

TOWN OF BATH FINANCE COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
November 2, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER: By Chairman at 4:00pm.
2. ROLL CALL: Susan Webster (X) Greg Schene (X) Mary Lynn Hickey (X) Quorum – Yes
3. The purpose of this Special Meeting of the Finance Committee was to review the Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce (CoC) Deck the Meters project to ascertain the best way to proceed while working in cooperation with the CoC and meeting the needs of the Town of Bath. The Town of Bath is in receipt of a letter from the CoC (attached). The FC constructed a response (attached) to be delivered Friday, November 3, 2023 in hopes that the Deck the Meters project could move forward.
4. Adjourn

Chairman S. Webster Date 11-7-23

Mayor
Scott Merki

Recorder
Susan J. Webster



Council Members
Tom Hall
Mary Lynn Hickey
Rebecca MacLeod
Greg Schene
Elizabeth Skinner

Town of Bath

271 Wilkes Street, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
Phone 304-258-1102 Fax 304-258-2638

November 2, 2023

Berkeley Springs-Morgan County
Chamber of Commerce
127 Fairfax St.
Berkeley Springs WV 25411

Dear Chamber members,

The Town of Bath Council has reviewed the request for the use of the parking meters and feels that the below recommendations would be agreeable for the Town and the Chamber.

The meters could be decorated from Friday November 24, 2023 to Friday December 29, 2023. The decorations may use the pole for support but **MUST NOT** cover the meter head. The Chamber would be responsible for ensuring the decorations did not cause a hazard to traffic or pedestrians and to work with the participant on maintaining the appearance of the display.

The Town will require a payment of \$3,000.00 to cover the lost revenue from the parking meters. The free parking promotion is to encourage patrons to park and shop downtown. Please note the Town will continue to enforce routine parking violations not to include meter violations during this time period.

The Town Council acknowledges all the hard work that is involved in this project and appreciates the Chamber and participants commitment to making the Town look and feel like a "Hallmark holiday".

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to us.

Kind Regards,

Town of Bath Finance Committee

The Nation's Oldest Health Spa
Since 1748



Berkeley Springs-Morgan County

Chamber of Commerce

127 Fairfax St, Berkeley Springs, WV

304-258-3738 • www.BerkeleySpringsChamber.com

Town Council,

The Board of Directors of the Berkeley Springs–Morgan County Chamber of Commerce is requesting a review of our request for the annual Deck the Meters (DtM) program. The businesses and individuals in our community who create the decorations for the DtM program work very hard on their designs. Two weeks just isn't long enough to showcase the work, or to make it worthwhile for them to participate. The Chamber has been receiving calls for weeks already from people excited to sign up, and we would hate to disappoint so many business people, citizens, and tourists by discontinuing this event.

Having the meters up for Cocoa Crawl and the WinterFest Parade weekend (this year on December 1st and 2nd) has been something that locals and visitors have enjoyed every year. Many people would be sad for this tradition to end. Many families have a tradition of walking around the downtown area Christmas weekend.

Trying to choose only two weeks for the meters to be decorated just isn't viable. The Chamber originally asked the Town for permission to Deck the Meters to add to the holiday cheer in the town, and create an incentive for patrons to visit local businesses during the holidays. Foot traffic is definitely increased downtown by the meter decorations, as the Mayor even mentioned, people drive from many miles around to enjoy our "Hallmark holiday" town.

The Chamber Board would like to offer \$2,500.00 to offset any income lost by the town for meter operations during this time. We will also provide volunteers to help with the labor of taking the meter insides out and restoring them for the safety of the meters.

We pledge that the Chamber staff will regularly check the meters for issues and mitigate any, facilitate the creators' work, fixing and adjusting as needed, or take down any coverings that deteriorate or cause a hazard to pedestrians or traffic. We will encourage all of the participants in the upkeep of their meters and to refresh them over time.

Thanksgiving is November 23rd. We respectfully ask that you allow committed Townspeople to start decorating their meters on the 24th - Black Friday. A lot of people are out enjoying Berkeley Springs that day, and all meters will be decorated the following weekend for the Cocoa Crawl & the WinterFest Parade. Christmas is Monday, December 25th. We would require that all decorations be removed by December 31st so that the meters can be back in operation on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Deck the Meters brings joy to our community. We at the Chamber – our Board, members and staff – all look forward to working with you to ensure that holiday spirit can continue this year.

Thank you,

Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce