

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

June 7, 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, Chad Zimmerman – Public Works, 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 Clark Zimmerman, Paul Gruber, John Leshner and Richard Kepner – Mayor.

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Would like to know the status of the water report, with Ms. Wagner noting that Suburban tested the water at the water plant and New Era Logistics on May 26 and that all results met the necessary requirements. Mr. Geschwindt would like to know the second Council member that Mayor Kepner referenced at last month's meeting, with regards to obtaining a variance for animals/birds. Council is unclear who the Mayor was referring to. Mr. Geschwindt would like to know the status of the signs at the school. Mr. Smith notes the architect will be submitting information to the design officer. The project has not been signed off on, with Mr. Smith noting he has created a list of items that need to be addressed.

Steve Marko (2 Schuylkill Ave.): Notes that Schuylkill Ave. and Walnut St. are in poor condition and asks that the potholes be addressed. Council and Mr. Marko discuss the condition of the roads.

Deb Driesbach & Leann Quire (TNR Program): Represents No Nonsense Neutering, an organization that can partner with the Council to spay-neuter cats within the borough. The resident would need to trap the cat and take it to one of the neutering locations. The cost per cat is \$35, with the borough either paying the entire amount or a portion of the amount, with the resident paying the remainder. They note that from 2014 to current, 147 cats from Shoemakersville were spayed-neutered. Once the procedure is completed, the cat would be returned to wherever it was taken in from. The cost to spay-neuter is less expensive than euthanizing the animal. **Council will further discuss this topic at the June workshop meeting.**

Code Enforcement – Mr. Noecker

- **Permits:** Two permits were issued last month.
- **Enforcement:** Eight violation letters were sent last month. **He will be following up with the deadlines and progress of those notices. He will be working on the property maintenance letters, already having two properties on the list.**
- **Vehicles:** Mr. Noecker would like to know how Council wishes to proceed with individuals who do not respond to letters to have their unregistered/uninspected vehicles removed from the roadway. He is instructed to have the vehicles towed.

- **Fireworks:** The fire company would like to have fireworks on their grounds in September. Mr. Noecker would like to know what type of permit should be issued, as there are to be no fireworks set off in the borough. Someone licensed to set off fireworks will be on the premises.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Animal Control Ordinance:** The ordinance is ready and can be advertised for adoption at the June 21 or July 5 meeting. Council decides adoption will be at the June 21 meeting.
- **Water Tapping Fee Ordinance:** The ordinance is ready for advertisement.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to advertise the amendment to the borough's water tapping fee ordinance. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Zoning Ordinance:** The cost to advertise an ordinance amendment would be approximately \$950, as it would need to be advertised twice before adoption.
- **Sewer Agreement:** Mr. Smith and Mr. Witman completed the calculations for the third amendment to the agreement, which includes the Pigeon Creek Interceptor. *Solicitor Mooney will forward the draft to Mr. Koch.*

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

- **Sewer Televising:** The apparent low bidder is Berks Sewer & Drain Services at \$15,735. Council and Mr. Smith discuss the other bids, noting that this quote was for 1/5 of the borough. This is for 10,000 linear feet of line, at \$1/foot and 50 manhole inspections, at \$100/manhole. *Mr. Smith will review the original paperwork from the bidders.*

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the borough engineer to prepare contract documents for the sewer televising. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.
- **PTMA Interceptor:** Mr. Smith spoke with Bill Witman, who has agreed to permit the borough to use the water bills for the basis of the borough's conveyance. They expect to break ground in July. *Ms. Wagner is to forward Mr. Witman a street cut permit application.*
- **Pine St. Connection:** Earl Felty finished the preliminary survey for the connection. There is approximately 1' of fall between the manholes. Mr. Wertz and Mr. Smith discuss the project, with *Mr. Smith stating he will look into the permit requirements.*
- **Penndot Roadwork:** Vice President Botwright asks if anyone was notified of Penndot's current road project in the borough, with President Kline stating that they performed a PA One Call last week, but there was no further information on the work. Mr. Smith will speak with his contact at Penndot.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The office will be opening at 11:00 a.m. on June 8, as Ms. Wagner will be attending the County Secretary's Association meeting. The deadline for the summer newsletter is June 13.

Penndot has responded that they have agreed to assume 75% of the costs for relocating and/or adjusting the utilities for the Miller St. project, noting that that percentage will drop if any of the milestones are not met.

Wastewater Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

In May, all routine water plant maintenance and testing was kept up to date. On the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend there was an electrical glitch in the borough that shut down the pool pumps, wells, water plant and several blowers and pumps at the sewer plant. Everything was reset with no issues. DEP will be performing their triennial inspection of the borough's water system on June 15 at 9:30 a.m.

The belt press was working poorly at the beginning of last month. Kline's hauled out 18,600 gallons of liquid sludge. Both belts, all 22 spray nozzles and the upper and lower brush rods have been replaced, which has created a more efficient belt press. Routine maintenance was performed and is up to date. The April DMR was submitted with no issues or concerns.

Mr. Dietrich and Mr. Smith addressed the surfactant matter, with Mr. Smith noting he is having a meeting on July 12 to discuss a new surfactant product called Orège.

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

President Kline spoke with the right-of-way personnel for the UGI relocation of the gas line. They have requested permission to go on the borough's land behind the garage, to perform a survey. President Kline has signed and forwarded the appropriate letter to give permission.

President Kline also spoke with Kiely regarding their land use letter. Mr. Wertz is concerned with the zoning approval requested on the letter. Council discusses the zoning aspect of the project, with President Kline noting he will draft a response for zoning and ask that Mr. Noecker review the information and sign the paperwork.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes of the resident request to limit truck traffic on Water St., as lines have recently been getting knocked down by trucks. She feels this may not be feasible, as there is a business down that road that relies solely on the use of trucks. President Kline notes that it would be difficult to make a decision on the matter, without knowing the height of the wires or what utility owns the lines.

Sewer Committee – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Dietrich has a quote from Derstine for the blower room roof repairs. Since this is regarded as a priority, he will make every effort to obtain the quote from Descoco as soon as possible.

Water Committee – President Kline

President Kline will work with Ms. Wagner to determine a final decision for the water meter concerns at two borough residences.

Parks/Recreation- Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire Jonathan Mertz and Max Kline at a rate of \$8.25/hr. and Tyler Rapposelli at a rate of \$8.50/hr., to be lifeguards at the pool. Tyler's rate is 25¢ more, as he has one year of experience. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for May 3 & 17, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for June 7, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried by a vote of 3 yes to 1 abstention, with Vice President Botwright abstaining.

Council discusses the various plans available for the employees' medical insurance.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to accept the Highmark Premier PPO \$1500 Plan for the employee medical insurance. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright notes that the liability/commercial/vehicle insurance has increased by 4%, due to inflation on the property coverage, for a total yearly increase of \$1,800.

Vice President Botwright states the borough's pension actuary is retiring. She has met with him a representative from Conrad Siegel, who is handling the transition. They have provided all of the necessary information to advertise the RFP.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to advertise the RFP for actuarial services for 2017. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to exonerate the individuals listed on the information sheet from the October 2015 per capita tax. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The Board recessed into executive session at 8:09 p.m. to discuss employee relations. Regular session reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to offer provisional employment to Joshua Mohn, contingent upon him passing the pre-employment requirements, at a rate of \$15.50/hr., as a road crew member. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

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 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer