

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

January 3, 2017

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, John Leshar, Clark Zimmerman, Richard Kepner – Mayor, Chad Zimmerman – Public Works Foreman, Mike Dietrich – Plant Operations, Keith Mooney – Solicitor – arrives at 7:09, Brad Smith – Engineer and Gary Noecker - Code Enforcement and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

Absent from the meeting was Paul Gruber.

Public Comment

Jerry Blecker (Hamburg Commerce Park): Is following up on the draft agreement and asks if there has been any movement on the matter. President Kline states that a draft was distributed and that it is under review by Council. The letter of intent was incorporated into the agreement. Mr. Blecker is concerned that the reservation fees deadline expires in 12 days, as well as other conditions in the letter, and requests an extension.

Jerry Miller (B&X Limited Subdivision): Is from Hopkins & Scott and gives an explanation of the lot annexation plan for 843 Grant St. As a portion of the affected land is in Perry Township, he will also be receiving a copy of the plans. Council briefly reviews the plan and will further discuss the matter at the workshop meeting. **Mr. Smith will review the plans.** A planning commission meeting will need to be scheduled as well.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks for the status of the laundry mat situation. Solicitor Mooney states that the suit was withdrawn by Mr. Barbon, with prejudice. The borough will continue to place liens on the property. Mr. Geschwindt asks for an update regarding the signage at the school. **Mr. Noecker will be sending a violation letter, as a zoning permit was never obtained.** He notes that fines may be added. He was delayed in sending the letter last month. Mr. Geschwindt asks for the status of the water report, with Ms. Wagner noting that Suburban tested the water on December 1 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to appoint Conrad Siegel as the borough actuary, Barry Bennecoff & John Santilli to the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority for 5-year terms ending in 2021 and Chris Kline to the Recreation Board for a 5-year term ending in 2021. Seconded by Mr. Leshar. Ms. Kennedy-Kline, Vice President Botwright and President Kline discuss the number of Council Members that may serve on the board, as well as their term lengths. President Kline notes that the ordinance states that Council Members may hold 2-year terms and that anyone else may hold a 5-year term. Vice President Botwright amends the motion to appoint Tara Kennedy-Kline and Chris Kline to 2-year terms, ending in December 2018, to the Recreation Board. Seconded by Mr. Leshar. Motion carried unanimously.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Noecker

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

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Amendment to PTMA Water Agreement:** PTMA will discuss the matter at their meeting next week. Once comments are received from the borough and PTMA, the agreement will be finalized.
- **Sewer Agreement:** Solicitor Mooney states the agreement is still with Mr. Witman. Mark Koch will speak with Mr. Witman to expedite to process.
- **Letter of Intent:** Solicitor Mooney references changes to the water agreement, stating that either PTMA or King's would pay a proportionate share of the cost of the facility upgrades. The cost of the upgrades and who would be paying a share will need to be included into the agreement.

* A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to extend the terms and conditions of the letter of intent for an additional 60 days. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Zoning Ordinance Updates:** Solicitor Mooney will wait for Council's approval, before moving ahead to review the proposed changes.

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

- **MS4:** ARRO is proceeding with the delineation of drainage areas to the stormwater conveyance systems.
- **Multimodal Transportation Grant:** The borough's application for 2016 has been denied. If the borough wishes to apply in 2017, it would be beneficial to proceed with the preliminary engineering to improve the scoring for next year's application. The application is due in July. Mr. Smith states that the borough would most likely score better if some engineering is completed. **Mr. Smith will obtain a list of who was awarded the grant from the last round.**
- **PA Small Water & Sewer Grant:** No update on the grant application that was submitted on October 28, 2016.
- **Sewer Televising:** The contractor has submitted a revised report to ARRO. ARRO is reviewing the information and will provide the borough with a summary of defects and recommendations.
- **Well #1 Treatment:** Additional BART testing is being conducted at well #3 and the pool. Testing for iron and manganese at well #1 has been ordered.
- **Bridge on Main Street:** PennDOT has approved the report and the borough can now proceed with the designated repairs to the abutments and expansion joint.
- **Solids Handling PSA:** ARRO submitted a proposal in August 2016, to conduct a study on various technologies for dewatering solids at the wastewater plant. It was discussed to postpone the study until 2017.
- **Backup Operations:** ARRO has prepared and sent a response to PADEP for the NOV issued for the scum pit overflow. ARRO provided coverage at the sewer plant during a bereavement period, and had the scum pit and scum troughs pumped out and pulled the sump pump for inspection of any visual defects. The PSA submitted for backup operations formalizes the agreement to have Kelly Brenner as the borough's backup operator, for up to \$10,000. The borough would be notified if the requested services would exceed the \$10,000.

- **PTMA Interceptor:** On December 21, the contractors met with the homeowners, who are satisfied with how the contractor will be handling their concerns. ARRO requests that the borough clarify with PTMA if the laterals on Main St. were to be to the trap or the cleanout, as there is some confusion on the matter. Currently the contractor is only planning on replacing the laterals within the trench on Main St., as this was in the plan. Mr. Smith and Council discuss the work. The inspector will look at the lateral that needs replacing and if needed, will contact Council for authorization for Wexcon to proceed with the repair.
- **Sheetz Land Development:** A letter has been sent to the developer concerning the remaining items needed to be completed to close out the project. Sheetz has not been responsive. Mr. Smith states they need to remove their erosion controls and finish the basin. They changed the location of vents for the gas tanks, which was not done as per plan. Mr. Smith states that the borough is holding Sheetz's funds, but could ask for an inflationary increase of up to 10% of those funds.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

Ms. Wagner requests to have a ½ day on Friday, January 20. She further notes that she may be requesting to close the office on Friday, as her daughter is sick and she does not have childcare for that day.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kepner

Mayor Kepner asks Foreman Zimmerman if when plowing snow, the plow could clean the snow off the bridges. Foreman Zimmerman notes that for the recent snow, Mr. Karasek was called in to clear the bridges.

Public Works Report – Foreman Zimmerman

Penndot will be performing more work on the intersection at Noble Ave. & Route 662, by adding additional lanes. They have submitted a traffic signal approval drawing. **Mr. Smith will compare the old signal plan to the new plan that was submitted.**

Foreman Zimmerman will be meeting with Scott Stork on January 11 at 11:00 a.m. to look at the engineering review of the borough owned bridges. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Foreman Zimmerman states that approximately 65% of the water meters have been replaced. He notes that several businesses have 1" or 1 ½" lines. Foreman Zimmerman and Council discuss several businesses and the size of their water lines. Mr. Wertz questions if the borough has any responsibility to identify meters that may be too small to provide fire suppression. Solicitor Mooney states it would be responsible to do so when the meters are being upgraded. Mr. Smith says the letter could state that according to borough records their size meter may not be sufficient for fire suppression and that they should verify with their insurance company if they need an upgrade at this time. They would be asked to respond in 30 days, so the borough could be of assistance. Council discusses the fire suppression at Santilli Oil. **Ms. Wagner is to verify whether or not their fire suppression is metered.**

Water and Wastewater Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

Data was collected at well #1 and additional BART test kits were ordered and received to test well #3 and the pool. All monthly reports were submitted and all routine maintenance was kept up to date.

The sludge dumpster was filled and hauled away twice, the chlorine contact tank was cleaned and the buildup of rags was removed from the wet well grinder area and level floats. An appointment was made to inspect the boiler at the sewer plant, but the inspector never arrived.

Blooming Glen completed the relocation of the hand railing on the blower room roof. The heat was not working in the plant control building, but the plumber was able to make the necessary repairs.

After morning snow and rain on December 29, the blower room roof leaked and damage was caused to the digital waste meter. The display is dark and no signal is being sent to the chart recorder in the lab.

Axiom installed the new slide gates in the raw influent channels prior to the grinder and bar screen. Buckets of rocks were removed from the channels. Axiom also disconnected and took the scum pump from the pit.

To date, Captain Clog worked on the floor drain of the tank 3 times, Kline's was out twice and Foreman Zimmerman and Mr. Dietrich ran the power snake through. The tank is currently 1/3 full and will drain as it is thinned out. Mr. Dietrich and President Kline discuss probable causes of the issue with the draining. Mr. Dietrich believes leaves are the initial problem.

Mr. Dietrich thanks Foreman Zimmerman and Ms. Brenner for running the plant in his absence.

Mayor Kepner suggests placing a tarp on the blower room roof until it is repaired.

Property/Streets/Sanitation Committee – Mr. Zimmerman

Mr. Smith will review the recently submitted paperwork from Penndot for the traffic light.

Sewer Committee – Mr. Wertz

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the ARRO proposal 2016P001 for services as back up sewer plant operator for 2017. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kepner and Mr. Wertz discuss repairs to the blower room roof, with Mr. Wertz noting that the roof will be sealed, as per the repair quote.

Water Committee – President Kline

President Kline notes that an extension was granted for the will serve letter.

The BART test was completed for well #1. The results of the BART test for well #3 and the pool should be ready by the workshop meeting.

Parks/Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The meeting with Bill Kerper to review the installation of two additional cameras was postponed until next week. There have been no recent incidents in the park.

President Kline asks if there is still a homeless individual living in the park. Foreman Zimmerman has reviewed the tapes and notes that there is less activity in the park and that the homeless man is no longer in the park.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

The lot annexation plan was submitted and will be under review by the borough engineer, borough planning commission and the Berks County Planning Commission.

The zoning hearing board is down to one member, with Solicitor Mooney stating that that is not enough to hold a meeting. Members must be a resident and not a member of Council.

[Ms Wagner is to post the zoning hearing board vacancies on Facebook and the borough website.](#)

Employee Relations – President Kline

Vice President Botwright notes that Foreman Zimmerman submitted the weekend/holiday rotation schedule for 2017, which will be posted on the Google calendar.

Mayor Kepner asks if employee raises were given for 2017, with Vice President Botwright stating it would have been included in the budget.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for December 20, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Zimmerman to approve the bills payable for January 3, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Solicitor Mooney will be out of the office from January 31 - February 5. Chip Haws can be contacted during his absence.

Vice President Botwright will not be at the March 7 meeting.

Old Business - none

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer