

Mayor & Town Council Monthly Public Meeting

Date: Monday, January 27th, 2025. **Location:** Kitzmiller Community Building **Time:** 7 PM

In Attendance:

- ✓ Mayor Robert Reckart
- ✓ Councilman G. Michael Brady
- ✓ Councilman John Hawk
- ✓ Town Clerk Rebecca M. Glotfelty
- ✓ Councilman Cory R. Stieringer
- X – Rebecca Lipscomb

Meeting called to order at 7:01PM by Mayor Reckart. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Nancy Brady.

Councilman Stieringer motioned to approve the meeting minutes from Monday, November 25th, 2024. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. 3-0. Motion Carried.

Recognized Guests:

Kevin Null (County Administrator) along with Andy Tichinel (Chief of Operations) & Brandon Griffith (Director of Facilities) provided an update on the water situation. *Kevin* first thanked everyone for having them there. He advised those in attendance that the Public Utilities, the Health Department, & MDE, think they have come up with a solution for the issue and are very optimistic that it will work. The MDE had to approve the filtration system, in which they have. *Brandon* stated that this system will provide new filtration for the entire system. They are currently receiving all of the equipment to get the new system installed. They are hoping to have everything installed by March 1st, as long as there are no delays with the process. Although it sounds simple, it is going to take a lot of work. Once the work is complete, they will be contacting every household to ask them to flush their system to get all of the old water out. (They provided papers that have information on smelly water, and it advises individuals to flush their water systems.) *Kevin* stated that they still have not found a clear reason as to what caused the odor but can assure us that it is not a bacterium, and their best educated guess would have to be because of the drought. The county was able to waive the last two quarters of water bills and have been providing drinking water to those who choose to pick it up. He wants to thank everyone for their patience and being so respectful and understanding during this frustrating time.

Q: Diane Nye-Paugh – The water is leaving a white film on her glassware. It does both hand washing them and when ran through the dishwasher.

A: Kevin Null – We wouldn't know unless we were able to it for ourselves. Please give your contact information to Andy so we can schedule a day when we can come down to look at it.

Q: Diane Nye-Paugh – Has anything been done about the responses we were receiving when we call in to report the water issue?

A: Kevin Null – That has certainly been addressed. Anyone is allowed to call my office if they wish at (301)334-8970 to report any issues and he will take personal responsibility to call you back. Please allow him 24-48 hours to respond.

Q: Heather Berg – I live in Shallmar, and I have never had an issue with my water smelling, and I know a few others that have never had issues. What would cause some households to have the odor and not others?

A: Brandon – That's actually one of the reasons why it has been so hard to come up with a solution, because we do not know the answer to that question. There seems to be no pattern to it.

Q: Rita Lambka – I have noticed that sometimes after they flush the fire hydrants, my water is brown. What causes that?

A: Brandon – The flushing itself. It causes a disturbance to the system.

Q: Jay Savage – Do you know what kind of system it is that is being installed?

A: Brandon – Yes, it is a Commercial Grade Culligan Ozone System.

Q: Jeremy Welch – The water that the county plans to continue up Kitzmiller Rd, would it come from the same system?

A: Brandon – Yes it would. Currently we have three holding tanks this system provides water for. There is one for Shallmar, there is one for the Town, and there is one for Pee Wee.

Q: Justin Nesselrodt – Do you have a plan B in place just in case this filtration system does not work?

A: Kevin – No, we do not because we are very optimistic that this will solve the issue.

Q: Justin Nesselrodt – This question is not about the water issue itself, but there is a fire hydrant missing up on N. American Rd/Park Street. Is the county ever going to get that replaced?

A: Kevin – Yes. The county currently has a list of fire hydrants that need to be replaced, and he knows that particular fire hydrant in question is on that list. It will be replaced as soon as they can get a fire hydrant.

Q: Joe Lucas – I am one of the first houses the water system gets to before anyone else. I have noticed that since they have done the backfilling in behind the water plant is when my water started smelling. Would that have anything to do with it?

A: Brandon – No, that doesn't have anything to do with why the water is smelling.

Q: Shellie Evans – Since I have a tankless water heater, so I still have to flush mine?

A: Brandon – Tankless water heaters have maintenance recommendations that should be followed by the manufacture. The flushing procedure the county is recommending is for hot water systems that have a holding tank.

There were no more questions. Kevin thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asking their questions. This part of the meeting was concluded at 7:31pm. Those also present at the meeting with no questions about the water were the following: Shawn Durst, Dale Lipscomb, Sharon Paugh, Jamie James, Nancy Brady, Theresa Harvey, Diane Kisner, Thomas Vose, & Cheryl Nesselrodt.

Nancy Brady – Helping Hands Thrift Shop – Since opening the thrift shop, they have wanted to become an official nonprofit organization. Part of that process was to establish a Charter. In the charter to help hold the nonprofit accountable, we decided to present to the Mayor and Town Council at their monthly meetings a summary of how much was brought into the shop and how much and to who the funds go to. For the Month of December, the Thrift Shop was able to provide \$265 worth of gift cards for the judges and winners of the Christmas Light Contest. We were also able to sponsor the Photobooth at the Old-Fashioned Christmas which was \$400. At the Old-Fashioned Christmas Event we were able to make \$300 off the Bows for the tree to donate straight to the Lions Club to help cover the cost of the electric bill for the park for the Month of December. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12PM to 6 PM and try to encourage everyone to come in because we have a lot of nice stuff.

Diane Kisner – It's been kind of slow for the library. We do have a new program in the works called "From Seed to Supper" and they will be getting more information out about that. They are also starting to plan for a magic show in the month of April. Once there are more details on both of these, she will be more than glad to share them.

Shawn Durst – The grant that we are working on with Siera, do you have any idea what it can be used for? Beccie no, her and Siera will be discussing everything that can be covered with this

grant. *Nancy* why would we be applying for it if we don't know what exactly it's for? *Beccie Siera* actually put us in for it. She sees a lot of potential in the Town of Kitzmiller and thought this grant could help us out one way or another. This grant covers a lot of different things, but a lot of specific things. *Shawn* stated that *Siera* is really good at her job and does a lot for this county. *Diane Nye-Paugh* could this grant cover the installation of a culvert on Center Street for where the water runs down through the middle of it. *Beccie*, yeah, I don't know yet but once I get more details, I will share them.

Justin Nesselrodt – Are there any grants out there that will help cover paving? *Mayor Reckart* *Beccie* is looking at a few that she has found that could potentially cover them, but she is researching them to see what all it will cover. *Justin* then asked what ever happened to the funds that were set aside that was for the paving? *Mayor Reckart* stated that the funds are still there, but they are part of our contingency. In order to receive a good audit, the Town has to have so much in contingency to be able to operate for at least six months IF for some reason the town would lose all of its income. The money is still there, but it is part of our contingency. *Johnny*, why doesn't the county step in and help us pave the streets? *Mayor Reckart*, the county, helps us pave the streets at cost. *Joe Lucas*, would it be possible to see if the State could help with some of it because of Wolf Den being up there and the visitors are utilizing our roads to gain access? *Beccie*, that is already in the works. I am working on trying to figure something out with them. *Justin*, since there is no potential for the work to be done anytime soon, would it be possible to get a good patch job done with some hot mix? *Robbie*, yes that is something that we can look into. *Justin*, even if we buy the cold patch by the ton instead of by the bag, we could get some of the bigger holes fixed. *Johnny*, without a roller it's not going to be done the way that it needs to be. *Justin*, I am sure that is something that the county would be willing to help you out with. *Robbie*, that is something that we will look into.

Grants:

USDA – Dump truck – Received, working on finalizing this grant.

ARP – All remaining funds have been obligated and an agreed upon budget has been reached.

CDBG – Blighted Property – Working on finalizing the sale of the property with *Craig Ingram's* office. Once the sale has been made, then we are good to begin work.

Thriving Communities – The response to the survey that was posted online was amazing. This survey will be closed out at 11:59 PM on January 31st.

Remaining Park Funds – The paperwork for the final reimbursement has been submitted.

Garrett County Economic Development – The town of Kitzmiller received a grant from Garrett County Economic Development to purchase the equipment from *Barb* for the restaurant. This will allow the town to provide an incubator space for someone to come in and start a restaurant without having to put down a ton of money on equipment. We would be looking for individuals with a ready to go business plan when we are ready to move forward with this project.

Old Business:

Streetlight @ Water Plant – It looks as if there has been a light placed at the turn around spot, but *Beccie* isn't entirely sure as if this is where it had intended to be placed.

Community Information Texting - *David Middleton* got approval for the Town of Kitzmiller to be placed on their emergency preparedness texting. They are going to come up with a user agreement, then proceed from there.

Fire Rated Shop Door - The shop door has been installed. Will be painted in spring.

CB Roof Repair – The work has been completed for this project. The total for the entire project was \$616.32.

Accumulated Park Funds – The new benches for the park have been delivered and will be installed in the spring.

New Business:

May Meeting – The meeting is supposed to be held on Memorial Day on Monday, May 26th, 2025.

Do we want to move it to Tuesday, May 27th, 2025? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Councilman Brady motioned to move the May meeting from Monday, May 26th, 2025, to Tuesday, May 27th, 2025. Councilman Hawk seconded the motion. 3-0. Motion Carried.

Town Election – Mayor Seat & two councilmember seats are up for election. The seats available are for: Reckart, Brady, & Stieringer.

- Letters of Intent will begin to be accepted from until 5PM on 03/11/2025.
- If needed, a primary election will be held on 03/24/2025 from 10AM until 8PM.
- General Election will be held on 04/08/2025 from 10AM until 8PM.

Election Judges – Election Supervisor is usually Carol Ann Matthews. ☒ Yes ☐ No **AGREED.**

- Second Chair has been Barb Coleman. ☒ Yes ☐ No **AGREED.**

- The advisor has been Dale Lipscomb. ☒ Yes ☐ No

- Back up judge has been Kathy Elliott. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Councilman Stieringer motioned for Beccie to check with these individuals to see if they would be interested in being the election judges again this year. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. 3-0. Motion Carried.

Payment – Last year we paid the election judges \$80 each.

Councilman Brady motioned to keep the payment the same as last year. Councilman Stieringer seconded the motion. 3-0. Motion Carried.

Brownfields Grants – The Town of Kitzmiller has been nominated to receive a Brownfield Grant. Beccie is currently working with Siera Wigfield, the County Planner, who nominated Kitzmiller for this potential grant. We are not 100% sure what all this grant covers, but once we know more, we will share that information.

Old Dump Truck & Old Pick-Up Truck – Since we used ARP funds & USDA funds to purchase new (and very much needed) vehicles for the town, do we want to start advertising the old trucks for bid? Auditor advised Beccie that typically they would do this by a sealed bid to be turned into the Town of Kitzmiller by a “No Later Than” date & time.

Date: 02/28/2025 Time: 12PM/Noon at which time bids will be opened.

Councilman Brady motioned to start advertising for sale of the old vehicles with a No Later Than date of 02/28/25 at 12 PM. Trucks will include everything on them. Bids must be given for each truck separately and not lumped together. Councilman Stieringer seconded motion. 3-0. Motion carried.

Sealcoating of the Walkways – We get this done every other year. The company we typically went with, the owner has retired. Beccie had placed a “Looking For” post on Facebook and ended up getting a good amount of responses. From these responses, this project should go out to bid.

Councilman Brady motion for this project to be advertised and put out for bid. Councilman Stieringer seconded the motion. 3-0. Motion Carried.

Cooling System for Community Building (ARP Funds) – Phone Vote on 12/12/224 – Germain’s HVAC to install 3 Wall Mounted 24,000 BTU Units upstairs at the community building to replace the central air system. Councilman Brady motioned to accept the estimate from Germain’s for the amount of \$14,927.00. Councilman Stieringer seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion Carried.

Phone Company – From Verizon to Shentel – Phone Vote on 02/05/2025 – Our Community Building Phone Bill every month through Verizon is \$96.46 for a phone line and a fax line. The phone bill every month for the community center is \$78.63. Beccie reached out to Shentel to see how much it would cost for us to switch from Verizon. It would be \$72 a month for the Community Building (\$30/line & \$12 for equipment). It would be \$42 a month for the community center. This would save us \$744 annually. There would be a one-time fee of \$100 for each location for installation. Councilman Brady motioned to switch phone carriers from Verizon to Shentel. Councilman Stieringer seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion Carried.

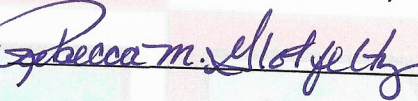
Security Doors, upstairs at the Community Center (ARP Funds)- Phone Vote on 02/05/2025 - The town received a bid from Deep Creek Construction, INC in the amount of \$8,025.00 for the installation of two security upstairs at the community center. Councilman Brady motioned to accept the bid from Deep Creek Construction, INC for the installation of the security doors upstairs at the community center. Councilman Hawk seconded the motion. 3-0. Motion Carried.

Councilmember Concerns: ***Councilmembers in attendance had no concerns. ***

Councilmember Stieringer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. Councilmember Hawk seconded the motion. 3-0. Motion carried.

These meeting minutes were recorded, prepared and completed by Kitzmiller Town Administrator, Rebecca M. Glotfelty on Thursday, February 6, 2025.

Rebecca M. Glotfelty, Town Administrator

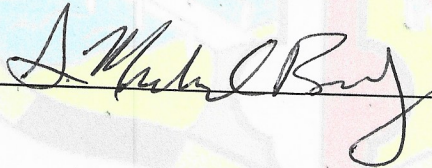


These meeting minutes were approved by the following on: 3/24/25

Mayor Robert L. Reckart

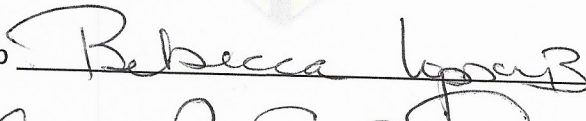


Councilman G. Michael Brady

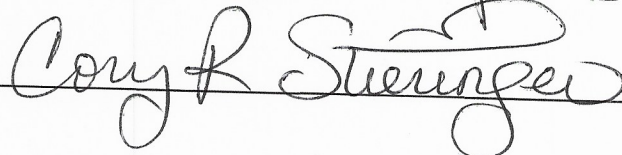


Councilman Johnny Hawk

Councilwoman Rebecca Lipscomb



Councilman Cory R. Stieringer



RE: ARP FUNDING - DOORS FOR THRIFT SHOP



me

gmichaelbrady56@gmail.com ...

2/5/2025 11:09 AM

From me

kitzmd@shentel.net

To gmichaelbrady56@gmail.com; jhawk4111@yahoo.com; beckyandbo@verizon.net; crstieringer@yahoo.com; robbiereckart1972@gmail.com; rebecca.reckart2010@gmail.com

I have a motion by Mike to accept the estimate for the Doors for the Thrift Shop. A second by Johnny. Cory is in favor.

On Tue, 4 Feb, 2025 at 7:16 PM, Mike Brady <gmichaelbrady56@gmail.com> wrote:

To: kitzmiller town hall

I will make a motion to accept the bid

On Tue, Feb 4, 2025 at 6:42 PM Kitzmiller Town Hall <kitzmd@shentel.net> wrote:

Good Evening,

Attached you will find an estimate for the installation of a security door for upstairs at the school. Part of our ARP budget was to have this completed. Because it is below our \$30,000 limit to put out to bid, we are able to accept this bid without having any others. We did receive one other one, however, that business has since then gone out of business. Because the funding source is from the ARP funds, it is critical that we get this project started right away. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Rebecca M. Glotfelty

Kitzmiller Town Administrator
PO Box 607 Kitzmiller, MD 21538
Office: (301)453-3449
Mobile: (301)501-2434

RE: PHONE BILLS



me

jhawk4111@yahoo.com ...

2/5/2025 11:12 AM

From me

kitzmd@shentel.net

To jhawk4111@yahoo.com; robbiereckart1972@gmail.com; gmichaelbrady56@gmail.com; crstieringer@yahoo.com; beckyandbo@verizon.net; rebecca.reckart2010@gmail.com

I have a phone vote for the Shentel Service.

Motion was made by Mike.

Cory seconded the motion.

Becky & Johnny are both in favor.

4-0. Motion Carried.

On Mon, 3 Feb, 2025 at 3:26 PM, me <kitzmd@shentel.net> wrote:

To: robbiereckart1972@gmail.com; gmichaelbrady56@gmail.com; jhawk4111@yahoo.com; beckyandbo@verizon.net; crstieringer@yahoo.com;
rebecca.reckart2010@gmail.com

Good Afternoon,

I have been having a lot of issues with Verizon Business recently. Calls being lost, sounding as if calls are cracking, and one of the biggest ones is the hassle of having to log in every month and it never working the way that it should in order to access the phone bills. I was able to call Shentel to see what their business pricing is... It turns out it's a huge difference.

Currently we have two phone bills with Verizon:

Community Building (Phone Line & Fax Line) we pay \$96.46 a month for this service.

School Building (Just a phone line, that Verizon was supposed to find, but has never found) we pay \$78.63 a month for a service that we actually don't use because the phone line from outside the building that goes into the building is "Missing," but per our contract with the county we must have a phone there.

With that being said, I have reached out to Shentel to see what their pricing range would be to see if it would make that big of a difference. Shentel offers each phone line at \$30/month, plus an additional \$12 for the equipment. Which is a total of \$42 per line. There is a one-time installation fee of \$100 per line.

So through Shentel the bill for a Business Line at the school would be \$42 a month.

A business line at the Community Building (Phone & Fax) would be \$72 a month.

I have attached the quote from Shentel to this email for you to view.

If we would make the switch to Shentel for our phone lines, it would save us \$744 annually! This year, it would only be \$544 if you subtract the installation fees, but it's still a good hunk of change we could save.

Rebecca M. Glotfelty

Kitzmilller Town Administrator
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Office: (301)453-3449
Mobile: (301)501-2434