

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
November 10, 2025

A Budget Meeting of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA. Council President John Burke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Susan Allen	John Burke	Jeffrey Bracken	Russell Lipari
Shaun Gable	Charles Wacik	Grace Hurd	Michael Figueroa

ABSENT: Kimberlee Muzac

Also present were Jill Garcia – Borough Manager, Christian Meehan- Police Chief, Eric Flowers – Public Works Supervisor and Joseph Sipel – Fire Chief

Mr. Garcia began the meeting to open discussions on the 2026 Budget. She advised Council that the current budget estimate results in a \$485,000 deficit.

Mr. Burke asked what are the increases that are causing the deficit. Ms. Garcia noted a \$220,000 increase in medical premiums and significant increases in Worker’ Compensation and Liability Insurances. Also rising utility costs, supply costs and employee raises and stagnant revenues are impacting the budget.

Mr. Bracken asked all department heads how they can make cuts to their budgets to make a significant impact on the deficit.

Public works will not fill the open position created by the resignation of Mr. Carroll, with the intent to fill at a later date. This will result in an approximately \$40,000 decrease in the deficit.

Chief Sipel said his budget has very few options to cut expenses as his increases are almost solely contractual obligations.

Chief Meehan said he has cut his budget by approximately \$100,000 which includes a new car (sewer fund budget). He also reduced his part-time budget by \$20,000.

Mr. Flowers offered to reduce line item 01-439-081 Streets and Ramps from \$33,000 to \$10,000.

Ms. Garcia said there is nothing to cut from the Office budget as it covers items such as insurances, utilities and supplies, which are necessary and have drastically increased in the past few years.

Mr. Bracken spoke of the \$1,000,000 being held in the CD fund. He suggested taking \$250,000 from the fund and transferring it to the General Fund, leaving a deficit of \$170,000. Then, raising real estate millage rates by 2 mills to cover the remainder of the deficit. He estimated an additional cost per property in the Borough of \$94 per year or \$8 per month.

Mr. Bracken also suggested for future years that Council should consider incremental increases to real estate millage and earned income tax. Mr. Figueroa asked about adjusting other fees, fines and rental program revenues.

Ms. Garcia noted that filling the deficit with CD funds will not fix future deficit issues.

Ms. Gable suggested an emergency services tax to support police and fire.

Mr. Richard Groff questioned delinquent real estate taxes and suggested looking into Portnoff to collect, rather than Northampton County Tax Claim. He stated Portnoff is more aggressive and does not charge a fee to the Borough.

Discussions continued with suggestions to find ways to increase revenue and cut expenses.

Motion by Mr. Bracken to table budget discussions until the next advertised meeting to be held on Wednesday November 19, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously agreed.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER