

Village of Rothbury  
Special Meeting  
May 6, 2026

The Special Meeting of the Rothbury Village Council was called to order in the village hall at 5:35 PM by President Pro-Tem Mike Harris.

Council members present were Autum Drake, Denise Kurdziel, Troy Voorhees, Jim Fekken and Dylan Zuniga. Also present were Treasurer Deb Murphy, Police Chief Ethan Walker, DPW Director Scott Beishuizen, Attorney Brennan Gorman, Ted Kurdziel, Juan Cano, Sandra Bailey, Stephanie Tallquist and Claire Marshal from the Echo.

Attorney Brennan Gorman addressed the council regarding Vern Talmadge's resignation, that it was accepted by the Clerk, and officially declared vacant. Mr. Gorman advised that the council will need to appoint someone to fill that position, and that appointment lasts until the next election, in 2026. Whomever is elected for the Presidents position in the 2026 election, will hold that position until the 2028 election, when the Presidents position will run again as regularly scheduled, where the 4-year term will resume.

The council discussed moving forward with the Operations Director position previously discussed at earlier council meetings. An updated job description was provided, and Mr. Gorman advised that a broad motion to accept the updated position and job description with any needed attorney revisions would be appropriate. Clarification was given that the verbiage of a village manager position was not intended as a structural change, but was more referring to managerial job duties rather than oversight of council and employees.

Motion made by Denise Kurdziel to adopt the updated job description substantially with revisions. Motion seconded by Jim Fekken.  
5 ayes, 1 nay, motion carried.

The council then discussed the promotion of Scott Besihuizen, current DPW Director to the role of Village Operations Director.

Mike Harris offered Mr. Beishuizen the position, Mr. Beishuizen agrees, congratulations are given.

Mike Harris again offers Scott Beishuizen the position of Village Operations Director. Autum Drake questioned if the position had to be posted, Brennan Gorman said it did not.

Mike Harris made a recommendation to the council that Scott Beishuizen be promoted to the position of Village Operations Director. With consensus of council, Mr. Beishuizen accepted the position.

The council proceeded with discussion regarding the previously created but not adopted compensation ordinance for village officials. The council agreed that the ordinance will be adopted at the next regularly scheduled meeting with revisions.

The council discussed with the attorney potential conflicts and incompatible office concerns with the president holding the position of the planning commission chair and the zoning administrator position. Village legal council will update with final opinion prior to next meeting.

The council agreed to post an RFP for a zoning administrator for an individual employee or a third-party company as a potential option for the Village.

For the time being zoning and planning commission will remain unchanged until a new option is available.

Autum Drake made a motion to appoint Mike Harris as President. Motion seconded by Jim Fekken. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

Dylan Zuniga motioned to appoint Denise Kurdziel as President Pro-Tem, seconded by Autum Drake. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstaining, motion carried.

Discussion of vacant council seat, agreement made to accept in person applicants at the next council meeting. Clarification was given that the council appointment will also only be until the November election of 2026.

Treasurer Murphy clarified payment details for the Village Operations Director confirming and 20 thousand dollar salary inclusive of street commissioner pay, to be paid in quarterly payments.

6:52 PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brandy Williams, Clerk