

French Creek Council of Governments

Meeting Notice and Agenda

TO: All French Creek Members

You are cordially invited to the next meeting of the French Creek COG

When: Thursday, April 20th, 2023

Where: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE

Time: 11:30 a.m.

AGENDA:

1. Public Comment

2. Administrative Matters

A. **Action** - Approve Minutes of March 16th, 2023 - Enclosed

Hoovler

B. **Action** - Accept Treasurer's Report - Enclosed

Horvat

C. **Action** - Accept 2022 Audit Report - Enclosed

Dunlap

D. **Action** - Approve payment of \$200 PACOG Dues

Horvat

E. **Action** - Approve Lyle Hoovler as Delegate

Hoovler

and Kevin Cole as Alternate Delegate for PACOG

3. Accept Cochranon Borough as a New Member

Hoovler

4. Update on Joint Bidding for Road Projects

Dunlap

5. Other Business

All

6. Next meeting is on July 20th, 2023 and will be at Chamber Office on Diamond Park.

French Creek Council of Governments
Meeting of MARCH 16TH, 2023

MINUTES

Present:

John Leffingwell, Pine Township
Lud Zarembinski, Summit Township
Doug Knoedler, Hayfield Township
Mike Hoegerl, Hayfield Township
Gretchen Myers, City of Meadville
John Shartle, West Mead Township
Mike Jordan, West Mead Township
Jill Dunlap, West Mead Township
Lyle Hoovler, Sadsbury Township
Rose Mumau, Sadsbury Township
Larry Mattocks, East Mead Township
Terry Simonette, East Mead Township
Rob Horvat, Vernon Township
Gary Wagner, Vernon Township
Kurt Dennis, Greenwood Township
Brenda Braden, Greenwood Township and Pine Township
Chuck Lawrence, Saegertown Borough
Mary Kennedy, Wayne Township
Dan Breese, Cochranon Borough
Eric Henry, Crawford County Commissioners
John Treacy, Conneaut Lake Fire Department
Brad Roae, Representative Brad Roae
Jim Pratt, West Mead #2 Fire Department
Eric Coston, East Mead Fire Department
Joe Smock, City of Meadville Fire Department
Todd Siple, Visitor

Public Comment:

None

Administrative Matters:

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Lyle Hoovler and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

- A. Approval of Minutes: John Leffingwell made a motion to approve the January 19th, 2023 minutes as presented. Terry Simonette seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Fire Commission Presentation:

Rob Horvat provided background information and introduced Eric Coston, Jim Pratt and Joe Smock of the Crawford County Fire Commission that was established in 2021 to look into finding solutions and recommendations to help solve the firefighters crisis. Eric Coston provided an informative PowerPoint presentation on fire services throughout the years and how we ended up in the situation we are in currently. He discussed past studies that have been done

with various recommendations that could be done at the federal, state and local levels. Recruitment of volunteers, retention of people in the area, instituting local tax credits for volunteers and implementation of fire taxes at the local level were discussed. Jim Pratt discussed what it means for departments to be out of service and provided options his department has put in place to try to help cut down on unnecessary calls, such as lift assists and other nuisance calls. Joe Smock recommended the Crawford County Vocational and Technical Center provide training and schooling for younger students to help get them involved and also discussed the need for paid firefighter jobs. Terry Simonette discussed the number of volunteers, instituting user fees and asked what is happening at the state level. Gary Wagner spoke on incorporating municipalities and the VoTech in additional discussions to help people stay in the area. John Shartle agreed and also discussed providing employee incentives. A countywide option of having 2 paid firefighters on staff in 6 areas during the weekdays in addition to the volunteer departments and current paid departments in Meadville and Titusville was discussed. There currently are 22 fire companies serving our county residents. Jill Dunlap questioned funding sources in implementing this plan. Eric Henry noted the Crawford County Planning Commission has been looking at Safer Communities grant funds. John Treacy discussed tree calls on PennDOT roadways and working with Utility Companies during emergencies as well as with working with their local municipal road departments. Brad Roae discussed updates on legislation as well as various budget items being considered or those that should be considered at the state level. Lyle Hoovler questioned establishing a countywide association and how that would get approved. Eric Coston discussed Senate Bills 501 and 502 seeking to establish countywide authorities. Kurt Dennis discussed billing options on motor vehicle accidents and Ordinances they have put in place at Greenwood Township. Brenda Braden recommended allowing employees to leave to answer fire calls. Chuck Lawrence and Jim Pratt noted most calls are not fire calls, as only 5% of their calls are actual structure fire calls. Mike Jordan noted the general public needs to be made aware of these issues. Eric Coston recommended volume buying, less duplication of equipment, good communication, better training and sound financial accounting should be considered for future solvency of fire services. He noted funding sources need to be found but the Fire Commission is looking at various options and meetings are being scheduled for further discussion.

Firefighters Services Letter of Support:

Lyle Hoovler asked if the members wanted to do a letter of support or request for solutions for firefighters services like was done for Emergency Medical Ambulance Services. Eric Henry made a motion to authorize the Secretary and the panel presenters to draft and send out a letter of support with suggestions on the Firefighters services issue to all legislators, PSATS and any other interested entities. Mike Jordan seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Other Business:

None

The next quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20th, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce.

Kurt Dennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. Lud Zarembinski seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Dunlap
Secretary

French Creek Council of Governments
Trial Balance
As of April 20, 2023

	Debit	Credit
First National Bank Checking	0.00	
Mercer CD	0.00	
Mercer County Bank	0.00	
Mercer County State Bank	4,990.30	
Accounts Receivable	0.00	
Undeposited Funds	0.00	
Accounts Payable	0.00	
Retained Earnings		4,740.30
Member Dues		250.00
TOTAL	4,990.30	4,990.30

Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
Mercer County State Bank	4,990.30
Total Checking/Savings	4,990.30
Total Current Assets	4,990.30
TOTAL ASSETS	4,990.30

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Retained Earnings	4,740.30
Net Income	250.00
Total Equity	4,990.30
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	4,990.30

**French Creek Council of Governments
Auditing Committee**

March 1, 2023

French Creek Council of Governments
Jill Dunlap, Administrative Secretary
1150 Morgan Village Road
Meadville, PA 16335

Re: 2022 Audit

Dear COG Members:

As provided under Article VII/Finances of the French Creek COG Bylaws, the financial representatives from Member Governments conducted a financial audit on March 1, 2023 for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Financial Reports were prepared on a Cash Basis and are hereby submitted with this report. The records are in good order and there are no findings to report.

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf
of the Auditing Committee,

Debra E. Merritt

Debra E. Merritt
Secretary/Treasurer
Cambridge Township

Auditing Committee:
Renee Hayes, Woodcock Township
Rose Mumau, Sadsbury Township
Debra E. Merritt, Cambridge Township

**French Creek Council of Governments
Financial Report
For the Period Ending December 31, 2022
Cash Basis**

Beginning Cash Balance as of 01/01/2022 **\$ 5,242.86**

REVENUES:

Tire Recycling Event (Donations & Grant Proceeds) \$ 3,857.50

TOTAL REVENUES: \$ 3,857.50

TOTAL AVAILABLE: **\$ 9,100.36**

EXPENDITURES:

Tire Recycling Event \$ 3,797.50
(Hauling charges, Insurance & Auxillary Police Donation)

Dues & Subscriptions \$ 369.64

Website Hosting \$ 21.17

Advertising \$ 171.75

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$ 4,360.06

Ending Cash Balance as of 12/31/2022 **\$ 4,740.30**

Audit Completed 3/1/2023
Renee Hayes, Woodcock Township
Rose Mumau, Sadsbury Township
Debra E. Merritt, Cambridge Township