

Town of Williamsport Mayor & Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes May 5, 2025

On May 5, 2025, the Mayor & Town Council for the Town of Williamsport held a Work Session. Those members of the elected body who were present included Mayor William Green, Assistant Mayor Dennis Grove, Councilman William Ball, Councilman Jim Braswell, Councilman Charles Brown, Councilman Earle Pereschuk, and Councilman Tinsley. Town employees in attendance were Chad Rooney, Town Manager, and Ed Kuczynski, Town Attorney.

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 6:21pm; following the completion of Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2026 Utility Rates and Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budgets.

Mayor Green introduced Chris Simms, Smart Utility Management, and asked him to review the recent occurrences regarding the potential 42% increase in the purchase power agreement portion of resident's electric bills. Mr. Simms outlined in detail the purpose of the increase as it relates to the costs associated with the fuel to run power creating generators, financing of the generators, and transmission costs. He was explicit that the town does not own its own generator, and this cost is increasing for all Maryland utilities. The town had the option one year ago to increase the PPA by approximately 20%, but delayed the increase until this year. Mr. Simms addressed questions related to comparisons to other utilities, ultimately demonstrating the costs to Williamsport residents being the lowest in the State of Maryland.

Mayor Green presented an addendum provided to him through the Town Manager to modify the cost of the Resident Deputy program to \$181,470.54 for one year with an expected increase of costs at that point. Following discussion on the unplanned and significant increase, Mayor & Town Council felt a meeting with the Washington County Sheriff was appropriate to see if this cost would be lowered.

The Town Manager was directed by Mayor Green to open and present submissions for RFP 2025-01 for Municipal Auditing Services. The Town Manager outlined the RFP required a lump sum amount to provide services for the town for one year and this would be a major factor in determining who is recommended to receive the contract. The Town Manager opened the first submission from Albright, Crumbaker, Moul, and Itell, LLC, with a lump sum amount of \$30,000.00; the second submission from Smith, Elliot, Kearns, and Company, LLC, with a lump sum amount of \$38,500.00. The Mayor asked the Town Manager to provide a recommendation on May 12, 2025, at the Regular Session.

The Utility Rates and Operating Budgets were then presented as they will need to be introduced at the May Regular Session.

Mayor Green presented a proposed agreement between the town and the Maryland Rural Development Corporation will be given for decision at the Regular Session to maintain uninterrupted grant writing and tracking services.

The final item of the meeting provided the Town Attorney to present information on the duties of the town's elected officials. The organizational chart, Charter Sections 10, 14, 17-20, 25-27, and 42; the Open meetings Act, and the Public Information Act were all reviewed. The Mayor, Town Council, and Town Manager were all provided with an opportunity to ask questions about their duties.

Mayor Green adjourned the meeting at 8:18pm.

Respectfully Tendered,

Chad P. Rooney Town Manager