

ROSE VALLEY BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
December 10, 2025

An Executive Session was held in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on December 10, 2025 in the main room of the Old Mill. 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 and Secretary Paula Healy were also present. Treasurer Chris Bourke and Solicitor G. Guy Smith were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Peter Howell and Ron Ploeg.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the November 12, 2025 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Neilson thanked the Rose Valley Gardeners for the beautiful holiday swags they made for the street signs of Rose Valley.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby reported that EAC member Katie Rubin led an educational program on November 9 attended by about 40 children and adults where Stroud Water Research Center came and analyzed leaf packets previously put in Ridley Creek to identify macroinvertebrates species. Unfortunately, they found invasive New Zealand mud snails in the creek. Ron Ploeg and Katie also did salt testing at various locations.

The EAC recommended postponing going out for bids for the stream bank stabilization project along Vernon Run near Rose Valley Pool to fulfill the Borough's MS-4 requirements in order to allow time for further consultation with the Borough engineer and perhaps also the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The project is now planned for February of 2027. The project involves inserting live stakes into the embankment which need to be planted in February while dormant and before they start to grow roots and bud.

The Winklevoss Charitable Fund has made contributions to the Borough to be used for EAC projects over the years. The EAC recommends using the \$500 gift from 2024 and the \$1,000 gift from 2025 to purchase 3 American plum trees to be planted on the west side of Old Mill Lane after removing the large honeysuckle tree at this location. Some of these funds will also be used to provide home composting bins to residents at a discount. Approval of these projects will be

put on the agenda for the January Council meeting. Mr. Busby expressed renewed appreciation for the contributions over the years from the Winklevoss Charitable Fund.

The request for bids for 2026 Recycling was advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times on November 19 and November 21. One response was received from J. P. Mascaro and opened on December 9, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Borough Office by Mayor Hale. The bid was \$86,328 for weekly pickup and \$67,320 for every-other-week pickup. Mr. Busby made a motion to accept the \$67,320 bid from J. P. Mascaro for every-other-week pickup which was seconded and unanimously passed.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Orr reported that Aqua had left their traffic cones on Longpoint Lane after their water main replacement project and requested that Mrs. Healy ask Aqua to come pick them up.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported the Library held a donor appreciation event on December 7 and remains in need of additional board members, preferably with a background in fundraising.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the November Police Report showed 7 responses to incidents including 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 suspicious person, 2 thefts, 1 false alarm and 2 for animal debris on road. The November Fire Report showed 3 emergency calls for automatic fire alarms and 1 “good intend” alarm where someone believes there is a fire, but it is really something benign like steam from a dryer vent. The speed device at Thunderbird Lodge has a sensor problem that needs to be addressed. A Town Watch Appreciation Night is planned for Thursday, February 5, 2026.

Ms. Harner also reported she had attended two meetings of the working group exploring the formation of a joint authority to provide emergency medical services. She noted the group had selected Benjamin A. Reid as its legal counsel, and Mr. Sullivan indicated he had signed the Memorandum of Understanding for sharing the cost of his services.

PLANNING

Ms. Prown noted she had one agenda item involving Resolution 8-2025 and a Lease Agreement which were previously distributed to members of Council. She reported that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) owns the small parcel where the Minquas Trail monument is located and is willing to give this parcel to the Borough through a process which entails an Act of Legislature that can take up to a year. While the Borough pursues this long-term objective, PHMC is willing to lease the parcel to the Borough for \$1.00 a year. The bronze beaver and tablet, which were also owned by PHMC, were pried off their granite monument and stolen in 2021 and never recovered. Certain members of the community, including a Traymore resident, would like to donate replicas of the beaver and tablet to be made by a local artist using

non-bronze materials so they would not likely be stolen again, and remount them for the 100th anniversary of the 1926 dedication of Great Minquas Trail Monument. The Borough would also like to make improvements to the viewing area and access to the monument as part of an Eagle Scout project, which would also serve as part of the walking path along Rose Valley Road. Ms. Prown made a motion that Resolution 8 – 2025 be adopted authorizing the Council President to execute the Lease Agreement with the PHMC for the Great Minquas Trail monument parcel, which was seconded. The lease agreement requires the Borough to maintain adequate insurance, with PHMC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania named as additional insureds. Peter Howell asked who owns the land along Rose Valley Road at the entrance to Traymore Lane near the monument. Mr. Hale responded that the Borough owns the land in front of the Traymore entrance because it owns the ultimate right-of-way extending 25 feet out from the middle of Rose Valley Road. Next there is an 11-foot-wide section of Thunderbird Lodge property before you come to the PHMC Minquas Trail Monument parcel which is only 15 feet wide. After that comes the Thunderbird Lodge property again. Mr. Howell asked if the parcel could be leased to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation to later become part of the Thunderbird Lodge property. Mr. Hale replied that PHMC is only authorized to lease to political subdivisions because their continued existence is assured. Following this discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 8 – 2025 was unanimously passed.

Peter Howell also commented that the Rose Valley Museum favors reproducing the beaver and tablet in bronze and remounting them on the monument as the long-term outcome. They have been working on this approach for about two years and obtained an estimate of \$40,000 for both items from the company that reproduced the goat on Rittenhouse Square made by the same artist, and they are attempting to locate the original molds which may be in Florida. The Museum was considering fundraising for this work in 2026, but they are now raising money to publish their book on Rose Valley and have had to postpone this effort. Mr. Busby asked if it would make more sense to keep the bronze reproductions in the museum and not out where people could steal them again. Mr. Howell indicated this was a conversation for another day, noting he wanted to get the museum's long-term preference on the record, and that a temporary solution for the 100th anniversary of the monument's dedication would be good for the Borough and the community.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reported that Chris Bourke had reconciled the Borough's bank accounts as shown in the November Status of Funds and went over the November Income Reports. Mr. Neilson reviewed the December Bills for Approval. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$52,319.88 from the General Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed,

The Proposed 2026 Budget was duly advertised and has been on display in the Borough Office and on the Borough website since November 14. The following additional information came in after the proposed budget was passed at the last Council meeting. The total assessed value of real estate in the Borough provided by the Delaware County Board of Assessment came in at \$204,688,162, down from last year's \$206,130,303 due to tax appeals. The 2026 contribution to the fire companies came in higher than the \$33,000 in the proposed budget at \$36,928, up from

last year's \$32,378. The recycling bid came in lower than the \$70,543 in the proposed budget at \$67,320, up from last year's \$66,324. The cost of medical insurance came in higher than the \$3,700 in the proposed budget at \$6,473, up from last year's \$3,336 because the Office Assistant also elected coverage in addition to the Borough Manager. Mr. Hare distributed a Final 2026 Budget adjusted to reflect the net effect of these changes with total revenues and expenses of \$425,303, no appropriation from Capital Reserve, and an increase in the millage rate from 1.32 to 1.39 mills representing a 5.3 percent tax increase. It was noted this increase was largely due to the loss of over \$10,500 in amusement tax revenue from the Rose Valley Folk because expenses only increased by \$2,700, even with the new line-item expense of \$6,700 for ALS ambulance emergency services. Mr. Hare made a motion to adopt the Final 2026 Budget which was duly seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hare made a motion to approve Resolution 9-2025 setting salaries and benefits for 2026 which was seconded. Mr. Sullivan proposed that Section 3, Medical Insurance, be revised for clarity to read as follows: "The Borough will pay one-half (1/2) of the medical insurance premium for the Borough Manager/Secretary and Administrative Assistant, including their spouses and eligible children, up to a maximum of \$800 per month each." With this change, Resolution 9-2025 was unanimously approved. Mr. Sullivan noted that routine payments due at the beginning of a month for regularly recurring items such as employee salaries, medical insurance, utility bills and worker's compensation insurance are paid when due and subsequently ratified at the monthly Council meeting. Ms. Prown made a motion to adopt Ordinance 361 setting the millage for 2026 at 1.39 mills, which was seconded. Mr. Orr advised that references to the Amusement Tax should be deleted since this tax was eliminated in October, as should reference to a Per Capita Tax because this tax is no longer collected. With these changes, Ordinance 361 was unanimously adopted by voice vote. Lastly, Council approved the end-of-year net transfers which move the monies in the operating checking and savings accounts at the close of 2025 to Capital Reserve and then lend the operating accounts \$70,000 from Capital Reserve at the beginning-of-the-year on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The following resolutions were adopted on motions made, seconded and unanimously approved:

Resolution 10-2025, Appointing Fischer Cunnane as Auditors for 2026

Resolution 11-2025, Setting Permit Fees for 2026

Resolution 12-2025, Reappointing Hope Thurlow to the Planning Commission

Resolution 13-2025, Reappointing Bruce Hunt to the Zoning Hearing Board

Resolution 14-2025, Reappointing Ron Ploeg to the Environmental Advisory Council

Resolution 15-2025, Reappointing Katherine Rubin to the Environmental Advisory Council

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale reminded Council that reelected Council members will be sworn in at the Borough Council reorganization meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary