve in October and for Jim Audley's extraordinary work, organizing and leading these workdays. Volunteers widened and improved drainage on about 300 feet of trail and at 12 water bars and restored eroded areas on the Saul Preserve trail system with appropriate gravel.

Management of Knotweed and Stiltgrass: Great progress has been made on controlling invasive knotweed on the Long Point floodplain in the Chadwick Preserve. Targeted and limited annual herbicide spraying will be required indefinitely to prevent its return, but the time, energy, and expense will be smaller thanks to all of the work in recent years. Stiltgrass management remains a work in progress. Cutting of this invasive annual just before it goes to seed is critical and this year the stiltgrass was not cut at the right time. Seeds of perennial Northern Wood Oats will be

scattered by volunteers this Fall in the hope that this native perennial grass will displace some of the stiltgrass.

Wildlife Friendly Certification: Dave Firm and other volunteers operating as a group entitled Re-Wild Rose Valley have completed all the steps necessary for the Borough to become certified as a wildlife friendly community by the National Wildlife Federation. Mr. Busby thanked Mr. Firm and Re-Wild members for their work.

2026 Recycling Bids: Mr. Busby made a motion that Council authorize the advertisement for bids for 2026 recycling in the same manner as last year. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Stream Bank Stabilization Project on Vernon Run: Mr. Busby expressed thanks to Katie Rubin for devoting so much time and effort to becoming knowledgeable about the Borough's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) obligations, and about storm water runoff management in particular. Work is in progress to retain a qualified professional to prepare bid specifications for the Vernon Run project so that Council can authorize advertisement for bids at its December meeting. The goal is for a contractor to be selected in January of 2026 and for the work to be completed in February. Given time constraints, it is possible that this project will have to be postponed until February of 2027. The work needs to be done at or about the end of February because the live stakes used for stream bank stabilization need to be installed before they bud. Council discussed how payment would be made for this project which was estimated to cost \$35,000 in late 2021 in the Borough's MS4 Pollutant Reduction Plan. Mr. Hale explained that a Monsanto class-action-settlement payment to the Borough of about \$14,500 had been placed in the Borough's capital account for a future environmental project, and that other funds would be available in the Borough's Road Improvement Fund from money saved by the Borough performing the trench restoration, milling and overlay of Longpoint Lane instead of Aqua. There was discussion about applying for grant support if the MS4 project ends up being done in early 2027.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Orr made a motion that Council authorize the advertisement for bids for the trench restoration, milling and overlay of Longpoint Lane following the installation of the new water main by Aqua PA. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan thanked Leah Kulikowski, Sandy DiCamillo and Elisabeth Lim for their excellent presentation on the Library noting she had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that October Police Report showed 9 responses to incidents including a disabled motorist, animal debris on the road, and one for "speech", and that the October Fire Report showed two emergency calls for automatic fire alarms. Ms. Harner reviewed the data

from the Rose Valley Road speed device at Thunderbird Lodge noting that while traffic has gone up slightly, speeds are continuing to decrease. A Town Watch Appreciation Night is planned for Thursday, February 5, 2026.

The Boroughs of Media, Rose Valley, Rutledge and Swarthmore, and the Townships of Nether Providence and Upper Providence have formed a working group to investigate the formation of a joint authority to provide emergency medical services. The working group desires to retain a lawyer to advise it, with the municipalities sharing the cost of an initial \$20,000 fund for legal fees in proportion to population per the 2020 US census. The municipalities wish to memorialized the specifics of this cost sharing arrangement in a Memorandum of Understanding. The Borough of Rose Valley with a population of 1017 out of the total population of 39,620 in all 6 municipalities would pay 2.6 percent of the initial \$20,000 fund, or \$520. Ms. Harner made a motion that the Council President be authorized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding when the lawyer selection is finalized. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

PLANNING

Ms. Prown provided an update on the Rose Valley Road Pathway Project explaining that construction needs to be postponed until March because PECO is still working on upgrading the power lines along Rose Valley Road. The last new pole was recently installed, and PECO is now getting ready to string the new power lines. After that, they need to switch every house over from the old to the new wires. Another consideration in postponing the project is that the asphalt plants will close around Thanksgiving when it becomes too cold to pave roads. Ron Ploeg asked if the old utility poles will be taken out and was informed that the old poles will come out eventually after Verizon and Comcast move their communication lines over to the new poles.

McCusker Landscaping has prepared the landscaping plans for the various properties but needs to meet again with the homeowners to finalize the designs. McCusker will also meet with Lou Ciani to discuss his potential replacement landscaping. Letters were given or sent to all the homeowners along the walking path memorializing that the Borough would be responsible for construction, maintenance and repair of the walking path and that homeowners would not be required to remove snow and ice. The letters also said that the Borough's Solicitor, G. Guy Smith, has advised that homeowners who own the land in the municipal right-of-way along Rose Valley Road where the path will be located may want to consider giving this land to the Borough to eliminate potential liability associated with owning the land the path traverses.

FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reported he had reconciled the Borough's bank accounts as shown in the October Status of Funds. Mr. Hare went over the October Income Reports noting \$246,625.00 was received from Aqua PA in lieu of performing the trench restoration, milling and overlay of Longpoint Lane. Mr. Neilson reviewed the November Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$47,723.50 from the General Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hare distributed the preliminary budget for 2026 which assumed that the total assessed real estate value would come in at \$205 million, the contribution to the fire companies would be \$33,000, and the recycling cost would be \$70,543. The budget calls for total revenue and expenses of \$422,175 with the millage rate going from 1.32 to 1.37 mills resulting in a 3.8 percent increase in Borough real estate taxes. He noted that the budget may need to change somewhat when the Delaware County Board of Assessment Appeals provides the total assessed real estate value and the fire company and recycling costs come in. After some discussion, Mr. Hare made a motion that Council approve advertisement of the proposed 2026 Budget as outlined above to be considered at the December 10, 2025 Council meeting along with the related millage ordinance. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The proposed 2026 Budget will be on display in the Borough Office beginning November 14, 2025 and posted on the Borough website.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale reported on the November 4th election in which Leonard Busby, Kathryn Mehan, Shannon Prown and Matt Sullivan were re-elected as Council members, Paula Healy was re-elected tax collector, and Lyn Finelli was elected Controller. Mr. Sullivan noted that Mr. Hale was re-elected as Mayor. Lyn will take over for long-time Controller John Neilson, who did not seek another term. Mr. Hale and Council thanked Mr. Neilson for his many years of service advocating to keep expenses in check and taxes at a minimum.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Paula Healy, Secretary