

**Milesburg Borough Council Meeting  
416 Front Street  
May 12, 2025**

Council Members Present: Plummer Davidson, Ethel Kellerman, Shirley Martin, Kirsty Lloyd, Barry Campbell, Jr., Lauren Davidson-Haupt, and Fred Kellerman (phone)

Present at the meeting: Mayor Clair Martin, Solicitor Tracey G. Benson, Esq., and Lead Worker Devon Bechdel.

Vice President Plummer Davidson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**VISITORS**

Ruth Barndt noted that some residents in Confers Development did not get their spring newsletters. The Secretary-Treasurer reported she would investigate the matter and make sure that residents receive their newsletters. As a result, she mentioned that she was working on creating a mailing list for the borough residents to prevent this problem in future mailings.

Furthermore, Ruth Barndt suggested that newcomers to the borough should be sent a newsletter to assist them in obtaining essential information they may need. The Secretary-Treasurer acknowledged the suggestion.

Motion made by Barry Campbell, Jr., and seconded by Lauren Davidson-Haupt to add the Intergovernmental Agreement under the Fire & Police section of the agenda, following the receipt of a letter regarding it earlier that day. Approved unanimously.

**APPROVE MINUTES & PAY BILLS**

Motion made by Ethel Kellerman and seconded by Shirley Martin to approve the meeting minutes and pay the bills. Lloyd abstained from voting as she had not received a list of the unpaid bills in her meeting packet. The motion was approved by all other council members.

**SOLICITOR** (Tracey G. Benson, Esq.)

Benson gave an update regarding the lawsuit. Bryce Taylor obtained the settlement check and signed the general release. The last step involved was for the Borough Council to adopt the agreed Statement related to the litigation, that required a minimum of four signatures, as a condition to finalize the settlement agreement with Mr. Taylor.

Motion made by Barry Campbell, Jr., and seconded by Lauren Davidson-Haupt to adopt the Statement. Approved unanimously. [At that time, council members Barry Campbell, Jr., Kirsty Lloyd, Shirley Martin, and Lauren Davidson-Haupt signed the Statement.]

Davidson-Haupt asked if the public was permitted to know the end result of the settlement. Benson stated that the borough's insurance company paid Bryce Taylor \$25,000, and the Borough agreed to adopt the Statement. The General Release that Mr. Taylor signed, also recited that the borough denied any responsibility or liability to Mr. Taylor. The settlement was agreed upon by the Borough and its insurance company in order to avoid the expense, the inconvenience to Council members, the time, and the vagaries of a trial in front of Judge Oliver in Bellefonte, as well as any future lawsuits that Mr. Taylor had threatened to file. As a result of the settlement, the scheduled trial was cancelled, and the merits of Mr. Taylor's claims were never adjudicated by the court.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT** (Clair Martin)

Nothing to report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority – State Grant Update

The Secretary-Treasurer announced that the borough had received the state grant of \$50,000, and a check for that amount was sent to SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority.

- ARPA [projects filing update]

The Secretary-Treasurer shared that she met the deadline and sent the project report to ARPA; and was waiting to find out when the projects could be closed-out and whether a final report was required.

- Cold patch for Mary Lose's driveway

Bechdel mentioned that he began restoring Mary Lose's yard and observed that the cold patch was sinking. He recommended that the Street Committee accompany him to inspect her driveway and make a decision to present at the next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS [Action Items]**

- Secretary-Treasurer [yearly review and raise] (MOTION)

Motion made by Shirley Martin and seconded by Kirsty Lloyd to approve a 50-cent increase per hour raise for the Secretary-Treasurer. Approved unanimously.

- Ordinance Enforcement Officer [discussion and advertising the position]  
**(MOTION)**

Motion made by Lauren Davidson-Haupt and seconded by Ethel Kellerman to advertise the Ordinance Enforcement Officer position. Approved unanimously.

- Apartment Update on inspection and repairs [Barry Campbell, Jr.]  
**(MOTION)**

Ruth Barndt inquired whether the outside stairway had been inspected by the Code Enforcement Officer. Campbell, Jr., reported that Penns Valley Code inspected both the outside stairs and the apartment, finding no issues with either the stairs or the apartment.

Motion made by Kirsty Lloyd and seconded by Lauren Davidson-Haupt to approve the renovation costs and select laminate flooring for the entire apartment. Approved unanimously.

A resident expressed worries about residents allowing their cats to roam outside close to Railroad and High Streets. Davidson-Haupt requested that she try to identify who was allowing their cats to roam outside and submit a complaint form to the borough.

- New Lease Agreement with the Milesburg Borough Water Authority  
**(MOTION)**

Motion made by Barry Campbell, Jr., and seconded by Lauren Davidson-Haupt to adopt the lease agreement pending approval from the Milesburg Borough Water Authority. Approved unanimously.

- F-450 repair issues **(MOTION)**

[Vice President Davidson made the correction F-350 not F-450.]

Bechdel stated that the brakes failed on the F-350 truck that was used for brush collection and chipping, and the Ford Dealership had stopped producing the rear vacuum plate for the 1995 model. He mentioned that he could look for a used part and update his findings. He also pointed out that the frame was rusted and that additional parts would be needed to fix the truck.

Motion made by Ethel Kellerman and seconded by Kirsty Lloyd to sell the F-350 truck that was used for brush collection and chipping as scrap. Approved unanimously.

## **PARK COMMITTEE**

- Chair Report [Lauren Davidson-Haupt]

Davidson-Haupt stated that if anyone observed any property damage or illegal activities in the park, they should reach out to the Pennsylvania State Police. After that, you could get in touch with the park chair to examine the security footage and work with the police. She emphasized the importance of everyone, including the public, taking this action.

- Payment options for car lock-ins

Rather than attempting to charge for lock-ins, it was determined that if your vehicle was locked in the park at closing time, you would not be able to retrieve it until the following morning. Bechdel would create signs to put up in the park to inform visitors.

- Spigot repair

Bechdel stated that the water supply for Pavilion 1 needed to be turned off because the seal on the water fountain spigot broke, leading to a leak. He had ordered the replacement part and was waiting for its arrival.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

- Chair Report [Plummer Davidson] (Acting)

Nothing to report.

- Updating Park employee protocol

It was determined that because the park employee was part of the staff, the personnel committee would be the initial point of contact for any issues; they could then inform the park chair about the discussions or take action if needed.

### **STREET COMMITTEE**

- Chair Report [Plummer Davidson]

Davidson reported the committee had met on May 5<sup>th</sup> regarding Ordinance 352.

- Ordinance 352 Update

Campbell, Jr., stated that the committee examined Ordinance 352 (*Trimming of Vegetation Obstructing Public Thoroughfares and Granting Authority to the Municipality for Removal of Obstructions at the Property Owner's Expense*) and concluded that the trees fall under the property owner's responsibility. The property owners would have 60 days to resolve the matter; if not, the borough may step in to remove the tree or vegetation and charge the homeowners directly.

Benson mentioned that to keep a record, you should include the resident's full name and address and indicate if the letter was sent via regular mail, certified mail, or delivered by hand.

- Grant Workshop update [Lauren Davidson-Haupt]

Davidson-Haupt stated that she could not attend the grant workshop; however, she had the application and pricing. She planned to meet with a SEDA-COG representative to review what she may have missed at the workshop. If approved, the funds will be designated for repairing the roads on Limestone Street and Creek Street.

### **WEBSITE COMMITTEE**

- Chair Report [Kirsty Lloyd]

Nothing to report.

### **FIRE & POLICE**

- Oversight Committee – Chair [Barry Campbell, Jr.]
- Fire Company Lease update

Campbell, Jr. reported that the Citizens Hook and Fire Company, No. 2, finalized their lease for the loan taken to purchase the 2010 Pierce fire engine truck. They managed to pay it off sooner by utilizing grant funds, and due to their monthly payments and the interest that accumulated in that account, the fire company ended up overpaying \$1,789.57.

The Secretary-Treasurer issued a check for that overpayment and handed it to Jon McClure, the President of the Citizens Hook and Ladder Fire Company, No. 2, at the meeting. She also mentioned that she received the title in the mail earlier that day, scanned it, and sent a copy to the President and the Secretary-Treasurer of the fire company.

- Intergovernmental Agreement (motion to add to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting)

Campbell, Jr., reported a letter received earlier that day regarding the Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association and that Union Township was looking possibly to change the agreement. They agreed to hold the meeting at the Milesburg Community Center and were looking at June 10th or the 12th at either 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. However, June 12th was Bingo Night at the Milesburg Community Center so the date would have to be June 10th. The Secretary-Treasurer planned to reach out to Dave Bagley to check if the date was open for reserving the Milesburg Community Center. Meanwhile, Benson intended to write a letter in reply to the correspondence received earlier that day.

**APPOINTMENTS**

- Zoning & Hearing Board [2 open seats]

No one volunteered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Kirsty Lloyd and seconded by Barry Campbell, Jr. to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robyn D. Dyke  
Secretary-Treasurer