**Borough of Sykesville Council Meeting** **September 21, 2026**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Sykesville Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance by President Michele Yamrick. In attendance were Michele Yamrick, President; Elaine Fike, Vice President; Nathan Alvetro, President ProTem; Council Members: Don Reid, Colton Gearhart, Mike Sackash; Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito; Absent were Council Members Ron Morris, Mayor Kyle Pisarcik.

Visitors were Crewman James Sweka, Sarah Johnson (J&M Accounting), Michelle Moore (J&M Accounting).

VISITORS CONCERNS:

No visitors concern.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Yamrick read a letter from Kelly Witherite. Council was confused by this. Will get with Forman Williams as to why we were getting this letter.

Invitation for the PSAB Fall Conference to be held on October 9-11th in Erie Pa.

Council received an email from Elise Grovanz regarding the 3-year Community Development Plan. The 3-year plan is intended to provide an opportunity for concerned citizens and municipalities to identify priority projects and help address critical community development needs throughout the County. Elise is reaching out to share the priorities listed for our municipality last year. We need to review the list and let her know if any should be removed, changed, or added. What is listed: Stormwater- The Borough has identified multiple stormwater problem areas withing the community that require attention and improvement. And the other is Water and Sanitary Sewage System- The Borough receives its water supply from DuBois. However, the community experiences a significant loss of water pressure when firetrucks are connected to hydrants. To address this issue, an additional water source or a local treatment plant would be necessary.

Councilman Sackash had given Secretary Walker a list for the agenda. There are items that are discussed at the meetings that don't make the minutes. If we are screening the minutes for the conversations what's the criteria? Maybe it's the recordings. There was a spot that said that you couldn't make it out. For

instance, why we should have an agreement with the fire department is that you couldn't make it out. So those are valid things to have in the minutes in my opinion. President Yamrick states that is why we have this (a recording device) this has noise cancelation and is more reliable than cell phones. We had this all along and was found in the cabinet. I don't know when it was purchased, but we are going to use this from now on.

Councilman Sackash is asking what is the status of the 2025 Audit? Secretary Walker states that there is no update on this. Councilman Sackash asked "what is our recourse? Do we need to report them to the Commonwealth"? Solicitor Gianvito relies on that their response was that they are going through their peer review and that was a month ago. Councilman Sackash states "I think that it has been long enough that we need some action from the Council. Solicitor Gianvito will take the next step on this matter.

Councilman Sackash asked, "what is the status of the agreement with the water/sewer department"? That was signed and sent to Solicitor Gianvito.

Councilman Sackash asked, "what is the status of the online payment with inhance"? Secretary Walker states that it is in the hands of Jimmy at inhance to do their set up. He will call when he is ready for our next step.

OLD BUSINESS:

The update of PennVest is that we are still in limbo. We are waiting for the change orders to be approved. Secretary Walker reached out to Travis Long with JHA and he referred me back to AJ Coval. He states that we can't do anything until the change orders are approved. Travis sent an email to Solicitor Gianvito and the Board stating that we are looking for more detail into the overage associated with the stormwater project. The email states the review of the final construction quantities indicates that the increase in project cost was driven primarily by conditions and work requirements that developed during construction rather than a general increase in the cost of performing the originally bid work. The largest component, approximately $440,000.00 resulted from additional or expanded work requested or required by the Borough, PennDOT, or conditions encountered as the work progressed.
Councilman Sackash suggests that we assign someone from Council to start to build a case to defend ourselves from the whole amount. We know the work was done. The only case that we have is that we didn't approve everything on the spot. We also have proof that AJ didn't report it in a timely manner to us. We should be building a case to defend ourselves from the whole amount. We might lose but at least let's prepare an answer back. I am not talking about suing them. I am talking about building an argument to say hey this was not handled properly. Would you split this with us? A motion was made by

Councilman Sackash and seconded by Reid to nominate someone to draft up this argument.

Councilman Sackash informed Council that he has researched our website. The Borough has been paying fees to CourseVetor continuously since that website was put in. It just got increased to $700.00 a year in August. That includes any maintenance and training, and we get a discount because we are members of PSAB. We can update our current website and can do a link for the pay system when that is up and running. I will give this to Secretary Walker to get everything updated with our contact person.

Councilman Sackash is asking for an update on the smoke dectectors. Secretary Walker states she made phone calls again on September 18th. Council decided to give them until by October 1st to pick them up. If not, they will go to the next person that is requesting one.

MAYOR KYLE PISARCIK:

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The blue dump and the new 2026 truck is at M & K in Brookville. They have the bed off the blue truck, and it needed a little repair. The hitch is off and on the new truck. They have t change a few things, like the blue truck is a turnkey and the new one is a push button. At the last meeting we approved to purchase a new clutch pump kit, and it will be delivered straight to M & K.

CREW FOREMAN REPORT:

Flushing hydrants are on hold until the pump comes in. Will do at a later date.

Public Works:

Nothing to report.

Finance/Personnel:

Vice President Fike informed Council the Dustin Schoening from Mid Penn Bank was here at the last meeting and it was voted on by Council to invest $250,000.00 into a CD with no penalties for early withdrawal. The signers will be President ProTem Alvetro, President Yamrick and Dave Reiter from the water/sewer authority. A motion was made by Councilman Gearhart and Councilman Sackash to put another $250,000.00 into a CD at Mid Penn Bank.

It is time form to budget line items. The finance committee need to et with the girls from J&M Accounting to go over every line and decide if we need to decrease, increase, or if it stays the same. Look at what was budgeted and look at what we spent. We have not had to increase mills in the last several years. Sarah from J&M Accounting explained the process of the budget meetings and now that the water/sewer authority is more involved we would like to see them take more ownership with their part in the budget moving forward.

A motion was made by Vice President Fike and seconded by Councilman Reid to approve 4 hours of sick time for Forman Brian Williams on 9-10-2026. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice President Fike and seconded by Councilman Gearhart to approve Forman Brian Williams vacation on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday every week starting on October 28th, 2026 thru 11-20-26 and 11-30-26. Total 104 hours. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by President ProTem Alvetro to approve Secretary Walkers 4 hours for 9-14-2026 and 4 hours for -18-2026. Total of 8 hours of sick time. Motion carried.

Ordinance, Health & Safety

Councilman Reid is still tracking down streetlights that are still out. Get pole numbers to turn them in.

Councilman Reid is asking to get quotes for health insurance for our employees as renewal is coming up soon.

Utilities:

Councilman Gearhart states that the Borough Shop looks much better. Thanks to the guys for stepping up to make that happen.

Councilman Reid is suggesting that we take the boom mower down by Grasso's house and trim the bank back from the alley.

Vice President Fike is asking Council if we can cut the weeds down at Smyer's old store. We need to find out what we need to do about that and who do we need to contact.

Parks, Recreation and Planning:

A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by Vice President Fike to close and winterize the park and remove the speed bumps on October 1st.

President ProTem Alvetro informed Council that Kevins contract is up at the end of this year for mowing. We might want to think of what we are doing after that. Solicitor Gianvito let us know that the scale amounts changed for 2026. $13,200.00 and under is no bids, $13,200.00 - $24,500.00 require 3 bids and $24,500.00 and up is a formal bid.

Secretary Walker is asking Council since their park rental was canceled and they did not use the park if their rental fee can be rolled over to their date in 2027. That answer was yes.

Police, Mayor, Fire, Code Enforcement:

Nothing to report.

Solicitor Gianvito:

Solicitor Gianvito drafted a letter for Sykesville. My proposal was in my letter it basically outlines June 15th when the Supreme Court issued a ruling stating these machines are illegal slot machines under the gaming act. However, they stayed the order for 120 days, which October 15th is the deadline. Unless the Legislature acts on or before this date these machines will be illegal as of November 15th and are subject to secure and forfeiture and seizure of potential criminal action. Accordingly, the Borough will refund a prorated share of fees paid. I will draft a letter to be sent to these people on Borough letterhead.

I must put the fire company thing on hold until I get done with the Punxsy Code thing is done.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by Vice President Fike to hold door to door trick or treating on Sunday October 25th from 2-5. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into a brief executive session at 9:07 PM. Exited from Executive at 9:42 PM.

ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by Councilman Sackash to clarify that Brian Williams is the Forman for the Borough. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Gearhart and seconded by Councilman Reid to adjourn this Council meeting at 9:45 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Walker
Borough Secretary/Treasurer