

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

November 5, 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, Tara Kennedy-Kline, John Leshar, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Bradley Smith – Engineer, Chad Zimmerman – Foreman, Michael Dietrich – Sewer & Water Plant Operator, and Melissa Wagner- Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Steve Gilbert

Public Comment

Bob Fella (316 Hard Hill Rd.): Asks for the status of the proposed zoning ordinance, with Mr. Wertz noting that the committee will be reviewing Solicitor Mooney's comments at the November workshop. Solicitor Mooney states that the main item to address is the portion of the ordinance relating to wifi. The borough must allow for different types of facilities in different zones. He further explains the regulations, and notes that he will **forward a sample ordinance section to Council**. Solicitor Mooney and Ms. Kennedy-Kline compare creating a stand-alone wifi ordinance to including the regulations in the zoning ordinance.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks if anything can be done regarding the sinking macadam by his driveway. Mr. Zimmerman will look into the matter.

Mr. Geschwindt recommends including the wifi matter in the zoning ordinance, so that a comprehensive ordinance is completed. He also requests uniform enforcement and not selective enforcement of the ordinance.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the results of the water report, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on October 2 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Discusses a recent accident near his home on Main St. He asks if the yellow curb line on Main St. could be extended, in order to give traffic from Front St. more visibility when turning onto Main St. Mr. Paine states that speeding on Main St. continues to be an issue. He and President Kline discuss the electronic speed signs. Mayor Remp feels that a majority of the speeders are due to the surrounding construction work. The situation may lessen as the projects are completed.

Mr. Paine states that the manhole depth is down about 1" - 1 ½" below surface grade, near the construction along Route 61, and asks if they will be raised. Mr. Leshar states that the project is to be completed in a few weeks. Any future issues with the work could be reported directly to PennDOT.

Mr. Paine notes that the new owner of 17 Main St. will be forwarding Mr. Zimmerman building plans for the property.

Corporal Thomas Moran (PA State Police): He was not involved with the previously mentioned accident on Main St., but notes that in order to cite a driver for speeding, timing equipment must be utilized. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes Council looked at various options to control speeding in the area, but that the

borough is restricted by PennDOT rules and regulations. **Council will look into other options to reduce speeding in the borough.** President Kline reiterates that PennDOT must approve any type of traffic calming device, and references a previous inquiry regarding a stop sign at 9th & Main Sts., which was not warranted.

Corporal Moran has parked near Mr. Paine's home on numerous occasions to observe traffic. He and President Kline discuss income from speeding fines, with Corporal Moran noting that the State Police are more concerned with safety and do not take anticipated revenue into account when enforcing regulations.

Corporal Moran notes that there is a police presence in town and reads a list of the types of calls in the borough over the last month. They are focusing on proactive enforcement, noting increased patrols will occur. A summary of calls will be reported to the borough on a regular basis.

Marianna & Ed Burns (379 Main St.): Their property continues to have drainage issues, noting that there was 5' of water in their basement after the storm on October 31. Their oil tank, furnace, and numerous equipment items were damaged. These damages are not covered by their insurance. The water is stormwater runoff from Pennsylvania Ave., 4th St., and Main St. The water flows from the roadway, onto the railroad owned property, runs along the rear of 379 Main St., and ends up ponding on their property. They have met with the railroad, who stated they would be speaking with their PennDOT representative, as it is affecting the tracks, but there has been no resolution. Eric Yoder and Matt Johnson with the railroad, and Rodney Rehnert from PennDOT were onsite in April to make an evaluation. Mr. Rehnert noted that the first step toward resolving the water issue would be to clean out the pipes and to work with the borough to address drainage issues and the water coming off of the roadway that is eroding the ground under the railroad ties. No one from PennDOT has made contact with the borough on the matter.

President Kline suggests moving the utilities from the basement to an out building, as a future option to protect the equipment. Mr. Burns, Council, and Mr. Zimmerman discuss the locations of the storm drains in the area. Mr. Leshner notes that it would be difficult to alter any of the roadway, as this portion of the road is owned by the state. An attempt will be made to schedule a meeting between the four parties to arrive at a resolution.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Permits:** Two zoning permits were issued in October. Mr. Zimmerman and President Kline discuss the sign for St. Luke's Church.
- **Enforcement:** Five notices were sent last month.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Shoemakersville Municipal Authority:** Solicitor Mooney is completing the agreement. He has not heard from Attorney Rauch on the matter.
- **Sale of Pool Property:** The buyer continues to move forward with the sample drilling.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith

- **Route 61 Betterment Project:** The paving is projected to be finished by November 12, 2019, with completion before the end of the year. PennDOT has been informed about raising the hydrant and exposing the valve box on Route 662.

- **MS 4:** ARRO is assisting the Berks County MS4 Committee with an educational video project. The plan is to prepare videos and have a contest for local schools to develop videos that can be posted on municipal websites.

PADEP has received permission to allow MS4 permit holders to take credit for projects that occur outside the planning area. They will soon be posting the guidelines.

- **H2O and Small Projects Grants:** ARRO has submitted information to the Berks County Planning Commission for three grants; valves for the water plant, blowers at the sewer plant, and for the headworks and solids handling project.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The office will be closing at 2:30 p.m. on November 14, and will be closed all day on November 15, and 27-29.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

As only one application has been received for the JCP program, Mayor Remp will continue to promote the initiative. Approximately 12 applications have been received for the Hometown Heroes Program. The first meeting for the Community Watch Program will take place in January.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

According to Devin Seibert at Penndot, the Miller St. Bridge should be open by Thanksgiving.

Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

In October, a tree fell on the power lines to wells #4 and #5 for the second time in two months, requiring the motor drive for well #4 to be replaced again. The 3" water meter for well #6 was delivered and installed. This has confirmed the reduced flow rate that is leaving the well building. As well #6 should be pulled, Mr. Dietrich is to contact Moyer Well Drilling.

The HCP filled their water tower, using over 300,000 gallons. JPI Painting looked over the malfunctioning mixer, stating that they will replace it as a precautionary measure, while the unit is still under warranty.

Last month the 6" x 100' hose was delivered for the Godwin pump. The aerator bearing on VLR #1 was replaced. The largest roller and two of the smallest rollers from the belt press were taken out for repairs and reinstalled. Axiom replaced the bearings on the electric motor for blower #3 and installed a new chopper pump for the sludge return on clarifier #2. As one of the two grinders in the wet will is having a bearing issue, a replacement has been ordered. On October 23, there was a power outage requiring the plant generator to run for 3 hours. Mr. Dietrich will be speaking with Eastern Propane to schedule regular deliveries to the plant, to ensure fuel is readily available for the generator. Duke's Root Control treated several sections of the sewer line that were expiring from the maintenance contract.

Committee Reports

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Ms. Kennedy-Kline discusses the road quotes from Folk Paving, noting that action cannot be taken until the concession comes back from UGI. Some of the quotes were over the bid threshold as well.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Related to storm sewer, Mr. Wertz asks if ARRO can develop a rough estimate for three street catch basins in the area of Main & 4th Sts. **Engineer Smith will report back.**

Water – President Kline

The surge suppressors for wells #4 and #5 will be replaced.

Parks/Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to approve the quote from Overhead Door to replace the doors on the concession building at the park, for a cost not to exceed \$17,000.00. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Judging for the holiday decorating contest will take place the week of December 16.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz will be following up with Solicitor Mooney regarding 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 minutes for October 29, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for November 5, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 124-2019, Designating officials to sign grant documents for the Headworks & Solids Handling Upgrades Project. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 125-2019, Designating officials to sign grant documents for the Replacement of Existing Pneumatic Valves at the Water Treatment Plant Project. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 126-2019, Designating officials to sign grant documents for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Blower Replacement Project. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to advertise the 2020 budget. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to exonerate the list of 2019 per capita exonerations. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wagner notes of the “Text to Enroll” free option with Code RED, where resident can text a keyword and receive the enrollment link for the borough. Vice President Botwright recommends the keyword of Shoey.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline has two quotes for the re-facing and roof work for the public works building. The work has been budgeted. The first quote to clean and re-point the masonry, paint the brick, and repair the roof is \$11,022.90. The second quote, which provided for an all metal front, is \$18,695.00.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to have Balton Construction perform the work at the borough garage for a cost not to exceed \$11,022.90. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. President Kline asks if a third quote is required.

Mr. Wertz and Solicitor Mooney discuss the bid threshold, with Mr. Wertz noting that contracts below \$11,100 require no formal bidding or written/telephone quotations. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 1 abstain, with Mr. Wertz abstaining.

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 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer