



Sharpsburg Town Crier

Max Grim and Warren Davis Edition



Volume 32

January 2024

Number 12

Warren “Woodpecker” Davis: A Man of This Place, A Family Man, A Community Man, and A Decorated Hero

(Editor’s Note: This is the third in a series of feature articles wherein the Mayor and Council, the people of the town, and the Town Crier join forces to record the stories of our veterans while they remain in living memory. Time is running out: please consider working with the Editor to get their stories and record their artifacts while we can.)



Warren “Woodpecker”
Davis

The Editor recently had the great privilege to sit down with Mr. Warren Davis’ daughter, Ms. Mary Ann Eichelberger, and her husband Mr. Joe Eichelberger in their comfortable home. We spent a pleasant couple of hours getting this story together. As always happens, the conversation stretched into all other things about Sharpsburg, its people, and growing up here.

Warren’s story is much bigger than his World War II (WWII) experience. He was a man of this place, he was devoted to his family, and he made important contributions to this town. If you grew up here, no day passed that the name “Woodpecker” Davis didn’t come up. Few days passed that you didn’t see him out and about contributing to everything good that was going on here. And no, nobody knows the origin of his nickname, although few men here in that time escaped having one.

Let’s start at the beginning. He was born and raised in Fairplay in 1922, one of a family of eight kids; six boys, and two girls. A lifelong Episcopalian, he first worshiped near his Fairplay home at St. Mark’s Episcopal and was also involved with St. Paul’s Episcopal, Sharpsburg. He was married to Amelia G. “Pansy” Davis (b. Mose) for 53 years. Mary Ann was their only child.

Of course, the purpose of this series of articles is to record veteran’s stories. Most of the Crier’s readers perhaps don’t remember “Woodpecker” and some who do may not know his hair-raising military experience.

At the outbreak of WWII he attempted to join the US Marines but was turned down because of a severe case of tetanus in his mid-teens which left him partially paralyzed. He had to learn to walk again. However, that condition was no



The Book of Common Prayer that
went to war..

impediment to his being drafted into the US Army. It was at that time that Father McKinley was pastor at both St. Mark's, Lappans and S. Paul's, Sharpsburg. Father McKinley gave Warren a small version of the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BoCP) to have with him as he faced the deadly challenge to come. This BoCP that accompanied him to war, seen in the photo, is still a treasured part of the family collection.

The US Army assigned him to the 102nd Division ("Ozark"), 405th Regiment, Company C., where he soon achieved the rank of Technical (Platoon) Sergeant. The 405th was involved in Operation



102nd Division
"Ozark"

Grenade, the invasion of the German homeland¹. However, Warren's WWII journey did not take him that far. History had another plan for him.

On November 22, 1944, his unit was advancing near the German town of Geilenkirchen on the Wurm River when they came under combined machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire. Warren singlehandedly advanced several hundred yards and neutralized the German position. That's not all. While he was at it he took ten prisoners! For this action he was later awarded the Silver Star².



The Silver Star is just to the left of his photograph..

However, his war was almost over.; the next day, his luck ran out. He received an abdominal wound from machine gun fire and laid untended in the rain and the mud for most of a day until found by another unit. In the confusion, he was designated Missing in Action for some time. He remained in the Army until the end of 1945 and returned home.

It was after that when he met his future wife Amelia "Pansy" Mose. They met at a carnival in Sharpsburg and were married 53 years before his death in 2000.

He spent a 44-year career in the Western Maryland Railroad (later merged into the Chessie System), working as a Wreck Master and retired from it in 1985.

He was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Lappans and a life member of Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company, where he served as Fire Chief for 14 years. He was a founder and first president of Sharpsburg Area Rescue Service. He was a life member and former Commander and the 55-year member of Sharpsburg American Legion Antietam Post 236, a member of DAV, VFW Post 1936, Hagerstown, Masonic Medairy Lodge 140, Williamsport, Williamsport Red Men Club Tribe 84, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, B.P.O. Elks 378, Sharpsburg Rifles, Funkstown Moose Lodge 2435 and Western Maryland Railroad Old Timers Club.

As Fire Chief, he and his wife had a remarkable experience that has echoes down the decades



into our own time. In the early 1960s, the fire company purchased a new Ford fire truck and Warren and "Pansy" got on the train to Detroit to take receipt and drive it home to Sharpsburg. Well, the train derailed and the couple were separated for a time. However, they were soon back on another train and picked up the truck. They stayed in a motel



Mary Ann and Joe Eichelberger.

near Detroit and in the morning the truck wouldn't start. Back they...and the truck separately...went. Mary Ann related her mom's story that the driver that Ford sent for them was more terrifying behind the wheel than the train wreck! Now, here's the best part for us in our time. The Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company recently located this truck

and it's restoration is nearly complete. What a great testament this is to the memory of "Pansy", "Woodpecker", and to our town.

Today, Warren and "Pansy" rest in the quiet shade of St. Mark's Episcopal grounds near Lappans Crossroad.

- Editor

¹ - The Wehrmacht were never so dangerous and deadly than when put to the extreme in defense of their borderlands and homeland. Remember also that the Battle of the Bulge had just wound down at the start of Operation Grenade.

² - The Silver Star Medal is awarded for singular acts of valor or heroism over a brief period, such as one or two days of a battle.

Caught in the Act: Ms. Tracy McDonald and the "Connections" Program

(Editor's Note: The Crier "Caught in the Act" series is based on the Editor's accidental discovery of people doing good for no other reason than, well, doing good. It started with seeing a "thank you" poster in the nearby Little Brick Coffee shop. Many thanks to Ms. McDonald for providing the story. Thanks also to Dorrie and the gang at Little Brick Coffee for their contribution to our community. In Tracy's words...)

I am a special education classroom teacher

at Sharpsburg Elementary. My program (Connections) is new to the school this year. I have 6 students ranging from grades 3-5 and two paraprofessionals: Marlene Powell and Jennifer Poling.

This year Washington County is focusing some of the professional development

offered on School Climate. One of the sub-points of School Climate is Staff/Student relationships and another is Community/School relationships. At the beginning of the year that got me thinking on how I can work to improve my student's relationship with staff outside of my own classroom while incorporating the community of Sharpsburg.

Teachers are well known for their love of coffee (or any caffeine!) and I remembered Mr. Allshouse mentioning a local coffee shop in the area that had phenomenal coffee. The wheels started turning in my head and I reached out to Little Brick Coffee and got a response immediately from Dorrie Pilot.

We traded back and forth e-mails a few times and came up with a plan. I was excited



Ms. Tracy McDonald, Connections Teacher Addison Barden-, Charlotte Fogle-, Andrew Lohr-, Raiden Cotta



Ms. Kambria Kosanic, Barista, Ms. Dorrie Pilot, Owner



to learn Little Brick Coffee has an employee with special needs who decorates the cutest of their cups! Every week in December I would send out a menu to our staff with 3 choices of coffee and 3 muffin choices. My Students would then collect and keep track of orders and money (Hello real world math skills!). I would then visit Little Brick Coffee on Wednesday afternoon and put in an order for the following morning. Thursday morning, I would go pick up everyone's order. We did this for 4 weeks and averaged 15 orders per week. Each week Little Brick would donate a percent of the sales back to our classroom. I plan on using this money to invest in future field trips or class celebrations.

When I arrived back at the school my students were ready with their aprons and a coffee cart to start delivering! They had worked with our speech pathologist, Elizabeth Adamson and practiced in the classroom how to greet unfamiliar adults, offer them their coffee and muffin and then say thank you and she even helped by creating a visual prompt guide for us to take with as we delivered! Not only was this working on communication needs but social and gross motor skills as well! Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Poling were essential in making each delivery go smoothly so that everyone received the correct order!

Staff at Sharpsburg loved the interactions with my students and "Is today coffee day" was a frequent question they got any day of the week!

The last coffee delivery was the day before Holiday break and Little Brick Coffee made



Delaney Eichelberger and Charlotte Fogle-

each one of my students a special hot chocolate with their names on the cup just like the regular staff orders! They were over the moon excited for the treat! Little Brick Coffee is an amazing business to work with and my new favorite coffee house!

Now that December is over the first question, I got from returning staff and students is when will our next coffee day be! I have been working with Mrs. Pilot on making it happen the last Friday of every month for the remainder of the school year. We have also talked about expanding the coffee options for the staff and with the help of my paraprofessionals, we have come up with even more skills we can incorporate into coffee delivery and orders for the future!

I am very lucky to have the support of the Sharpsburg Community and especially Mr. Allhouse for supporting my ideas!

- Ms. Tracy McDonald, Special Education Classroom Teacher

A Reason to Feel Good: Lunch, Fellowship, and Music at The Brethren Church

The scent of pork and kraut greets you at the door. There are few things in life hereabouts that promise a warmer experience and this did not fail. The Editor attended this month expecting to get an interview with Pastor Brad Graybill. Unfortunately for the Crier, the Pastor was temporarily away providing medical transportation for a friend, although he eventually arrived. We'll get that inter-



The Reverend Brad Graybill and his father and musician Robert Graybill



Ms. Holly Graybill

lost son and immediately fell into deep conversation with the Pastor's wife, Ms. Holly Graybill. We talked at length about Brethren history, doctrine, practice, lore, and even architecture and pew design. There were word games. There was music provided by the Pastor's father, Mr. Robert Graybill. There was food! Mostly, there was fellowship in an inviting, warm, and sacred space.

Want something to feel good about? Join them for lunch monthly on second Wednesdays from 12Noon to 1:30PM.

- Editor

view some other time; this visit was about something more important, community.

This visitor was embraced like a long-



ning to issue the rebate this quarter. The funds for developing the well solution were to come from Town tax revenues and Recovery Act money, along with the County's 50% contribution. Those funds are still in place and available, however the initial drilling bid came in much higher than expected. The well drilling business is risky and it is prudent that we hold off on rebate considerations until after the well is drilled, which will be sometime in April of this year. We ask for your patience as we work to fulfill our promise of delivering continued savings through permanent rebates on your water bill.

- Town of Sharpsburg

Banners

Applications for local Hometown Hero Banners will be received at town hall until April 11th. Contact town hall at 301.432.4428 or email townof-sharpsburg@comcast.net for details.

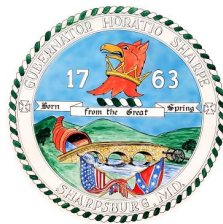
- Town of Sharpsburg



Mayor and Council

A Message from the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council:

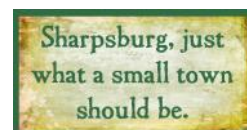
The Town of Sharpsburg has entered into an agreement with the Washington County Board of County Commissioners to jointly develop a system to deliver well water on a per gallon basis. Revenues generated from the sale of that water will be used exclusively to provide funding for permanent rebates for Town residents, and to subsidize future infrastructure needs. Over the past several years the Town has been rebating \$70 each quarter from available revenues to help offset high water rates. Typically, this has been paid all in one quarter to reduce administrative cost. We were plan-



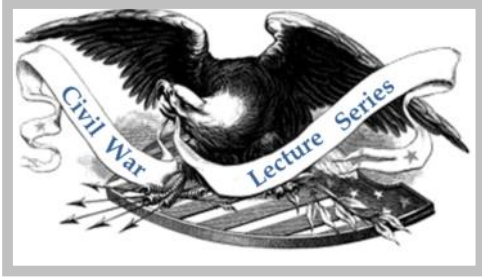
157th Memorial Day Commemoration

As we continue our annual tradition of honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, for our 157th Memorial Day Commemoration, Sharpsburg also proudly recognizes the service of our Nation's Viet Nam War Veterans. All Viet Nam War Veterans are invited to join us in this year's parade, which will be held on May 25th, 2024 at 2:00 pm. If you are interested in participating, or know a Viet Nam War Veteran who is, please fill out and return the attached invitation. We look forward to seeing you there!

- Jacob Martz, Vice Mayor



About the Town



Civil War Lecture Series 2024

The Jacob Rohrbach Inn announces its lecture lineup for this season. Please refer to the Community Calendar for specific events. Note in the Calendar the change of venue for these lectures.

A Message from the Museum

Hello Volunteers, We are looking for some volunteers who could come and volunteer a few hours on a Saturday starting this Saturday from 10-2. If you can help out with any Saturday please let me know. if you only have a couple hours . We will be finishing the new displays and rearranging some among a few other things that are new to get done for our reopening in April.

- Ed Beeler, Executive Director, Sharpsburgh Museum of History

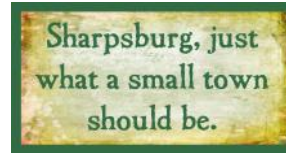


Another Message from the Museum

It is my honor to announce our first Jr. Intern for Sharpsburgh Museum of History. Alex Gregg. Alex lives in Sharpsburg with His mother and two brothers whom all three vol-

unteer here at the museum. He will be working on different project. Give Alex a big welcome.

- Ed Beeler - Museum Director/Town Archivist



Alex Gregg , Intern

Community Calendar

January 28 from 12Noon to 4PM:
Antietam Station Model Railroad Museum Open House
17230 Shepherdstown Pike
301-800-9829 / hmrrm@myactv.net

February 3 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM: **Come All Who Are Thirsty (CAWAT)**
Veterans Group, Quarterly Breakfast & Meeting
Burnside First Church of God
3904 Mills Road, Sharpsburg
comeallwhoarethirsty.org (or go to their Facebook page)

February 5 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**
Sharpsburg Town Hall
106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782
301-432-4428

February 6, 7, and 8: Anytime Library is Open: **Jigsaw Puzzle Swap/Share**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 7 at 2PM: **"Freddy the Fish" by Department of Agriculture.** Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 13 from 5:30PM to 7:30PM: **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 West Main St.
(Community welcome. No cost/donations welcome/proceeds devoted to community ministries)
301-432-7098

February 14 from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church**
123 E Main St.
301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

February 15 at 3:30PM: **Valentine's Story Time**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 22 at 6PM: Sharpsburg Historical Society/**The History of St. Paul's Episcopal Church**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Community Hall), 209 West Main St.
sharpsburghistory@gmail.com

March 13 from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church**
123 E Main St.
301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

March 16 from 10AM to 2PM: **Metal Detecting Exhibit**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Community Hall), 209 West Main St.
301-800-6877 / lovehistory.1866@gmail.com

March 31 at 6:30AM: **Community Easter Sunrise Service**
Sharpsburg Park Pavilion, West High St.
240-675-6781

April 10 from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church**
123 E Main St.
301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

May 25 Event Times to Follow: **157th Memorial Day Commemoration**
Sharpsburg Town Hall
106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782
301-432-4428

June 3 at 7PM: Jim Rosebrock, **The Empire State at Antietam**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

June 10 at 7PM: Dr. Gordon Dammann, **Changes in Medicine from The Civil War to World War I**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

June 17 at 7PM: Kevin Pawlak / Dan Welch, **"Never Such a Campaign":**

The Battle of Second Manassas,
Aug. 28-30, 1862
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

June 24 at 7PM: George Franks, **The Army of The Potomac After Gettysburg**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 1 at 7PM: Dr. Brad Gottfried, **At the Forefront of the Armies: The Role of the Cavalry During the Maryland Campaign**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 8 at 7PM: **Sharon Murray, Dixon S. Miles Reconsidered**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 15 at 7PM: D. **Scott Hartwig, One Man's Experiences: Major Rufus Dawes and the Battle of Antietam**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 22 at 7PM: Dr. Alex Rossino, **Longstreet's March to Hagerstown and Back,** Sept. 11-14, 1862
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 29 at 7PM: Dana Shoaf, **The Evolution of Civil War Ambulances**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

August 5 at 7PM: **Dr. Tom Clemens, Washington County's Forgotten Military Hero**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

August 12 at 7PM: Dr. Jim Broomall, "'The hills were black with spectators': **Civilians on the Antietam Battlefield**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

August 19 at 7PM: Steve Stotemyer, **The Legend of Barbara Fritchie**
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

August 26 at 7PM: John Schildt/
Laura Marfut, "**Roads to Antietam**"
Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

Recurring Events

Second Wednesdays from 12Noon to
1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at
the Brethren Church**
123 E Main St.
301-432-4944 / sharps-
burgcob@outlook.com

Anytime the Library is Open: **Spe-
cial Events: Winter Spice Club**
(Pick Up a Sample, History, Recipes
January is Fenugreek
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 1 Through April 11 from
9:00AM to 3:00PM: **Master Gar-
deners**
Registration Required
Contact: acormany@umd.edu / 301-
791-1604

Thursdays @ 3:30PM: **Themed Sto-
ry Time**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Any Time the Library's Open: **Art of
the Month**
(Each month a different art form will
be displayed along with books per-
taining to that art.)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

First Wednesdays of the month at
1PM **Adults: Book Share**
Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

Kid's Zone: Ages Eight and Up
Sharpsburg Library anytime we are
open Make a Mini Zen Garden! For
tweens and teens!
301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Second Thursdays every month, **Li-
on's Club** 7PM, St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, 209 W. Main St, Sharps-
burg, MD 21782
sharpsburglions@gmail.com

First Saturdays at 10AM: **Lego Club**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Area Churches

Christ Reformed Church
117 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-6182
Sundays: 9AM

United Christian Fellowship
18823 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedys-
ville, MD 21756
301-432-0110
Sundays: 8:45AM Fellowship, 9AM
Sunday School, 10AM Worship &
Children's Church

**Sharpsburg Church of the Breth-
ren**
123 E Main St, Sharpsburg
Sundays at 10AM, Sunday School at
10:30AM
301-432-4944

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 West Main Street

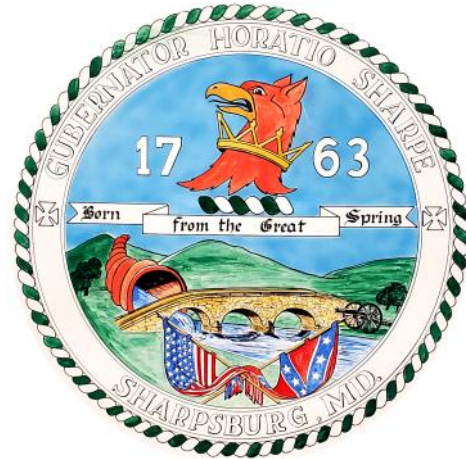
Sharpsburg
301-432-7098
Sundays: 10AM, Sunday School
(Second and Fourth Sundays starting September 25)

Burnside First Church of God
3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg

Sharpsburg Bible Church
5134 General Stuart Court, Sharpsburg
301-432-5309
Sunday School 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM,
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung
Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

msa 1/26/24 Ver1.0



Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor
Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor
Mia Parsons – Council
John Hammond – Council
Ed Beeler-Council
Robbie Waters – Council
Joe Kudla – Council
(Debbie Smith – Town Clerk)
106 East Main Street
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
Phone: 301-432-4428
Fax: 301-432-8990
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>



ATACHHMENT:

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2024**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, January 4, 2024 in the Council meeting room of Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street in Sharpsburg. In attendance were Mayor Russell Weaver, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, Joseph Kudla, John Hammond and Mia Parsons. Absent were Vice Mayor Jacob Martz and Councilmember Robbie Waters. Town Clerk Debra Smith was also in attendance and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was in attendance via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Mayor Weaver called the meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Kudla.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Atlantic Security System Service Agreement for Parks – Rick Toms from Atlantic Security explained to the Mayor and Council the two-(2) plan options available for the security cameras in the parks. Plan A includes an annual cleaning and test of the system as well as a warranty on parts and labor. Plan B is for the annual cleaning and test of the equipment only, no warranty coverage with this plan. (ACTION ITEM)

Request for Alley Access – Lee Downey has submitted a request to the town for issuance of a permit to provide access to a public alley in the Town behind W. Chapline St. for a proposed new single-family dwelling to be constructed on an existing lot of record which is located in the County and has ally frontage. The Fire Company is will provide comments after accessing what improvements may be required in order to adequately serve this property. Mayor Weaver has also asked for any comments from the Planning Commission and will provide an answer on the matter at Februarys meeting. (ACTION ITEM)

Josh Gettridge of 133 E. Main Street came before the Mayor and Council to state his displeasure in the towns process and cost to obtain an in-home occupation permit to conduct an auto repair business. After speaking with Mayor and staff members on previous occasions, Mr. Gettridge stated that he has obtained a business license and believes that his business should be grand-fathered in. It was explained that when the previous business closed, the property reverted back to the original TR zoning after a period of 1-year. The \$600 special exception fee covers the cost of attorney and staff review and advertising. Mr. Gettridge reiterated his dis-satisfaction with the management of the culvert by his house. He thinks that the management of the waste coming from the grass gully on 65 is not adequately managed or maintained. While both the town and MDOT have cleaned the culvert on various occasions, the matter of ownership still has not been determined.

Mayor Weaver tabled the vote on the **approval of minutes** and the **financial report** until February. (ACTION ITEM)

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT– Tim Lung

- Continued to correspond with Lee Downey regarding the process for obtaining access to the “Roulette Property” located in the County that fronts on the alley behind W. Chapline Street for the purpose of constructing a dwelling (See related agenda item).
- Continued to correspond with a consultant for Verizon regarding procedures related to the possible placement of a new wireless communication tower at various locations in the Town. Such a facility would require approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Resolved matter of un-permitted auto repair business operating at the rear of property along the south side of E. Main Street. Business has closed, sign removed. Owner would have the option to apply for a Zoning Special Exception to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

- Waiting for a response from the State Highway Administration regarding the sight distance issue at the corner on Church St (MD 65) and E. Main St. (MD34).
- Reviewed and signed off on a building permit application for a roof improvement project at the Fire Department building at 110 W. Chapline St. • Reviewed and approved a Zoning Permit for a small shed to be located at 225 E. Main Street. No County building permit required.
- Regarding the alley naming matter. At the request of the Mayor to follow up on the Council discussion at its December meeting, the following are the suggested, approvable, alley names that were presented by the County at the April 2022 Council meeting. Extracted this from the minutes. "Some suggestions for new alley names that Mr. Hays and Mr. Griffith thought that reflected the history of the town were: Biggs Alley, Tolson Alley, Garrison Springs Alley and Clipp Alley. Russ thanked the gentlemen for their thoughtfulness. The need to name the alley by Tolson's Chapel is needed as it will be part of the town's walking tour." (See related Jan. agenda item)
- Corresponded with Meghan Jenkins, Staff liaison to the County Historic District Commission (HDC) regarding the status of establishing a draft MOU with the Towns for possible delegated authority to comply with Historic overlay zoning and eligibility for Tax credits. The HDC is closing in on the draft for the ordinance update. It's been through its round of review by the County Attorney and the HDC will have a wrap up meeting to discuss any final comments before scheduling a hearing in the next couple of months. Requested to forward the Draft to the Town for comments when it is hearing time

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- **Wells** –Received one bid response which is significantly higher than plan. We will discuss during old business.
- **Historic Park**–Frederick Seibert and Associates to present detailed design January 10th from 10 - 1.
- **Big Spring**–We were not selected for a grant and have this project is on hold.
- **Boyer House** – Received SHAF feedback based on meeting with our attorney. We will discuss during old business.
- **Streets & General Maintenance**– Great job of addressing recent winter storm!
- **Audit** – Action plan to address issues is moving forward.
- Mayor Weaver stated that he will be sending a letter to the library board inquiring why the library was open on Saturday during the snow storm.

CORRESPONDENCE

- MML Meeting- January 22nd @ 6PM at the Elks Club

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS for December 2023

COUNCILMEMBER BEELER- submitted the Annual Report for the Sharpsburgh Museum of History for 2023 which included 1,653 visitors. A grand opening and ribbon cutting in April and an increase in funding are among the 2024 goals.

COUNCILMEMBER KUDLA – meeting next week on the Church/Antietam Street drainage issue. The radar signs have been charged and should be installed next week. The culverts have been cleared. Inquired about the matter of a complaint regarding the lack of sight caused by the flags on the porch on the corner of E. Main Street and N. Church Street.

COUNCILMEMBER HAMMOND – nothing to report.

COUNCILMEMBER PARSONS – Planning Commission will meet Thursday, January 25th.

COUNCILMEMBER WATERS – Not present, but Mayor Weaver stated that the letter to the playground company regarding the towns dis-satisfaction is still pending. (ACTION ITEM)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

M. DEP. WATKINS REPORT December 2023:

Antietam Station – 4, Elementary school – 4, Little League – 5, Park – 3, Traffic Enforcement – 3.5 hours
Calls For Service – 1, Jefferson Security lot – 1 night
Total Sheriff's Office events in December – 65
MDOP – 1, TFMV – 1, Theft – 0, Disorderly – 2, Undesirable - 0

PARK ADVISORY BOARD- Chris Vincent – December meeting was canceled. Next meeting will be in March. Currently interviewing for a new Superintendent.

TOWN CRYER – Mayor Weaver stated that Mike Arant has been running a series on our local Veterans and asked that anyone knowing of a local Veteran, to please contact Mike.

OLD BUSINESS

E. Antietam Street Drainage Project Update – this project needs to be completed within the next FY if not sooner.

Well Drilling Project Update – W. C. placed the project out for bid with only one-(1) official bid received. Negley's Well Drilling, Inc. from Newburg, PA with a total base bid of \$97,424.00. Contingent bid items (additional casing and well bore) costs of \$25,450.00 for a total proposed bid of \$122,874.00. If the bid is accepted, the project will proceed within 90 calendar days of 12/19/2023. Because the project cost could well exceed the bid, it was proposed to delay any discussions on water rebates until after the well drilling project. *A projection of proposed projects and associated funding was presented with a review of the towns finances to be done at the February meeting. **Motion** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Kudla to accept the bid as presented. Motion carried. *(ACTION ITEM)

Lutheran Cemetery Status – Table until February. (ACTION ITEM)

Boyer House Update - Mayor Weaver reviewed the current draft sales agreement between SHAF and the Town for the Boyer House. A lengthy discussion on terms within the agreement and its intended use ended with Mayor Weaver stating that he will send Council the final documents for comments and a final vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Alley Naming and Signage - Table until February. (ACTION ITEM)

Motion by Councilmember Kudla Martz, second by Councilmember Beeler to closed the meeting at 8:45 PM. Motion carried.

February 5, 2024 Meeting Action/Agenda Items:

- Approval of December minutes and financial report
- Atlantic Security System Service Agreement for Parks
- Request for Alley Access
- Lutheran Cemetery Status
- Discussion on naming and placing signage on allies.
- Councilmember Waters to provide Town Clerk Smith with details regarding the delay with the manufacturer so they can be relayed back to the Andrew Eshelman at the County Parks & Rec.
- Financial Review

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Smith
Town Clerk