

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 2/13/2024

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
February 13, 2024
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Irwin, February 13, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Gnagey, Mr. Irwin, Mrs. Knieriem, Mr. Smith, Solicitor Valentine and Mayor Smith were present. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman was present. There was no representative from the Police Department.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2024, Regular Meeting as presented. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

2023 AUDIT REPORT:

Mrs. Kyla Pritts, from Beer, Ream & Company was present to give a summary of the 2023 audit. Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the 2023 audit report as presented. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

GUESTS:

A.) Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Mathias were present with regard to the vacating of a portion of Bottom Street as well as 7th Avenue and Alaska St.

After some discussion, it was decided that Solicitor Valentine was to research if Bottom Street was officially vacated.

ADOPT ORDINANCE #443 Vacating portion of 7th Ave.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adopt Ordinance #443. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

ADOPT ORDINANCE #444 Vacating portion of Alaska St.

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to adopt Ordinance #444. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

B.) Ms. Brenda Blough, Administrator at Casselman Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center was present to introduce herself. The facility has 80 employees and continues to grow. Contrary to rumors, the facility is not closing and that they want to build a relationship with the community. Ms. Cherish Hange, Activities Director was also present.

C.) Mr. Scott Kelly was listed as a guest, but was not present. A letter from Mr. Kelly requesting permission to install a permanent batting cage and a baseball field cleanup was read aloud. (See attached) Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to approve the two items pending meeting with Mr. Kelly regarding the location of the batting cage. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

D.) Mr. Eugene Mishler was present to get an update on a vandalism incident. Mayor Smith reported that the matter is still under investigation and arrests will be forthcoming.

E.) Mr. Leonard Steinly was listed as a guest, but was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A.) Ms. Rebecca Walker, owner of Soccer Shots was present to request the use of the Paul E. Fuller playground for soccer developmental classes. Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.
- B.) Mr. Eric Shaulis reported that there will be a Cross walk from the Grace Brethren Church to the Lutheran Church on Good Friday, March 29, 2024 beginning at 11 AM. Mayor Smith will have someone available to direct traffic and Mr. Brion Reiber will have barricades available. It was recommended that the group obtain permission from PennDOT to use the State Highway for the event.
- C.) Mr. Brian Witherite reported a stop sign that has faded. After some discussion, Mr. Reiber was asked to compile a list of stops signs needing to be replaced. Mr. Baker made the motion to purchase 24 stop signs. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING HEARING BOARD – ALTERNATES

Mr. Ackerman made the motion pass resolution #5-2-24 to appoint Mr. Jeffrey Brenneman as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to pass resolution #6-2024 to appoint Mrs. Sarah B. Jones as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Irwin reported that he had conducted research regarding the Community Center building and found the following:

ROOF

Two grants were received to replace the roof in 2010/2011. Asbestos in the roof was abated at the time. Mr. Thomas Deakins was present to verify. Mrs. Jessica Deakins was instrumental in obtain funds for the building. Mr. Reiber reported that he routinely inspects the roof and cleans the drains of debris.

ELECTRICAL

In 2010/2011, \$49,000.00 in grant funds were received to rewire the building. Electrical upgrades were made at the time the new furnace was installed and most recently upgrades were made in the MMA Office, Borough Office with outlets and new lighting. Outlets were also replaced in the Police Department.

ASBESTOS

A report from Allegheny Mountain Research was found. Mr. Gary Miller completed the asbestos inspection and found that there was asbestos in the basement pipe fittings, roof and window caulking. All findings were abated. Asbestos is in the floor tile, but Mr. Miller reported that this is minimal and as long as the floor tile are not disturbed there is not a problem.

President Irwin reported that Mr. Miller is willing to do a complete review of the building at no cost to the Borough.

LEAD PAINT

In the report from Allegheny Mountain Research it was found that 208 sites were tested with there being only 10 areas with lead paint. A corrective measure with lead paint is to properly seal the area and paint over. There is peeling of paint in a stairway, it will be tested for lead paint.

UTILITES

It had been said that the utilities were \$40,000.00 for the building. A breakdown of the cost of utilities was provided (See attached) proving this statement as being incorrect.

HEATING SYSTEM

Heating system was upgraded. Darr Construction maintains the system. Currently there is a FSB sensor that is ordered and will be replaced.

President Irwin reported that the Lions Club has donated \$57,565.00 over the last 10 years to the community. The building is in use most every evening for sports practices, meetings etc. It was President Irwin's opinion that the Borough can afford to maintain the building and keep it open to the public. The \$187,000.00 in COVID, ARP funds that can be used for infrastructure, could be used to make upgrades to the building.

Mr. Blake Henry reported that the Community Center is important to the Lions Club. The annual Lions Pancake dinners are held in the gym during the PA Maple Festival. The Lions Club is always available to help with repairs when necessary. Mr. Barry Yoder was in agreement.

Mr. Thomas Deakins expressed his concerns that if the Community Center is lost, this would be a loss of the historic identity of the town.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the building, it was suggested that a Public Hearing be held or a referendum be placed on the voting ballot to let the citizens decided the fate of the building.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Smith presented a citation report. Fines totaled \$176.73.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

No report was given.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- Bicycles, Mopeds, Skateboards, Scooters, In-Line Skates, Roller Skates, Electric Scooters, and Electric Personal Mobility Devices Ordinance Council was to review the ordinance and be prepared to discuss at the next Police Committee workshop meeting scheduled for March 7, 2024.
- Parks & Recreation Ordinance
As an alternative to revisiting the Parks & Recreation Ordinance Mrs. Gnagey asked that a Meyersdale Community Events Committee be formed. President Irwin formed the committee to consist of Mrs. Gnagey as Chair and Mr. Baer and Mrs. Knieriem as committee members.

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Mrs. Evet Wilson, member of the Parks & Recreation Committee will update the name of the facebook page. Mrs. Wilson reported that in the future the meetings will be conducted more formally.

- Community Center building

Solicitor Valentine encouraged council to look at the reports concerning the building and recommended that the matter be placed as a referendum on the ballot if permissible. Research should also be conducted to make sure that the grant funds received are not tied to the building.

- Vietnam/Korean Memorial land subdivision

Mr. Kevin Yoder was present to report that a survey had been completed to subdivide the land where the memorial is located. The only issue is that this would not meet the setback requirements in the zoning ordinance and would most likely need a Zoning Hearing. The next step is to go to the school board for approval and have them sign off on the plan. Mr. Yoder was given permission to meet with the school board on this matter.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

President Irwin reported that the matter with Mr. Michael Rhoten and his property on Main Street has been settled. After a Zoning Hearing was held, Mr. Rhoten received approval to put in an Airstream trailer that will be mounted on slabs, with tie downs and will meet the setback requirements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

Mr. Brian Witherite, MMA Board Member was present. The board will be providing the Borough with a debt statement. The Board reorganized and Mr. Witherite will serve as Chairman, Mr. Anderson will serve as Vice Chairman and Mrs. Miller will serve as Secretary. The Authority is working on a website. The field crew will be testing every home for lead and copper in order to comply with government mandates. The field crew is also working on smoke and dye testing and compliances on same.

Street Foreman

No report was given.

President Irwin complimented Mr. Reiber and Mr. Hotchkiss on how well they have been maintaining the roads during the recent snow events.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to give the MAMA \$1,000.00 for the Farmers Market. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

To kick off the 150th Anniversary celebration, church bells will be ringing on February 19, 2024 at Noon.

Public Library

No report was given.

Parks & Recreation

No report was given.

Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES

In lieu of going through the committee reports, each member of Council was given the opportunity to provide a report or comments.

Mr. Baer – No report

Mrs. Knieriem – No report

Mr. Smith – No report

Mr. Ackerman – Police issues to discuss in executive session.

President Irwin – Executive session will be necessary.

Mrs. Gnagey – Community events to discuss.

Mr. Baker – Should look into the flood control rip rap wall.

Mayor Smith – No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook

The document has not been signed. It was reported that the auditors recommended that a written document be implemented.

B.) Ambulance meeting

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the next meeting regarding the Ambulance will be held at the Elks Club on April 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Letters will be mailed to each of the municipalities and townships by February 29, 2024.

C.) Website update

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the website is ready to go. The documents to be put on the site are as follows: Complaint form, Zoning Ordinance, Noise Ordinance, Meeting Agendas and Minutes (rolling 12 months at all times) and links to other agencies.

D.) Proposals for investments

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to transfer \$130,000.00 from the General Fund Checking account at First National Bank to the General Fund Money Market Account at Somerset Trust Company. Mr. Baker Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ackerman – No; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mrs. Knieriem – Yes; Mr. Smith – Yes. Motion passed.

E.) Trash removal from 7 Chestnut St.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that she had spoken to the owner of the property and they assured her that the trash would be removed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) Police coverage in Borough & Summit Township

No report was given.

- C.) Somerset County Redevelopment Authority Assistance with blighted properties
No report was given.
- D.) Review Parks & Recreation
No further discussion necessary.
- E.) Current and future plans for Community Center
Mrs. Knieriem doesn't think that the Borough should be responsible for the building. She doesn't think that the Borough can afford to stay in the building. She would like to see the school take back the building. Solicitor Valentine explained that the school has a reversionary interest and if the Borough moves out it would revert back to them.
Mrs. Gnagey thinks that there needs to be data on the cost of renovating this building vs building a new building.
Mrs. Patricia Murray reported that years back there was a community meeting and the consensus at the time was that the Community Center needed to be saved, that is why the decision was made to move the Borough offices to the Community Center. Mrs. Murray expressed her concerns that the history of the town is being destroyed.
President Irwin expressed his disappointment that the MMA is moving their office from the Community Center. Mr. Witherite commented that the Board struggled with the decision, but in the end the move is a business decision.
The majority of the Council thought that the decision regarding the building should be the citizens of the town.
- F.) Job Descriptions
Creating job descriptions was discussed. There was a concern with non union Municipal Authority staff assisting union Borough staff. Solicitor Valentine explained that the Union would need to agree to job description language. After some discussion, it was decided that the Personnel Committee will meet with the employees and the union representative regarding this matter.
- G.) Date for fireworks
The date for the annual Independence Day fireworks display was set for June 30, 2024. The goal is to raise \$12,000.00 for the event. The Secretary was asked to prepare and distribute letters to potential donors.
- H.) Purchase 3 police body cams
Council decided to hold this purchase. There could be an opportunity for these items to be included in a grant.
- I.) Purchase 3 fire extinguishers for police vehicles
Mr. Reiber reported that there are fire extinguishers in the Borough shop that need to be put in the cruisers. The units were serviced and the former police chief failed to put them back in the vehicles.
- J.) Update Nuisance Ordinance #422
Mrs. Gnagey recommended updating the Nuisance Ordinance #422 with language provided by PA Municipal Code Alliance with regard to transferring ownership of property while litigation is pending.

A time frame and escrow amount was to be added to the ordinance as well.
Solicitor Valentine will draft an amendment and circulate via e-mail to Council to review.

K.) Sell Grant Street lots

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to grant Mrs. Martha Albright, a local REMAX realtor, permission to list the lots for sale. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. Mrs. Albright will attempt to sell the lots pro bono.

L.) AED unit training class

Mr. Louis Martin will be holding an AED training class on March 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM for all Council members and Borough workers who wish to attend. The class will be held in the Community Center.

GOALS FOR 2024

Emergency Access Road Meyers Ave.

No report given.

Flood Control rip rap

No report given.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no additional items to be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Smith requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Smith made the motion to enter into executive session at 10:15 P.M. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Smith made the motion to return to regular session at 10:36 P.M. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion/motions:

No motions were made.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 P.M. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

* NOTE: The notes from the beginning of the executive session to adjournment were provided by President Irwin in the absence of the Borough Secretary.

February 13, 2024

Meyersdale Borough Council

**RE: Permanent Batting Cage installation and Baseball Field Cleanup
Paul Fuller Playground, Meyersdale Borough, Somerset County, PA**

Council Members:

The Casselman Valley Youth Baseball League is seeking permission for the following two items.

- Installation of a permanent batting cage

The installation of the batting cage will be funded by our organization as we are not seeking any borough funds. We can provide a layout of the location of the batting cage if the borough could share the current plans they have on file.

- Cleanup in coordination with SCI inmates

The clean-up process will be in coordination with the SCI inmates that will be supervised by the correctional officer team. This will be at no cost to the borough and is voluntary.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (814) 233-2085 or via email at sctkelly@yahoo.com

Respectfully,



Scott Kelly
Vice President of CVYB

RECEIVED

FEB 13 2024

MEMBER OF
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RESOLUTION NO. 5-2024

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MEYERSDALE,
SOMERSET COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING A RESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH
TO FILL A VACANCY AS AN ALTERNATE ON THE ZONING HEARING BOARD**

WHEREAS, a vacancy as a alternate in the Office of the Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, Section 705 B of the Meyersdale Borough Zoning Ordinance #377 charges the Borough Council with filling such vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania has chosen a resident of the Borough to fill the vacancy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Borough Council of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, that JEFFREY BRENNEMAN, be appointed to fill the alternate vacancy that exists on the Zoning Hearing Board.

BE it further resolved, that the above-named individual shall assume the duties as a Zoning Hearing Board Alternate Member immediately.

Be it further resolved, that the term of the above individual shall continue as provided by the Zoning Ordinance.

Duly resolved, this 13TH day of FEBRUARY, 2024, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

BOROUGH OF MEYERSDALE

By 
President of Council

ATTEST:


Borough Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 6-2024

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MEYERSDALE,
SOMERSET COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING A RESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH
TO FILL A VACANCY AS AN ALTERNATE ON THE ZONING HEARING BOARD**

WHEREAS, a vacancy as a alternate in the Office of the Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, Section 705 B of the Meyersdale Borough Zoning Ordinance #377 charges the Borough Council with filling such vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania has chosen a resident of the Borough to fill the vacancy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Borough Council of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, that SARAH B. JONES, be appointed to fill the alternate vacancy that exists on the Zoning Hearing Board.

BE it further resolved, that the above-named individual shall assume the duties as a Zoning Hearing Board Alternate Member immediately.

Be it further resolved, that the term of the above individual shall continue as provided by the Zoning Ordinance.

Duly resolved, this 13TH day of FEBRUARY, 2024, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

BOROUGH OF MEYERSDALE

By 
President of Council

ATTEST:


Borough Secretary

COMMUNITY CENTER UTILITIES

2021, 2022, 2023

YEAR	Electric	Gas	Water	Sewer	
2021					
	\$ 809.09	\$ 2,329.52	\$ 162.18	\$ 99.00	
	\$ 1,205.72	\$ 2,300.94	\$ 162.18	\$ 99.00	
	\$ 581.17	\$ 1,302.38	\$ 162.18	\$ 99.00	
	\$ 553.96	\$ 919.66	\$ 162.18	\$ 99.00	
	\$ 532.30	\$ 426.62			
	\$ 544.39	\$ 52.06			
	\$ 459.22	\$ 26.03			
	\$ 553.27	\$ 26.03			
	\$ 721.70	\$ 26.03			
	\$ 739.45	\$ 125.19			
	\$ 1,388.28	\$ 1,329.57			
		\$ 2,473.95			
TOTAL	\$ 8,088.55	\$ 11,337.98	\$ 648.72	\$ 396.00	\$ 20,471.25

2022	Electric	Gas	Water	Sewer	
	\$ 751.44	\$ 3,281.23	\$ 162.18	\$ 109.80	
	\$ 679.31	\$ 3,232.00	\$ 162.18	\$ 99.00	
	\$ 530.20	\$ 2,060.11	\$ 162.18	\$ 99.00	
	\$ 604.59	\$ 1,759.75	\$ 162.18	\$ 179.10	
	\$ 792.94	\$ 269.32			
	\$ 697.85	\$ 88.74			
	\$ 723.51	\$ 25.28			
	\$ 830.74	\$ 57.02			
	\$ 970.32	\$ 57.02			
	\$ 641.65	\$ 1,288.48			
	\$ 359.32	\$ 1,313.96			
		\$ 3,540.83			
TOTAL	\$ 7,581.87	\$ 16,973.74	\$ 648.72	\$ 486.90	\$ 25,691.23

2023	Electric	Gas	Water	Sewer	
	\$ 404.64	\$ 4,111.10	\$ 162.18	\$ 111.60	
	\$ 763.64	\$ 2,591.07	\$ 162.18	\$ 99.00	
	\$ 437.46	\$ 2,208.79	\$ 167.05	\$ 101.97	
	\$ 401.37	\$ 1,151.90	\$ 167.05	\$ 101.97	
	\$ 337.06	\$ 679.13			
	\$ 320.23	\$ 106.01			
	\$ 250.01	\$ 57.00			
	\$ 421.62	\$ 57.00			
	\$ 379.68	\$ 57.00			
	\$ 459.58	\$ 593.81			
	\$ 350.10	\$ 1,279.41			
	\$ 378.07				
TOTAL	\$ 4,903.46	\$ 12,892.22	\$ 658.46	\$ 414.54	\$ 18,868.68

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 2/13/2024 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Brenda Blough	201 Hospital Drive	Casselman HC.
2	Cherish Hange	201 Hospital Drive	Casselman HC
3	Jeff Chasnoz	207 North	
4	Bob Munier	121 Olinger St	
5	Ruth-EUGENE Mished		
6	Judy Miller	212 Salisbury St	Municipal Art
7	KEVIN YODER	213 DALE ST	SUBDIVISIONS
8	Eric + Patti Shaulis	255 Sixth Ave	
9	Benny Albers	418 Beachley	
10	Brian White	230 Sherman	Signs
11	Tom Deskins	10 Beachley	
12	Evet Wilson	312 Front Street	Soccer shots
13	Martine Albrecht	124 Willow Rd	
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			

GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING