

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING-BUDGET 2027
SEPT. 21, 2026
620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania**

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Robin Schilling
	Dave Worthington
	Dave Weaver
	Kelly Laustsen
	Lilli Benner
	Jaclyn Cornelius
Mayor:	Jeff Hollenbach
Acting Borough Mgr:	Linda Reid
Finance Director:	Rebecca Deemer
Public Works Super:	Jeff Tulone
Police Chief:	Robert Schurr

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 outlined the budget-development process, including department meetings in July and August, staff review of requests, Finance Committee review, subsequent revisions and anticipated adoption in December.

The primary budget pressures identified were employee compensation and benefits, electric installed-capacity costs, and capital projects.

The preliminary draft reflected an approximately \$255,000 capital-fund shortfall and approximately \$172,927 needed to meet General and Menlo fund-balance targets, for a combined funding gap of \$427,927.

Electric and Refuse were projected to have small surpluses of approximately \$46,000 and \$33,000, respectively, needed to meet their own fund-balance targets. The policy targets discussed were 14% for Electric and 8% for Refuse. The figures were preliminary and subject to refinement.

The General Fund discussion highlighted the importance of Electric Fund transfer, earned income tax and Sellersville police-service contribution. Salaries and benefits were identified as the largest General Fund expense components.

The draft assumed no increase in staffing; 4.25% wage increases for AFSCME and administrative employees; and a provisional 4% police increase pending negotiations. Members discussed how police step progression affects the overall salary-line increase.

The draft initially assumes an 8% health-insurance increase pending final rates. Other insurance estimates were based on preliminary carrier guidance.

The Finance Director discussed a potential change to administrative employee medical opt-out payments: \$5,000 single, \$7,500 couple and \$10,000 family, to better align administrative benefits with other employee groups.

Administration capital items discussed included approximately \$60,000 for MS4 engineering, \$25,000 for a comprehensive plan update, information-technology and computer replacements, and \$15,000 for a replacement Formax utility-bill folding/sealing machine. Staff is evaluating outsourcing utility-bill printing and mailing as an alternative.

The Committee reviewed the covered bridge rehabilitation and Park Avenue/Green Light Go work.

Police Department

The 2027 Police budget assumed a provisional 4% base wage increase and ongoing negotiations over Detective and Sergeant differentials. The proposed Sellersville contribution was discussed as potentially increasing from 32% to 33%, based on multi-year call volume, with negotiations continuing.

The Police Chief discussed the increase in record-management costs related to a cloud-based system, replacing reliance on an on-site server.

The Finance Director explained that the pension contribution was expected to decline, due to three officers in DROP and actuarial factors.

The Police Chief reported that an officer absence had increased overtime needs. The overtime budget was proposed to rise from \$75,000 to \$100,000. Workers' compensation reimbursement, and possible academy reimbursements for new hires were discussed. The Chief also noted that compensatory time can reduce immediate overtime expenses, but that accumulated balances may create future payout liabilities.

Police capital needs included roof replacement, vehicle replacement and continuing payments for body and in-car cameras. A recent police roof estimate of approximately \$98,900 was discussed against roughly \$92,000 expected to be reserved by 2027.

Mr. Weaver asked if multiple quotes for the roof repair have been obtained. The Chief indicated that a COSTARS roofing vendor had been used previously and that multiple quotes had not been obtained.

Public Works, Refuse and Recycling

The Public Works Director reviewed street and park maintenance, winter operations, municipal buildings, traffic-control devices and related capital needs.

Road-salt expenditures were proposed to increase because of recent usage and a reported increase of approximately \$13 per ton.

The draft identified approximately \$1.07 million for Refuse and Recycling and approximately \$489,000 in Public Works capital expenditures.

The Committee discussed the increasing disposal and hauling costs, the decline in paper-recycling commodity rebates, contamination in commingled recycling, and the costs and practical limitations of separating additional materials.

The Committee discussed whether collection practices and accepted materials could be evaluated to reduce costs while complying with applicable recycling requirements.

The Public Works Director discussed the status of the LSA grant for the proposed Hook Truck. The Borough was notified that we did not receive the grant. The Public Works Director will review his capital items to see what the best approach is for funding the truck.

The Committee discussed the condition and eventual replacement of the Borough holiday tree. Staff will investigate options for inclusion in the capital plan.

Staff will continue refining 2027 estimates and departmental budgets as updated figures become available.

The next budget discussion will be held on Monday, October 5, at 4:00 p.m. to address Electric and Culture and Recreation/Menlo-related matters.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC FORUM

None

PRESS FORUM

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.



Linda J. Reid
Acting Borough Manager/Interim Secretary