

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING-BUDGET 2026
OCT. 6, 2025
620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania**

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Jim Ryder
	Scott Bomboy
	Steve Rose
	Dave Weaver
	Dave Worthington
	Chuck Brooks
	Robin Schilling
	Kelly Laustsen
Borough Manager:	Andrea L. Coaxum
Asst. Borough Mgr.:	Linda Reid
Finance Director:	Rebecca Deemer
Parks & Recreation Director:	Lauren Moll
Electric Superintendent:	Harold Stone

The Finance Committee meeting started at 4:00PM and Councilman Bomboy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

John Gatter, of 601 Spruce Street, addressed the committee. He expressed his appreciation for the pickleball courts and noted some maintenance needs that he hopes will be included in the 2026 budget. He also suggested forming a subcommittee much like the Skate Park Committee.

DRAFT BUDGET 2026

Councilman Bomboy opened the meeting. He did not make any specific comments about the budget but wanted to thank the Finance Director and Borough Manager for all the work that has been put into preparing the draft.

The Finance Director presented a budget summary that provided a breakdown of the culture and recreation budget as it is shared between the parks and recreation department and special events.

Revenue associated with Culture & Recreation:

- Recreation Program Fees – \$70,000
- Special Events Revenue – \$50,000
- Basketball League – \$9,300
- Pavilion Rental Fees – \$6,000
- Other Fees/Sponsorships – \$6,000

Expenses associated with Culture & Recreation:

- Parks & Recreation Wages, Program Costs & Operating Costs – \$196,421
- Special Events Wages, Events expenses & Other Operating Costs - \$135,431

The Parks and Recreation Director talked about all the different programming and courses that are provided throughout the year. Over 200 kids were enrolled in camps this year. There were an additional 725 individuals enrolled in the other programs that were offered. There was a lot more marketing that took place this year that helped with filling the programs.

Councilman Worthington mentioned that Ms. Moll has had the foresight to know when school is closed to take advantage of those dates to run programs.

Councilwoman Laustsen asked about the time of day for the different camp sessions.

Ms. Moll stated that most of the camps are typically run in the morning from 9-12. The fees associated with a full day camp is very high for the community and have seen lower registration for those camps.

Councilwoman Laustsen recommended doing afternoon camps from 1-4 also.

Ms. Moll stated that we did include additional funding in the park's maintenance line item to address some of the concerns of the pickleball community. We will also be adding to a revenue line that will allow us to accept donations that can be used to help offset those costs and/or other costs related to the park system.

Park's capital items in the draft include:

• Kulp Park Infield Groomer	\$ 5,400
• Kulp Park Camera System	\$ 27,000
• Lenap Park Skate Park Cluster 4	\$ 46,000
• Covered Bridge Camera System	\$ 25,350

Councilman Bomboy recommended the National Preservation Society funding for the camera system for the covered bridge.

There was further discussion about the camera systems as far as the connection requirements and that the covered bridge camera covers costs to be able to run a live feed during the reconstruction of the bridge.

Councilman Brooks asked if there is the ability for joint use of equipment with Pennridge High School.

Ms. Moll stated that we could use equipment that is owned by Pennridge but the field is still used for recreation purposes, and we would want to have the proper equipment to handle that.

Councilwoman Laustsen asked for clarification on the Skate Park piece.

Ms. Moll provided an overview of the entire replacement project that has been ongoing in the skate park.

Councilwoman Schilling asked about privacy regarding the camera systems, specifically how often is the footage deleted.

Ms. Coaxum stated that the system does delete the data on a regular basis, but he can speak to specifics at a future meeting. The data is only retained if there is an incident. The cameras have proven to be very beneficial when trying to identify subjects responsible for vandalism.

Councilman Rose asked about funding towards flooding in the park.

Ms. Coaxum discussed the ongoing streambank stabilization project and the streambank maintenance plan that is in the draft budget.

The Finance Director provided an overview of the Menlo Budget. A 2025 year to date summary was provided. Overall, revenues were 4.2% higher than budgeted. Expenses are expected to come in 1.4% under budget. The anticipated surplus is \$97,032. \$65,102 of that surplus will be needed for the pool to meet its fund balance requirement. The remaining \$31,903 will be used for needed repairs in the off season. The 2026 draft budget does not include any increase in membership fees or daily admissions. Revenue projections are based on how the pool performed this year and we do not anticipate any major increases in expenses.

Councilman Worthington commented that adding online purchasing for daily passes and offering payment plans helped to make things more functional for the public.

Ms. Coaxum added that with the addition of the pool manager that it allows the staff to start planning things well in advance. This includes swimming lessons, birthday parties and other programming at the pool.

Menlo capital items in the draft include:

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| • Replacement of Backwash valves | \$ 7,000 |
| • Feature Replacement | \$ 10,500 |
| • Pool Pump Replacements | \$ 36,100 |
| • Reserves for Diamond Brite | \$ 82,500 |

Ms. Moll mentioned that with the anticipated surplus for 2025, they can have the Tot/Baby Pool pump and feature replacements done and remove those items from the 2026 capital plan.

Councilwoman Schilling asked if there is an opportunity to offer subsidized pricing for pool memberships. There was further discussion on this topic.

Councilman Brooks commended Lauren on her budget presentation.

Ms. Deemer presented budget highlights for the Electric Fund. There is an increase in revenue of 2.8% and an increase in expenses of 4.3%. A summary of the 2026 Capacity Plan was provided. Energy purchases are decreasing by \$310,865, while Installed Capacity is increasing by \$ 465,800. The net impact of these changes results in an overall increase of \$147,629. A copy of the Borough's energy supply plan was provided.

The Electric Superintendent mentioned that we had a discussion earlier in the day with GDS about whether we need to do a fall power purchase. GDS is recommending that we consider long-term purchases. They are currently seeking indicative pricing for Chambersburg and will let us know what that pricing looks like to determine if now is a good time for us to seek pricing.

Councilman Weaver asked about the remaining life span of the transformers.

Mr. Stone said that they were installed in 1995, and we were told they could last 25-30 years. Periodic testing can be done to see if there are any signs of deterioration. He stated that the Borough's load is split between the two transformers and if need be, the town can run off of 1 transformer.

Electric capital items in the draft include:

• Replacement 2014 Bucket Truck	\$ 331,634
• Replace Electric Man Doors/Windows	\$ 18,000
• Bank Circuit & Feeder Circuit Breaker Relays	\$ 78,000
• Substation SCADA system	\$ 20,000
• Reserves for future	\$ 227,667

Councilman Weaver asked if \$70,000 in bank fees is typical.

Ms. Deemer explained that last year we had considered passing some of those fees onto the customers and it ended up not being cost efficient, so we are bringing that expense in line with the actual costs.

Councilman Rose asked if we are planning to increase electric rates this year.

Ms. Coaxum stated we aren't at a point to make that recommendation yet but to keep in mind that Council did approve to create a separate line item for installed capacity on the customer's bill so perhaps Council could consider passing that charge on again. Since we are still in the working draft of the budget that discussion will take place at the third budget meeting.

Councilman Bomboy stated that it is worth noting that based on the survey by PMEA Perkasio Borough rates are lower than PPL and PECO. PPL announced this week that they are adding an 8% increase on the distribution fee to their customers.

Councilwoman Schilling asked if there was a way for us to reduce our peak capacity.

There was further discussion on the peaking generators.

Ms. Coaxum addressed the committee regarding the Borough's Fund Balance Policies. Several years ago, capital purchases for the Electric Fund were being made from the Capital Fund. A transfer from the electric fund would be done to accommodate those capital purchases. At the end of the year the auditors would move those capital expenses back to the Electric Fund to capitalize and depreciate those assets since it is an enterprise fund. However, the funding was not credited back to the Electric Fund. Therefore, we started to account for capital purchases related to electric in the electric fund. Since then, the capital purchases and transfers to other funds have been included in the fund balance calculation. Since the fund balance policy only requires 14% of "Operating Expenses" we were able to determine that we have been setting aside more reserves than what is necessary due to the capital items and transfers.

There was further discussion regarding the fund balance calculations.

Ms. Coaxum stated that we will prepare a summary for everyone for the next budget meeting for a better understanding of the impact.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20th.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC FORUM

None

PRESS FORUM

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.



Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager/Secretary