

Regular Meeting  
February 14, 2023  
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Folk, February 14, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Boyce, Mr. Folk, Mrs. Gnagey, Mr. Parisi, and Mayor Smith were present. Solicitor Valentine was present via telephone. Mr. Baker was absent, but was available by telephone if necessary. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman, and Matt Wright, Police Chief were also present.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Baer made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. Mr. Boyce seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:**

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

**GUESTS:**

There were no pre-registered guests.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A.) Meyersdale Renaissance (Report was moved up the Agenda to accommodate Mrs. Kelly)  
Mrs. Wendy Kelly reported that the big screen TV was tested at the Elks Club on February 19, 2023. She asked if there is space in the Community Center to store the equipment.  
The Meyersdale Renaissance is partnering with the Meyersdale Area Merchants Association to apply for grant funds for businesses to acquire security cameras. Proceeds from the Oktoberfest event will be used to offset the cost.
- B.) Mr. Brad Steinbiser from The EADS Group was present to report that funds have been acquired to install a much needed sewer line in the upper Broadway Street area. Permission for street closure during construction was requested. Mr. Boyce made the motion to allow the closure of the roadway during working hours during construction. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. Because this is such a small scale project, the closure will be for just a few weeks. Accommodations will be made for local traffic.
- C.) Mrs. Deb Kolb was present to report that she is a member of the Friends of the Library and in that capacity she is working on purchasing a defibrillator unit for the library. Mrs. Kolb asked Council to consider purchasing a unit for the Community Center. The price for a unit ranges from \$1,800.00 to \$2,100.00. Chief Wright indicated that the police department should have a unit in the Police station and in the vehicles. After some discussion, Mr. Parisi volunteered to do grant research and Chief Wright volunteered to contact the hospital to see if funding is available.

D.) Mrs. Barbara Sigler, Meyers Avenue was present to report a problem she has been experiencing with trash pickup. According to Mrs. Sigler, she cleaned up a problem area in the Morgan Toole parking lot and put this trash with hers only to have the trash hauler not pick up one of her bags of trash. Mrs. Sigler reported that she aired her trash complaint as well as a pot hole issue over Facebook and the pothole was fixed immediately. Mrs. Sigler claims that the trash hauler will pick up anything and everything from the neighbors property, but does not pick up all of her trash. Mr. Parisi volunteered to contact Harbaugh Trucking regarding her complaint.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

No report was given.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Smith reported \$732.19 in fines. A monthly statistics report was read.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:**

No report was given.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:**

No report was given.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Due to being ill, Solicitor Valentine waived providing a detailed report until the March 2023 regular meeting. Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- He was unable to work out a meeting with Ed from PMCA due to scheduling conflicts. Council will be notified via e-mail when a date has been agreed upon.
- A Zoning Hearing for Mr. James Rubright, Jr. has been scheduled. Council will be notified via e-mail regarding the date and time.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

No report was given.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Municipal Authority

Mrs. Gnagey reported that a lot of work is being done to try and meet the DEP CAP report. Solicitor Valentine reported that a complaint to DEP made by a resident has been resolved.

Street Foreman

Mr. Reiber reported that the community center furnace has not been working properly. Darr Construction was called on several occasions and cannot find the problem. After some discussion, Mr. Parisi volunteered to reach out to Darr Construction and if they are unable to fix the furnace, then a plumber will be contacted. President Folk complimented the street crew on the work they have been doing with snow removal and street maintenance.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the flag at the pavilion is in need of replacement. Mr. Reiber will remove the tattered flag and the Secretary will make contact with the local State Representative to obtain a new flag.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Teri Foster reported on a meeting to be held on February 15, 2023. Jeffrey Dick will be the guest speaker. MAMA is looking to hold a job fair and hold PA Smart courses.

Public Library

Mrs. Teri Foster was present with a report regarding the Sesquicentennial 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Meyersdale. (see attached).

Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee will be holding a teen dance on February 19, 2023 from 6 PM to 9 PM. A movie showing will also be available. The group will begin holding meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at the Elks Club. The first two orders of business will be the Memorial Day luminaries and planning for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Meyersdale Renaissance

Report was given under Public Comment

**COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES**

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Wright reported that the police force is getting better, but that the officers need to put in more time. Mayor Smith agreed and reported that there will be an officer coming back which will enhance police coverage.

PERSONNEL

No report was given.

FINANCE

No report was given.

REFUSE

No report was given.

STREETS/BUILDINGS

It was reported that some pot holes have been temporarily fixed with cold patch.

FLOOD CONTROL

No report was given.

FARMERS MARKET

No report was given.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook  
Mayor Smith reported that the document has not been signed.
- C.) Meyers Avenue access road  
Mr. Parisi reported that he had the opportunity to speak briefly with two of the Somerset County

Commissioners and was hopeful that a meeting can be scheduled before the March Council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A.) Announcements

The Secretary reported that a check in the amount of \$1,478.70 was received from the perpetrators insurance company for the damages to the Welcome to Meyersdale sign. Level Acres in Springs, PA will be instructed to proceed with the repairs.

B.) RAVE Emergency notification system

Mr. Boyce made the motion to share the cost of the RAVE Emergency Notification System (\$625.00) with the Meyersdale Municipal Authority. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed with Mrs. Gnagey abstaining. (See Abstention Memorandum attached)

C.) Correspondence from John McDowell – Request for extension

A letter from Mr. John McDowell, owner of a former manufacturing building on Sixth Avenue requested an extension to make repairs to the structure. (See attached)

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to grant a 60 day extension. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed. The Secretary was asked to contact PA Municipal Code Alliance regarding their decision. PMCA is to use their discretion as to the expiration of the 60 day period.

D.) Use of gazebo for Flag Day ceremony

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to grant the Elks Lodge permission to use the uptown park gazebo for the Annual Flag Day ceremony on June 14, 2023 and to waive the \$70.00 rental fee. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

E.) Landlord notifications

Mrs. Gnagey suggested that landlords be notified when a tenant is delinquent in paying a refuse bill after one quarter. Mr. Ackerman suggested billing the landlord for the services. After some discussion, Council decided that a copy of the penalty notice will be sent to the landlord as a notification that the bill is due and that steps will be taken to place a municipal lien against the property if the account is not paid.

F.) Police Vehicle

Mayor Smith reported that the new Dodge Durango police vehicle is ready for pickup at Tri-Star Motors. Three written estimates were obtained for the upfit package as follows:

East Coast Emergency Lighting, Inc. 200 Meco Drive Millstone Township, NJ 08535	\$15,249.00
Team Force, Inc. 482 Railroad St. Windber, PA 15963	\$17,342.40

Blackout Tinting \$13,639.00  
5797 Rt. 981  
Latrobe, PA 15650

It was reported that all the estimates include the cost of a console costing approximately \$900.00. The Vehicle originally was not to be equipped with a console, but it has arrived in with a console installed. This is an item that will not need to be included in the upfit package, therefore the estimates are Approximately over by \$900.00. Mr. Parisi made the motion to accept the lowest quote from Blackout Tinting for the upfit package. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

There was discussion on how the vehicle and upfit package would be paid for. There is \$25,000.00 set aside in the contingency fund to offset the cost of the vehicle. Council discussed the possibilities of financing the balance of \$32,000.00. Mrs. Gnagey asked if the balance could be taken from the refuse account. Solicitor Valentine advised that this was not possible. After some discussion, Council decided that the Secretary was to obtain quotes from local banks for financing. The results will be presented at the February 22, 2023 Special/Workshop meeting.

G.) Goals for 2023

Mrs. Gnagey reported that it was her understanding that the Goals for 2023 were to be added to the Agenda, however they were not.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

There were no additional items for discussion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman  
Borough Secretary



# MEYERSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

210 Center Street, P.O. Box 98  
Meyersdale, PA 15552  
Phone: (814) 634-0512  
Fax: (814) 634-8103  
meyersdalelibrary.org

February 3, 2023

Dear Fellow Community Member,

As you may already be aware, the Borough of Meyersdale will mark its 150th anniversary, or Sesquicentennial, in 2024. Late in January our Meyersdale Public Library hosted two "brainstorming sessions," during which a number of interested individuals gathered to begin tossing around ideas of how we might make next year one to remember in and around the community we all call "home."

At this point there is talk of a possible "birthday party" dinner. If the logistics can be worked out, Sesquicentennial t-shirts and mugs might be offered, or a special parade may be organized. The ideas of a Meyersdale theme song, "town-wide scavenger hunt, and time capsule burial have been mentioned.

Here at the library, we hope to sponsor a Centennial Essay Contest for youth; offer slide shows and a few new online PA POWER Library collections featuring some of the countless old photographs we've acquired from *The New Republic* newspaper; and maybe even publish a memory book featuring some of these images that are so reflective of our community's past.

Yet as the Meyersdale Centennial Committee noted in preparing for our borough's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 1974, "*The success of any project depends almost entirely on the cooperation of the Citizens of The Community if it is a community project.*" A half century later, this still holds true.

Thus at this point many discussions revolve around integrating the upcoming 150th celebration into the things folks in Meyersdale normally do in the course of a year: the Maple Festival, Alumni Weekend, our Independence Day celebration, the County Fair, etc. Almost any organization or business can put a little #Meyersdale150th pomp into its typical activities during 2024! Businesses might participate in Sesquicentennial window-decorating events or sell #Meyersdale150th souvenirs? Groups such as the Elks, American Legion, Moose and Fire Department can consider ways they, too, can get involved. And of course there's our Meyersdale Area Historical Society, Merchants' and Ministerial Associations, and School District.

Those of us who met during the recent Sesquicentennial brainstorming gatherings have set another meeting for Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6 p.m. at the library. All are invited and welcome to attend! Organizations and businesses are especially encouraged to have a representative present to see how we can all come together to celebrate this community milestone. As that 1974 Centennial Committee pointed out, a handful of people can't do it alone. The more individuals, businesses and organizations who contribute, the bigger and better our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will become!

We look forward to seeing all of you on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

"The Initial Brainstormers"

(Katie Billy, Denise Gehringer, Madolin Edwards, Deb Kolb, Linda McDonough, Chelsey Tressler, Terri Foster & Jennifer Hurl)



### Library Report for February, 2023

The library was busy in 2022! Our Pennsylvania Room staff created several new collections in PA Photos & Documents. (From there, they were harvested into the Digital Public Library of America.) Collections include Maple Festival Memories, our library's history, and oral histories of the tornado outbreak of 1998. We will be hosting programs on each of these topics this year – especially appropriate for the tornado remembrance, as it will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The library had approximately 13,000 visits during its approximately 2,600 service hours in 2022. While the majority of our visitors were Somerset County residents, our Pennsylvania Room (archive) documented visitors from 18 other states.

As of 12/31/2022, we had almost 30,000 items in our catalog. Almost 13,000 physical items were checked out during the year. We do not yet have a full tally of electronic items used, but that usage has clearly increased from past years. There were 1,500 sessions of public computer use, and countless more uses of our Wi-Fi.

Currently, we are looking ahead to next year's Meyersdale 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We have hosted two brainstorming sessions and have another planned for March 13 at 6 p.m. We have launched a weekly community events newsletter. We also have thousands of photos and negatives from the now-closed New Republic newspaper, which are being sorted and digitized by our newly-launched "The Way We Were Club." (New members are welcome!) We hope to do more in the way of community outreach with those materials.

Thanks to grants received through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, we have an energy efficiency upgrade in process funded by the Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, and we have upgraded our security camera system with funds from the Somerset County Community Fund. In conjunction with the security grant, we will hold a program about personal safety and crime prevention and add materials on that subject to our collection.

We are now trying to better promote the non-book resources that may be checked out of the library. We have Take-and-Make STEM project kits and a variety of educational toys, games, and electronics cataloged and available to borrow.

Preschool Story Hour is going well, and we have resumed holding our LEGO Club for youth grades K-5. We would like to start a Magna-Tile building club (those are always popular with young people get to use them) but lack sufficient quantity – we've created a wish list of additional Magna-Tiles we'd love to have!

We are grateful for the support we receive from community members.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Foster

Conflict of Interest  
Abstention Memorandum

TO: Borough Secretary, Patricia C. Ackerman  
Meyersdale Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

FROM: Karen Gnagy, council member

DATE: 2/14/23

Pursuant to Pennsylvania's "Public Official and Employee Ethics Law" (65 PA CSA 1101 et seq), I hereby declare that I am required to abstain regarding the following issue/ motion:

Rare shared agreement with Boro

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

on Board

K. Gnagy  
Signature

NOTE: Section 1103 (J) requires the following procedure:

"Any public official or public employee, who in the discharge of his official duties, would be required to vote on a matter that would result in a conflict of interest shall abstain from voting and, prior to the vote being taken, publicly announce and disclose the nature of his interest as a public record in a written memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes for the meeting at which the vote is taken...."

(Please note that State Ethics Commission requires a public official to complete a form every time he has a conflict of interest).

**Sixth Avenue - 156 - Meyersdale Borough -SOM - Property ID - 260013230 -- Time Extension Request**

John V. McDowell <jvmcdowell@gmail.com>

Mon 1/23/2023 10:47 AM

To: Ed Maz - PMCA <code6@pacodealliance.com>; Patricia Ackerman <meyersdaleborough@hotmail.com>

Please consider this email to be a formal request to extend the required clean up at the property located at Sixth Avenue, Meyersdale Borough, Meyersdale, PA.

Mr. Mazurkiewicz was kind enough to send photos detailing the issue at hand. These helped us better understand the issues of most concern, and realize that a consistent onsite presence is required to maintain our status. We are committed to addressing these items. Our plan is to make progress, weekly, on the items that remain and improve the condition of the property. The will include dumpsters, hauling of debris not suitable for landfill, and addressing the building issues.

We have addressed some issues referenced in the original Order, securing the build, maintaining the mowing and overgrown vegetation; but have these items remaining.

We also recognize that our neglect has put us in this position and we are committed to maintaining the building and grounds, moving forward.

We know we are in no position to request such an extension, however, we ask for leniency as we look to improve our position there.

I saw the former manager of the building over the holidays and he mentioned using a specific trash company that was Borough approved. If I could make a request, does the Borough still recommend a single trash/dumpster service?

Thanks.

John V. McDowell

**MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
 Regular Meeting 2/14/2023 Special Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST SIGN IN**

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Tom Deetz	334 Olinger ST Meyersdale	
2	Jeff Christner	201 Main ST Meyersdale	
3	Brad Spinkson	6805 Camp	MMA
4	Jackie Pelogrum	305 Broadway St Meyersdale	
5	Ruth + Eugene Mishler		MMA
6	Wendy Kelly		Library
7	Terrie Foster	218 Olinger St	
8	Boub Silver	131 Meyers Ave	
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**GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING**

GUEST SIGN IN ON EXCEL