

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

October 2, 2018

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, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Steve Gilbert, Dana Smith, John Leshar, Dustin Remp – Mayor – arrived at 7:30 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Bradley Smith – Engineer, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Joseph Wertz, Jr.

Public Comment

Bob Fella (316 Hard Hill Rd. Hamburg): Has a bid in to purchase 539 Main St. He would like to turn it into a 3-4 unit apartment and asks if Council would be opposed. Solicitor Mooney states that Council can make a recommendation to the zoning hearing board to note if they are in favor or opposed to the action. Vice President Botwright is concerned with parking, with Mr. Fella stating that there would be fewer cars with the apartments than there was with the students and staff for the sheet metal school. Mr. Leshar notes there is parking in the rear and President Kline comments on the garage in the rear as well. Solicitor Mooney states Council could amend the ordinance and make it a use by right or exception, or Mr. Fella could file for a variance with the zoning hearing board. Council sees no opposition to Mr. Fella applying for a variance for the apartments, provided that all procedures and ordinances are followed.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): States that the road in front of his driveway is dipping down and that water pools on the road when it rains. He is concerned about ice and snow there when the weather is colder. He noticed an issue when the road cracks were tarred. He feels something is under the road causing the issue. **Mr. Zimmerman will look into the matter.**

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the water test results, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban Labs tested the water on September 12 at the water plant and New Era Logistics and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Requests and update on 17 Main St. Solicitor Mooney filed the paperwork with the court. Mr. Paine notes that a sheriff was at the property for about ½ hour then left. Solicitor Mooney states that the sheriff must make efforts for approximately one month to serve the property owner. Once that is completed, Solicitor Mooney will then file a motion for special service, which will require the notice be placed in the newspaper. He notes the bank has also not been able to make contact with the property owner. The grass was cut over a month ago, with no further contact from the property maintenance company for the bank.

Mr. Paine states that speeding traffic is still a concern near his home. He offers the use of his garage and driveway to view the speeders. He asks what the state police are doing when they are in the borough. President Kline states that the troopers do not provide a log sheet or report as to what is patrolled in town. Council and Mr. Paine discuss the troopers, with President Kline noting that **Mayor Remp will speak to the state police regarding speed enforcement in the area.**

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Notices & Permits:** Notices were sent regarding overgrown shrubbery, and for a dog running at large. Three permits were issued in September.
- **401 Pine St.:** The resident have not cut their grass or removed any junk. The next step is to file with the District Justice. Solicitor Mooney states that the property maintenance code ordinance has the fee scheduled included. For zoning, he notes that once the complaint is issued, after a 5 day grace period, the borough can charge \$500 each and every day, up to \$12,000. Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Zimmerman discuss the vehicles at the property.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Sale of Pool Property:** The buyer has requested to extend the closing date until June 2020. They were previously given 1 year to close. The buyer may have an issue with the development, as the Army Corps of Engineers has deemed the area a wetland. Council agrees to extend the closing date until March 31, 2019. **Solicitor Mooney will notify Mark Koch.**

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

- **USDA Loan Application:** Funding is available, however there needs to be clarification as to whether the authority or the borough would qualify for the funding.
- **Wolfe Dye & Bleach:** A meeting with Wolfe Dye & Bleach was held on September 13. A pretreatment questionnaire was sent to Wolfe Dye & Bleach for their completion.
- **Scum Pump Replacement:** A contract was sent to the borough for endorsement.
- **Clarifier Repairs:** Once the scum pump project is under way, the repairs to the equipment will be started.
- **MS4:** ARRO is working on the illicit discharge detection and elimination plan. Engineer Smith provides information on winter time pollution prevention that can be placed in the borough newsletter for MS4 public education.
- **Source Water Protection:** An additional meeting needs to be scheduled to discuss the Source Water Protection Plan.
- **Main Street Bridge Repair:** A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 4 at 9:00 a.m. at 16 Quaker Maid Rd. in Leesport with Penndot, to discuss detours and traffic movement during the closure of the Main Street Bridge.
- **Miller Street:** The project is currently scheduled to be completed in December 2019. The borough has the water and sewer work incorporated with the project and will be eligible for 75% reimbursement of the costs associated with the relocation work.
- **DCED Multimodal Transportation Grant:** The grant application was submitted for Apple Lane.
- **Penndot Multimodal Transportation Grant:** The grant application was submitted for Apple Lane.
- **Filter Beds:** ARRO has forwarded specs to contractors for quotes.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The borough office will be opening at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 10 for Ms. Wagner to attend the Berks County Secretaries Association meeting.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

Mr. Zimmerman would like to rent a hotbox from SealMaster for \$1,300 for one week.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to rent the hotbox for a cost not to exceed \$1,300. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman states that several trucks for the Miller St. Bridge project have been staging near the corner, causing traffic to back up on multiple occasions. They have also parked in a no parking zone in front of the borough garage doors. The trucks can be parked from the garage door down to 238 Main St. or on Main St., from Yoder Dr. to the bridge. Council discusses the matter, with President Kline stating that Mr. Zimmerman is to take pictures of the trucks and show them to the onsite PennDOT foreman, in an effort to deter the incorrect parking.

Vice President Botwright notes of the moss growing in the roadway in the 600 block of Main St. **Mr. Zimmerman is aware and will address the issue.** He is still uncertain of the source of the water, with President Kline stating that the water was tested and had no chlorine residual.

Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

Mr. Dietrich attended a DEP training class relating to the new enforcement of existing chlorine testing compliance procedures. Wells 4 and 5 are being rotated bi-weekly, to keep the increased production and lower the stress on each well. The line repair between wells 4 and 5 will be completed by the end of October.

The annual testing of the flood gates was completed for the control building and blower room. As one of the double seals doesn't stay inflated, Mr. Dietrich is checking on the availability of a replacement seal.

Testing for PCB's, which is \$3,100 per sample, was discussed at the pre-treatment meeting with Wolfe Dye & Bleach. Four tests per year for effluent are currently taking place, which is monitored by the DRBC. During the first 6 months of the year, a sample needs to be collected for PCB's during weather that has been dry for 72 hours, and also during a 24 hour rain event, with the testing once again needing to be completed during the second half of the year. The new tests are for the influent, monitored by the EPA. Engineer Smith notes that this is a requirement of the borough's NPDES permit. There is some effluent that is released into the river, so the influent testing is needed. The samples are taken throughout the system and can be divided into zones, to narrow down where the PCB's are coming from.

The control panel for the new scum pump was delivered, with the pump scheduled to be shipped on Friday. The refurbished grinder was returned and installed. Security cameras were installed around the sewer plant. Polymer was delivered last week. The purchase was over budget, however the sludge holding tanks are currently 80% empty. As Dissinger Enterprises is not interested in dealing with the stairs and walkway to the chlorine contact tank, Mr. Dietrich has requested a quote from another contractor.

Property/Streets/Sanitation Committee – Mr. Smith

President Kline was contacted by UGI to see if the borough had any issue with the proposed route for the new gas line. Council discusses the route, seeing no current issues. There is currently no time line set for the project.

Sewer Committee – President Kline

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to accept the revised quote from Blooming Glenn for a cost not to exceed \$24,500 for the scum pump. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Committee – President Kline –no report

Parks/Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

FreshLife has a large event scheduled for October 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the skate park. The event is sponsored by Vans. They will also be holding a Boards for Bros event at the park pavilion the same day. The purpose of the events is to raise awareness for the skate park and FreshLife, so that they can jointly help rebuild the skate park with the borough.

Trunk or Treat is October 31 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Vehicles should be at the park by 6:00 p.m. and will be required to stay for the entire event. Vice President Botwright notes that the movie Coco will also be shown during the event.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Vice President Botwright

Two members are needed for the zoning hearing board. A notice has been placed on the borough's website and Facebook page, and will be in the next newsletter. The stop, standing, and parking, and the dumpster ordinances are being reviewed and should be ready to present at the workshop meeting.

Employee Relations – President Kline – no report

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for September 18, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for October 2, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright attended the Berks EIT/TCC meeting and notes that there is a state regulation that municipalities may issue a tax credit to volunteer firefighters, in order to boost enrollment with the fire company. This will be discussed at the budget workshop.

Vice President Botwright has requested that anyone who has not already done so should send her budget figures by the end of the week. The water and sewer funds will be discussed at the October 16 meeting, with the general and highway funds being reviewed on October 23.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Trick-or-Treat will be Tuesday, October 30 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Fire police and the state police will be contacted for traffic control. The Junior Council Person application will be placed on the borough's website. The agreement with Met-Ed to place the Hometown Heroes banners on their poles will be discussed at the workshop meeting. Mayor Remp asks if there is an ordinance that prohibits motorcycles on the sidewalks. Mr. Zimmerman notes there is a state law, with Mr. Leshner stating that the first 5' in from the curb would be considered the sidewalk, in a case such as the sidewalk at Ollie's Tavern.

New Business

Solicitor Mooney notes that Doug Rauch states the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority is willing to negotiate a new lease for the sewer plant. Solicitor Mooney will draft a new lease and submit it to SMA for their review.

Old Business

Mr. Dietrich will be working a ½ day on October 10 and will be out all day on October 11 & 12. Ms. Brenner from ARRO will handle any emergencies at the plant.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer