BOROUGH OF WEST READING
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 25, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its second monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 with the following persons present: Council President Ryan Lineaweaver; Council Vice President Patrick Kaag; Council Pro-Tem Denise Drobnick; Council Members Bethany Bower, and Vicki Haller Graff; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli; Code Department Manager & Fire Chief Chad Moyer; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Treasurer Jeanette Rentschler; Assistant Treasurer Helen Moyer; Recreation Director Michael Esterly; Borough Manager Randall Miller; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Council Members Justin Choate and Maggie Seaman could not attend.

VISITORS:
Lukas Slezak, Resident

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Ryan Lineaweaver called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

2. **AGENDA AMENDMENTS:** There were no amendments to the agenda.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
   Mr. Slezak requested confirmation of plans to remove the borough tree in front of his home on Friday, August 28, 2026. Mr. Grassley confirmed plans to remove several trees on Friday.

4. **BUDGET DISCUSSION:**
   Mr. Miller reported that the individual departments have reviewed their budgets with Mrs. Moyer, and he and Mrs. Moyer reviewed the figures. The focus has been on expenditures, although the 2026 and 2027 budgets appear to be in good shape.

   He and Mrs. Moyer have focused on future liabilities such as payout of accrued vacation time. A line item has been created in each fund and each department, labeled Vacation Buyback. The 2027 budget includes the allocation of $32,000 based on a seven-year amortization of these future costs.

   Rate-of-pay expectations have been reviewed against the collective bargaining agreements. The Personnel Committee will review this, along with the non-uniformed rates, prior to presenting to Borough Council.

   General Fund 400 Administration expenditures in 2027 are budgeted roughly 1.48% less than in 2026.

   General Fund 403 Tax Collection expenditures are lower now that the county processes these payments.

   General Fund 409 Shared Building expenditures have decreased by roughly $1,000 from the 2026 budget. A typo was noted in the 2026 year-end estimate for this line item. Mr. Miller stated that he does not have Helen’s budget spreadsheet in front of him; he has his own spreadsheet for his calculations.

   General Fund 410 Police expenditures are increasing 5.6% in 2027 due in part to changes in the structure of the department. Benecon suggested a 13% increase for health insurance to satisfy the reinsurance factor used in the last few years.

General Fund 411 Fire expenditures are increasing 3.2%.

General Fund 413 Code expenditures are increasing 3.4%.

General Fund 415 Emergency Services and Animal Control expenditures are increasing slightly next year.

General Fund 430 Public Works expenditures are increasing by 4.7%. Mr. Grassley recommended increasing 01-430-172 Overtime from $72,800 to $110,000 in 2027 based on the proposed contract change from two- to three-hour overtime callouts. He noted that, to date this year, there have been 230 callout hours. This change would increase the total Public Works expenditures in 2027 to $1,378,027.

General Fund 431 Streets – Expenditures are increasing by $2,000 for traffic signals and line painting. Snow and ice removal expenditures remain unchanged.

Grant information has not been forecasted.

01-438-375 Cloverleaf Mowing fees have increased; however, the state stipend covers these expenses.

01-445-300 Parking Meter Kiosk Expense has increased; the property owner shares this expense with the borough.

01-446-300 MS4 Cooperation Agreement – These expenses will not change next year.

General Fund 455 Shade Tree – Expenditures remain unchanged.

General Fund 456 Library – This line item still allocates $2,500 to the library in 2027.

General Fund 462 Elm Street – Expenditures were lowered to $60,000 next year in anticipation of LSA Gateway Grant funding reimbursement.

General Fund 465 Main Street – The annual operating expense contribution remains at $42,000.

01-471-411 Fire Truck Payments – These payments will be satisfied in October 2026.

01-472-600 Fire Station Loan – These payments will be satisfied in October 2026. Mr. Miller recommended allocating funds for future fire truck purchases. Mr. Moyer noted that Paul Janssen had previously recommended not allocating tax dollars for future expenditures. The Fire Tax generates roughly $550,000 per year with an operating budget of $250,000 per year. The remaining $200,000 is allocated to obligation bonds for the firehouse and current fire engine. Fire engines are rapidly increasing in price; the current price is $2,000,000. Mr. Moyer encouraged setting aside funds for a future fire truck purchase based on the increased expense.

General Fund 481 Revenue Transfers have not been forecasted at this time.

General Fund 486 Insurance expenses are increasing by 5%.

Water Fund – In anticipation of being awarded $865,000 in various grant-funded projects, and based on our current pace of water revenue, we anticipate $2,900,000 in water revenue without an increase in water rates. With a proposed 9% increase in water purchase price next year, total water revenue is projected at $3,025,400. Expenditures, grant monies, capital, and transfers for the year would total $3,229,398, roughly $600,000 less than what was anticipated this year. Mr. Miller indicated that there should be a surplus this year that can be carried forward to 2027.

Sewer Fund – Anticipated revenues this year total $2,553,822, with expenditures totaling $2,409,054, which is a difference of roughly $150,000. No rate increases have been announced to date.

Sanitation Fund – Without an increase in revenue, $750,790 was projected in 2027. Contracted fees will increase next year from $485,300 to $506,835.

Recreation Fund – The projected 2027 revenue was $440,900, with a budgeted transfer of $142,200 from the General Fund to balance the fund. Expenditures were slated at $313,000.

There were no questions about the information presented.

5. **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT:** President Lineaweaver tabled the Collective Bargaining Agreement approvals until the September meeting, noting that tentative agreements are in place with the Police and Public Works Departments.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.
7. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Drobnick. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary