

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

January 7, 2026

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Council President Alan Heller opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or harmful speech allowed.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)**

Mayor Craig Westover led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed.

**IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Present at the meeting were Council members Alan Heller, John McClelland, Bogan Goughler, Larry Baughman, Matthew Carlson, and Mayor Craig Westover. Also, present were Maintenance Foreman Doug Freer, Zoning Officer Larry Moyer, Chief Robert Wenner, Attorneys Brian Spaid and Alex Spaid.

**V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA**

**VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA**

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*limited to 3 minutes each*)**

- A. Dan Marvin, Reno VFD, updated Council that there were no major changes to the officers for 2026. Mr. Marvin said he will remain Chief, Bob McClintock is the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief is Brittany Marvin and Tom Hartle is the captain. Mr. Marvin said the department has responded to 13 calls since the last Council meeting, but only one (1) call for the year so far. Mr. Marvin said the department also honored Bob Byers on December 21, 2025 to recognize his 65 years of service to the fire department.
- B. Jake Hellem, Rocky Grove VFD, presented Council with the department's report for 2025. The department responded to 78 fire – related calls, 36 motor vehicle accidents, 28 medical assists, 35 public services and 17 K – 9 search and rescues. Mr. Hellem said the department is hosting an essentials class and there are eight (8) members who are attending the class this month and it runs through the month of May. He also reported there were 18 new members, 9 of those are junior firefighters, for 2025. They have also welcomed a new Chaplain to the department. And for the month of January, they have responded to 9 calls.
- C. Judge Andrew Fish stated he was there to observe and would give his time to Terri Lowry.
- D. Anthony Sloss said he had concerns over the plowing at the intersection of Meadville Pike and Kistler Street. He is concerned the curb is getting broken down and may end up in the roadway. Mr. Freer said he will go and look at it.
- E. Terri Lowry wanted to thank Mr. Freer and the Maintenance Department for the job they have been doing on the roads. She also wanted to thank the Police Department for keeping them safe. She also thanked Council for reappointing her to the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Lowry then asked Mr. Baughman if he stated at the December Council meeting that Council was going to send letters to current members of the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Baughman said that it was not specified that letters would be sent. Mr. Baughman stated he suggested those members be contacted. Ms. Lowry said one (1) member was not contacted. Mr. Baughman said that member's letter was included in those that were interested in the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Lowry said she did not know why that member was not contacted; if it was overlooked or because she was pro – police. Mr. McClelland said it was an oversight. Ms. Lowry said she would like to think that but she says there are some things going on that are shady dealings. And she wished to put that out there and her and the community will be watching and what all is voted on. She said there are some members who are grateful for the Police Department.

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Maintenance Foreman:**

- 1. Mr. Freer said the Maintenance Department has been busy plowing. He also said he ordered more salt and 600 more tons of anti – skid. He also said they are working on cleaning up and maintenance issues that need addressed. Mr. Heller wanted to thank the department for the job they have been doing so far this winter. Mr. McClelland also thanked them.

- B. Police Chief:
1. Chief Wenner presented Council with the January schedule, before it's in circulation for the employees who need it. He also presented Council with his year – end report. He stated the department ended with averaging 900 miles per week. Chief also wanted to discuss numbers that were submitted over the last budget, in 2024, which he feels were unrealistic numbers that were submitted. He stated there was an overage this year. He thinks the math comes out with what those are and he included a packet of minutes with where those concerns were brought up and the new people coming on can know about it.
  2. Chief also wanted to publicly announce his resignation from his position, as he feels his job is currently untenable, based on Council's decisions. He will work on the time during the transition and he will discuss in Executive Session items such as insurance and COBRA. He said he has contacted other agencies, such as the District Attorney's office. And some of those people are here to support him. He said this is a sad moment, he has a great team and he has loved working here. Chief also stated that this night is the worst night every month for him. And he will not go forward any further. Mr. McClelland wanted to express how badly he feels that it didn't work out. Chief said he is sad it did not work out either; he was able to reconnect with old friends and develop new friendships. Chief also wanted to thank Matthew Carlson for his time as Mayor and wanted to make it clear to Mayor Westover that this is not a reflection on him as he has just come on Council. Chief also stated he has seen his employees be so emotionally devastated at times, to tears at some of the things and he feels his job is untenable. He said he has to go elsewhere.
- C. Administrator/Special Projects:
1. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to issue Rocky Grove V.F.D. and Reno V.F.D. their annual donation of \$27,000 to each department. Motion carried unanimously.
  2. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve payment to Rossbacher Insurance Group to provide Sugar creek Borough's 2026 Worker's Compensation and Property & Casualty Insurance at an annual cost of \$139,128.00. Motion carried unanimously.
  3. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve Resolution No. 1 of 2026, Resolution of Approval for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application FFY 2025. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Zoning Officer:
1. Matthew Carlson has some questions for Mr. Moyer. Mr. Carlson said he had concerns about stuff going on since May of 2024 at 120 Wilson Street and if he could look at it. Mr. Speth said they are aware of it and it is going to be on the tax sale list and the Borough will purchase it through the County Land Bank. Mr. Carlson also asked if the year – end report is done yet. Mr. Moyer said he is still working on finalizing it. Mr. Spaid said he has received the petition from the owners along Marshall Street and Alex is working on finalizing the ordinance in regards to Clark Avenue. He hopes to have the ordinance ready for approval at the next meeting.
- E. Solicitor:
1. Mr. Spaid wanted to remind Council that the Planning Commission needs to be re – appointed sooner rather than later. Mr. Spaid told Chief Wenner it was a pleasure to work with him.

## IX. COUNCIL REPORT

- A. Bogan Goughler wanted to thank Chief Wenner for his support over the years.
- B. Alan Heller also expressed his appreciation to Chief Wenner.
- C. Larry Baughman thanked Chief Wenner for his service.
- D. Mayor Westover thanked Chief as well for his service. Mayor said he campaigned on a 7 – point plan, which focuses on Economic Development and a good fire, police and public works department are the main components of that. He would like to see the tax base increase, keep property taxes low and keep the youth in the area. The mayor said he spoke with the Chief and asked him where he would like to see the department at. He stated that the Chief told him that he would like to see 5 – 6 full – time officers and 3 – 4 part – time officers. He feels if the Borough developed a five – year comprehensive plan to develop and grow the tax base, then such things could be achieved. The mayor also stated he has established an office in the

Borough building and will be available to the Borough residents. He said he also has been recently appointed to the Oil Region Alliance Board. He would like to see Rt. 8 develop more. He also thanked the residents for placing their faith in him as Mayor.

**X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Matthew Carlson to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025 Council meeting and the January 5, 2026 Reorganization meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to approve the payment of bills/issuance of checks as presented by the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**XIV. CORRESPONDENCE**

**XV. BOARD OF APPEALS**

**XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council recessed at 7:27 pm for an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege of information or confidentiality protected by the law and any action to follow. The meeting was reconvened at 8:43 pm.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Motion by John McClelland being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Speth, Borough Manager

Alan Heller, Council President