

New Wilmington Borough Council Minutes

February 2, 2026 Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Council President Cherry Poteet led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Members Present: President Cherry Poteet, Vice President Lee Ann Miller, Dave Hunter, John Geidner, Kiersten Reiber, Janet Robb and Diane Richardson.

Other borough representatives present: Mayor Sherie Babb, Administrator Tracy O'Neill, Superintendent Brad Latimer and Stanton Fleming representing New Wilmington Municipal Authority

Approval of Minutes: Cherry Poteet made a motion to approve the previous month's meeting minutes. Janet Robb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Bills: Dave Hunter made a motion to ratify the payment of the previous month's bills. Kiersten Reiber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Beth Verterano - Beth expressed appreciation to the Police Chief and staff for the community flyer and spoke regarding the PA Heart & Soul initiative, asking about the potential for hiring a manager if funding is secured. Council indicated any future hiring would follow an open advertising process.

Municipal Authority: Stanton Fleming reported that the Municipal Authority is reviewing its financials to determine how to initiate projects without increasing costs.

Administrator Report: Tracy O'Neill stated that updates to the Borough phone system are being reviewed, with three quotes received and scheduled to be presented for a vote in March. Tracy also noted that she is working on quotes for the outdated printer system in the office.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Brad Latimer reported the following

- Ongoing snow removal: significant staff hours worked. Snow continues to be hauled from tight areas as needed.
- Water main break on Market Street. Public complimented Brad and the Maintenance staff on the quick response and working through the cold temperatures.
- Utility pole replaced at Neshannock & Market.
- 220 Vine Street lateral concerns may require updates.

- Sewer plant experienced electrical issues; Cabin Creek inspected and was able to repair.
- Mailbox previously located in roadway at Post Office was removed.

Mayor Babb – Police Report: Mayor Babb and Police Chief Jewell presented the Police Report. Mayor Babb mentioned the 3-part safety presentations the Chief will be conducting over the next few months.

Resignation of Frank Verterano: Cherry Poteet made a motion to accept the resignation of Frank Verterano as Borough Solicitor. Janet Robb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Ryan Long: Cherry Poteet made a motion to appoint Ryan Long as Borough Solicitor. Diane Richardson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Update: Cherry Poteet assigned the following committees

- Personnel: Dave Hunter, Chair & Cherry Poteet
- Pool/Park/Community Activities: Kiersten Reiber, Chair & Diane Richardson
- Streets and Buildings: Lee Ann Miller, Chair & Dave Hunter
- Electric/Trash/Sewer: John Geidner, Chair & Kiersten Reiber
- Finance: Cherry Poteet, Chair & John Geidner
- Grants and Boro Improvement: Diane Richardson, Chair & Lee Ann Miller
- Planning and Zoning: Janet Robb, Chair & Cherry Poteet

Financial Report: Cherry Poteet reported that the year ended with a deficit of \$155,412.22, which will be covered by reserve funds.

Resolution 2026-02: Cherry Poteet made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 authorizing the Borough Administrator to execute administrative documents. Janet Robb seconded. The motion passed with four votes in favor (Janet Robb, Cherry Poteet, Kiersten Reiber, and Diane Richardson), two opposed (John Geidner and Dave Hunter) and one abstained (Lee Ann Miller).

Municipal Authority: Cherry Poteet made a motion to reappoint Stanton Fleming to another term on the Water Authority. His term will expire 12/31/2029. John Geidner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Board: Cherry Poteet made a motion to reappoint Mark Wilson to another term on the Zoning Hearing Board. His term will expire 12/31/2030. Janet Robb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Board: Cherry Poteet made a motion to promote Debbie Fisher from alternate to member of the Zoning Hearing Board, for a term ending 12/31/2029. Janet Robb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commission- Cherry Poteet made a motion to appoint Mary James to the Planning Commission. Her term will expire 12/31/2029. Dave Hunter seconded.

John Geidner made a motion to table the nominations for planning commission. Lee Ann seconded. The motion failed with 4 votes opposed (Janet Robb, Cherry Poteet, Dave Hunter, and Diane Richardson), three in favor (John Geidner, Kiersten Reiber and Lee Ann Miller).

Motion to appoint Mary James to the Planning Commission passed unanimously.

Electric: John Geidner made a motion to accept the February 2026 list to limit electric service as presented. Kiersten Reiber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sanitation/Water: John Geidner made a motion to accept the February 2026 Water Terminations as presented. Cherry Poteet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

1989 Ford Pole Truck: John Geidner made a motion to authorize sale of 1989 Ford Pole Truck via Muncibid. Cherry Poteet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

HRG: Matt Arena introduced our new HRG engineer, Johnna Zona. She will follow up with a proposal for rate study on tap fees and sewer rates if needed.

Grants: Diane Richardson provided an update on grants and improvements. A Comprehensive Plan update was discussed, with potential for 50% grant funding, April 1st deadline.

Personnel: Dave Hunter reported that there is an open position in the maintenance department and will begin advertising soon. Mr. Hunter also requested an executive session regarding personnel matters.

Zoning: Janet Robb reported Gary Johnson is working through the Zoning Ordinance and should have something for the council in the coming months.

Parks and Community Matters: Kiersten Reiber made a motion to approve the 2026 pool rates, with no changes from 2025. John Geidner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-03: Kiersten Reiber made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03 to become a PA Heart and Soul community and to apply for a \$10,000 grant. Cherry Poteet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Streets and Buildings: Lee Ann Miller asked whether the repairs needed to the new Borough Parking lot will be paid out of the streets budget. It was determined that the repairs would be covered by capital reserves.

Council dismissed the public to go into executive session at 7:38pm to discuss Personnel.

Council exited executive session and the regular Meeting resumed at 9:42pm.

Adjournment: Diane Richardson made a motion to adjourn. John Geidner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43pm