

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 09/09/2025

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
September 9, 2025
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Irwin, September 9, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Gnagey, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Smith, Solicitor Valentine and Mayor Smith were present. Mrs. Knieriem was absent. Olivia Baker, Junior Council Member, and Mr. Reiber were also present. There was no police present.

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT:

Miss Baker presented a report of activities at the school. She left the meeting at 7:03 PM

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2025 Rescheduled Regular Meeting 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. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

1. **2026 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Baker made the motion to adopt the 2026 proposed budget and to advertise for 10 day inspection. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

2. **Ambulance Agreement**

Mr. Baker made the motion to accept the Municipal Agreement for provision of ambulance service for the year of 2025. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed. The Borough contribution share will be paid in 2026.

GUESTS:

There were no pre-registered guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A.) Mr. Gregory Lowery was present to report an issue he is having with a neighbor parking several utility trailers on the Borough flood control right of way. Mr. Lowery presented minutes from March 12, 2002 where he was given permission to use a portion of the land. (See attached) After some discussion, it was decided to investigate the issue and the findings will be discussed at the October 2025 meeting.. Mr. Lowery was asked to attend the October 2025 meeting.
- B.) Mr. Robert Hufford was present to obtain a date in which the Borough would be completing the work on his drain issue. It was reported that the One Call has been placed and the work is scheduled to begin on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

C.) Ms. Deborah Fisher was present with questions and comments regarding the cost of health insurance for the Borough employees. She has reviewed the 2023 budget and calculated \$62,978.00 was budgeted for insurance in 2023 that included dental, health, vision and life insurance for Borough employees. Her assumptions were that all persons who were getting a pay check are offered a group insurance plan and that they may elect to add family members for a cost share. She assumed that the Mayor, Police, Administrators and MMA staff, etc. were included in this group plan. The questions were as follows:

1. How many employees does this cover?
2. How many elect coverage for themselves or family members?
3. What percentage do the employees share for the premium cost?
4. Is this insurance offered to family members and for how much?
5. Are any employees/family members eligible for Medicare vs having this insurance?
6. Are any employees or family members over 18 who are not in college, who could be moved to another plans?
7. Does the insurance plan get reviewed/renewed annually?

This is such a humongous number, that she assumed would be for 50 people and she doesn't think that there would be that many people and that 50 people would be \$10,000 to \$12,000 each per year. In her research health insurance premiums are to be going up significantly in 2026.

Solicitor Valentine provided answers as follows:

There are no MMA employees covered.

There are two different insurance plans:

One for uniformed (police) and one for non-uniformed (non police employees)

Currently there are no police who receive insurance benefits.

Solicitor was uncertain of the number of non-uniformed employees/family members covered and that this insurance plan is through the RWDSU Union and is negotiated through the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Solicitor Valentine indicated that the Personnel Committee has talked about questioning the insurance when the CBA is up for renewal.

Solicitor Valentine explained that the union maintains the insurance for the members.

After some discussion, the Secretary was asked to prepare an actual insurance cost breakdown for 2024.

D.) Mr. James Appleyard was present to inquire about liens that exist on a property he is interested in purchasing for water and sewer service. Solicitor Valentine reported that Mr. Appleyard would need to take his inquiry to the Meyersdale Municipal Authority because it is a lien that the MMA placed on the property. Mr. Appleyard also explained that he lost a boat during the May 2025 flood and he would like to gain access to a property on the Fairground side of the Casselman River to retrieve it. Solicitor Valentine explained that this would be in Summit Township.

E.) Mr. Robert Munion asked what was budgeted for the police department in 2026. President Irwin reported that \$55,000.00 was budgeted for police wages in 2026, however, this could change if needed. Mayor Smith explained that there are currently two part-time officers working and there is an open advertisement policy for the past two years and that Council is looking for as many new part-time officers as they can get. Mayor Smith also indicated that Council is seeking a full time Chief of Police as well. Mr. Munion thinks that there needs to be more officers. Mrs. Gnagey reported that Mayor Smith does an amazing job, she thinks that Council needs to open eyes and set goals for 5 years. She is concerned when the new road goes through, Meyersdale will see more crime. She wants Council to consider offering a competitive rate of pay, and benefits for full time and possibly part-time officers. Mayor Smith reported that it is just not Meyersdale, there is a shortage in police nationwide. The

Mayor stressed that they are searching for quality officers. He is open to suggestions on how to get officers.

Mr. Munion also had a concern if there is a contingency plan to hire someone to learn the job of the Borough Secretary when she is ready to retire. President Irwin replied that he and Mrs. Ackerman have discussed this numerous times and thought has been given to this matter.

RESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report was given.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Smith would like to maintain protocol and suggests that after public comment is over, there would be no outbursts from the audience. After public comment is over, the meeting should be for Council only. If someone has an issue with something discussed by the Council, bring it back to the next meeting during public comment period for discussion.

AMEND AGENDA:

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to amend the Agenda to address the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

APPROVE HAZARD MITIGATION RESOLUTION 4-2025

Mr. Baer made the motion to adopt Resolution 4-2025 pertaining to the PA 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

No report was given.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- The County will be putting the paperwork together for the ATV route designation. Solicitor Valentine was confident that the Borough ordinance would not have to be amended. Mrs. Gnagey added that the report she gave at a previous meeting regarding the ATV route was correct.
- The property at 326 Salisbury Street has been torn down and that there is just a little cleanup to be completed. Although an individual has shown interest in purchasing the property, it must be put out for bid. Whoever buys the property will have to pay the taxes owed and the County will want to recoup some of the funds used to take the house down.
- The Zoning Ordinance needs to be reviewed. Specifically the mapping has not been updated since 2001 when the Ordinance was enacted. Council should meet and discuss what is needed to promote growth. This item was to be placed on the Agenda for the Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for October 9, 2025.
- PEMA should be asked to meet with Council and discuss buyout of properties in the flood zone areas.
- A request was made for a mirror at Dale St. and Colonial St. Although the utility pole cannot be utilized for this purpose, the Borough could erect a post and attach a mirror to it.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

No report was given.

Street Foreman

No report was given.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Gnagey reported in the absence of Mr. Brian Berkebile. The Farmers Market had a good summer, although there was a fall off of foot traffic.

Public Library

No report was given.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee

Mr. Baer reported that the Committee is working on Halloween activities. Individuals that have donated to the Meyersdale Community Events will act as judges for the Halloween Parade. The Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 25, 2025 from 3 PM – 5PM, with lineup beginning at 2:45 PM on Broadway St., Trick or Treat will begin after the parade is over.

The Bon Fire will be held on October 2, 2025 at 7 PM, with lineup beginning at 6:45 PM.

Meyersdale Renaissance Committee

No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES:

Police/Public Safety

It was reported that a Police Officer will be available for all Regular Monthly Meetings.

Personnel

An item listed on the Agenda for a CRB service program was not discussed, due to CRB not responding to an e-mail confirmation request.

Finance

No report was given.

Refuse

No report was given.

Streets/Buildings

No report was given.

Flood Control

It was reported that Senator Stefano was working to change the scope of work on the \$225,000.00 grant that was received for the flood control. There was no update on the status of the request.

Farmer's Market

No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Zoning Ordinance Review

This item was tabled until the October 2025 committee meeting.

B.) Police mini split

Putting this item out for bid was tabled..

Darr Construction would be contacted to find out if the new mini split system for the Borough office, records room and police department can be zoned.

C.) War Memorial "Doughboy"

This item was not discussed. No one had any recollection of what the topic was about.

D.) Grants

This item was not discussed. No one had any recollection of what the topic was about.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) Police Pension Resolution eliminating pension contributions for 2026.

Mr. Baer made the motion to pass Resolution 3-2025. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

C.) Replacement for Feaster Pension Consulting, Inc.

The Secretary reported that she spoke with Mr. Feaster, and he was confident that Duda Actuarial Services can provide the necessary assistance to fulfill his duties. Mr. Duda is currently the Pension Actuary and knows the plan.

D.) 2026 MMO for Pension Plans

Mr. Smith made the motion to accept the 2026 MMO as presented. Mr. Baker seconded. Mr. Ackerman Abstained. (See Abstention Memorandum attached). Motion passed.

E.) Window treatments and shelving

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept a quote from Friend Blinds and Design in the amount of \$5,350.00 for window treatments for the meeting room, Borough office and records room. Mr. Baer seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ackerman – Yes; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mr. Smith – Abstained. (See Abstention Memorandum attached). Motion passed.

Mr. Baer made the motion to purchase shelving units for the records room at a cost of \$1,148.99. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

F.) High grass

There was discussion regarding properties with high grass. Property owners will be notified.

G.) Storm Water Grants

Mrs. Gnagey was asked to look into obtaining grant funding for storm water management.

H.) PA Maple Festival Road closures for 2026 activities

Mr. Smith made the motion to authorize road closures as outline in a letter from the PA Maple Festival.
Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

J.) Family Restroom and Community Center ADA upgrades to gym doors and water fountain

Mr. Smith was asked to research pricing on the water fountain.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the cost estimate from Somerset Engineering for the family restroom drawings in the amount of \$2,000.00 and the drawings for the gym door replacement in the amount of \$200.00. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

K.) Old street name signs

Mr. Smith made the motion to sell the street name signs for \$5.00 each. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. The proceeds will be used for the Meyersdale Community events. A notice will be posted on Facebook and the Borough website.

L.) Mr. Smith suggested advertising on Facebook and the Borough website that the marquee sign is available to anyone to advertise their event.

GOALS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

Flood Control rip rap

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

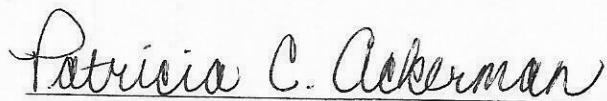
There were no additional items to be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. Baker seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

NEW Enterprise Stone Bulletin #21
New Enterprise, PA 2A Material

\$6.50

\$9.50

Pyle made the motion to accept the lowest responsible bid from Keystone Lime Co. Thomas seconded. Motion passed.

D.) COST OF LIVING INCREASE POLICE PENSION RETIREES

Albright made the motion to grant the cost of living increase for pension retirees Sheridan Caton and Vernon Bowman retroactive to January 1, 2002. Pyle seconded. Motion passed. The Secretary was asked to notify Caton, Bowman and First National Trust Company of their decision.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Walukas reported that a meeting was set for April 9, 2002 at 6 P.M. with the Council of Governments to discuss the BOCA code requirements.

Mayor Marteney reported that she declined to receive her \$100.00 per month salary. Forrest made the motion to donate the Mayor's Salary to the Canine Fund retroactive to January 1, 2002. Albright seconded. Motion passed.

Edmunds and other members of council reported that the outdoor furnace that Ralph Bland is using to make hot water for the laundromat is causing a tremendous amount of smoke and pollution. Council will look into this matter.

Pyle reported that someone has been dumping ashes in the alley behind Fox's. Holler was asked to investigate this and make any appropriate arrests.

Albright reported that the prisoners from the Somerset Correction facility will be in town to paint yellow lines on streets and curbs. Albright reported that the new truck had not arrived to date, but should be here next week. Council has a prospective buyer for the old GMC truck. After some discussion regarding bidding requirements Forrest made the motion to advertise the GMC truck for sale. Pyle seconded. Motion passed.

Pyle reported that he received a request from Greg Lowery to use a portion of land owned by the Borough which is adjacent to the Flood Control on Keystone St. to park cars on while they are being worked on at this garage. Permission was granted.

Thomas reported that before grants and funding options could be pursued for the Seibert Youth property a survey must be completed. Council granted Thomas permission to get quotes.

Thomas questioned if council would approve having two dumpsters put around town so that people could take extra trash to have it disposed of. After some discussion a quote was to be gotten from Harbaugh Trucking.

MARCH
12, 2002 *
REGULAR
MEETING

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MEYERSDALE, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ELIMINATING MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS INTO THE POLICE PENSION FUND FOR 2026.

WHEREAS, Act 600 provides that contributions into the Meyersdale Borough Police Pension Plan by members may be reduced or eliminated;

WHEREAS, a Resolution is required to reduce or eliminate payments on an annual basis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Meyersdale, County of Somerset, and it is hereby resolved by and with authority of the same that member contributions to the Meyersdale Borough Police Pension Plan are eliminated for calendar year 2026.

ATTEST:

Patricia C. Ackerman

BOROUGH OF MEYERSDALE

Jeff P... dds

EXAMINED AND APPROVED this 9th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

Somerset County, PA 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Municipal Adoption Resolution

Resolution No. 4-2025

Borough of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

WHEREAS, the **Borough of Meyersdale**, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, is most vulnerable to natural and human-made hazards which may result in loss of life and property, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety, and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires state and local governments to develop and submit for approval to the President a mitigation plan that outlines processes for identifying their respective natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities, and

WHEREAS, the **Borough of Meyersdale** acknowledges the requirements of Section 322 of DMA 2000 to have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan as a prerequisite to receiving post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed by the Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with other county departments, officials, and citizens of **Borough of Meyersdale**, and

WHEREAS, a public involvement process consistent with the requirements of DMA 2000 was conducted to develop the Somerset County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan recommends mitigation activities that will reduce losses to life and property affected by both natural and human-made hazards that face the County and its municipal governments,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing board for the **Borough of Meyersdale**

- The Somerset County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the **Borough of Meyersdale**, and
- The respective officials and agencies identified in the implementation strategy of the Somerset 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan are hereby directed to implement the recommended activities assigned to them.

ADOPTED, this 9th day of September, 2025

ATTEST:

Patricia C. Ackerman

Borough of Meyersdale

By Jeff Dym President

By [Signature] Mayor

**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

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

FROM: RONNIE ACKERMAN, council member

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

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:

PENSION PLAN MMO FOR 2026

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

I RECEIVE A POLICE PENSION FROM THE MEYERSDALE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN. ALTHOUGH THE MOTION DOES NOT DIRECTLY AFFECT ME AS A RETIREE, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO ABSTAIN

Ronnie Ackerman
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 required 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: TOM SMITH, council member

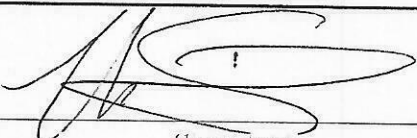
DATE: _____

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:

MOTION TO PURCHASE WINDOW TREATMENTS FROM
FRIEND BLINDS AND DESIGN

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

X Family


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 required a public official to complete a form every time he has a conflict of interest).

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MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 9/9/2025 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Jeff CHRISTNER	Meyersdale BORO	
2	Greg Lowery	Meyersdale BORO	
3	Julie & Andy Stahl	Meyersdale Township	
4	BOB MURPHY	Meyersdale BORO	
5	Ruth + Eugene Mishler		
6	Bob Clifford	Meyersdale BORO	
7	Deborah Fisher	Meyers Ave	
8	Jim Applegate	Meyersdale BORO	Water
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING

GUEST SIGN IN ON EXCEL