

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
February 14, 2024**

Freedom Borough Council met this evening at 6:00 PM for their regular monthly meeting in the Municipal Complex with the following members of Council present: President; John Kaercher, Sydney Eckman, Kevin Horan, Krysta Climo, Kim Farrow, Jon Kaercher, Nadine Padezanin; Mayor, Bernie Rabik; Solicitor, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary /Treasurer, Ron Miles; Road Foreman.

Absent:

Pledge of allegiance was held.

President John Kaercher reminded everyone present Council members and petitioners that all cell phones cannot be on during the meeting. They should be placed on vibrate and you will need to leave the building if you want to use your cell phone.

**PETITIONERS:** Otto Weir, Jonathon Bruce; Boy Scouts, Bill Bruce; Boy Scouts  
Jeremy Valles; 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Freedom here to observe, Jeremy applied for the open seat on Council.  
Matt Hogue; 125 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Freedom. Here to support Jeremy Valles appointment to open Council. Also, need to update the Borough web site. Need updated minutes and updated Council members. Maybe a tab for "around town activities" will be a good idea. Jon Kaercher and Kevin Horan will work on this.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:** No report.

**STREET DEPT. REPORT:**

Review of street department report. We will request 150 ton again this year for road salt from CO-STARS.

**Motion to sell the old street signs for \$10.00 a piece was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Horan.  
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

Will reach out to Conway Borough and see if they want the old paint striper and the street signs that do not sell will scrap them. Where do you want me to get vehicles inspected. Per John Kaercher. Your choice. I'm working on getting a price with the high end being \$800.00 to fix the parking lot. Removing old railroad ties and replacing all new electric and outlets. Discussion was made on the library books that are at the garage. S. Eckman will look at the books that are there and make a decision at that time.

**\*Motion to accept the Street Department report as presented was made by K. Climo and seconded by K. Farrow.  
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

**MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:**

Discussion was made on the Regional Police report. Freedom Boro is a about 16% of all calls for the month. John Kaercher asked Sydney to reach out to Scott Levenson and see if next month is good to appoint the replacement of Eric Climo, we need to appoint the Council member first. Scott was fine with it, as long as we have someone there representing Freedom at the meeting. Per Solicitor Rabik no need for a re-organizational meeting. Replace open seat appointments only. The police are covering the fee for the B.C. Humane Society membership. Mayor had discussion on the audit and the Tax Collector, she will be sending an e-mail out to all Council with an Excel draft. Mayor is asking the financial committee to work along with our tax Collector moving forward. I was at school; they have seniors looking for volunteer hours. I did tell them we have several community events coming up.

**\*Motion to accept the Police / Mayor report as presented was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by S. Eckman.  
All voted. Motion Carried.**

**MINUTES:**

**\*Motion to approve the Borough monthly meetings on 01/10/2024 and work session 02/07/2024 as presented, was made by K. Horan and seconded by Jon Kaercher.  
All voted. Motion Carried.**

**TREASUER'S REPORT:**

**\*Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Climo.  
All voted. Motion carried.**

**BILLS:**

\*Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$34,629.96 and any bills deemed necessary before next month’s meeting or as money becomes available was made by K. Climo and seconded by K. Farrow.  
All voted. Motion Carried.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:**

\*Motion to appoint Jeremy Valles to the open seat on Freedom Borough Council due to the passing of Eric Climo was made by Kim Farrow and seconded S. Eckman.

All voted. Motion carried.

\*Motion to accept the Solicitors report was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Horan.

All voted. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDANCE:**

Troy Gump Code Enforcement report for January 2024.

\*Motion to appoint Dennis Smith with United Code Consultants to be Freedom Borough’s Code Enforcement Officer replacing Troy Gump with KLH Engineering was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Climo.

All voted. Motion Carried.

Dennis Smith will honor all pricing from KLH Engineers. Troy Gump will finish the month of February as Code Enforcement officer.

Will review PennDOT response to the safety study on Third Avenue at next month’s meeting.

F.B.C.C.A. minutes from regular and re-org meeting on January 3, 2024.

\*Motion to appoint Don Farrow to the open seat on the F.B.C.C.A. due to the passing of Eric Climo was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Climo.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

**COMMITTEES 2024:**

**Personnel:**

**Finance:**

**Street Dept:** Getting things ready for the Spring. We have two good guys on our Road Dept.

**Recreation:** Easter Egg hunt March 16<sup>th</sup> with a rain date on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will request the eggs to be emptied and returned when leaving. We can use again the next year. Car Cruise / Spring fest is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. 11:00 – 6:00. First 50 cars to get dash plaque. T-shirts made. Fall fest set for Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Utilities:**

**Grants & Web site:** update website tonight

**Fire Dept. Committee:**

**OLD BUSINESS:** Sharon Spoke to Scott Challis and he is not interested in the EMC coordinator position.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sharon will check to see if March 16<sup>th</sup> will be good for the meeting with Burke Playground.

**Literature in center of table:**

- Pennsylvania Borough News January & February 2024

\*Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:54 p.m. was made by K. Horan and seconded by Jon Kaercher.

All voted. Motion carried.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted by:

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Sharon A. Miller; Freedom Boro Secretary / Treasurer