

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

APPROVED MINUTES - REORGANIZATION MEETING 1/3/2024

Reorganization Meeting

January 3, 2024

7:00 P.M.

2023 Council

The first part of the reorganization meeting was called to order by President Folk at 7:00 P.M., January 2, 2024. Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Folk, Mrs. Gnagey, Mrs. Knieriem and Mayor Smith were present. Solicitor Valentine was present via telephone. Note: There were only 6 Council Members due to the resignation of Mr. Parisi.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2023, Regular Meeting as presented. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No report was given.

BILLS:

Mr. Baker made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

GUESTS:

No guests were present.

BUSINESS:

Mrs. Gnagey asked if there was an update on the blighted property on Salisbury Street. Solicitor Valentine indicated that he would have a report for the January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Folk reported that the Meyersdale Municipal Authority will be following up on an excessive water/sewer bill complaint he received from a customer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No reports were given.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to adjourn this portion of the reorganization meeting. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. The first part of the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

2024 Council

Mayor Smith administered the oath of office to:

Mr. Ronnie C. Ackerman, Dr. Jeff Irwin, DDS, Mr. Tom Smith and Mrs. Virginia Knieriem prior to the beginning of the second part of the reorganization meeting. Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Irwin, and Mr. Smith will serve for a 4 year term. Mrs. Knieriem will serve for a 2 year term.

The second part of the reorganization meeting was reconvened and called to order by Mayor Smith at 7:12 P.M. Mayor Smith presided over the meeting until the President and Vice President were elected.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Gnagey, Mr. Irwin, Mrs. Knieriem, Mr. Smith and Mayor Smith were present. Solicitor Valentine was present via telephone.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mr. Ackerman nominated Mr. Irwin. Mr. Smith seconded.

No other nominations were made, Mayor Smith declared the nominations be closed.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ackerman – Yes; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes, Mrs. Knieriem – Yes; Mr. Smith – Yes.

Mr. Irwin will serve as President of Council.

VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Gnagey nominated Mrs. Knieriem. Mr. Baer seconded.

Mr. Ackerman nominated Mr. Smith. Mr. Irwin seconded.

No other nominations were made, Mayor Smith declared the nominations be closed.

Roll Call Vote (Each member of Council stated the name of their chosen nominee):

Mr. Ackerman – Mr. Smith; Mr. Baer – Mrs. Knieriem; Mr. Baker – Mrs. Knieriem; Mrs. Gnagey – Mrs. Knieriem; Mr. Irwin – Mr. Smith; Mrs. Knieriem – Self; Mr. Smith – Self.

Mrs. Knieriem will serve as Vice President of Council.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Irwin, newly elected President.

TREASURER

Mr. Baker made the motion to retain the Borough Secretary as treasurer. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to retain Mr. Marc Valentine as Solicitor. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

BANK DEPOSITOR

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to retain Somerset Trust Company as the depositor for the Refuse, General Fund Money Market Account and Building Renovation accounts and the First National Bank of Pennsylvania for all other Borough accounts. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. Baker made the motion to appoint Mr. Smith as president pro tempore in the absence of the President, Vice President or Mayor. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

ENGINEER

Council agreed not to retain an engineer at this time.

MEETING NIGHTS

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to set the Regular Meeting night for the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to set the Police/Public Safety, Personnel, and Finance Committee meetings for the Thursday preceding the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed. The Secretary was asked to advertise the meetings as required. Other committee meetings will be held on an as needed basis.

ADOPT BYLAWS

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to continue to operate under the bylaws adopted February 20, 2007. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

ADOPT RULES OF ORDER

Mr. Baer made the motion to continue to operate under the rules of order adopted February 20, 2007 and revised January 4, 2010. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

ADOPT OPEN COMMENT POLICY

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to continue to operate under the open comment policy adopted June 14, 2011. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

President Irwin made committee appointments (See attached). The Police/Public Safety, Personnel, and Finance Committee meetings will be held the Thursday preceding the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Other committee meetings will be held on an as needed basis. Solicitor Valentine was asked to draft a revised Parks & Recreation Ordinance.

MISCELLANEOUS

A.) Appointment to Municipal Authority

Letters of interest were as follows:

A letter was received from Mrs. Karen S. Gnagey on April 17, 2023 via e-mail, and subsequently withdrawn via e-mail on December 28, 2023. (See attached)

A letter was received from Mr. Jeffrey Christner, via personal delivery on November 29, 2023. (See attached)

A letter was received from Mr. Barry Yoder on November 29, 2023, via personal delivery. (See attached)

A letter was received from Mrs. Patricia M. Murray on December 6, 2023, via personal delivery. (See attached)

A letter was received from Mrs. Wendy Kelly on December 14, 2023 via e-mail and on December 21, 2023 via USPS. (See attached).

The letter of interest from Mrs. Wendy Kelly was disqualified due to the fact that the open position on the Meyersdale Municipal Authority Board is for a Borough resident and Mrs. Kelly is not a resident of Meyersdale Borough.

There was a discussion regarding the legality of Mr. Baker casting a vote due to the fact that he is an employee of the MMA. Mr. Baker chose to recuse himself from the vote.

There was a discussion regarding the legality of Mrs. Knieriem casting a vote due to the fact that her daughter is an employee of the MMA. Solicitor Valentine confirmed that Mrs. Knieriem can in fact vote because she is not voting on an issue that directly involves only her daughter. Mrs. Knieriem reported that she sought legal advice and found that it is legal for her to vote on the appointment.

Nominations were as follows:

Mr. Ackerman nominated Mrs. Patricia M. Murray. Mr. Smith seconded.

Mrs. Gnagey nominated Mr. Barry Yoder. Mrs. Knieriem seconded.

Roll Call Vote for Mrs. Patricia M. Murray

Mr. Ackerman – Yes; Mr. Baer – No; Mr. Baker – Abstained (See Memorandum of Abstention attached); Mrs. Gnagey – No; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mrs. Knieriem – No; Mr. Smith – Yes. Mayor Smith broke the tie with a No vote.

Roll Call Vote for Mr. Barry Yoder

Mr. Ackerman – No; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – abstained (See Memorandum of Abstention attached); Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – No; Mrs. Knieriem – Yes; Mr. Smith – No. Mayor Smith broke the tie with a Yes vote.

Mr. Barry Yoder was appointed to the Meyersdale Municipal Authority for a 5 year term.

B.) Appointments to Meyersdale Parks & Recreation Board

Letters of interest were received from Mrs. Teresa Werner, Mrs. Terri Swauger, Mrs. Heather Brant and Mrs. Marlanna Marker.

Resolution 1-2024

Mr. Smith made the motion to adopt Resolution 1-2024 to appoint Mrs. Teresa Werner to a one year term on the Parks & Recreation Board. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. The term will end December 31, 2024.

Resolution 2-2024

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to adopt Resolution 2-2024 to appoint Mrs. Terri Swauger to fill the unexpired term of former member Sandy Miller on the Parks & Recreation Board. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed. The term will end December 31, 2024.

Resolution 3-2024

Mr. Baer made the motion to adopt Resolution 3-2024 to appoint Mrs. Heather Brant to fill the unexpired term of former member Debra Boyce on the Parks & Recreation Board. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed. The term will end December 31, 2025.

Resolution 4-2024

Mr. Smith made the motion to adopt Resolution 4-2024 to appoint Mrs. Marlanna Marker to fill the unexpired term of former member Tina Boyce on the Parks & Recreation Board. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. The term will end December 31, 2027.

C.) Next Scheduled Meeting

President Irwin reported that there would be a meeting on the second Tuesday in January (January 9, 2024).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

Council President – Jeff Irwin
President Pro Tem – Tom Smith

Council Vice President – Virginia Knieriem
Secretary/Treasurer – Patricia Ackerman
Solicitor – Marc Valentine

Borough Office – 634-5110 Fax – 634-5757

COMMITTEES (As of 1/3/2024)

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Ron Ackerman – Chair
Clarence Baer
Tom Smith

SEIBERT DAM

Terry Baker – Chair
Clarence Baer

FARMERS MARKET

Karen Gnagey - Liaison

PARKS & RECREATION

Virginia Knieriem - Liaison

PERSONNEL

Virginia Knieriem – Chair
Karen Gnagey
Terry Baker

STREETS/BUILDINGS

Terry Baker - Chair
Ron Ackerman
Tom Smith

FINANCE

Terry Baker – Chair
Karen Gnagey
Tom Smith

FLOOD CONTROL

Terry Baker - Chair
Clarence Baer
Tom Smith

REFUSE

Ron Ackerman – Chair
Terry Baker
Clarence Baer

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

No need for committee until 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS

	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>CELL</u>	
Jeff Irwin	634-5961	442-5344	jeffro601@verizon.net
Terry Baker	634-0319	442-0993	baker206@verizon.net
Karen Gnagey		704-617-1373	ksgnagey@bellsouth.net
Tom Smith	634-0196	233-4760	goodfellows@yahoo.com
Ron Ackerman	634-8937	None	rcackerman21@gmail.com
Clarence Baer	634-0852	279-1451	clarence.baer@yahoo.com
Virginia Knieriem		442-7589	knieriem106@comcast.net

OTHER OFFICIALS

Shane Smith		289-1071	smith353520@yahoo.com
Marc Valentine	701-2835	241-2010	attorneymarcvalentine@snydervalentinepc.com
Jason M. Ackerman, Tax Collector		442-5634	jasonackerman3@gmail.com
Chris Harbaugh	926-4713		
PMCA	444-6112		pmcasomerset@pacodealliance.com

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Neil Berkley – Badge #27	634-0207	442-8314
Tim Pritts – Badge #30	301-689-5612	301-268-9865
Nicholas McKenzie- Badge #41		521-0180
Kevin Huzsek – Badge #40		521-8730

STREETS DEPARTMENT

Patricia Ackerman	634-8937	None	p-ackerman@hotmail.com
Brion Reiber	279-8249		bendale10@verizon.net
Harold Hotchkiss, Jr.	521-4095		

Revised 1/3/2024 (COMMITTEES saved on disk)

April 16, 2023

Meyersdale Borough Council
Meyersdale, PA

Via email:

I have served on the MMA Board since 2020. I was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Bob Kirchner. During my term, we have made significant progress on the DEP CAP. I'm sure most of you have seen the work going on throughout town. We are getting ready to do an Upper Broadway sewer project that will tie in about 8 properties that never had access to sewer lines before.

I spearheaded the project to create a new employee handbook. I worked with other board members on job descriptions and many other projects. We automated a lot of processes and procedures in the office. We cleared out a lot of older files and put them into the archive.

After careful consideration, I think it's valuable to have a liaison between the borough council and the MMA. I believe I've done a good job of recusing myself on issues that impact one or the other.

I would like to be considered for another term on the MMA board.

Thank you.

Karen Gnagey

RECEIVED

APR 17 2023

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

4/17/23, 6:28 AM

Mail - Patricia Ackerman - Outlook

MMA Board - Letter of interest

KAREN GNAGEY <ksgnagey@bellsouth.net>

Sun 4/16/2023 1:45 PM

To: Patricia Ackerman <meyersdaleborough@hotmail.com>

Cc: Clarence Baer <clarence.baer@yahoo.com>; Ron Ackerman <rcackerman21@gmail.com>; Brooke Folk <brookefolk@gmail.com>; Dan Parisi <parisidan@gmail.com>; Ginny Knieriem <knieriem106@comcast.net>; Terry Baker <baker206@verizon.net>; Shane Smith <smith353520@yahoo.com>; Marc Valentine <valentine.northcenterlegalassoc@gmail.com>

 1 attachments (16 KB)

Memorandum to the Borough re MMA_04.16.2023.docx;

Karen Gnagey 704.617.1373 (c)

MMA

KAREN GNAGEY <ksgnagey@bellsouth.net>

Thu 12/28/2023 2:08 PM

To: Patricia Ackerman <meyersdaleborough@hotmail.com>; Marc T. Valentine
<attorneymarcvalentine@snydervalentinepc.com>

Cc: Clarence Baer <clarence.baer@yahoo.com>; Ginny Knieriem <knieriem106@comcast.net>; Ron Ackerman
<rcackerman21@gmail.com>; Brooke Folk <brookefolk@gmail.com>; Terry Baker <baker206@verizon.net>; Shane
Smith <smith353520@yahoo.com>

Hi

I've been meaning to send a note, but haven't had time. In October, I was asked to take on an officer role with the Pa Borough's Association, so I need to withdraw my letter of interest. I love this organization and learn so much from these leaders.

Thank you.

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH
MEYERSDALE ,Pa

Dear Borough Council Members,

I Jeffrey Christner wish to be consider for the Position on the Meyersdale Municipal Authority Board.

I'm a life long Meyersdale resident, And i'm looking forward to Work with other board members to serve the area of meyersdale.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jeffrey Christner

RECEIVED

NOV 29 2023

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 27, 2023

RECEIVED

NOV 29 2023

Meyersdale Borough Council
P.O. Box 60
Meyersdale, PA 15552

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Appointment of Barry A. Yoder to Meyersdale
Municipal Authority

I would like the Borough Council to consider my appointment to the Meyersdale Municipal Authority. I have previously served on the Board and was very involved and supportive of the Authority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barry A. Yoder
418 Beachley Street
Meyersdale, PA 15552
814-442-2430

Patricia M. Murray
417 7th Avenue
Meyersdale, PA 15552
Cell: 814-233-6178

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2023

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 6, 2023

Meyersdale Borough Council
Community Center
Main Street
Meyersdale, PA 15552

RE: Meyersdale Municipal Authority

Dear Borough Council,

I submit this letter for your consideration to be re-appointed to the Meyersdale Municipal Authority Board.

As many of you already know, I served on this Board for five years commencing January 2018 through December 2022. During this time, I learned myriad information regarding the water and sewer systems of Meyersdale. I also worked with the Authority employees and found they are dedicated and work to best serve the community, often in difficult circumstances.

As a community member who has continued to serve on many Boards and committees throughout the years, I am again ready to continue service with volunteering my time to this worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,


Patricia M. Murray

RECEIVED

December 13, 2023

DEC 14 2023

Att: Meyersdale Borough Council

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Meyersdale Municipal Authority Vacancy

I am submitting this letter to inform you of my interest in being considered for the vacancy position on the Meyersdale Municipal Authority beginning in January 2024. I would be grateful if you would consider me.

I have an extensive background in real estate, property management and business management. I also have had the ability to experience the current conditions and projects concerning the pressure testing in our community. I have worked with the local people and contractors concerning these projects.

Also, being married to a Professional Land Surveyor, SEO I have been educated on various sewage compliance issues and land issues that a laymen may not consider.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with and for the community.

Regards,



Wendy Kelly

December 13, 2023

Att: Meyersdale Borough Council

RE: Meyersdale Municipal Authority Vacancy

I am submitting this letter to inform you of my interest in being considered for the vacancy position on the Meyersdale Municipal Authority beginning in January 2024. I would be grateful if you would consider me.

I have an extensive background in real estate, property management and business management. I also have had the ability to experience the current conditions and projects concerning the pressure testing in our community. I have worked with the local people and contractors concerning these projects.

Also, being married to a Professional Land Surveyor, SEO I have been educated on various sewage compliance issues and land issues that a laymen may not consider.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with and for the community.

Regards,



Wendy Kelly

RECEIVED

DEC 21 2023

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MMA Vacancy Consideration

Wendy Kelly <wendykelly@tprsold.com>

Thu 12/14/2023 1:32 PM

To: marcvaltax <marcvaltax@gmail.com>; Patricia Ackerman <meyersdaleborough@hotmail.com>

📎 1 attachments (131 KB)

Xerox Scan_12142023133155.pdf;

Please find attached my letter of interest for the vacancy for the MMA Board.



Wendy Kelly



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
The Preferred Realty

814.233.5058 c

814.443.4858 o

wendykellygroup.com

867 W. Main St Somerset, PA 15501

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**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

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

FROM: Terry Baker, council member

DATE: 1/2/23

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:

M.M.A appointment - regarding vote for Pat Murray

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

Employee of M.M.A.

Terry Baker
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).

**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

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

FROM: Terry Baker, council member

DATE: 12/2/23

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:

m.m.a. appointment - vote regarding Barry Yoder

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

Employee of m.m.a.

Terry Baker
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...."

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