

Westmoreland Town Board
Budget Meeting
October 7, 2025

Supervisor Charles Hebbard reconvened this budget meeting at 6:01 pm on October 7, 2025 at the Westmoreland Town Hall, 100 Station Rd. Westmoreland, NY 13490. Present were Councilpersons Burton Seymour Jr, Kirk Donley, Peter Smith and Randy Rundle. Also present was Bookkeeper Diane Rolewicz and Bookkeeper Clerk Allison Leone.

Bookkeeper Rolewicz presents the preliminary budget and shows the changes discussed at the first half of this meeting on September 24, 2025.

None of the **Water or Lighting Districts** had to change, even with wage increases. **Spencer Settlement Water** customers will see an increase in price. Rome City will not be increasing our rates in 2026.

Highway Fund will see increases in **Personal Services** due to wage raises. Discussion takes place about the highway wage rates, overtime, and the difference of the position duties. Oneida County dictates that each position has the same pay, regardless of seniority.

She indicates that **Machinery** was not raised for the full amount of the equipment, because some of it may be in a lease program. Supervisor Hebbard also mentions that some of the trucks may not even be available yet in the next calendar year.

Discussion took place about the distribution of sales tax in the county.

Bookkeeper Rolewicz now refers to the **General Fund**. Although there were adjustments agreed upon, some lines remain unchanged as they had enough money to cover increases. **Clerks** and **Sr. Clerks** will all be increasing by 6%. All hourly **Clerks** will make \$19.38 per hour.

Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Codes and **Building Department** increased to reflect wage raises.

Operation of Buildings went up in anticipation of increasing utilities.

Justice Court Fund will see increases in **Personal Services** due to wage raises.

Councilperson Donley suggests making adjustments to the budget that will redistribute the wage increases over different positions. Bookkeeper Rolewicz says some lines are zero, because we have no one on the payroll at this time. New positions have to be created through the county.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding wages for the **Bookkeeper** and the **Bookkeeper Clerk**. The **Bookkeeper Clerk** is currently in training to eventually take over the **Bookkeeper** position. It is very important to fund the position, based on the workload and responsibilities. Bookkeeper Rolewicz will need more time to prepare Bookkeeper Clerk Leone for the position, and she will need to be appropriately compensated for her knowledge and experience. After much conversation, it is determined that when Bookkeeper Leone takes over, Mrs. Rolewicz can be

paid as contractual worker for her time. Budget is increased on the **Contractual** line for this purpose. **Bookkeeper** was increased under **Personal Services** for a pay raise.

Increases were made in **Parks** for the **Recreation Attendant** position, **Budget Officer**, and **Supervisor** for wage raises.

Talk turned to the **Justice Court**; they would like to apply for a grant once again through the Justice Court Assistance Program. The proceeds would go toward building out a vault specifically for court records storage, as well as digitizing records. Discussion ensues about the necessity of a new vault and whether or not it is mandated by the state.

87 A motion was advanced by Councilperson Rundle, seconded by Councilperson Seymour as follows: The Town Board of the Town of Westmoreland authorizes the Westmoreland Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2025-2026 grant cycle up to \$30,000. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

Supervisor Hebbard brought up the topic of an abandoned property on French Rd that is infested with rats, and would like to the town to exterminate, to prevent further spread of pests. More information will be needed from the Town Attorney and Codes Enforcement Officer in order to proceed.

The Public Hearing for the 2025 budget is scheduled for 5:45 pm on October 13, 2025, followed by the Town Board meeting at 6:00pm.

88 There be no other issues to discuss, a motion was advanced by Councilperson Donley to adjourn this budget meeting. Councilperson Seymour seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and Supervisor Hebbard declared the motion carried, adjourning the budget meeting at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna C. Storey
Town Clerk