

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

November 1, 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., Paul Gruber, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Richard Kepner – Mayor, Mike Dietrich – Plant Operations, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Brad Smith – Engineer, Gary Noecker - Code Enforcement and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting were Clark Zimmerman and John Leshner.

Public Comment

Jonathan Yeager (101 E. Noble Ave.): Is concerned that Penndot did not obtain any borough permits for their sidewalk/handicap ramp project. It has been over one month and the sidewalk at his home is still not finished. He contacted Penndot, but they are not certain when the project will be complete. Mr. Yeager would like to know who would own the new sidewalk. He was under the impression it was his sidewalk, however he was not approached about repairs to be made and therefore his former sidewalk could be considered stolen. He contacted Mr. Noecker and the PA State Police on the matter. Both stated the work was being completed by Penndot, with Mr. Noecker telling him that the state will have their own inspector reviewing the work. Mr. Yeager would like to know what will be done with this matter moving forward. Vice President Botwright noted that Penndot did not contact the borough at all, to make mention of the project. Ms. Wagner contacted other boroughs on the matter, with those municipalities choosing not to issue any permits. The homeowner should be given the contractor's information, for future issues that may arise with the sidewalk.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks if Penndot requested the line & grade information, which they did not. He asks if Penndot gave any specifications as to how the sidewalks and ramps were to be installed. Mr. Smith stated that the Penndot standards are what the borough uses for ADA requirements. Mr. Wertz states he was told that the specifications and drawings for the project are available on the Penndot website. Mr. Geschwindt states the area looks low, where they meet the radius on each side, with Mr. Smith noting that it could be due to ADA requirements. Mr. Smith notes that E. Noble Ave. is a state road and that Penndot may have a certain amount of right of way. Solicitor Mooney states that the sidewalk is not in the state's right of way and that it is curb to curb. He notes that every level of government supersedes the next one down, so Penndot regulations would override borough regulations. President Kline notes that sometimes the state right of way does extend into the curb and that a permit from Penndot could be needed to repair the curb. Mr. Geschwindt states that he has the line and grade for his property for both Reber St. and Noble Ave., which was obtained from the borough in the 1950s.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for an update with the school's signage, with Mr. Noecker stating he will discuss this matter under his report. Mr. Geschwindt asks for the water report, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant on October 6 and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Noecker

- **Permits:** Four permits were issued last month.

- **HASD Signs:** Several months ago Mr. Noecker noted that Council approved the plans for the school, which included the signs. Mr. Smith states there was a note on the approved plans that the signs installed will comply with the local zoning ordinance and that a permit would be obtained. When Mr. Noecker spoke with Phil Leinbach, he was told that the signs were on the plans and that Council approved them. Mr. Smith notes that if a permit was not obtained, they are in violation of both the plan and the zoning ordinance. Council, Mr. Smith and Mr. Noecker discuss the signs, the plans and the letter from the school, which stated things were installed according to the plan. Mr. Geschwindt notes that the signs are in the site triangle. **Mr. Smith will forward a scanned copy of the note.**
- **Sidewalk Issue:** Mr. Noecker will be speaking with the resident on E. Noble Ave. who has hedges overhanging the sidewalk.
- **Citations:** He will be filing citations at the district justice's office this week.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **King's Development:** Has issued the will serve letter.
- **UGI Easement:** **President Kline will forward Solicitor Mooney a copy of the right of way letter that UGI submitted as part of their Miller St. Bridge project.** Mayor Kepner asks if this project will interfere with the dry hydrant, with President Kline stating there is to be access to the hydrant during the duration of the project. President Kline explains where UGI plans to directional bore.

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

- **PA Small Water and Sewer Grant:** ARRO has prepared and submitted a grant application for the headworks project at the sewer plant. If the grant is awarded, it will be used to install a vertical screen in the existing bypass channel in the wet well. The current estimate for the project is \$489,300 of which the borough will be responsible for \$73,395.
- **Sewer Televising:** Preliminary report is that there are a lot of roots in the system, but no significant I/I was discovered. The contractor plans to complete the televising this week, weather permitting. ARRO will review the videos and reports and issue a report to the borough.
- **Well #1 Treatment:** A laboratory test can be completed to determine if the iron and manganese are the results of bacteria in the well. It could then be possible to treat the well with chemicals to remove the bacteria. The cost will be less than \$10,000 as compared to the current filtering option with an estimate of over \$80,000. ARRO recommends the borough contact Herb Spencer of Shannon Chemicals. Mr. Dietrich is waiting to hear back from the inspector. The test can be ordered from Hach and completed in-house. Mr. Smith was waiting to complete the paperwork to request a higher yield from DEP until the results of this test were completed.
- **MS4:** ARRO is assisting the borough with the mapping requirements for the MS4 program. The borough should budget for increased expenditures to comply with the program. ARRO is preparing a waiver application from the MS4 requirement, which is due the end of December. Mr. Wertz states that Nate and Alex have been doing a fine job with the mapping work. He feels the map will be more than is necessary for the borough, however it is needed to request the waiver. Moving forward, the borough will now have GIS data with good information on a subsystem in the borough.

- **PTMA Interceptor:** The contractor is expecting to start work within the borough the week of November 7. Mr. Smith checked the assertion that 35% of the work is associated with the borough's laterals. He came up with 0.8%.
- **HASD Elementary School & Parking Lot:** ARRO is working with the school district to resolve the remaining issues.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closing at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 3. The winter newsletter will be delivered on Saturday, November 12. Deadline to include information will be November 8.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kepner

The borough received a letter of support for the Small Projects Grant from the Berks County Planning Commission.

Water and Wastewater Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

Last month repairs to the water pipe going from well #5 to well #4 were made. Well #6 is offline due to pump failure, but should be in service with a new pump next week. Captain Clog cleaned the well piping while it was out of the ground. All monthly reports were submitted and routine maintenance was completed.

Berks Sewer & Drain began televising the lines in early October and should finish the project this week. Kline's pumped the sludge, grease and rag build up from the VLRs. VLR #1 was put in service and VLR #2 was taken offline until it can be drained, cleaned, inspected and rehabbed next year. The signed paperwork was returned to Blooming Glen for the repairs to the railing on the blower room roof. The DMR was submitted with no issues and all routine maintenance was completed. Mr. Dietrich, Mr. Wertz and President Kline discuss the effectiveness of the press.

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

The matter with the sidewalks is complete.

President Kline notes that the radios at the pole barn and garage need to be upgraded by Security Services. Foreman Zimmerman will be coordinating a date with them.

Sewer Committee – Mr. Wertz

Foreman Zimmerman obtained a quote from Exeter Supply for three gate valves to replace below digester #1 at the sewer plant and for mechanical joints to fire hydrants and a lug accessory set for a 6" line, which would be in inventory for water repairs.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the expenditure of three gate valves for digester #1, fire hydrant parts and a lug accessory kit for \$7,443. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Vice President Botwright notes that the three digester valves were budgeted for in 2016 and that the hydrant parts will fall under the 2017 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Committee – President Kline

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the expense of \$4,399 to Duane Moyer Well Drilling for emergency repairs to well #6. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kepner asks if the matter with Scott Ulrich's fire system was resolved. President Kline states that Mr. Ulrich's system was to have its annual maintenance work last month, but that he has not heard back on the results.

Parks/Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The Trunk or Treat event went well. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that there was vandalism at the park that was captured by the park cameras. She feels residents should be empowered to tell people in the park after dusk that they need to leave. Solicitor Mooney suggests naming specific times that the park is to be closed, rather than “at dusk.” Council discusses the matter and notes that it will be placed on the agenda for the workshop meeting.

President Kline mentions Mayor Kepner’s email regarding DCNR grants. He states there will be webinars in December to review the grants.

Council discusses the information for speed humps that was obtained by Foreman Zimmerman.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz – no report

Employee Relations – President Kline

Vice President Botwright notes that Foreman Zimmerman will be on vacation from November 10-16.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for October 25, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for November 1, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 101-2016 to name Reinsel Kuntz Leshner, LLP as auditors for the borough’s 2016 records. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 102-2016 setting the non-uniform employee pension contributions at 0%. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright notes that the 2017 proposed budget is available for inspection and that she will be forwarding the budget spreadsheets to Council.

New Business

Solicitor Mooney offers his assistance with the year end ordinances.

Old Business

The wireless card for the garage laptop is \$71.17/month and often has spotty reception. Comcast business internet is \$84.90/month. Council discusses the options and will speak more on the matter at the workshop meeting, once the data plan for the wireless card and the speed of the Comcast connection is obtained.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Wagner-Secretary/Treasurer