

MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING-BUDGET 2027
Oct. 5, 2026
620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Robin Schilling
	Scott Bomboy
	Dave Worthington
	Dave Weaver
	Lilli Benner
	Jaclyn Cornelius
Acting Borough Mgr:	Linda Reid
Finance Director:	Rebecca Deemer
Park & Recreation Dir:	Lauren Moll
Electric Dept. Foreman:	Shane Huey

The Finance Committee meeting started at 4:00PM and Council President Schilling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

DRAFT BUDGET 2027

The Finance Director reviewed the preliminary funding gap of \$427,927, reflecting the Capital Fund shortfall of approximately \$255,000 and amounts needed for the General and Menlo funds to meet targeted fund balances.

Culture and Recreation

The Finance Director provided a summary of the budget stating that special-event revenues do not cover all departmental salaries, benefits and other expenditures; full self-support is not the intent. Program and event fees generally cover the direct cost of those activities.

The budget wages and benefits include 90% of the Park & Recreation Director, 25% of the Asst. Manager for Economic Development, the P/T Special Events Coordinator and as-needed, part-time events employees.

The Park & Recreation Director reviewed free seasonal programming, camps, classes, workshops, trips, the community garden and partner events. Recreation program revenue is budgeted at \$70,000 for 2027; approximately \$67,000 had been received by mid-September 2026, including approximately \$45,000 from camps.

The Acting Borough Manager reviewed the annual special events calendar, including the car show, Fall Festival, tree lighting, holiday shopping, farmers market, winter food market and summer concerts. Perkasio will host the 2027 Memorial Day parade and service.

Event sponsorships and fees contribute approximately \$80,000 in revenue.

The Committee discussed the broader economic-development and community value of events despite an estimated prior-year net cost of approximately \$86,000.

2027 capital discussion included approximately \$28,000 for repairs and recoat of the tennis and pickleball courts at Kulp Park. Staff will seek additional comparable quotes under the purchasing policy.

The Committee discussed pickleball demand, possible future repurpose of basketball courts, business-directory signage, and potential park advertising or sponsorships; no action was taken.

For Lenape Park and the covered bridge, the planned camera system was discussed at approximately \$32,000 for that phase, including previously spent funds, carryover and additional 2027 funding. Staff will follow up with the vendor on livestream reliability and whether footage is retained.

A \$25,000 allocation was discussed toward an updated Park Master Plan, with grant funding to be pursued in 2027 and plan work potentially undertaken in 2028. Existing plans do not adequately reflect recent park projects, Kulp Park, Liberty Bell Trail, the community garden and other potential sites.

The Committee also discussed ongoing maintenance responsibility for volunteer-installed public art and park improvements.

Menlo Aquatics Fund

The Finance Director presented a balanced draft Menlo budget which incorporates a proposed 2% membership-rate increase. Data was provided to show that rates would remain competitive with neighboring facilities.

The Park & Recreation Director reviewed the three-tier advance-purchase membership pricing with the committee.

The Park & Recreation Director discussed that 2026 membership revenue was approximately \$357,000 against a \$340,000 budget. Daily admissions were approximately \$98,000 against a \$100,000 budget. Staff attributed improved operations to more consistent management, programming, staffing and purchasing options.

Operating cost pressures include chemicals, equipment repairs, contracted services, water and sewer. Leak repairs could reduce future utility and chemical costs, but the budget conservatively reflects prior experience and current expectations.

Proposed capital items included \$5,500 to refurbish the whale feature; approximately \$8,000 for additional leisure-pool coping repairs; replacement pool vacuum equipment; and approximately \$8,250 to further investigate a suspected leisure-pool piping obstruction.

A \$25,000 placeholder was included for competition-pool leak repairs. Initial testing identified several gutter leaks. Options discussed were approximately \$17,000 for recaulking, with a three-to-five-year anticipated life, or approximately \$32,000 for tile installation and recaulking. Further testing of the pool shell and piping was pending.

The Committee deferred choosing a repair approach until additional findings are available, anticipated for the October 19 meeting.

The Finance Director provided a summary of the outstanding 2007 pool-related note. The draft budget includes \$253,636 in payments in 2027, with final payments expected in 2028.

Electric Fund

The Finance Director provided an overview of the current draft budget. Approximately 97% of revenues come from electric sales; 2027 sales projections were held near the 2026 budget, with no general rate increase assumed in the draft.

The draft Electric Fund budget reflects approximately \$46,000 in surplus, needed to meet the fund-balance target.

Projected 2027 electric power purchases were approximately \$5,654,000, an increase of approximately \$129,973. \$90,674 is related to the increase in installed capacity.

The Committee discussed congestion, energy blocks, capacity costs and purchasing strategy.

Councilman Weaver stated that GDS would be providing updated indicative market pricing for Council's information.

The 2027 Electric capital budget is \$466,000. It includes carryover for a delayed bucket-truck delivery, a possible smaller trouble truck, approximately \$60,000 for replacement of the 2015 pickup, \$20,000 for replacement holiday decorations, substation drawing updates and \$25,000 for decorative streetlight replacements and parts.

The Committee discussed long-term infrastructure needs, including electric-department facilities, the future replacement of electronic meters and the replacement of transformers.

The transformer-replacement reserve and potential financing were discussed. The Borough started setting aside funds in 2021 in anticipation of replacing two transformers for a total cost of \$1.0M. A recent estimate was obtained and the projected cost for the replacement of the transformers in 2030 is \$9.2M. At the end of 2026, the Borough will have set aside \$459,300 for the project.

The Finance Director explained that the Committee should consider borrowing for the project, or a hybrid approach that preserves some infrastructure reserves while helping address the current budget gap. Staff will obtain financing information before a decision is made.

Members discussed electric conservation education and customer communication. The potential pass-through of approximately \$90,000 in additional installed-capacity costs was considered, with concerns expressed about customer impacts and public reaction. No final rate direction was established.

Changes Since the Prior Budget Meeting

The Finance Director reviewed the following changes and additions since the last budget meeting:

Workers' compensation estimates remained consistent with budget assumptions.

Property and liability insurance estimates increased from the 3% budget assumption to approximately 11%, which reflects a \$15,284 increase. The Borough's acquisition of the library was identified as a contributing factor. The library's prospective HVAC and roof capital work was discussed.

ADA website accessibility work, estimated at \$2,500.

Possible Council room audio/video improvements ranging from \$17.5K to \$45K.

Replacement of loose asbestos-containing floor tile identified through a safety inspection. An initial estimated \$5,000 floor replacement allowance was discussed, pending more definitive information.

Potential savings of \$17,918 in overtime costs with changes to recycling center hours.

The Finance Director discussed credit-card processing fees. She reported that approximately \$110,649 was spent across all Borough funds for the prior year. The Committee discussed passing processing charges to customers who elect to pay by card while continuing lower-cost payment options such as ACH or check. Vendor implementation and fees require further review.

The Committee considered a range of approaches to closing the remaining budget gap, including card-fee savings, capacity-cost recovery, changes to transformer reserves, and potential tax changes. Staff will continue refining revenue and expenditure estimates, reviewing proposed capital projects, and evaluating opportunities for additional savings. Updated information, including

the results of the Menlo Aquatics pool leak testing and associated repair costs, will be presented at the next budget meeting scheduled for October 19, 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC FORUM

None

PRESS FORUM

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Linda J. Reid", is written over a horizontal line.

Linda J. Reid
Acting Borough Manager/Interim Secretary