

October 20, 2025

MINUTES

A special meeting of Dover Borough Council was held at Borough Hall, 46 Butter Road on Monday, October 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM for the purpose of preparing the 2026 budgets. Mr. Hassinger and Mayor Hernley were absent. All other council members and Mr. Grim were present. President Sabold called the meeting to order followed by a moment of silent prayer.

The Wallace Fund was reviewed with no changes.

The Highway Aid Fund was reviewed with no changes.

Sewer Fund

The Sewer Fund budget was reviewed. The \$80,000 ARPA funds were not transferred in 2025 as budgeted. The split of payroll between the funds was discussed. Mrs. Plowman had entered the *Health Insurance, Payroll and Payroll Taxes* as suggested at the previous meeting. The *2009 Loan (470.00)* was decreased to \$180,000. There was a discussion regarding sewer rates. The last sewer fee increase was 2009. In order to balance the budget, Council agreed to increase the sewer fee by \$2.00 per 1000 gallon and \$2.00 per student at the two schools. This will increase the *Sewer Fee (364.10)* to \$588,887.24. The *2009 Loan (470.00)* was revised back to the original \$200,000. This left an overage of \$4,588.59 that was put into *Cash Reserve (429.70)*. These entries gave a balanced budget of \$ 603,887.24.

General Fund

The General Fund budget was reviewed. Mrs. Plowman had entered the *Health Insurance, Payroll and Payroll Taxes* as suggested at the previous meeting. Mr. Hassinger arrived at 7:30 PM. The deficit was discussed and any changes we can make to balance the budget. A real estate property tax increase was discussed. The last increase was in 2020. Council agreed to do a 1 mill increase. The new millage rate will be 4.94.

Under *Income, Real Estate Taxes (301.00)* were increased to \$367,562 and *Earned Income (310.20)* to \$280,000.

Under *Expenses, Engineering (408.0)* decreased to \$40,000, *Decorations/Banners (40.47)* to zero, *EMA Expense (415.50)* to \$1,000. The difference will be transferred from *Savings (392.01)* \$76,520.17. This will give a balanced budget of \$1,363,594.30.

Water Fund

A fire tax was discussed. The Borough requested a full budget to see the actual need after their fundraising. We received a listing of expenses that our donation covers. In addition to the annual donation the Borough also pays worker's compensation for the fire department and provides free water and sewer. Mr. Slusser explained that when the sewer plant addition was done, the Borough needed additional property to move the fence and to add a driveway for the trucks. Rather than using eminent domain, an agreement was made that the fire department would move the fence back for the driveway and in return the Borough would provide water and sewer to the fire department. Several ideas were mentioned about what the fire tax could be used for and various rate options. Mr. Slusser shared the financial struggles of the fire department and that it may be necessary at some point in the future to regionalize with Dover Township. Council agreed since the millage rate is being

increased for 2026, adding a fire tax was too much at once for the property owners. This will be revisited next year.

The water budget was reviewed. The proposed payroll and health reimbursements, payroll and health benefits were entered. The ARPA funds were not transferred as budgeted in 2025. Council discussed increasing the water rates due to the short fall in the budget. Several options were discussed in regard to water rates and what the future of the water system may be. Currently there is a valuation being conducted to help determine the future of the water system. Council agreed to raise the water rate and school rate by \$2 per 1000 gallons. The new rates will be calculated to update the budget. A transfer will be made from ARPA funds for the shortage.

The fee schedule was reviewed. No changes were made to the current fees.

The budget meeting for October 21, 2025 is cancelled.

The next budget meeting will be November 11, 2025.

Mr. Slusser made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Plowman
Secretary/Treasurer