

ROSE VALLEY BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
October 8, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on October 8, 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 Joe Hare, Cheryl Harner, Kathryn Mehan and Tony Orr. Mayor Bill Hale, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy were also present. Council members Leonard Busby and Shannon Prown and Treasurer Chris Bourke were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Lou Cianci, Oliver Keithly, Rich O'Flynn, Teresa O'Flynn, Ron Ploeg, Katie Rubin, Richard Taxin and Bill Thomas. Guests included State Police Trooper David Nguyen, Rose Valley Folk Chairman John Williamson, and Scouts Michael Chen, Jarvis Lin, Arav Rajesh and Shubham Chawla from Rose Valley Troop 272.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the September 10, 2025 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

SPECIAL GUEST

David Nguyen, Pennsylvania State Police Trooper and the new community liaison assigned to the Borough, attended the meeting to introduce himself to Council.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

In Mr. Busby's absence, Mr. Sullivan read the following report provided by Mr. Busby.

Deer Management Program: It is expected that the EAC will recommend that the same program as last year be approved with archery hunting solely by Justin Franks and only in Todmorden Woods. Hunting will run for the two weeks in December 2025 starting the Monday after Thanksgiving and for the four weeks in January 2026 starting the Monday after New Year's Day on weekdays only. Mr. Franks has been the sole provider of deer management services for many years with no complaints or concerns.

Invasive Knotweed Management: Great progress continues to be made through the targeted application of glyphosate by an individual who is certified and trained in such treatment. There is no broadcast spraying of the herbicide and no other practical method of knotweed management known to the EAC. The second application of glyphosate in the Long Point flood plain in the

Chadwick Preserve is scheduled for October 13 and 14, weather permitting. Notice will be provided by email blast on Friday and by paper notice posted on the Chadwick kiosk on the morning of October 13.

Salt Awareness: Katie Rubin and Ron Ploeg of the EAC are participating in the Stroud Water Research Center's snapshot of chloride levels in local streams. Yesterday Katie and Ron sampled Rose Valley Borough waters in five spots to establish a baseline in advance of the use of road salt this winter. Our EAC is blessed with dedicated individuals trying to make a difference by improving the environment of our Borough.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Compliance: The Borough is required by state law to complete an approved infrastructure project every five years as a part of obtaining our MS4 five-year permit. The infrastructure project that was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in February of 2022 calls for the installation of planted fascines (which are stakes of certain woody plants that will grow roots after installation) along both sides of 100 feet of Vernon Run. The Borough engineer calculated that this project will reduce sediment delivered into Ridley Creek by Vernon Run by approximately 7,000 pounds per year. The estimated cost of \$35,000 includes proper preparation of the Vernon Run stream bank, planting of the fascines, and fencing of the planted area in order to protect the plants from deer. The deadline for completion is February of 2027, but installation needs to be done in the Spring. The EAC therefore unanimously recommends that Borough Council approve issuance of a request for bids to do this work in the Spring of 2026.

The Borough needs to submit its application for its next five-year MS4 permit in September of 2026. The EAC will work next year with the Borough engineer to identify one or more infrastructure projects for Borough Council to select from for inclusion in the September 2026 MS4 permit application.

#### Proposed 2026 EAC Budget:

- Native Plant Sale, \$5,500. This year our budget number for the Native Plant Sale was \$5,000; we spent approximately \$4,400 and generated approximately \$8,000 of income for the Borough. The concern is that our nursery vendors, North Creek and Octoraro, may increase prices. Adding 10% to the \$5,000 that was budgeted for this year's Native Plant Sale is proposed as a protection against any price increase and to reflect the ever-increasing success of this event which always generates income to the Borough well in excess of what is spent by the EAC.

- Deer Management: \$2,300. Unchanged from the current budget.

- Poison Ivy Control: \$300. Our budget this year for this was \$900; we spent \$0. We changed service providers for this work which involves targeted spraying of poison ivy three feet on each side of the walking trails in the Saul Preserve and as needed near trails in the Chadwick Preserve where there is very little poison ivy near the trails.

- Preserve Trail Maintenance and Improvement and Other Preserve Improvements: \$1,500. Unchanged.

- Weed Whacking of Trails and Stiltgrass: \$2,500. For this year the budget was \$2,000 and we paid Justin Stopford \$1,980. The additional \$500 requested for 2026 is because the stiltgrass presence/expansion continues. It turns out that weed whacking of stilt grass needs to be done once and once only and just before the stiltgrass goes to seed. Timing is everything and this year we weed whacked the stiltgrass grass too soon and it then went to seed. Next year we will do better. It will take years to achieve reasonable control over this self-seeding annual invasive that crowds out native plants. The EAC also plans to scatter seeds of native perennial grasses (at no expense to the Borough) in an attempt to displace the stilt grass.

- Knotweed Management and Control: \$2,000. This represents a \$500 reduction from this year's budget because David Hilbert, our service provider, is making such great progress on this problem.

- Community Outreach and Education: \$2,000. This program assists the Borough in satisfying other requirements of the MS4 program. The expense pays for educational programs presented during the year with the assistance of the Stroud Water Research Center and the Pennsylvania Resources Council which charge for their programs. Katie Rubin has been doing an excellent job for years now on these educational programs. This is a \$625 reduction from what was budgeted in 2025.

- Storm Water Run-Off: \$3,000. This sum is requested in connection with preparing a design plan that will eventually be needed for the infrastructure project required as a part of the Borough's next MS4 permit application. This money will be spent only after collaboration with the Borough engineer so that there is advance assurance that any proposed project will satisfy new MS4 requirements.

- Free the Trees of English Ivy: \$100. This is to pay for the few things that Kathy Siwicki purchases each year as a part of this highly successful annual tradition.

- Residential Management of Invasive Honeysuckle: \$1,000. This is an experiment proposed for 2026 to educate residents about this invasive plant and to motivate residents to remove invasive honeysuckle plants and replace them with native plants that the EAC will purchase as a reward for the removal. Consideration will be given to how to avoid deer damaging whatever replacement plant is offered and educating homeowners about the need to prevent the reintroduction of invasive honeysuckle after its removal.

The above amounts total \$20,200, \$75 less than this year's budget. The EAC has not exceeded its budget and has generated considerable net revenue for the Borough from its Native Plant Sales for many years. The money allocated to the EAC has also been hugely supplemented by the contribution of many hours of volunteer work to improve our Preserves and to educate, motivate, and empower Borough residents to improve the environment.

Ms. Harner made a motion authorizing the preparation of the bid request for the 2026 MS-4 streambank stabilization work along Vernon Run by a company familiar with this type of project. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

### HIGHWAYS

Requests for bids for the winter 2025 – 2026 Snow and Ice Management Contract was advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times on 9/17/25 and bids were received from R. C. Marland and Rocklynn Construction as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>R. C. Marland</u>	<u>Rocklynn Construction</u>
Dump Truck with 8' Plow	\$200 per hour	\$180 per hour
3/4-ton Pickup with 8' Plow	\$195 per hour	\$165 per hour
Skid Steer Loader	\$135 per hour	\$135 per hour
Salt Spreading	\$315 per ton spread	\$300 per ton spread
Pretreat Roads with Brine	\$6,500 per application	\$675 per application

Mr. Orr made a motion that low-bidder Rocklynn Construction be awarded the winter 2025 – 2026 Snow and Ice Management Contract. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Aqua is in the process of replacing the water main on Longpoint Lane and has offered to contribute \$246,625 to the Borough for it to do the trench restoration, mill and overlay of the road itself in lieu of Aqua performing this work. Mr. Orr made a motion that Council approve the acceptance of these funds from Aqua. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

### LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that the Library's September "Well Red" fundraiser was a success with 152 people in attendance and \$18,522 raised.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the September Police Report showed 5 responses to incidents including 2 motor vehicle crashes, 1 theft, 1 alarm fault and 1 disabled motorist. The September Fire Report showed there were no emergency calls during the month. Ms. Harner reviewed the data from the Rose Valley Road speed device at Thunderbird Lodge noting there has been a substantial decrease in the number of vehicles traveling more than 40 mph over the last three years. A Town Watch Appreciation Night is being planned for early 2026 which Trooper Nguyen indicated he would attend if possible.

### PLANNING

In Ms. Prown's absence, Mr. Hale provided an update on the Rose Valley Road Pathway Project noting that McCusker Landscaping has developed landscaping plans for the Thomas, Seider, Strine and Lindsay properties and will meet again with homeowners to review the designs.

McCusker will also meet with Dan Gruen and Grace Bascope' to discuss their replacement landscaping. Council authorized advertisement of the bid request for the replacement landscaping scope of work on a motion made by Ms. Harner, seconded and unanimously approved.

The walking path in front of the Cianci property at 1 Buttonwood Way was not included in the Delco Greenways and DCED grant requests because these grants require completion of all proposed work and it was not clear if there would be enough money to complete this section. After bidding the walkway construction scope of work, it appears there may be adequate funds available to also do this last section where the Borough has a municipal right-of-way from the Pew Estate subdivision. Ms. Harner made a motion that the walking path in front of the Cianci property be added to the Rose Valley Road walking path scope of work if sufficient funds are available. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

As discussed at length at the September Council meeting, the Rose Valley Folk has asked that it be exempted from the Borough amusement tax similar to Rose Valley Swimming Pool. Resolution 7 – 2025 was approved at the September meeting authorizing the Council President to sign the Twelfth Addendum to the Lease Agreement dated January 1, 1975 between the Rose Valley Folk and the Borough. This addendum states that the Folk will rent office space to the Borough for an annual nominal dollar for as long as the Lease shall remain in effect, in conjunction with the Borough repealing the amusement tax ordinance. After some discussion, it was agreed that the addendum shall state that the Term of the lease shall run from October 8, 2025, to December 31, 2030, shall automatically renew unless notice of non-renewal is given pursuant to Section 7 of the Lease for five (5) additional years running from January 1, 2031, to December 31, 2035, and shall automatically renew each year annually thereafter starting January 1, 2036, unless notice of non-renewal is given pursuant to Section 7 of the Lease.

Ordinance No. 360 terminating the Rose Valley Borough Amusement Tax by repealing the Amusement Tax Ordinance No. 198, Ordinance No. 335 which exempted Hedgerow Theatre, and Ordinance No. 356 which exempted Rose Valley Swimming Pool, was duly advertised in Delaware County Times. Mr. Hare made a motion that Ordinance No. 360 be approved which was seconded and passed by a vote of 4-1, with Mr. Orr voting nay.

## FINANCES

Mr. Hare reported that Mr. Bourke had reconciled the Borough's bank accounts as shown in the September Status of Funds and went over the September Income Reports. Mr. Neilson reviewed the October Bills for Approval. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$34,711.81 from the General Fund and \$0.12 from the Highway Aid Fund were approved on motions made by Mr. Hare, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hare distributed a draft 2026 budget assuming the total assessed real estate value equals \$205 million, the recycling bid comes in at \$70,000 and expenses total \$418,832, which required an almost 5 percent increase to the current millage rate of 1.32 mills. The increase is partly due to the loss of about \$10,000 in amusement tax income. Mr. Neilson asked that Council work to keep taxes as low as possible.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary