

Kitzmilller Mayor and Town Council Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 24th, 2023.

Location: Kitzmilller Community Building **Time:** 7 PM

In Attendance:

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| ✓ Mayor Robert Reckart | ✓ Councilman Michael Hechmer |
| ✓ Councilman G. Michael Brady | ✓ Councilman Cory R. Stieringer |
| ✓ Councilwoman Theresa R. Harvey | ✓ Town Clerk Rebecca M. Glotfelty |

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Reckart at 7:01PM. Opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by resident Nancy Brady.

Bill Bittinger, Garrett County's Clerk of Court, joined us to swear in the reelected Mayor Reckart from the April 11th, 2023, election. Mayor Reckart accepted oath of office.

Mayor Reckart continued the tradition by swearing in reelected Councilmember G. Michael Brady, and newly elected Councilmember Cory R. Stieringer. Both Brady and Stieringer accepted oath of office.

Councilmember Brady made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday, March 27th, 2023. Councilmember Harvey seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- Community Park Clean Up Day in Honor of Dr. Melvin Brown is planned for Saturday, May 6th at 9AM. A special presentation in honor of Dr. Brown will begin at 9 with Guest Speakers: Nancy Brady, Kevin Dodge, Melissa Nash, and HOPEFULLY Diana Cropp. Park cleanup will begin after the presentation.
- *LIBRARY SPECIAL EVENT* · April 26, 2023, from 10:30-11:30 am in the school cafeteria/gym the Kitzmilller Library will host DIDGERIDOO DOWN UNDER with Rob Thomas.

No other announcements were made.

Recognized Guests:

Sheriff Bryson Meyers – Garrett County Sheriff's Office: First wanted to congratulate Mayor Reckart on his reelection. Sheriff Meyers informed those in attendance to watch in the upcoming summer months. Mainly vandalism because he knows a lot of that happens during those months. Also, to take into consideration that on July 1st, the new "Marijuana Law" goes into effect, and you can't call if someone is smoking it on public property, UNLESS there are no drug signs posted. It was requested by a resident for the Sheriff's office to keep an eye on the swimming place "Dill Hole." Meyers also informed those that the Sheriff's Office has been able to team up with the MD State Police again. This will allow for more patrols over the entire area.

Dale Lipscomb – Museum Coordinator: There is some siding coming off the bell tower at the museum and would like to see it fixed.

Nancy Brady – Resident/Thrift Shop Owner & Operator: Nancy first wanted to congratulate Mayor Reckart on his reelection for another term as Mayor and told him he was doing such a

wonderful job! She would like to inform everyone that Breakfast with the Easter Bunny was hosted by the Helping Hands Thrift Shop this year. They know they had 71 kids signed up for the Easter Egg Hunt and served 113 people for Breakfast. In total they spent about \$681 for the entire event and were able to make \$939. So, they were able to raise \$258 to go towards something else community related. Her and the others that help with the thrift shop agreed that it would be nice if they had some money set aside called the "Funeral Dinner Funds." These funds will be able to help provide a meal for the families of those who pass away in our community. They were able to help one family so far. The thrift shop was also able to assist a family whose house had burnt down. The family was able to come and get new items for their new home, and they were happy to help them out. Since the beginning of March, they have had many new donations made, and they have been able to raise a little over \$1,000 in the last two months.

Barb McKenney – Resident/Owner & Operator of the Coal Bucket Restaurant: Barb first wanted to take a moment to congratulate Robbie on being elected to another term to serving as Mayor of our town. She also congratulated Mike Brady and Cory Stieringer on winning the election for councilmembers. The first thing she would like just to bring up, just for the council to think about, but if the council members do not show up for the meetings, do they still get paid for the month? She stated that she wasn't really looking for an answer, but just wanted to give the council something to think about. She also shared that she was contacted by the Garrett County Historical Society about the Kitzmiller Coal Heritage Museum. They would like to umbrella our museum under them as far as advertising goes. They told her it wouldn't really change anything; they would just advertise it. Beccie is to get the contact information from Barb, so she can contact them regarding any further information.

Diane Kisner – Kitzmiller's Librarian: She is excited and expecting a good crowd at the school for Didgeridoo. Conversation ensued about what exactly a didgeridoo is. Once finished, Diane announced that the winner in the young adult category in the bookmark contest is Kitzmiller's own Addison Dixon. She requested that the mayor be able to present this to her on Wednesday, April 26th at 4:30PM at the Kitzmiller Library. The mayor agreed. Diane also informed everyone about a new "Growing Tomatoes" event. This event is sponsored by the University of Maryland Extension Office. It will be held on May 3rd and 6pm and you must RSVP to her to be able to attend.

Sharon Paugh – President of the KVFD: She just wanted to thank everyone who came to the quarter auction to support the fire department. That they are still evaluating how well they did. She also wanted to thank the Town for allowing them to the sound system.

** Those present with no comments include Bo & Becky Lipscomb, Kelsey & Isabella Stieringer, Becky Reckart, and Missi Nesselrodt. **

Grants:

Community Legacy Grant – Sidewalks – Carl Belt, INC has accepted our offer to their bid packet. We are currently working with them on a contract.

USDA – Dump truck – Submitted one notarized letter on behalf of the Town, it was denied because the Administrators did not match. Beccie went back and did some research on who the administrator was on the old account, it was Stephanie Schoch. She and Mayor Reckart were able to get Stephanie to sign the letter on the town's behalf to the Town of Kitzmiller. This will have to be done each time a new mayor is elected. Now we are waiting for a response.

Appalachian Regional Commission Grant – (Museum) – Mayor Reckart was able to speak with Eric Germain (owner of Germain’s HVAC), who was able to let Mayor Reckart know that they are waiting on two or three more parts to come that are on backorder. Once they arrive they will let us know, and will come to install the new system.

Mountain Maryland Mini Grant – Park – The labels have been received. The closing of this Grant will be with the Park Clean Up Day in Honor of Dr. Brown. Brochures, Posters, & Banners are currently being printed.

Old Business:

Old Playground – The old playground has been disassembled and we were able to bring in \$263.50 with the scrap metal and someone offered us \$50 for the big slide.

Website: Brandon Butler was able to meet with the Town Clerk to get pictures of the town. He plans to return after Memorial Day to be able to get better pictures of the town.

Elections – Elections went well this year. We had a total of 114 in person voters and two absentee ballots for a total of 116 voters where normally we range from 48-65 people.

Streetlights – For months, we have been trying to contact *Richey* from Potomac Edison, who was serving as our liaison for the Town of Kitzmiller. It was recently discovered that Richey no longer works for Potomac Edison and has not since November. We have been calling him, with no response. Once the operator recording suggested that that phone number was no longer in service. Potomac Edison was contacted by Mayor Reckart, and he was able to be put in touch with the person in charge. Mayor Reckart was able to meet with the new person. The new lights will be delivered straight to the town hall, with installation dates hopefully beginning in June. There wasn’t even any documentation about the new lights for the town.

New Business:

Flags in Park – Robert proposed the idea of having inground flag poles in the park. Pond side, between the big rocks. American Flag, POW/MIA, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, & State Flag. The flags will be displayed when we normally display our American Flags, to honor our veterans... Maybe see if the Veteran’s Day committee will use this as part of their presentation for our Veterans. *While the council really likes this idea, they were not sure that the location works best for it because of the flags being so close to the trees. Dale Lipscomb suggested that we place the flag poles around the parking lot with the American Flag being centered. The council agreed with that idea. Beccie is to research the costs for the installation of 7 flag poles and return at the next meeting with her findings.*

Wi-Fi Extension in Park (ARP) – Quote from Chips Network – After Homecoming was said and over with at the end of last year, many complaints were specific to the lack of Wi-Fi and/or service at the school. The council wanted to check into the possibility of extending the Wi-Fi throughout the schoolgrounds over into the park area. *After further discussion, Mayor Reckart was able to meet with a few of “Garrett County’s Technical Support” for an estimate on how much this would cost. This is something that we can use the American Rescue Plan Money (ARP) for. Chips Network was able to give us an estimate to extend the Wi-Fi for \$1,519.00.*

Councilwoman Harvey motioned to accept the estimate from Chips Network for the Wi-Fi Extension. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion Carried.

Chairlift at Community Building (ARP) – Quote for Chairlift in Community Building – This chairlift has been out of order for about a decade now, and it needs to be replaced, especially if we wish to utilize the building to the public. Beccie contacted Shenandoah Elevator Company, from Winchester, VA, to get an estimate. They were able to provide an estimate of \$8,225.00 to the Town of Kitzmiller. This is a project that can be covered by the American Rescue Plan money

(ARP). **Councilman Stieringer motioned to accept the estimate from Shenandoah Elevator Company to replace the chairlift at the community building and for the company to give us an estimate to have one installed at the school. Councilmember Hechmer seconded the motion.**

4-0. Motion Carried.

Leftover Pea gravel from Playground – With the disassembly of the playground at the school, and the upcoming installation of the new one, we were able to remove several loads of pea gravel from the area. Since the new playground will have poured in place rubberized surfacing, what should we do with the pea gravel. The maintenance team was already instructed to fill what still have the pea gravel to its max, and to relocate some of it around the side of the school “spruce up” the shrubbery. The council then discussed if there was anywhere else that the town could use the pea gravel, and they decided there was nowhere else. **Councilman Brady motioned to sell the pea gravel, for \$10 per skid steer bucket load. Those interested must call to schedule a time and a day with the Town Hall to make sure the maintenance team is there to load the pea gravel for the individual. All pea gravel must be gone before July 1st, 2023. Councilmember Hechmer seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion carried.**

Gift Certificates for Library’s Summer Reading Program- In the past, the council elected to donate a Gift Certificate to each age group for the Summer Reading Program. This gift certificate will be for 1 Town Merchandise item that is in stock. **Councilman Hechmer motioned to donate 4 gift certificates to the Library’s Summer Reading Program. Councilwoman Harvey seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion Carried.**

Councilmember Concerns:

G. Michael Brady – The Handicap Ramp at the Library: After some discussion with an employee of Lowe’s it was discovered that the installation of a handicap ramp is something that Lowe’s may be interested in covering the costs of. There will obviously be some paperwork that needs to be filled out, but that’s nothing. *Diane Kisner* asked if there will be closer parking for those who need the handicap ramp? Brady suggested that there will be huge possibility for that. Mayor Reckart asked if Kisner would be okay to sacrifice the weeping cherry tree, and she said yes. Brady said that once they receive more information, they will be able to go more into detail about how the ramp will be laid out. Brady also asked if there was any progress on the electrical upgrades to the park, but there haven’t been. The town is currently looking for an electrical contractor to be able to do the work.

Theresa R. Harvey – Speaking of the electrical upgrades in the park, are the ballfield lights included in that? Mayor Reckart stated, “Yes, they are.” Harvey also asked about the estimate we received for the flooring at the school, is that something we are going to discuss right now or at the budget meeting. Mayor Reckart said that is something that would be discussed at the budget meeting.

Michael Hechmer – Nothing.

Cory R. Stieringer – He first wanted to say Thank you to all of those who voted for him and wishes to help serve his community in the way that is needed. He wanted to let the council know of a few things that were stated when he was going around campaigning. The first is that people were asking about the roads, and when they were going to get paved. Mayor Reckart and the rest of the council explained to Cory that getting the funding to pave the roads is very rare. That as of right now the town is the only responsible party to pave the roads and that we cannot afford to do so now. The second thing he heard was about some kind of shading structure to cover the bleachers at the ball field. Mayor Reckart explained to Cory that yes,

there are shade covers for the bleachers. We received those when the tragedy with Toby Upton happened, and the ball was dropped on that. The only thing that we need to consider is something for the back of the shade structure to attach to. The fence behind the bleachers is much lower than the fence in front of the bleachers. This would become problematic for those who are sitting on the bleachers because their heads would hit the shade. Mayor Reckart suggested that Beccie research what we could get to attach the shade coverings to, to get them installed. The third and final thing that Cory was asked to discuss was the sand on the ball field. If the town would be able to have the ball field resurfaced. Mayor Reckart explained to Cory that within the last 10 years, the field has already been resurfaced. What needs to happen is there are two different kinds of "rakes" that are used for the ball field. There is what is called a "rough rake," that sort of tills the dirt. Then there is a "surface rake" that will smooth the surface. We have a surfacing rake, just not the "rough rake." But the town can investigate the possibly of purchasing the rough rake.

Mayor Reckart – Mayor Reckart would first like to thank everyone for his reelection as Mayor. He is proud to serve our community and bring new things to our community. Thank you.

Councilman Brady motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Councilwoman Harvey seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion carried.

Phone Vote on 05/03/2023. The Town received a sponsorship form from the Kitzmiller Volunteer Fire Department for their 2023 Bike-A-Thon/Walk-A-Thon in honor of Fletcher Layne Fazenbaker. There are 3 sponsorship levels. Gold - \$500, Silver - \$100, & Bronze \$50. Councilmember Stieringer made a motion to use \$100 out of the advertising funds to be a silver sponsor. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion Carried.

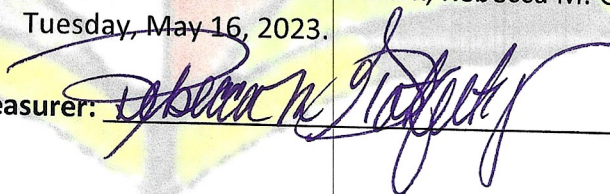
Budget Meeting was held on 05/12/2023 beginning at 6PM at the Kitzmiller Town Hall. In Attendance were Robert L. Reckart, Mike Brady, Theresa Harvey, Michael Hechmer, Cory Stieringer, & Rebecca Glotfelty.

During the budget meeting the following motions were made and accepted by council:

- 1. Councilman Hechmer made a motion to raise the garbage fee to \$30 a quarter from \$25 a quarter beginning July 1st, 2024. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion carried.**
- 2. Councilman Brady motioned to allow Tri-State Seal Coating, INC to seal the walkways throughout the community. Councilmember Hechmer seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion carried.**
- 3. Councilman Brady made a motion to use ARP Funds to purchase a new sweeper for the Bobcat through American Rent-All in Cumberland, MD. Councilwoman Harvey seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion Carried.**

These meeting minutes were prepared by the Kitzmiller Town Clerk, Rebecca M. Glotfelty on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

Rebecca M. Glotfelty, Town Clerk/Treasurer:



The motion to accept these minutes was made on _____ by the following:

Mayor Robert L. Reckart *Robert L. Reckart*

Councilman G. Michael Brady *G. Michael Brady*

Councilwoman Theresa R. Harvey _____

Councilman Michael A. Hechmer *Michael A. Hechmer*

Councilman Cory R. Stieringer *Cory R. Stieringer*

