

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

February 19, 2019

President Kline called the workshop meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 115 E. 9th St., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dana Smith, Dustin Remp – Mayor, Brad Smith – Engineer – leaves after Property Committee Report, and Chad Zimmerman – Borough Foreman – leaves after Property Committee Report.

Absent from the meeting: John Leshner, and Steve Gilbert

Public Comment

Delilah Remp (924 Main St.): Proposes a project of a Veteran’s Memorial walkway in the area near the little league ball field outfield. She would like to install a brick walkway with soldier’s names on the bricks. Families could sponsor the bricks, as well as a bench or one of the 10 cherry blossom trees that would line the walkway. The idea is to bring people to the community and to raise funds for a foundation. Ms. Remp would like to set up tables to sell the bricks at park events, which she would need to approach the Lion’s Club and Rec. Board about. Vice President Botwright states that the fundraising for the project would need to be kept separate from any borough finances. The non-profit organization would need to be registered with the state. President Kline recommends speaking with the Lion’s Club first.

Mayor Remp further discusses the brick walkway. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that any technical issues would need to be addressed, such as the area being an impervious surface. Engineer Smith and President Kline discuss a recharge bed for the area. Mayor Remp asks how the Veteran’s Monument in the park was funded, with Mr. Zimmerman stating that the Shoemakersville VFW maintained the area until the last member of the group passed away. The borough now maintains the monument. President Kline suggests replacing one of the established walkways in the park with the bricks. Mr. Zimmerman and Vice President Botwright note that the walkways need to remain ADA compliant. Mr. Zimmerman suggests placing the brick walkway near the Babe Ruth Field, leading to the already established memorial.

John Vargo (Conrad Siegel): Is the borough’s pension actuary and is present to discuss the January 1, 2019 Valuation Report. Mr. Vargo discusses the mortality table for public sectors, electronic filing for the Act 205 forms, and the borough’s pension plans valuation results. He recommends changing to the public sector life expectancy table, to increase costs, as people are expected to live a bit longer. He further recommends asset smoothing in order to increase asset value, as the liability of the plans is higher than the assets. Vice President Botwright asks if there is a legal funded ratio that the borough needs to hold, with Mr. Vargo stating that the borough is far from the ratio limit. He discusses both plans, noting that the non-uniform plan is well-funded, and healthy, while the police plan is not as well-funded. Mr. Vargo and Council discuss the funded ratios and estimated MMOs.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the borough president to accept Conrad Siegel’s recommendation of the SOA mortality table with smoothing, for the police, and non-uniform pension plans. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer’s Report

Engineer Smith presents the bid tabulation for the filter media replacement project, noting that Booming Glen is the low bidder at \$18,368. Mr. Zimmerman’s only issue with Blooming Glen is that there has been slow progress with their current borough projects.

Vice President Botwright would like to see wording in the contract that stipulates liquidated damages if the project is not completed within a specified timeframe. **Engineer Smith** also recommends not entering into the contract until DEP has given their approval. He will **contact Blooming Glen and DESCCO** to see how long the bid price will stand, so that the lowest qualified bidder can be awarded the contract.

Engineer Smith states that the mapping for the MS4 bioswale is complete. He is working with borough staff to draft a list of repairs to include with the televising quote. The pre-construction meeting for the bridge was today, with Mr. Zimmerman noting that the contractor provided a list of requested changes. It was reiterated to the contractor that the project is to be completed by June, before PennDOT begins their work at the Noble Ave. and Route 61 intersection.

President Kline attended a meeting with the Hamburg School District and the Berks County Planning Commission, who noted that the school district would like to speak with the school district's municipalities to form a joint planning commission. The Berks County Planning Commission will guide municipalities through the process for \$7,000-\$10,000 per municipality. President Kline asks if the borough is required to maintain a comprehensive plan, with Engineer Smith noting that the borough is not required to update the plan, but must periodically review the plan to be sure it is sufficient. Council and Engineer Smith discuss the option, deciding that **President Kline will contact the Berks County Planning Commission** to express the borough's interest.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Remp notes that the order to Elan City for the speed limit signs has been placed.

Mayor Remp requests assistance in completing the Met-Ed paperwork for the Hometown Hero banners. He is currently looking at 27 poles on Main St., 7 poles on Noble Ave., and 7 poles on Franklin St., all with lights. He would like to see the signs hang out over the street. President Kline states that some municipalities have them hang over the sidewalk, for roadway clearance logistics.

Mayor Remp is requesting the placement of speed limit or caution signs on Apple Ln., near the water plant, in an effort to slow down traffic. **Mr. Zimmerman will review the ordinance** to see if that roadway is noted with a specific mph. Otherwise, any non-posted road is 35 mph. Vice President Botwright recommends a "Caution, Plant Entrance" sign.

Mayor Remp registered the borough for National Night Out online.

Mayor Remp notes of his plan to become more vocal and active in fulfilling his mayoral duties. He would like to start a Resident Appreciation Program, in order to draw more residents to the monthly meetings. A certificate would be issued to a resident who shows a level of dedication to the borough. Council has no issue with the program, but notes that borough funds could not be utilized for any incurred expenses.

Even though PennDOT would require a traffic study to be completed first, Mayor Remp would like to see stop signs placed at 10th & Main Sts., as truck traffic will be increasing with all of the roadwork being completed in the area. Engineer Smith notes that both traffic volume and safety are the main factors for granting the signs.

Placement of a dog park near the borough pool is discussed.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

Mr. Zimmerman is waiting to hear back from Met-Ed, to determine if their utility light bulbs are eligible to be changed out to LED bulbs.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Zimmerman and Council discuss the initial quote from Folk Paving for work on 2nd St. Ms. Kennedy-Kline states that PTMA noted that since part of the area was already paved, and part was considered a driveway, that they are only willing to pave to a certain point and that the borough is responsible for the remainder. The borough is to recalculate what PTMA would be responsible to repair and submit that to them. President Kline discusses the borough's street cut permit, which states that the \$75 fee for up to 10 sq. ft. and the additional \$7.50/sq. ft. for anything over, is considered a deposit. Although the ordinance does not specifically spell this out, the deposit is to be returned once the restoration of the road is satisfactorily completed. PTMA deducted \$9,000 from cost of the restoration, as that amount was never returned to them. President Kline proposes taking into consideration the price for full restoration of the trench, as well as the cost to put down a wear course on the remaining area. Since PTMA authorized their vendor to mill the road without prior approval, the borough must now make repairs, and at a minimum, put down a wear course.

Mr. Zimmerman is to obtain an updated quote from Folk Paving for the trench and the laterals to be repaired to borough standards, and a separate quote for the entire wear course.

President Kline researched pricing on a new Master Meter water meter reader and asks if the borough can purchase the hardware separately, in order to save funds, and just install the new software on the unit. Master Meter will be contacted.

Vice President Botwright asks Mr. Zimmerman to work with Mr. Dietrich so that Mr. Dietrich can utilize his new e-mail address.

Mr. Roth's first week on staff went well. President Kline and Mr. Zimmerman discuss the borough's plowing schedule. Unless absolutely necessary and in order to reduce costs, Council would prefer that Mr. Dietrich be a back-up plow operator, now that Mr. Roth has been hired.

Mr. Smith notes that the waste hauler ran over a resident's flower pot at 3rd & Peach Sts. two weeks ago. Mr. Zimmerman notes that the flower pot was placed next to a telephone pole and in the borough's right-of-way, in an effort to deter the hauler's truck from continually running over the curb and sidewalk. Mr. Zimmerman notes his displeasure with the service provided by the waste hauler. Tamaqua Transfer's contract ends this year, with an option to extend for one additional year. Mr. Smith will contact Tamaqua Transfer regarding their service.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – no report

Water – President Kline – no report

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline – no report

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

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 February 5, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for February 19, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer