

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 7/9/2024

Approved minutes – Special Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Meeting  
July 9, 2024  
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Irwin, July 9, 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. Mr. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman and Tim Pritts, Police Lieutenant were also present.

**MINUTES:**

Regular Meeting – June 11, 2024

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the June 11, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:**

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

**CONTINGENCY FUND**

Mrs. Gnagey suggested that the General Fund Contingency Account at First National Bank be rolled over to the General Fund Money Market account at Somerset Trust.

After some discussion, Mr. Ackerman made the motion to leave the Contingency Fund at First National Bank. No second was made.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to move the balance of the General Fund Contingency Account at the First National Bank to the Money Market Account with Somerset Trust Company. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ackerman – No; Mr. Baer – No; Mr. Baker – No; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – No; Mrs. Knieriem – Yes; Mr. Smith – No. Motion did not pass.

**GUESTS:**

A.) Mr. Brian Fochtman and Mr. Chadd Sines

Mr. Brian Fochtman(Somerset County Commissioner) and Mr. Chadd Sines were present to give an overview of the proposed ATV/UTV trails that the County is attempting to developed. A map was displayed outlining the tentative route. Each municipality that wishes to participate must enact an ordinance allowing ATV/UTV traffic within their limits. The ATV/UTV vehicles drivers will be required to be 16 years or older with a valid drivers license, insured, helmets must be worn, and there would be a zero tolerance on alcohol use.

A permit fee will be enacted with ½ of the fees coming back to the municipality, the remaining fees would be used for signage and enforcement. The Somerset County Commissioners have researched other areas that have the ATV/UTV trails to use as a template for a trail system in Somerset County. The County is anticipating getting the trails up and running by the end of 2024.

After being questioned, Mr. Sines indicated there would be no liability issues for the Borough.

There were guests present who are in favor of the Borough proceeding with enacting an ordinance. Mr. Brian Witherite, PA Game Commission had some concerns, indicating that one of the most common violations is no registration. The PA Game Commission deals with ATV/UTV issues on a regular basis. Council was to review the draft ordinances. This item will be put on the Agenda for the August meeting.

B.) Mr. Jeff Christner – Gym Equipment

Mr. Christner reported that Mr. Brian DiFebo had approached him regarding using the gym for a volleyball league and tournaments. Council decided to review the information and put it on the Agenda for the Regular Meeting scheduled for August 13, 2024. (See attached)

Mr. Christner also asked Council to consider purchasing new tables and chairs for the gym. No action was taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A.) Mr. Thomas Deetz was present to report that the Elks took on the project to purchase flags to display on telephone poles and a plan was developed to put the flags up and take them down periodically in order to save them from wind damage. The flags were recently taken down and he has received inquiries as to why they were removed. He indicated that the Borough should make the final decision as to when the flags are to be displayed.

Mr. Deetz reported that a historical marker will be installed in the uptown park to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He is hopeful that it will be installed by August 5, 2024.

B.) Mrs. Gnagey reported that the Somerset County Commissioners have asked her to represent the County at the Economic Development Commission for the Southern Alleghenies.

C.) Mrs. Patricia Murray asked if Council could purchase an air conditioner for the meeting room. The current unit is noisy and cannot be used during the meeting. Mrs. Gnagey reported that a mini split system is part of the grant application made to renovate the building.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

There was no President’s report.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Mayor Smith presented a report of calls for service and fines totaled \$303.31 for the month.

**JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER:**

No report given during summer break.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:**

No report was given.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:**

No report was given.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

Regular Meeting July 9, 2024

- A letter has been sent to the Solicitor for the Meyersdale Area School District to resolve the matter of conveying the Community Center to the Borough without stipulations.
- A Zoning Hearing was held with regard to the Vietnam Korean Memorial. Mr. Kevin Yoder has finished the paperwork and will be submitting the documents to the County for approval.
- A lawsuit against the Police Department has been settled by the Insurance Company. The matter has been dismissed in court and is considered confidential.
- Bed and Breakfasts and Air B&B's are not considered long term rentals and therefore are not included in the Rental License Ordinance.
- Solicitor has had a hard time serving the owner of 326 Salisbury Street regarding the condition of the property. There was speculation that the owner may be willing to turn the property over.

NOTE: Mayor Smith left at 7:55 PM

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

No report was given.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Municipal Authority

No report was given.

Street Foreman

Mr. Reiber reported on the following:

- A tree located on Borough property near the Borough shed has been creating an issue for a neighboring property owner. Mr. John Fabbri is willing to cut down the tree and dispose of it. He could do the removal using his employers liability and workman's compensation insurance. It was suggested that Council look at the tree and place this item on the Agenda for the August meeting.
- A quote to change all of the decorative lamp post electrical outlets will be provided at the August meeting.
- Mr. Ackerman reported that the street paving is scheduled to begin the end of July.
- Mrs. Gnagey requested that shrubs be trimmed around the light that illuminates the flag in the uptown park.
- Mr. Smith reported that the new street name signs have arrived and will be installed. The crew will also be working on the drain at Center and Main Street.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Teri Foster reported that there will be a board meeting and new officers will be elected.

Public Library

Mrs. Teri Foster, Librarian presented a midyear report. (See attached)

Mrs. Foster also reported a problem the area around the library has been experiencing with a family of skunks.

Mr. Brian Witherite indicated that the PA Game Commission could assist with this matter.

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book that will be made available for sale.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee

Marlana Marker was present to report that there was a good turn out for the Independence Day Celebration.

The next Meyersdale Community Events Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 7 PM at the Elks Club. The Group will be working on the Halloween parade. Mr. Baer presented a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Meyersdale American Legion to be used for the Meyersdale Community Events Committee activities. The funds will be deposited to the General Fund and disbursed as needed.

Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES**

Police/Public Safety Committee

No report was given.

Personnel

No report was given.

Finance

No report was given.

Refuse

No report was given.

Streets/Buildings

No report was given.

Flood Control

Mr. Baker reported that every five years the flood control conduits must be videoed. The Borough has until June 2026 to have this completed. DEP will pay to video the lines, it is the responsibility of the Borough to clean the lines if necessary.

New signage will be installed along the flood control.

Farmer's Market

It was reported that there will not be a Farmers Market this season. There is no one to run the Market and there is a lack of participants as vendors.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook

The agreement/handbook has not been signed.

B.) Ambulance meeting

Mrs. Gnagey reported that a meeting will be held in August. They are close to getting all of the Boroughs and Townships on board. Funds can be raised by either a tax millage or per capita tax.

F.) Vietnam/Korea Memorial subdivision

No report was given.

G.) Job Descriptions

No report was given.

H.) COVID ARPA funds

President Irwin suggested earmarking these funds to replace windows in the community center. Solicitor Valentine will research to see if the funds can be used for this purpose.

I.) Community Center

Mr. Smith reported that the painting of the gym has begun. He is also getting pricing on the back doors.

J.) Ordinance #435 – Noise Ordinance (Chickens, Farm Animals)

These items will be discussed at the committee meeting scheduled for August 8, 2024.

H.) Cleanup Day – Harbaugh fee

Mr. Baer reported that Mr. Harbaugh is willing to do a cleanup day, but did not give a price.

Mr. Baer is to get a price for two large dumpsters and any restrictions for a one day event. He will report his findings at the August meeting.

I.) Proclamation for Virginia Shultz Werner

The Proclamation has been completed and signed by Mayor Smith. Mayor Smith will present it to Mrs. Werner at the celebration.

J.) Little League Concession Stand

Mr. Smith reported that he fixed the toilets at the Little League concession stand. The doors to the restrooms need to be replaced.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to amend the Agenda to add discussion regarding a mini split heating and cooling unit for the council room. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

Mrs. Gnagey will contact a representative for a quote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) Zoning Hearing Board Appointment (By Resolution)

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to pass Resolution 7-2024 to appoint Mr. Thomas Deakins to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three year term. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

C.) It was reported that Somerset Trust Company paid to have the uptown park mulched. A thank you letter was sent to the bank.

E.) Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Grant Funds

Mr. Smith made the motion to commit \$5,000.00 from the Harry Leckemby Fund as an additional source of income for the grant application. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

F.) Social Media Policy

Solicitor Valentine suggested that Council enact a Social Media Policy. A policy would be a document that would specify who can post, what can be posted and what the Borough is legally permitted to sponsor and promote via social media. A sample ordinance will be provided for Council review.

G.) Internet upgrade

Shawn Hostetler and Dan Stein were present and reported that they will be working on getting the internet upgraded and be ready to put the meetings on YouTube. At some point, they will need to coordinate entrance to the Police Department to complete the project.

H.) Un-mowed lawns/un-kept properties

It was reported that sending certified letters and personal contacts with property owners have helped in getting high grass mowed. If any members of Council are aware of properties with high grass, they should contact the secretary and a letter will be mailed.

I.) PA Maple Festival

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the request from the PA Maple Festival for street closures for the 2025 festival activities.

J.) Annual donations to school for various programs

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the Meyersdale Events Committee budget is very tight and they cannot make annual donations to the school for various programs. Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to begin making these donations from the General Fund. No second was made.

K.) Disposition of Records

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to pass resolution #8-2024 to authorize for the disposition of records. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

L.) Trash cans at Main St. Park

The new trash cans will be placed in the park, one at the charging station and one near the Successful Beginnings Daycare and will be bolted to the ground.

It was reported that Solicitor Valentine purchased one can as a donation to the Borough.

M.) Purchase signage for bike charging stations

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to purchase a sign to be installed at the train station and one for the bike charging station. These signs will let bikers know where to go to charge their equipment.

N.) Donation to Fire Department

There was a discussion regarding making a donation to the Fire Department for filling the dunk tank for the Independence Day Celebration. Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to make a \$100 donation to the

Fire Department. Mr. Baer seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ackerman – Yes; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mrs. Knieriem – Yes; Mr. Smith – No. Motion passed.

**GOALS FOR 2024**

Emergency Access Road Meyers Ave.

No report was given.

Flood Control rip rap

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

There were no additional items to be discussed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman  
Borough Secretary

**MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
 Regular Meeting 7/9/2024 Special Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST SIGN IN**

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Tom Deitz	Meyersdale, Pa	
2	Wayne + Sandy Miller	Meyersdale PA.	
3	Bob + Suzanne Boring	Meyersdale	
4	GARY + TERESA HAER	MEYERSDALE, PA	
5	Jeff Chrismer	Meyersdale, PA	Community Center GIM
6	Chadd Sims	" "	County
7	Terre Feltz	Meyersdale	Library
8	Tom + Wendy Kelly	Meyersdale	
9	Brian Bendebite	Meyersdale	ATV SXS
10	Kim Brown		
11	Randy Groder		
12	Donna Hallway		
13	Chuck Cochran	M.D.A.	
14	Beth + Eugene Mischler		
15	Mal + Jerry Hoover	Fort Hill - Prop. in Meyersdale	
16	Brian W. White	Mey.	MHA
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			

**GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING**

## Community center

From: Difebo, Bryan J (bryan.difebo@evc.ctc.com)  
To: j.christner@yahoo.com  
Cc: difebo@comcast.net  
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 08:29 AM EDT

Jeff,

I just wanted to take a few minutes to convey my thanks and support for everything you are doing at the community center. Thanks for taking the time to get the facility in good working order! The center brings back many fond memories of volleyball tournaments mens, womens, and coed. Mr. Stutzman and Mrs. Charlene Klink were instrumental in those days to ensure there were teams, referees, and help to run them. I believe that center has lots of potential for tournaments, leagues of similar nature while also the potential to host some local AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) club events. Most venues are two courts but if the tournament is structured correctly one court can be viable. The facility could also be a host for a club to have practices, Jr. High or Varsity events. The limitations would be the hardware. There is currently no system or ability to setup a system (in floor pole system) and the past setup was beyond antiquated when we used it, as it bolted to the floor. The in-floor threads are stripped, and a system of this nature is not even available (to my knowledge) anymore. I would suggest a system be purchased or potentially borrowed from the school, along with a referee stand, or at the minimum floor inserts be installed. Having the inserts installed now while the flooring project is complete would be a great first step. This would become an added value to the community and gives both youth and adults a venue to practice and play. I hope you are able and consider purchasing and installing a system in the coming year to put the finishing touch on a great community renovation project.

Bryan  
SVC Club Director

**Bryan DiFebo**  
Coating Chemist  
Enterprise Ventures Corporation  
100 CTC Drive, Johnstown, PA 15904  
814.248.7619 bryan.difebo@evc.ctc.com





# MEYERSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

## Meyersdale Public Library Mid-Year Report to Meyersdale Borough

The Meyersdale Public Library is pleased to serve residents of the Borough of Meyersdale, residents of the other eighteen municipalities in our service area, and those who reach out to us from afar and who visit with inquiries related to this region. **We are pleased that out-of-town visitors to our Pennsylvania Room, seeking information about Somerset Count ancestors, often patronize local lodgings, restaurants, and other businesses,** contributing to the economic health of our area. So far, there have been visitors from eleven other states, as far away as California! Indeed, anecdotal evidence suggests that many other people who visit the library take the opportunity to conduct other business in the borough.

We will be launching our 2024 *Summer Quest* program, with the theme *Adventure Begins At Your Library*, this Friday. Smokey the Bear will be visiting on July 19! We thank the Borough for allowing us to use the Paul Fuller Park and Pavilion for our children's program. Registration for the children's program is running higher than in recent years. There are also reading challenges for teens and adults.

We have been active in supporting the borough's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities, and have included historical programs in our event schedule, such as the upcoming *Remembering our Town: Meyersdale in 1937*" program by Samantha Schardt – to take place on July 16 -- and the display of antique Meyersdale bottles by the Laurel Highlands Antique Bottle Club scheduled for July 27. Our Archivist, Jennifer Hurl, is teaming up with Kyle Davis to present *Meyersdale at 150 Years: The Story of a Small Town* on July 22 at the Springs Historical Society and again later in the year at our library.

Other programming includes Preschool Story Hour, October through May; weekly LEGO Club and weekly Magna-Tile Club throughout the year; a Book Discussion Group; and a week-long Electronics and Robotics camp by the SCFLS STEAM Team that a dozen youth attended.

We just completed a project to make the computer/large print book area at the front of the library more ADA compliant.

As demand increases for large print books, we have been ordering more titles in large print. This format is, however, more expensive.

A milestone: since we received the archives of *The New Republic* when it closed, volunteers have scanned and digitized over 6,000 negatives!

**RESOLUTION NO. 7-2024**

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy 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 Thomas Deakins, be appointed to fill the 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 Member immediately.

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

Duly resolved, this 9th day of July, 2024, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

BOROUGH OF MEYERSDALE

By  <sup>DPS</sup>  
President of Council

ATTEST:

  
Borough Secretary

8-2024  
RESOLUTION

Resolved by the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania That

WHEREAS, by virtue of Resolution No. 4-2006, adopted August 8, 2006, the Borough of Meyersdale declared its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008 (as amended March 28, 2019), and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Act 428 of 1968, each individual act of disposition shall be approved by resolution of the governing body of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, in accordance with the above cited Municipal Records Manual, hereby authorized the disposition of the following public records:

Administrative and Legal Records, General Financial and Purchasing Records, Data Processing Records, Personnel Records, Payroll Records, which include:  
Account Distribution Summaries, Accounts Payable files and Ledgers, Accounts Receivable Files and Ledgers, Annual Budget Reports and Related Records, Balance Sheets, Bank Statements and Reconciliations, Bills, Cancelled Checks, Check Registers, Daily Cash Records, Deposit Slips, Financial Statements, Election Records, Ethic Statements, Insurance Policies, Oaths of Municipal Officials, Any Petitions, Press Releases, Sales Tax Exemption Certificates, Survey of Financial Condition Forms, Data Processing Records, Payroll Quarterly reports, Social Security Reports, Unemployment Compensation Records for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016.  
Estimated 4 cubic yd.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of July 2024.

ATTEST:

  
Borough Secretary

  
President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
NOTE: MAYOR SMITH DID NOT SIGN THE RESOLUTION.  
HE WAS NOT PRESENT DURING DISCUSSION AND  
APPROVAL OF THE SAME.