

TOWN OF KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

"Where Northern Thrift and Personality Blend with Southern Charm and Hospitality"

P.O. Box 359
19 South Main Street
Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-5795
www.keedysvillemd.com



Ken Lord, Mayor
Brandon Sweeney, Assistant Mayor
Judy Kerns, Council
Matthew Hull, Council
Sarah Baker, Council

Mayor and Council Minutes December 1, 2021

Approved

The monthly meeting of the Keedysville Mayor and Town Council was called to order at 7:01pm with the following present: Assistant Mayor Brandon Sweeney, Council Members Judy Kerns, Matt Hull, and Sarah Baker, Town Attorney Ed Kuczynski, and Town Administrator Lisa Riner.

Minutes from the November 3, 2021 meeting were approved.

The General Fund Report was \$394,144.41.

The announcements from the agenda were read.

There was no community deputy report at that time. The report will be added to the minutes.

Mr. Hull made a motion to table the de-annexation decision until next month so the Council can do more research. Ms. Kerns seconded. All voted in favor. The Council would like to know the probabilities of the County changing the zoning if it is de-annexed. Would the County be able to do a special exception to do something like put a Sheetz or a Sunny Meadows in there? Mr. Kuczynski will reach out to Jill Baker at the County Planning office to see what the County's zoning and possible uses would be.

Ms. Kerns went to the last MML meeting in Clear Spring. It was the legislative meeting. They mostly discussed getting funding from the roads.

The alarm was installed and is working. The cameras were also installed, but the internet is not fast enough to support them. The Town will either need to upgrade with Verizon or switch to Comcast. Mr. Sweeney recommended going with Comcast so that we could use them for email as well. Ms. Riner will call Comcast and get pricing.

The Town has three quotes so far for the Library repairs, and is waiting on a quote still from Dave Myers with Build-Rite Construction. Mr. Sweeney will follow up with Cronise and Simmons Solutions about some of the differences in their approach.

The Town is in the waiting phase for the ARC Grant because the applications are not due until February.

Simmons Solutions took down the Hometown Hero banners and put up the Town of Keedysville banners. The Town is taking more orders for Hometown Hero banners, and those will go back up before Memorial Day.

The Town received four bids for the Park Pavilions and Lighting Upgrades for the Project Open Space grant. When the Town initially applied for the grant, costs were much lower and so the grant was awarded for around \$11,000. Since these bids go over that amount, the Town will need to apply to Project Open Space to get an additional amount to be reimbursed for the difference. Mr. Hull recused himself because several of the bidders are his customers. Ms. Baker motioned to table the discussion until next month. Ms. Kerns seconded. All voted in favor.

The Town received a quote with various options from Myers Barn to place a gazebo next to the library. The Town will apply for a grant from Project Open Space to fund the project in fiscal year 2023. Myers Barn is working on getting a quote to the Town for a gravel pad and picnic tables. Mr. Sweeney recommended going with the larger of the gazebos in the quote. Ms. Riner will ask about getting a bird net or some kind of bird deterrence inside the gazebo. Mr. Sweeney recommended adding in a 20% cushion when we apply for the grant. Ms. Kerns noted that she didn't really like the idea. She didn't think there was really a draw, especially since we already have pavilions in the park. It used to get a lot of use as a ball field. It's also been proposed to turn that area into a dog park. Ms. Baker recommended adding more to the space in the future. Mr. Hull motioned to get the larger gazebo with bird screens, with the gravel pad and picnic tables and that it should be handicap accessible. Ms. Baker seconded. Mr. Hull, Ms. Baker, and Mr. Sweeney voted in favor. Ms. Kerns did not vote.

Ms. Baker said there is nothing more happening with road paving because it's too cold.

The grant funding for the streambank restoration was approved. Now the Town has to wait for the agreement to come from the attorneys.

New water rates and fees were discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Hull motioned to adopt the resolution for water rates and fees for the next five years. Ms. Baker seconded. All voted in favor.

There were two candidates to fill the Planning and Zoning Commission vacancy: Jeffrey Russell and Matt Powell. Both were qualified, but Mr. Powell seemed to have more experience. Mr. Sweeney said he would like to add two alternate positions to the Commission, and then both of the candidates could be appointed. Mr. Sweeney also suggested including some way to ensure that members attend the meetings, and if they don't, then establish options for removing members. Ms. Kerns noted that there was some conflict with Mr. Powell during the development of Stonecrest. There was much discussion. Mr. Hull motioned to appoint Jeffrey Russell to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Baker seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Kuczynski will work on the documents required to add alternates to the Commission. Alternates would have voting authority in the absence of a regular member. It would not be mandatory for the alternates to attend the meetings. It would be spelled out whether the ex-officio can vote. There was some discussion.

The Town has submitted their application to the Maryland Smart Energy Community program, and is waiting to hear back. A requirement for this program is to pass a couple of policies related to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The Green Team would like the Council to consider passing a Green Purchasing Policy. It should be passed as a resolution so that they are guidelines and not binding rules. Ms. Riner distributed a sample policy for the Mayor and Council to review. The policy is not required for Sustainable Maryland certification, but is one of the actions the Town can choose from to get points towards certification.

Ms. Riner would like the Town to look into getting a system to put tax bills online and to allow for online tax payments. Mr. Hull recommended finding out if a new system would work with Quickbooks, which the Town already uses. Ms. Baker suggested passing along the credit card fees to the users. Ms. Riner said we may need help from an IT professional to make sure the new system would be secure.

Ms. Baker contacted Potomac Edison about getting the redundant street lights on Main Street removed. The old lights would only be removed on the section where new lights were installed. The Town does pay for the street lights on Dogstreet Rd. Ms. Baker motioned to remove the redundant street lights on Main Street. Mr. Hull seconded. All voted in favor.

Resident Sue Gemeny had Laura Oates design and print more brochures for the quilt display. She would like the Town to cover the cost of \$229.00. Mr. Hull motioned to pay for it. Ms. Kerns seconded. All voted in favor except for Ms. Baker, who recused herself from the vote since Laura Oates is her sister.

Ms. Riner is getting street signs made for the EV Charging Station to put out on 34, Taylor Dr, and Main St.

Eric Matson offered his help to the Council in getting more information about the potential de-annexation.

Justin Holder asked that an email from him to Kirk Downey, the Washington County Attorney, from November 8, 2021, be included in the minutes. The email addressed a public information request he had made, but not heard back on. Mr. Holder indicated that he did get a response on that, but would still like the email included in the minutes.

A new resident at 61 S Main St would like to put a gate in the black metal fencing along the street in front of her home. Mr. Hull said it would be fine as long as it was self-closing.

Resident Don Weigel would like the town to think about creating an emergency management plan, particularly looking at flood and fire potential. As part of the plan, he would like the Town to look into using the old school as a shelter and to create a list of vulnerable residents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Riner
Town Administrator

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Mayor & Council and Water Commission Meeting December 1, 2021

All attendees must sign in. Attendee comments will only be heard during the appropriate time in the agenda. Those wishing to be heard must check the appropriate box. Comments will be limited to three minutes each.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	WISH TO BE HEARD
Kaden Snyder	10313 Greenwillow Dr Williamsport	240-382 0936	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dian Thomson	9 Mt. Vernon	301-305- 2290	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Mary Matton	6367 Coffman Farms Rd Keedysville, MD 21756	240-818-4010 240 818-4009	<input type="checkbox"/>
ERIC MATSON			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Susan Holm			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sue Gemeny			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

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Mayor & Council Agenda December 1, 2021

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: November 3, 2021

General Fund Report: \$394,144.41

Announcements: Washington County will take over Keedysville's Building Permits starting Monday, December 6; Town Hall closed Friday, December 24 - Monday, January 3 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays and staff vacation

Community Deputy Report

Old Business: Banner Town; Alarm; Town Email; Library Porch Repairs; ARPA Action Plan and ARC Grant; Banners; Park Pavilions & Lighting Upgrades; Gazebo; Road Paving; Streambank Restoration; Water Rates & Fees Ordinance; Planning and Zoning Commission Vacancy; Maryland Smart Energy Community

New Business: Planning and Zoning Commission Alternates; Green Purchasing Policy; Online System for Tax Bills & Payments; Street Lights; Internet; Quilt Flyers

Comments by Residents

Comments by Council

Adjournment

Lisa Riner

From: Peyton, Tracey <tpeyton@washco-md.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Lisa Riner
Subject: meeting

Sorry for the last minute notice, but I can't make it tonight.

patrol checks

12 @ Cannon Ridge

13 @ Rockingham

11 @ Stonecrest

9 @ Park

9 @ cemetery

2 hrs foot patrol

2 hrs directed traffic 1 cit. 1 warn

suspicious veh call on N. Main (no issue)

removed abandoned veh on Main St.

alarm @ town hall (ME)

dog bite on Bunny Lane

deer struck on Shepherdstown Pike

assisted county with an EMS call South of town and trespassers on Mills Rd.

Dfc T Peyton 4251

Washington Co Sheriff's Office

500 Western MD Pky

Hagerstown, MD 21740

tpeyton@washco-md.net

Lisa Riner

From: Justin Holder <jholder2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Lriner
Cc: Town Hall; klord@keedysvillemd.com; mhull@keedysvillemd.com; jkerns@keedysvillemd.com; bsweeney@keedysvillemd.com; sbaker@keedysvillemd.com
Subject: Fwd: MPIA - County Email Server Setting and Retention Policy [Complete Public Disclosure]
Attachments: Holder 092721 Response to emails Request.pdf; 6.23.20 10-day letter to Holder Seventh Request AB edits.pdf; Washco Preservation Letter.pdf; 03 15 21 Complaint.pdf; Email from Kirk C. Downey - Thanksgiving Eve.pdf

Ms. Riner,

Please see below for my comments in the December meeting. This interaction with the County Custodian of Public information is the result of the March 4th, 2020 Water Board meeting when the Town requested I go to the County to seek information about Sewer. This is my update on that quest to protect the Public goods and environment in our town. I have not given up, and will see this through to conclusion. I do appreciate the support of the Town of Keedysville.

I thank the Mayor and Council and Town Administrator for their service. Please have a great week.

Respectfully,

Justin Holder

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Justin Holder <jholder2004@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 8, 2021 at 9:19 AM
Subject: Fwd: MPIA - County Email Server Setting and Retention Policy [Complete Public Disclosure]
To: Downey, Kirk <kdowney@washco-md.net>
Cc: Desaulniers, Kendall A. <kdesaulniers@washco-md.net>, McCarty, Rachael <rmccarty@washco-md.net>, Cline, Jeff <jcline@washco-md.net>, <tbaker@washco-md.net>, Kevin Karpinski <kevin@bkcklaw.com>, <jmaritano@washco-md.net>, Strong, Charles <cstrong@washco-md.net>, SAO General <sao@washco-md.net>, <jgreene@gannett.com>, Greene, Julie <jgreene@herald-mail.com>, <mike.mckay@house.state.md.us>, Corderman, Paul Senator <paul.corderman@senate.state.md.us>, <neil.parrott@house.state.md.us>

Mr. Downey,

Good Morning,

I have forwarded a request for Public Information made on October 2nd, 2021 and follow up on October 6th, 2021. I have not gotten any response from the County. Transparency is the lifeblood of a healthy democracy. The sunshine laws

of this state are born from the 1st amendment of our great constitution, and a citizen's right to redress. I have been adamant, direct and transparent in cordially addressing my concerns with ultra vires policy, malfeasance, corruption and flat out obstruction of justice. This refusal to answer is a willful and malicious denial of the Public's Information, and I opine done for the purpose to further conceal waste, fraud, abuse and/or further obstruct justice and conceal corruption.

I implore the Custodian of the County to muster the integrity to uphold their oath to the Constitution. The Government enjoys considerable immunity as "The King". The King can do no wrong, and must have the integrity to self regulate and/or; police their power internally to avoid abuse. As a citizen our redress is limited, mostly being at the ballot box. Knowing what we are getting in that box when we vote is of the utmost importance.

Posture of Request:

This Request and follow up are related to the taxpayer money we spend to safeguard our data. I have made clear to the County the importance of the data to the Public:

- 1) On June 15th, 2020 I identified data that I sought to protect and preserve as part of an MPIA request. I was given a price of \$10,000 estimate and never withdrew the request. See attached request.
- 2) On August 3rd, 2020 I again requested some of the same data, explaining in detail the data was evidence in a crime.
- 3). On October 14th, 2020 I again made a request for the data, explaining it was not only evidence, but also exculpatory "Brady" material. I followed up, pleading with the County "my rights are being trampled on".
- 4) On December 23rd, 2020 I sent the County a letter, explaining the importance of the data, and requesting that the data be preserved to be used as evidence at trial. See attached letter.
- 5) On January 21st, 2021 I again requested the data, reiterating my request under the Brady Doctrine and requesting the specific reasons for non-disclosure.
- 6) On March 15th, 2021 I sued the County in order to obtain the Public Information I sought, to be used as evidence in a criminal and civil trial; as well as Public Information that was to be used to redress a grievance. See attached Complaint.
- 7) On July 15th, 2020 I had a trial, and on July 21st, 2021 a hearing in the MPIA denial suit. At the hearing the Honorable Judge Boyer suggested I request the information again, which I made the request on the same day. On August 23rd, 2021 I received a partial response with some production of communications with the State's Attorney. I appreciate that response, but had specifically requested communications with the Sheriff's Office and other County Employees, I was not aware of the Communications with SAO, and quite surprised.
- 8) I reiterate my request for the specific June 1st/2nd, 2020 email on August 30th, 2021, and correct the date on September 1st, 2021. On September 27th, 2021 Keven Karpinsk, Esq. emailed myself the attached letter, **concluding the emails may have been deleted.**
- 9) Recognizing the importance of data backup and integrity, and the substantial investment of taxpayer dollars in the same, I made this instant request and follow up. See request below signature.

