

Westmoreland Town Board
Budget Meeting
September 24, 2025

Supervisor Charles Hebbard called this budget meeting to order at 6:00pm on September 24, 2025 at 100 Station Rd. Westmoreland, NY.

Present at this meeting were Councilpersons Burton Seymour, Randy Rundle, Peter Smith. Also present were Bookkeeper Diane Rolewicz, Bookkeeper Assistant Allison Leone, and Highway Superintendent Russell Young. Absent from this meeting was Councilperson Kirk Donley.

Bookkeeper Rolewicz explains that the tentative budget means each department has made the following requests for changes in their budget over last year. Once the board agrees to any changes, it becomes the preliminary budget

The **Tindall Lighting District, Westmoreland Lighting District and the Clark Mills Lighting District** were reviewed. Supervisor Hebbard mentions how National Grid prices are expected to raise 30% over the next three years. Bookkeeper Rolewicz says we should not raise the budget over 2% for the year. It was determined to leave them all unchanged.

The **Water Districts; Westmoreland Tindall & Camelot** were discussed and remain unchanged. **Spencer Settlement** water district is discussed at length. Due to a leak, there was a major repair this year. Supervisor Hebbard would like to raise the monthly rate for residents in 2026. The **Martin Drive Sewer** is not expected to see any changes. Councilperson Smith inquires what is done with surplus funds, Bookkeeper Rolewicz explains that money allocated for water, must stay within water.

Highway Superintendent Young presents his budget worksheet for the **Highway Fund. Capital Outlay, Permanent Improvements, Roads, CHIPs**, will all remain unchanged from last year. Highway Superintendent Young has requested an increase in **Machinery** in order to purchase two boxes and plows, loader, and grapppler. There is discussion on paying cash versus financing.

Supervisor Hebbard says the preliminary budget is reflecting an expected increase of 25% on **Insurance**. Bookkeeper Rolewicz explains that the **Fuel** budget is hard to predict, as the fuel prices fluctuate often. **Contractual** increased \$10,000. **Machinery** increased \$5,000 for parts **Tree & Brush** increased. **Snow Removal** is hard to predict due to the cost of salt. Highway Superintendent Young says that **Government Services** line will increase, because we will receive more money this year from the county for ditching and mowing. **Sale of Property** may change if we sell one of the trucks.

It is agreed to give **MEO, HEO, and Mechanic** positions a 6% raise on the **Personal Services** line. We are pretty much in line with other towns. **Highway Superintendent** is increased to \$74,000.00. **Deputy Highway Superintendent** will also receive 6%.

Employee Benefits – the town changed options for medical insurance policies this year. Councilperson Rundle inquired about offering health insurance buyouts.

Turning to the **General Fund**, Supervisor Hebbard states that the **Town Board** did not ask for any raises in 2026. Supervisor Hebbard would like to raise the **Deputy Supervisor** wage to \$2,000 per year. He speaks of the importance of funding the position as opposed to the individual. Discussion took place about comparison to nearby townships, and job duties of the **Councilpersons**.

Town Justices have requested an increase to \$19,360.00 each, approximately 10%. It is determined to allow a 6% increase, as this will keep them on par with other towns, and along with the other increases budgeted. The **Senior Justice Clerk** and **Jr. Justice Clerk** will be increased by 6%. **Contractual** will remain the same. Discussion takes place about the Town Justices applying for a third JCAP grant for a court vault and digitizing of records. It is tabled until the next meeting.

The **Supervisor Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Library Clerks, Park Maintenance, Park Open/Close, ZBA Secretary, Assessors Clerk** and positions will all be increased by 6% per hour.

Town Supervisor and **Bookkeeper** positions are discussed. Neighboring township numbers are compared. Supervisor Hebbard says that years of no wage increases have created a major discrepancy between other towns and ours. Councilperson Rundle asks if the increases should be made all at once, or over the next two years. Councilperson Seymour feels it would be better to just absorb the increase all at once. Councilperson Smith questions how many hours each of these positions require per week. The **Equipment** line will stay at \$500.00.

The **Tax Collector** did not ask for a raise. The salary for **Tax Collector** and **Assistant Tax Collector** will increase by 6%.

The **Tax Collector** requested an equipment increase in case she needs a new laptop. \$750.00 was agreed upon.

Planning/ZBA Clerk also has increased **Equipment** to \$750.00.

The **Assessor** has requested a 5.88% increase for herself and the **Assessor's Clerk**.

The **Town Clerk** did not request any changes to the **Personal Services** line. The **Town Clerk** will be given an additional 6% wage. **Contractual** and **Equipment** lines were increased to account for a dog enumeration, credit card software, new desk, painting and upgrades to the office.

Town Attorney rate will be unchanged.

Engineers will remain funded at \$12,500.00.

The **Registrar of Vital Statistics** and the **Records Management** positions will remain unchanged.

Operation of Buildings will remain unchanged.

Public Safety (street lights) will remain unchanged.

Budget Officer, Dog Control Officer, Fire Inspector and **Court Attendant** positions will not receive increases.

The **Codes Office** did not request any changes to **Contractual** or **Equipment**.

The **Codes Enforcement Officer** and the **Building Inspector** positions will increase by 3%.

Sidewalks, will remain funded at \$5,000.00.

Programs for the Aging, Youth Programs, Home and Community, Human Rights, Grant Writing, Cemeteries, and Historian will all remain at 2025 values.

Recreation Administration will increase on **Personal Services** due to a raise for the **Recreation Director**.

Parks Capital Outlay will increase to \$26,000.00 for some potential improvements that need to be addressed.

Library and **Beautification** are all staying the same for 2026.

Celebrations will increase as the cost of fireworks is going up.

The **Senior Water Plant Operator** and the **Assistant Water Plant Operator** will receive a 6% wage increase for 2026.

Garage, which includes National Grid and garbage, is going to be unchanged.

Planning/ZBA will get \$25.00 more per meeting, per person.

The Supervisor indicated the next Budget meeting will be on October 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

There being no other business to discuss, the Supervisor recessed this Budget Meeting at 8:55 pm, until October 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Anna C. Storey
Town Clerk