

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

April 5, 2016

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the St. Luke's Church Hall, 5th & Franklin Sts., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline- President, Amy Botwright - Vice President, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Tara Kennedy-Kline, Richard Kepner - Mayor, Mike Dietrich – Wastewater Plant Operator, Gary Noecker – Zoning/Code Enforcement , Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Bradley Smith – Engineer and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting were John Leshner, Paul Gruber and Clark Zimmerman.

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St): Mr. Geschwindt would like to know the status of the school's signs that are in the site distance. Mr. Smith states that the project is not yet closed out and that the signs are on the punch list for the final inspection.

Mr. Geschwindt would like to know the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner noting that Suburban tested the water at the borough office and the sewer plant on March 18 and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt references the Reading Eagle article on January 25, which related to eliminating selective zoning enforcement and to add another person to the zoning staff. President Kline notes that the borough has two code enforcement officers on staff, one of which is Steve Savarese, the borough supervisor, who is available during the day. Mr. Savarese has made notices, recommendations and follow-ups. Mr. Geschwindt asks if his reports are then placed in the borough records, with President Kline and Vice President Botwright noting that they are. Mr. Geschwindt asks if he were to fill out a right to know form, if he could obtain copies of those items, with President Kline stating yes.

Peggy Padinske (310 E. Noble Ave.): Ms. Padinske is still having trouble with the school's use of their electronic sign. She has contacted the PA Outdoor Lighting Council and submits paperwork which references the affects of light exposure before/during sleep. She has contacted the school and asked that they dim the lights on their electronic sign, as well as to avoid using blue, yellow and white, as those colors are the brightest. They have dimmed the top three rows of wording, but the fourth row on the sign has not been dimmed. Mr. Noecker confirms that he did contact the school to have the wattage lowered on the sign. President Kline states that the school must abide by the ordinance and if the sign does not, something can be done. Perhaps the sign on her side could be turned off in the evenings or a row of arborvitae could be placed on the property. **Mr. Wertz will contact Principal Andrea Berger on Thursday, to discuss the options available.**

Jerry Blecker (King's Real Estate): Would like an update on the water allotment for the Hamburg Commerce Park. They have submitted plans to Perry Township and are anticipating preliminary/final approval by the end of May. He states it will be difficult to move forward without a letter of intent to serve. Mr. Wertz notes that PTMA's attorney is working on a water agreement revision and Solicitor Mooney is working on the sewer agreement revision. All parties discuss Mr. Bell's capacity and whether or not any other allotments have been paid for.

Mr. Blecker notes that if another well would be brought on-line, that they would be willing to pay their share to get it up and running. Originally they had requested 20,000 gallons/day of water, but have since reduced that to 8,000 gallons/day for phase 1 of the project. The additional capacity will be needed as the project moves forward.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Noecker

- **Permits:** Four zoning permits were issued last month.
- **Enforcement:** Mr. Noecker asks how Council wishes to proceed with enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Wertz agrees with Mr. Noecker's thought to initially send a letter and if there is no response, to then issue a non-traffic citation. President Kline states that there has not been much of an awareness campaign for this ordinance. Vice President Botwright states that this could be placed on the website. Council discusses various ways to have the public become aware of the recent changes. *Mr. Wertz will draft a summary of the ordinance to be included in the newsletter.*

Mr. Noecker asks if Council has made a decision regarding the sidewalk restrictions. This will be discussed at the April workshop meeting.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Act 167 Stormwater Ordinance:** Distributed a copy of the ordinance via e-mail. He presents a copy of prior correspondence with the borough's former engineer, which notes of their comments and recommendations for a fee schedule.
- **Fire Code:** Forwarded two copies of sample fire code ordinances.
- **Water Tapping Fee:** *Is working with David Schlott on the tapping fee review.*
- **Animal Control Ordinance:** *Will have his review completed for the workshop meeting.*
- **Wastewater Agreement:** *Is working with Mark Koch on the agreement with PTMA.*

Engineer's Report – report will remain on file in office

- **Sewer Televising and Scheduling:** ARRO has prepared a map dividing the borough into equal portions, so that the entire borough is televised every 5 years. ARRO is preparing specifications for the televising of the northeast zone. The estimated cost to televise this section is \$11,000.

**A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Mr. Smith to place the bids out and post for the sewer televising project, with bids to be opened at the May 3 meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.*
- **Miller Street:** Mr. Smith met with PennDOT and other utilities. UGI will be abandoning their line in the street and will need an easement from the borough, as the line will be crossing at the bridge.
- **Multimodal Transportation Grant:** ARRO recommends the borough budget the \$82,800 for this year. If the grant is not provided, Council should consider proceeding with the engineering and applying for the grant again this year.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize ARRO to prepare a proposal to perform the engineering work as specified in the Multimodal Grant. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. President Kline clarifies that this is just for ARRO to perform the engineering for the bridge repairs. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Well #1 Treatment:** ARRO is proceeding with the engineering for the project. Mr. Wertz recommends option A. Mr. Smith is developing an engineering cost estimate for the Yardley Well #1 treatment system. This will be ready for the April workshop meeting.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The spring newsletter will be delivered on April 9. Ms. Wagner will be attending a FEMA meeting for the storm reimbursement on April 7 at 3:00 p.m. The Borough Office will open at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13, as Ms. Wagner will be attending the Berks County Secretary's Association meeting that morning.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kepner

Kurtz Florist in Hamburg is making blue ribbons of respect if the borough is interested in obtaining some. Mayor Kepner states that the Senate's agenda once again mentions charging a fee to municipalities that are covered by the PA State Police.

Wastewater Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

Mr. Dietrich met with Nick from the Kwik Shop, to explain that they will now be a part of the rotating water sampling schedule. Well #4 had the VFD control replaced and has been working well. The monthly water reports were submitted with no issues. All of the routine water plant maintenance was kept up to date.

Last month the sludge dumpster was hauled out twice. The efficiency of the press is fading. In order to improve the press' output, Mr. Dietrich swapped out and rejuvenated each brush rod that is to clean the spray nozzles. This helped for about a week or two. Mr. Dietrich met with Mike Sassaman's replacement and compiled the remaining information for the Chapter 94 report. Routine maintenance was performed on the belt press, blowers, sludge pumps, VLR aerators; including changing oil. An accumulation of rags was removed from the floats in the wet well.

Property/Streets/Sanitation Committee – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The committee is looking at prioritizing what streets will be completed for this year's paving projects.

Council briefly discusses a street cut moratorium. This matter will be addressed at the April workshop meeting.

The Mylar plans have been received for the traffic signal construction and traffic signal permit. They are ready to be signed.

Sewer Committee – Mr. Wertz

Quotes are being obtained for the blower room roof repairs.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to have President Kline sign the Department of Labor & Industry's letter, showing compliance with the main building. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Axiom to replace 2 pneumatic air cylinders on the belt press at a cost of \$1,991. The equipment is need immediately and to rebuild the current equipment would be a slower process. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase replacement belts for the belt filter press from NFM, at a cost of \$1,689. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Committee – President Kline

Mr. Smith is verifying the figures on the impact fee.

Utility Services performed an inspection of the tank and mixer and all is well.

Parks/Recreation- Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to approve the 2016 pool rates, as noted on the rate sheet. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

President Kline notes that the Miller St. Bridge Project is to begin in February 2017 and be completed by the end of that year.

Employee Relations – President Kline

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to send Chad Zimmerman to swimming pool pesticide class on May 20, at a cost of \$225. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline states that the employee business cards have arrived and will be delivered.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for March 1 & 15, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright notes that the property at 1050 Shoemaker Ave. (Boyer's) received a tax appeal for their property taxes paid in 2014 & 2015. Per the County, they are unable to be given a credit for those taxes. As such, the borough will need to issue a refund for the \$6,023.88 that is owed. Solicitor Mooney states that the refund must be completed this year and may not be split over a two year period, as initially requested by the committee.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for April 5, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright states that the TCC will be hiring a third party firm to collect funds from delinquent employer and tax payers as this is more cost effective than to have TCC staff perform the collections. The state would then require all of the municipalities to allow for the tax collection company to charge the delinquent parties the collection fee. TCC will draft a resolution for review.

Vice President Botwright has reviewed the bill pay options for credit cards. The best option is from Hamer Enterprises. They will charge 2.5% + \$1.00 per transaction, for the borough to absorb the processing fees. Ms. Wagner is to verify whether or not there is a set-up fee. Vice President Botwright will then finalize the numbers.

New Business

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 96-2016: Disaster relief for the winter storm. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

President Kline states that the meeting agenda format has changed, whereby outstanding items are listed under old business and that any other follow-up items will appear on the back of the agenda.

Vice President Botwright notes that the website and Facebook page for the borough will go live this weekend, coinciding with the newsletter delivery.

The applications for the part-time seasonal position will be reviewed for the workshop meeting.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright for Mr. Savarese to have Hamburg Borough sweep the streets at a cost not to exceed \$1,200. Mr. Wertz suggests having no parking signs be posted. Vice President Botwright further states that the information can also be placed on the borough website and Facebook page. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

President Kline will see what the borough already has in place for surge suppressors on the borough buildings.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer