

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

December 5, 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 7:03 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright –Vice President, John Lesher, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Clark Zimmerman, Richard Kepner – Mayor, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Brad Smith – Engineer, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting was Paul Gruber.

Public Comment

Dustin Remp (924 Main St.): Requests an update on the electronic speed limit signs. President Kline states that what was initially thought of as a delay in shipping is actually a delay in production, due to PennDOT regulations for radar speed limit signs. He located a copy of the handbook for traffic calming devices on PennDOT's website and sent it to the sign company, in order to speed up production, although the signs most likely will not arrive until March.

Mr. Remp asks if there is an ordinance prohibiting parking on sidewalks. Mayor Kepner states this is addressed by the State Police, under the vehicle codes. Mr. Noecker states his vehicle is currently parked on the curb at his home on Noble Ave., as it was hit three times. Residents are no longer permitted to park in the bank's parking lot. Mr. Noecker notes that vehicles are often driven down the middle of Noble Ave. and do not always stay on the proper side of the road. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes of the damage to sidewalks that can occur when vehicles are not properly parked. Council and Mr. Noecker discuss the parking situation.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks for the status of the water report, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water at the water plant and New Era Logistics on November 1 and that all results met the necessary requirements. Mr. Geschwindt asks if the taxes or utility rates have increased, with Vice President Botwright stating that all rates for 2018 have not changed from 2017.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Noecker

- **Curbs on Water St.:** Mr. Noecker asks if weather permitting, the newly constructed curbs on Water St. could be painted yellow, as the paint was not replaced with the curbs were installed. Vehicles are now being parked where the curbs were formerly yellow.
- **702 Main St.:** The contractor for the home states that the dumpster at the location will be removed within the week. Construction is currently stalled while the homeowner makes decisions on the project.
- **Enforcement:** He spoke to the owners of a vehicle without a license plate that is parked on W. Noble Ave. The vehicle will be registered in two weeks, which is the timeframe typically given in an enforcement letter for the violation.
- **Dumpsters:** President Kline states the borough does not have an ordinance regulating dumpsters from being placed in the roadway. **He will be forwarding a sample ordinance to Solicitor Mooney** for his review. President Kline suggests having the dumpster be placed on blocks, so that it would not

sink into the street. Mr. Noecker suggests a time period of one month for the dumpster to remain at the property. President Kline states the sample ordinance notes a permit would be required and would be in effect for 30 days. After that, the applicant could then renew for a total of two 2-week periods, at an additional cost.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Park Rental Agreement:** A draft was forwarded to Foreman Zimmerman and Ms. Wagner. Their minor changes were incorporated and will be sent to the park committee. Solicitor Mooney could also alter the agreement for the use of the fields by the baseball association.
- **Wolfe Contract:** Final changes are being made, with the contract to be forwarded to Council next week.
- **Sewer Pre-Treatment Ordinance:** The ordinance is under revision and should be ready next week.
- **Pool Project:** Weather permitting, the project timetable should allow for the necessary work to be completed by December 31.
- **Pool Agreement of Sale:** Solicitor Mooney will contact Mark Koch, as he has not heard back from him.

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

- **Pool Renovation:** Rebar is scheduled for this week for the pool walls. The pool steps were not framed as of ARRO's last visit. Work is to be completed by December 31.
- **Small Project Grant:** ARRO drafted a narrative and developed a preliminary cost estimate for the application. ARRO strongly recommends the borough schedule a meeting with Representative Knowles or Senator Argall to visit the site and discuss the project. ARRO can assist as needed.
- **Multimodal Transportation Grant:** The grant has been awarded for the repair of the Main St. Bridge over Pigeon Creek. ARRO is preparing a PSA for the engineering.
- **Miller Street:** A contract has been awarded by Penndot to Kinsley Construction Inc. Total price for the bridgework is \$3,695,633.00. Mr. Smith will be attending the preconstruction meeting on December 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Penndot District 5 Office. The project is scheduled to begin in March 2018. President Kline states his concern that it appears the blow off valve at the point in the line near the two decommissioned houses is to be removed and grouted. Mr. Smith is to obtain clarification on this matter at the December 15 preconstruction meeting.
- **Clarifier #2 Repairs:** Blooming Glen visited the site and is fabricating components for the clarifier.
- **Wolfe Dye & Bleach:** Additional samples were taken of Wolfe's effluent. The sample had high concentrations of chloride, over 2,000mg/L. These concentrations are detrimental to the plant's equipment. ARRO recommends adopting the pretreatment ordinance and entering into the technical assistance program with Wolfe as soon as possible.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The office will open at 11:00 a.m. on December 13, will close at noon on December 22 and will be closed all day on December 25 & 26.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kepner

Mayor Kepner recognizes fire fighters Matt Tobias, Dusty Wagner and Rusty Wagner for their recent assistance with the saving of Paul Correll from a burning garage.

Public Works Report – Foreman Zimmerman:

Foreman Zimmerman thanks Mayor Kepner for his 11 years of service to the borough.

Foreman Zimmerman asks to place a note on the borough's website and Facebook page, advertising for experienced part time snow removal help.

Foreman Zimmerman would like to purchase 4 tires for \$748.88 for the utility truck through the COSTARS Program. There are budget funds available for the purchased.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to purchase the 4 tires at a cost of \$748.88. Seconded by Mr. Zimmerman. Motion carried unanimously.

Foreman Zimmerman stated that 17 Main St. is currently in foreclosure and will be sold to a company in Florida. He spoke with Chuck Poling from the company, who requested copies of any letters or liens against the property. Mr. Poling notified Foreman Zimmerman that he spoke with Michael Schwenk, who stated he is no longer working for the borough. Ms. Wagner has forwarded copies of Mr. Schwenk's letters and condemnation notice to the company. Mr. Poling did say that it would not be a quick process, but the building would be taken down if need be. Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks if the home could be torn down by the borough if it is a hazard and Council does not wish to wait. Solicitor Mooney states that the borough could take the building down, but would still need to make efforts to serve the property owner. He and Ms. Kennedy-Kline discuss the process and what would be required.

Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

Axiom reinstalled the air cylinder that they rebuilt for filter 1 in the water plant. Filter 2 was rinsed and backwashed. All monthly reports were submitted.

Descco repaired the I beam mounting in clarifier 1, so it would be safe to complete the other emergency repairs. Blooming Glen stripped out the failing parts in the clarifier and are now fabricating new parts. WG Malden completed their annual calibration of the effluent flow meter. The chlorine cylinders were changed out and the system was checked for leaks. Penn Power serviced the generator and the fuel tank was filled. The October DMR was submitted. Mr. Dietrich and Mr. Wertz discuss the intermittent, partial blockage on the grinder chamber at the belt press.

Property/Streets/Sanitation Committee – Mr. Zimmerman

Mr. Zimmerman notes of the detour plan that PennDOT submitted for the Miller St. Bridge Project. Mr. Smith discusses the plan and notes that he has a larger copy of the plan he can provide to the borough. The project is scheduled to be completed in fall 2019. Mayor Kepner notes his concern of increased truck traffic due to the detour. Council, Mayor Kepner, Mr. Smith and Foreman Zimmerman discuss the detour and the bridge located at Mohrsville Rd.

*A motion is made by Mr. Zimmerman to approve payment application #2 for Folk Paving. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. President Kline asks if Foreman Zimmerman is satisfied with the final inspection, with Foreman Zimmerman noting that the two damaged areas were repaired. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Committee – Mr. Wertz – no report

Water Committee – President Kline

Ms. Wagner states that the owner of 112 E. Noble Ave. would like to convert his 2 unit building to a single dwelling. President Kline has no issues and states that the same procedure should be followed that was discussed at the last meeting.

President Kline asks Foreman Zimmerman and Mr. Dietrich to inspect the northwest side of the water tower, as it appears there is a rust stain. If a stain is present, Utility Services will need to be contacted to address the matter.

Parks/Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Stoneridge's application #2 for \$127,485.00 for the pool project has been submitted.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to pay Stoneridge \$127,485. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Solicitor Mooney asks if retainage is being taken out of the payment, with Vice President Botwright & Mr. Wertz reporting that 10% retainage is being held. Motion carried unanimously.

Law/Planning/Zoning - Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz has reviewed several sidewalk repair requirements, as well as a sample ordinance. ADA requirements allow for a ¼" tolerance. He submits and discusses several highlights to be considered, noting that saw cutting is cleaner and more professional than grinding. He discusses the possibility of bidding out the saw cutting service for residents, in order to reduce mobilization fees. The matter will be further discussed at the December workshop meeting.

Employee Relations – President Kline

One application has been received for the crossing guard position at E. Noble Ave. & Main St.

*A motion is made by Mr. Zimmerman to hire Bruce Rolland at a rate of \$15/hr as a crossing guard. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks how long the borough has been hiring/paying for guards. Solicitor Mooney states the borough is required to hire and employ the guards per statute. Solicitor Mooney will forward a copy of the statute. Mr. Wertz confirms with Solicitor Mooney that the borough may determine the number of the guards and their locations. Council discusses the number of guards needed. Mayor Kepner states that the guards would fall under the authority of the local police department. Motion carried unanimously.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for November 21, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for December 5, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills for ratification for November 21, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Ordinance 449-2017, setting the 2018 tax rate at 6.5 mills. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Mr. Wertz asks if the millage has changed, with Vice President Botwright stating the rates are the same as for 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the 2018 meeting list. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Council discusses Category 4 casinos, with Solicitor Mooney stating that if the borough does not wish to allow for the casino that a resolution must be passed by December 31. President Kline notes of the recent commissioners' approval for casinos in Reading.

President Kline attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Perry Golf Course development. The first building is to be construction by September 2018, with the second, larger building being completed by December 2018.

At the ceremony, President Kline spoke with Mr. Mast regarding the paving on Main St., which is to take place in the near future. They will also be addressing Franklin St. President Kline noted that payment would then be remitted to PTMA when that work is completed. Mark Koch is to contact Solicitor Mooney regarding the concern over the sitting fee charge for pipe location.

Mr. Wertz discusses the sinking issue over the sewer trench at the Franklin St. Bridge. Foreman Zimmerman noted he filled in the hole, which has dipped, but it has not broken out. Mr. Smith states that it is either a natural sinkhole or improper compaction. Concern is raised over having the roadway paved if there is an underlying issue. Solicitor Mooney states the matter should be looked into soon, as PTMA most likely has a contractor's warranty for the work. If the work would be deemed unacceptable, Council would need to enforce the conditions of the permit. **Foreman Zimmerman will contact Mr. Mast on that matter, as well as for the work on Second St.**

President Kline discusses the insurance company's increased valuation of the borough pole building and park bathroom. The increase in the yearly premium is \$62. Council has no issue with the increased premium.

Mayor Kepner asks if a will-serve water letter had been sent regarding the golf course project, with President Kline noting the letter had been sent some time ago. Mayor Kepner asks if the Shoemakersville Plaza's request for increased water capacity has been granted, with President Kline stating that the committee is in the process of reviewing the capacity calculations for three water requests.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline congratulates Vice President Botwright and her husband on the birth of their son, Connor James.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Leshner. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer