

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

July 2, 2019

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, Steve Gilbert, Tara Kennedy-Kline, John Leshner, Dana Smith, Dustin Remp – Mayor, Charles Haws – Solicitor, Edward Overberger – Engineer, Chad Zimmerman – Borough Foreman, and Melissa Wagner- Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Joseph Wertz, Jr., Michael Dietrich

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Asks if anyone has reviewed the repairs of the pillars at the Pigeon Creek Bridge, as it appears they have only cemented and re-troweled the area. President Kline states that they were only to blast and patch the railing, as the cost to recast the handrail would have been quite expensive. Mr. Zimmerman states that the majority of the work completed was underneath the bridge, to the supports and expansion joints. President Kline and Mr. Zimmerman discuss the rating of the bridge, with Mr. Zimmerman stating that the bridge is on a rotation to be inspected by PennDOT, and that they may address the bridge rating in their next inspection report.

Mr. Paine notes that the property at 214 Church Ave. continues to have high weeds. Mr. Zimmerman states that the property was previously posted, with someone having removed the notice from the building. The property has since been reposted, giving the property owner until July 10 to remedy the situation. Otherwise, the borough will take steps to lien the property. Mr. Paine asks if anything can be done regarding the numerous vehicles on the same property, with Mr. Zimmerman noting that as the property is classified as commercial and not residential, the vehicles are permitted to be there.

Mr. Paine states that investors from out of state are scheduled to purchase 17 Main St. A sale sign was up and removed the following day. A neighbor interested in purchasing the property is in communication with the lawyer for the land, as the property is not to be for an investment for at least 20 days once the property has been posted for sale. Mr. Zimmerman received a call from a contractor for the property, who wishes to make the building structurally sound. Solicitor Haws states that if a property were condemned for structural reasons, the owner would need to submit repair plans and a permit application to the borough. Mr. Zimmerman is to contact Bill Murphy for an update on the property. Mr. Paine states that there could be liability issues if the realtor enters the building to show it to a prospective buyer.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

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

- **Enforcement:** Eight notices were sent last month for weeds, vehicles, fireworks, and a barking dog, with the majority of the notices being addressed. The owner of the dog feels that he is being targeted by his neighbors, as they also all have dogs that continuously bark. His dog was also found to be running at large as well. Mr. Zimmerman notes that no complaints have been received for any other dogs in that area and that he has video of the specific dog that has been barking.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Haws

- **PTMA Release & Settlement Agreement:** Solicitor Mooney is waiting to receive feedback from Mark Koch. Ms. Kennedy-Kline states that there should be a deadline for PTMA to accept the offer if there is not already one in place. Mr. Zimmerman states that paving would not take place until September at the earliest. President Kline suggests contacting Donald Mast for an update.
- **UGI Right-of-Way Request:** Solicitor Mooney has no issues with the agreement and consideration.
- **Zoning Ordinance:** Solicitor Haws notes of the county planning commission's review letter noting of their comments and recommendations on the proposed ordinance.

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

- **Main St. Bridge Repair:** The construction was completed on June 17, 2019. The borough will need to file the necessary forms with the Commonwealth Financing Authority to close out the project.
- **Route 61 Betterment Project:** A PennDOT progress meeting was held on June 27. The current dates for the phases are:
 - Phase A 5/31-7/14
 - Phase B 7/15-8/2
 - Phase D 8/3-8/25
 - Phase E 8/26-9/13

PennDOT's contractor broke a sewer line and another contractor broke a water service. ARRO was present for the sewer line break and assisted staff with organizing the repair. ARRO completed and submitted the required report to PADEP. New Enterprise will cover the borough's repair costs. A copy of the invoices should be sent to PennDOT.

- **VLR #2:** ARRO received quotes for the project, with DESCCO having the lowest estimate of \$103,746.00. ARRO recommends awarding the contract to DESCCO. President Kline previously reviewed the contract and does not see any issues.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to accept the quote from DESCCO for the VLR#2 project, at a cost not to exceed \$103,746.00. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Sewer Televising:** Borough staff obtained pricing from Costars, for a cost of \$117,442.50, which consists of \$85,195.00 to line two sewers on Main St. and \$32,247.50 to televise the lines. Council will need to issue a notice to proceed to Utility Services Group, Inc. President Kline discusses funding for the project, as the sewer lining was not included in the 2019 budget. Mr. Zimmerman notes that when the lines were televised a few years ago, a section of Main St. was found to have an I&I issue, due to roots. Sleeving of the lines was discussed at that time. The lines were not done then, as paving of Main St. was being proposed. No action is taken at this time.
- **Filter Media Replacement:** The filter media was replaced and both filters are online and working. Staff has reported that all necessary results were sent to PADEP to close out the project.
- **Clarifier Project:** The clarifier is back on line. Blooming Glenn is addressing a few minor items to complete the project.
- **Skate Park Grant:** ARRO completed and submitted the grant application on May 30, 2019. The estimated cost of the project, which includes a new fence and play surface, is \$107,211.00.

This grant will require a match of 15% or \$16,081.65. DCED will review the applications over the next 6 months.

- **USDA Loan Application:** The application is on hold until the borough is able to work out the ownership of the sewer plant. Their next fiscal year starts in September.
- **Source Water Protection:** The plan is being issued by PADEP. Council discusses whether or not the borough is included in the county-wide plan.
- **PCB Pollutant Minimization Plan:** PADEP has approved the borough plan for the monitoring of PCB in the borough's sewer system. The borough has 60 days to start implementation of the plan. Testing will start this summer.
- **Miller Street:** Water line construction has been completed. The entire 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 for Penndot.
- **Wolfe Dye & Bleach Permit:** The permit was completed and sent to Wolfe.
- **DCED Multimodal Grant:** ARRO is completing a grant application for 2019 for Apple Lane.
- **MS4:** Outfalls were inspected on June 6, 2019. Staff was trained to conduct outfall inspections so the borough can do them next year. Maps of the drainage system were given to staff.
- **Sheetz Land Development:** Sheetz needs to return a signed maintenance agreement and bond to the borough and solicitor.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The Source Water Protection plan and brochures were received from Spotts, Stevens, & McCoy. Engineer Smith is looking into attending the August 7 MS4 funding & financing workshop at Ursinus College. The County planning commission has forwarded their reviews of the proposed zoning ordinance. Mr. Wertz will be reviewing the information and reporting back to Council.

A representative from Beirne Wealth is scheduled to attend the July workshop meeting to discuss the pension plan investments. The borough office will be closed July 4 & 5. The Lion's Club submitted an \$800 donation for the park. The summer newsletter is scheduled to be delivered on August 3. The deadline to include content is July 29. The Berks County Libraries group has requested to place a book display inside the borough office. Council has no objections.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

The speed sign has been working well. Mayor Remp discusses possible locations for the 3 remaining signs; the south end of Main St., at Franklin St. & Church Ave. and Franklin St. & E. Noble Ave. Mr. Zimmerman states that even though they are all borough owned roads, Penndot still needs to issue permits for the signs, as they are considered traffic control devices. They issue both temporary and permanent permits.

Mayor Remp states National Night Out on August 6 will be a joint effort with Hamburg. Food trucks, The Bridge Church, the Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, and the Hamburg Police, and Tilden Twp. Police Departments will all be present, as well as several other organizations. He plans to present the Hometown Heroes banner design that evening as well.

He further notes that any monetary donations received that evening must be applied towards the following year's NNO event. He and Vice President Botwright discuss funding for the event.

Mayor Remp and Council discuss Chesaco RV and the possibility that they may be moving to the old Peebles location in Hamburg.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

Mr. Zimmerman would like to send Mr. Roth to a CPO course at a cost of \$400, as he has expressed interest in obtaining the certification. Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Roth would attend the same training session in Reading on September 26, 2019.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to send Mr. Roth to CPO training for a cost of \$400. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright notes that the CPO license lasts for 5 years and the pesticide certification lasts for 3 years.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to send Mr. Roth to right-of-way pesticide recertification on August 13 for a cost not to exceed \$85. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

The rock wall has been installed at the pool.

Operator's Report

Mr. Zimmerman will be obtaining a price from Exeter Supply for the non-registering meter at well #6. There were 2 clogged sewer lines on Apple Ln. Mr. Dietrich contacted Captain Clog for one of the homes. The borough did snake the line for the second home and found an extremely small clog. Water still flowed through the line. The resident then called Captain Clog to snake her line. The technician stated that there was a clog in the borough's line and that she should seek reimbursement of the invoice from the borough. She submitted a copy of the slip to the borough, although there was a spill on the paperwork and the wording is not clear. Ms. Wagner is waiting to receive a clear copy from Captain Clog, along with a copy of what was found clogging the line.

Committee Reports

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith contacted the trash and recycling haulers to make them aware that Council is considering placing the contracts out for bid, as there are sporadic issues with the contractors. Eagle Disposal is looking into the issues. Tamaqua Transfer states that an employee on the borough's route was recently terminated.

Mr. Smith notes of the rough macadam that was left behind after UGI finished their line installations. Mr. Zimmerman discusses the temporary patch that was used and notes that UGI does plan to properly finish the roadway. Mr. Smith notes that according to the plans submitted, UGI plans to cut across the entrance way at 941 Main St., as well as the pool driveway. President Kline states that UGI will go behind the arborvitaes at 941 Main St. and 1001 Main St. and a corner of the pool driveway, and will come down the south side of the driveway on Main St. Council discusses the plans and the escrow submitted by UGI. President Kline and Vice President Botwright discuss access to the pool during the project.

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to accept the UGI right-of-way and consideration for along the pool property. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 1 no, with Vice President Botwright voting opposed.

Council discusses the sale agreement for the property behind the borough pool.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – no report

Water – President Kline – no report

Parks/Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Vice President Botwright states that the annual pool party will be held on July 17 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. BK Computers has mounted the final 2 cameras at the basketball court. The Lion's Club carnival will be held on July 12 & 13. The park program had their annual July 4 picnic today.

The new paint is chipping in the pool. Ms. Wagner is to contact Stoneridge for warranty information for the paint.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

The committee will be reviewing the county planning commission's comments and suggestions for the proposed zoning ordinance.

Employee Relations – President Kline – no report

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills for ratification for June 18, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for July 2, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve applications #3 & #4 for the Main St. Bridge Project, for costs of \$82,627.16 and \$71,346.17. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. These are the final payments for the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Council discusses the options for the employee's medical insurance renewal.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to move the borough employee medical insurance to UPMC Health Plan Small Business Advantage Gold PPO Plan beginning August 1, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Council reviews options for employee dental insurance, but makes no changes. Council briefly discusses the electricity contract renewal set for December 2019.

President Kline notes that the year to date budget is \$85,000 over budget for income and \$38,000 under budget for expenses.

New Business

Mayor Remp has forwarded the specifications for the Hometown Heroes banner hardware to Met-Ed. He also notes that the August monthly meeting will be held on August 7, due to National Night Out festivities being conducted at the park on August 6.

Old Business - none

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 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer