

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**September 3, 2019**

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the St. Luke's Church Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> & Franklin Sts., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:01 p.m.

**In attendance:** Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Steve Gilbert, Tara Kennedy-Kline, John Leshner, Dana Smith, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Bradley Smith – Engineer, Chad Zimmerman – Borough Foreman, Michael Dietrich – Sewer & Water Plant Operator, and Melissa Wagner-Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp

**Public Comment**

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Would like a status update on the proposed zoning ordinance. Mr. Wertz is in the process of incorporating the recommendations made by the county planning commission. Mr. Geschwindt asks if Section 621 applies to existing home occupations or if only new businesses established after the ordinance would be adopted, would be affected. Solicitor Mooney notes that the proposed section only applies to new home based businesses and that current home occupations would be considered an existing non-conforming use. Mr. Geschwindt notes that the ordinance states that all home occupations are subject to inspections, to monitor compliance with the ordinance. Solicitor Mooney states that as the enforcement authority, the borough has the right to conduct an inspection to ensure compliance. Mr. Geschwindt asks what other municipality's zoning ordinances were reviewed to draft the proposed ordinance, with Solicitor Mooney stating that Mr. Wertz managed the ordinance draft.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban Labs tested the water on August 7 at the sewer plant and the Kwik Shoppe, and that all results met the necessary requirements.

**Mark Paine (25 Main St.):** Would like to speak with Mayor Remp regarding the PA State Police's enforcement of speeding on Main St. President Kline notes that Mayor Remp will be arriving late.

President Kline asks Mr. Paine if he has noticed any activity at 17 Main St. Mr. Paine states that the property was sold and that the new buyer will be reaching out to Mr. Zimmerman regarding the building. Mr. Zimmerman notes that he did speak with the owner, who posed several questions regarding renovations and demolition. The owner was asked to submit plans for review.

**Rusty Wagner (Shoemakersville Fire Co.):** States that the tanker truck had a blown motor replaced, at a cost of \$32,000. The fire company has hired a new accountant. Council has no questions for Chief Wagner. However, Vice President Botwright notes that the deadline for any budgetary requests should be submitted to her by October 11.

**Rusty Wagner (11 W. Noble Ave.):** States that he continues to have drainage issue on his property. Water from the parking lot of the apartments at 510 Main St., and others, flows down the alley and washes out near his garage, with all the water draining onto his property. Mr. Wagner submits photos of the area and further explains the issue. He understands that this issue is included in a recent borough grant application, but he is seeking a short term solution to the problem.

He notes that he has brought this up to previous borough employees over the past 5 years and that if nothing is done, he would be filling to install a macadam barricade on his property. Solicitor Mooney states that if doing so, he would first need to obtain a stormwater permit. He and Mr. Wagner discuss the issue and debate the laws on the matter.

Engineer Smith mentions the two stormwater facilities in the borough, being on Water St., near 6<sup>th</sup> St. and at the end of Noble Ave. He notes that the grant results should be known by the end of the year. The cost projection for the drainage issue is about \$50,000. Ms. Kennedy-Kline states that most people are having drainage issues due to the significant amount of rainfall that has taken place over the last few years. She also notes that the borough's MS4 plan could be affected by any changes. She acknowledges the issue but notes that the borough needs to be fiscally responsible with the resolution. **Engineer Smith notes that he can outline a temporary solution for the workshop meeting.** He further states that the grant application addresses the driveway issue by including a design to convey the water down Apple Ln. A copy of design will be forwarded to Mr. Wagner.

### **Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman**

- **Permits:** Two permits were issued in August. One to install a new gas service and one for a fence.
- **Enforcement:** Notices were sent last month for having high grass, needing a dumpster, placing grass in the street, needing a permit for a home based business, an abandoned vehicle, and a camper parked in the roadway. All but 2 of the issues were resolved.

### **Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan:** The plan is discussed, with President Kline noting that he signed a letter of intent to join the plan in May.
- **Shoemakersville Municipal Authority:** **President Kline would like to schedule a conference call** with the authority and solicitors next week, to discuss the agreement and the transfer of the plant asset to the borough.

### **Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith**

- **Route 61 Betterment Project:** A Penndot progress meeting was held on August 1. The current dates for the phases are:
  - \* Phase D: 8/24 – 9/14
  - \* Phase E: 9/15 – 10/2

The borough should invoice the two contractors for the cost of the repairs for the water and sewer lines that were hit. A copy of the invoices should be sent to Penndot. President Kline, Engineer Smith, and Solicitor Mooney discuss what the borough should charge for an hourly rate, noting that the hourly rate + 15% is a feasible solution.

Mr. Leshar discusses his concerns regarding the catch basin and the handicap ramp at the project site. Engineer Smith notes that these items will be resolved when the final paving is completed.

Vice President Botwright asks if the light phases will be adjusted, as the current traffic back-up is of concern. Engineer Smith states that a new signal plan had been submitted. The light is unable to be adjusted during the construction phase, but will be changed once the project is complete. Vice President Botwright states that the equipment used to light up the work area shines directly into vehicles traveling on the roadway, with both Ms. Kennedy-Kline and Mr. Leshner noting that the workers at the intersection in the evenings are not able to be seen, due to the improper lighting. **Engineer Smith will contact Penndot.**

- **VLR #2:** DESCCO has been given the notice to proceed on the project.
- **MS 4:** The first annual report is due to PADEP on September 30, 2019. ARRO is preparing the report for submission.
- **Sheetz Land Development:** Sheetz needs to return a signed maintenance agreement and bond to the borough and solicitor. Their letter of credit for the project is being held by the borough until the agreement and bond are forwarded. Solicitor Mooney states that the borough has 18 months from the date of the project close out for any municipal repairs. Council, Solicitor Mooney and Engineer Smith discuss the issue.

### **Secretary's Report/Correspondence**

The County Commissioners will be holding a breakfast meeting on September 27 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mt. Pleasant Fire Co.

### **Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman**

Crack sealing has been scheduled for next week. The pool is closed and will be winterized in the next few weeks. The Miller St. Bridge project is scheduled to be completed between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

### **Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich**

Last month water leaks were repaired in the 800 block of Main St. The water tower draining and cleaning went well. On August 22, Mr. Dietrich met with Lance Adam, Dan Hershey and the foreman for the Hamburg Commerce Park, to discuss the upcoming water needs for the HCP. The PTMA booster station should be upgraded. The lines leading to the HCP need to be charged and pressure tested before filling their 300,000 gallon water tower.

As well 4 stopped pumping water, it was pulled on August 20. The motor was burned up and the pump was questionable. Both were replaced. Well 5 has been tripping and is being monitored.

The 6" roller on the belt filter press at the sewer plant was replaced. The pricing on replacement parts from Envirodyne was high. The contractor dug up a sewer line at Sheetz on August 12, while they were attempting to lower a water line that was hit the previous week.

Excelsior Blower serviced blower #3 and was able to correct 70% of the issues by replacing the bearings, bearing housings, and vibration pads. Axiom is scheduled to repair the remaining issue with the 40hp electric motor.

Axiom removed the return sludge pump for clarifier 2 for preventative maintenance. The internal parts of the pump are worn. The estimate to rebuild what was sent out is \$14,000. A new pump set up is \$17,200. They were asked to proceed with the new pump set up. There is a 7-9 week lead time for the pump. President Kline and Mr. Dietrich discuss clarifier use during this time.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith**

As the funds have been received from PTMA, the repairs on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. are scheduled for September 19-20.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline and Mr. Smith will review the list of street repairs for the 2020 budget. **Ms. Kennedy-Kline will contact UGI** to ask that instead of repairing their portions of Park & Franklin Sts., they contribute toward the borough's planned repair of the those streets, as those areas are on the proposed list of borough road repairs for 2020.

### **Sewer – Mr. Wertz**

President Kline notes of the conference call regarding the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to authorize Axiom to replace the vertical chopper pump for a cost not to exceed \$17,300. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

President Kline discusses the meeting at ARRO that he, Mr. Smith, Mr. Dietrich, Engineer Smith, Mr. Overberger, and Ms. Brenner attended. The three main budget items for the sewer system are the headworks/screening system, the blowers, and the sludge handling, with the sludge handling being the highest priority. **President Kline will speak with the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority** regarding funding. He also notes that approximately \$300,000 remains in financing from Customer's Bank.

### **Water – President Kline**

A representative from Suez/USG will be out on September 17 to discuss a well maintenance program.

### **Parks/Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline**

Trick-or-Treat has been scheduled for October 30 & 31. Trunk-or-Treat will be held on October 31.

The committee will review the park rules and regulations, so that signs can be made for the park.

Vice President Botwright has seen an increase in PA State Police patrols at the park.

### **Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz**

\*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to authorize Solicitor Mooney to incorporate the county planning commission's comments into the proposed zoning ordinance. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

### **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 August 20, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for September 3, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright notes of the upcoming electricity contract scheduled to expire in December 2019. President Kline states that the current supplier, NextEra has the best pricing. IGS comes in second.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt the 2020 MMO for the non-uniform pension plan, for \$29,083. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt the 2020 MMO for the police pension plan, for \$31,250. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright will send out the budget worksheets by the end of the week and asks that input on line items and projects be submitted to her by October 11.

### **New Business**

Mr. Dietrich requests that Mr. Roth and Mr. Mohn be sent to training on September 19 for water distribution tools, being instructed by Exeter Supply.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Leshner to have Mr. Roth and Mr. Mohn attend training at the Reading Area Water Authority on September 19, at a cost of \$95 per employee. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

### **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 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner  
Secretary/Treasurer