

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

July 7, 2020

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 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Tara Kennedy-Kline, John Leshner, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Edward Overberger – Engineer – leaves at 7:31 p.m., Bradley Smith – Engineer, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Chad Zimmerman – Foreman, Michael Dietrich – Sewer & Water Plant Operator, and Melissa Wagner- Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dustin Remp - Mayor

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks for an update on the Hometown Heroes banners, with President Kline stating that Mayor Remp noted in his e-mailed report that the banners are in production, with proofs being ready in 2-3 weeks.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the status of the proposed zoning ordinance, with Mr. Wertz noting that there has been no recent movement.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if there is any update about the proposed strip mall to be built next to CVS, with President Kline stating that the borough has not heard from the property owner. The same developer owns the land near the pool that was to be purchased, although Solicitor Mooney has not heard any feedback from the developer's attorney on finalizing the purchase of the property.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if Sheetz has followed up with the required documentation that was to be submitted to the borough, with Solicitor Mooney stating that they have not complied with sending the maintenance agreement and that the borough is still holding their money.

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

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Asks why trash was not picked up today, with Ms. Wagner stating that the office was not notified of any delay, but will inquire with the dispatch center on Wednesday.

Mr. Paine notes that the owner of the property at 17 Main St. submitted plans to the borough and has applied for a variance. Ms. Wagner states that the paperwork was incomplete and that once all necessary information is received, it will be forwarded to the zoning hearing board and a hearing will be scheduled.

Rusty Wagner (212 7th St.): Is present with Glenn Roberts and discusses the plans to build a post frame building for Kantner's Tire. He had previously spoken with Engineer Smith regarding the plans. President Kline and Mr. Wagner discuss the project, noting that the building would be outside of the 10' right of way of the borough's utility lines. Solicitor Mooney states that the borough can grant waivers from certain provision of the SALDO or could waive land development in total. Mr. Wagner states that there will be a cement floor and electric will be installed for lighting only. No sewer or water hook-up will be established. Engineer Smith will review the plans for stormwater concerns. Solicitor Mooney notes that Council makes the final decision for any waivers and that the planning commission serves as an advisory board.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Overberger

- **Proposals for WWTP Projects:** The timeline is the same for both the regular Pennvest loan and the Small Community Pennvest loan; submittal dates for this year are either August 5 or November 4. The application could be submitted in time for November 4, with Pennvest approval taking place at their January 20, 2021 meeting. Council would need to meet with Pennvest to discuss the project before submission of the application. If the headworks and solids handling projects were to be combined on the same loan, the borough would be able to apply any alternate funding received from November 4 until the end of construction/settlement, toward the projects, to reduce the amount of the loan.

If the projects were applied for separately through the small community loan, there is a slightly faster approval timetable of 60-90 days. A maximum of \$500,000 loan is available for projects that do not exceed \$1,000,000 in costs. Grants, extended terms, or additional interest rate discounts would not be available with this loan. Fees would be around \$70,000 more if the projects were kept separate. There could also be an increase in construction costs when the second project begins. Engineer Smith notes that the project must either have the DEP permit or be approved for the permit at the time of the loan.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to have ARRO complete the design phase for the headworks and solids handling projects at a cost of \$79,750. This would exclude the bidding and construction review. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Mr. Overberger asks Council to note either the specific ARRO PSA number or the date of the agreement, with President Kline noting the ARRO PSA number of 0520-PW03. Motion carried unanimously.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Enforcement:** Permits were issued last month for fences, a shed, and a dumpster. Six notices were sent in June, with all but 1 being resolved. The owner of the vehicle that is parked on 8th St. is having difficulty finding someone to tow the van. He has been given a 30 day extension. Ms. Kennedy-Kline recommends having the owner contact Always Towing. The rv that was parked on W. 9th St. was moved. The owner's son had a house fire and had been living in the rv.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Shoemakersville Municipal Authority:** Council's changes have been incorporated into the agreement. Solicitor Mooney and Council discuss the errors & omissions portion of the agreement.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith

- **VLR#2:** The project is on hold, awaiting delivery of the gear drive to complete the work. The rising stem for weir gate, repairs to the stainless steel brackets and the bearings for the VLR shafts were installed in June.
- **2020 Road Projects:** The base repairs to the roads are being completed by Folk Paving. AMS will be mobilizing to start work on the bituminous seal coat. An additional 624 sq. yds. of base repair was added to the contract for Apple Ln.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to ratify the action for the change order at an additional cost of \$8,125. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Backup Wastewater Treatment Operations:** ARRO is working with Mr. Dietrich for potential backup operations during Mr. Dietrich's absence. ARRO staff is becoming familiar with the SOPs and operation of the facility.
- **Growing Greener Grant:** An application was submitted to PADEP on December 20, 2019 for the borough's bioswale. Due to COVID delays, the application is still processing.
- **H2O and Small Project Grants:** Applications were submitted for a PA Small Water Grant for the valves at the water treatment plant, and a PA Small Sewer Grant for the blowers at the wastewater treatment plant. An H2O Sanitary Sewer Grant for the headworks and solids handling project was also submitted.
- **Parks & Recreation Planning Grant:** ARRO prepared and submitted a Community Recreation & Conservation Planning Grant Application to DCNR. The application requested \$10,500 to assist in paying for half the costs to develop a master site plan for the park. Engineer Smith notes the importance of contacting the state legislators regarding all grants. Project award has been pushed back to September.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

There is proposed electric facilities work scheduled at the railroad crossing on Route 61 in the area of Glen-Gery. Solicitor Mooney notes that they may not have known that the area is outside of the borough's boundary line, but simply sent the work notice in case the borough would have any facilities in the area. President Kline states the work will include an upgrade of the lines and the installation of fiber optics.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

President Kline notes of the mayor's e-mailed report. He further states that the photos for the Hometown Heroes banners had not been normalized and that the banner proofs may not be clear. Vice President Botwright has experience with this process and would be able to complete the necessary work, provided she has access to the original photos. She and President Kline discuss the required photo sizes.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes of the Community Watch Program meeting that was held at the fire company on June 27. As Council was not made aware of the meeting date, Mayor Remp will be asked to notify Council of any future meetings, so that it can be publicized. Mr. Paine attended the meeting and notes that those individuals that signed up for the program at National Night Out last year were contacted about the meeting. Solicitor Mooney notes that Council should also be notified of meetings, as borough funds have been budgeted to be spent on the program.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

Photos have been taken of the base repair on Apple Ln.

Mr. Zimmerman states that a pipe railing for the skate park's half pipe would cost \$1,500 while a pressure treated wood safety railing would be around \$200. Safety concerns of both materials are discussed.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to purchase and install pipe railing at the skate park. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Council has no issue with Mr. Zimmerman's request to have off on July 15.

Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

The swimming pool was filled and a sink was installed at well 1. The sink will aid in sampling and testing. Suez was out to complete their visual inspection of the water tower. Their report has not yet been received.

DESCCO finished bearing work and replaced the valve stem on a gate valve leaving VLR 2 at the sewer plant. The remaining item to be completed on the project is the gear box/reducer. A motor from Reading Electric was installed to replace the burned out electric motor, as the control panel for the belt press had blown fuses. Four foot wide belts on the press were replaced, although there has not been a visible improvement. These white belts appear to be slightly different from the green belts that had been purchased in the past.

Mr. Dietrich met with a representative from Young's Lubricants to obtain an evaluation on the specific needs of the borough's equipment. The water plant was adequate, but the sewer plant had mismatched grease. Jason Coyle from ARRO was at the plant twice for operational training and will be onsite two more times before Mr. Dietrich is away from July 16 – August 2. Flows at the sewer plant have been low. As Wolfe Dye & Bleach was closed the past week, grease and other heavy solids have accumulated in specific areas of the plant. Kline's was at the plant to pump out the areas before higher flows dispersed the material throughout the tanks. Mr. Dietrich and President Kline discuss the skimmer arm issue at clarifier # 2.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Solicitor Mooney has begun work on the trash and recycling contracts and will have the paperwork ready for the August 4 meeting. Several of the recycling requirements have changed.

Mr. Smith notes that the new heating/ac unit was installed at the water plant.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – no report

Water – President Kline – no report

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Vice President Botwright proposes the following rates for daily gate admission to the pool; Guests that attend with members would be \$10 for adults and \$6 for children & students. Guests that attend without a member would be \$15 for adults and \$10 for children & students. Approximately 25-50 guests could enter the pool daily, depending on the number of prior pool reservations for that day. Staff has been working with pool members to review the procedures for use of the slide.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to set the daily gate fee rates of \$10 for adults and \$6 for children/students when they attend with a current pool member and \$15 for adults and \$10 for children/students when they attend without a pool member. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright notes that season ticket sales to date are almost at what they were last year for the entire year.

There has been no noticeable drop off in park rentals for the season. The first rental is scheduled for July 11. Mr. Zimmerman discusses the new pavilion windows, noting that each one needs to be locked separately.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Vice President Botwright attended the recent Northern Berks Joint Planning Commission meeting. Future meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Perry Elementary outdoor pavilion. The commission plans to create a survey for area residents regarding roads and quality of life issues. Discussion took place on the basic demographics of each area, noting that there was a significant drop in the number of residents for Shoemakersville from the 2000 to the 2010 census, which was deemed an anomaly.

Each municipality is to edit their own area on an existing land use area map that was distributed. The borough was asked to hold off on the proposed borough zoning ordinance until the commission's plan for northern Berks Co. is finalized, in order to avoid any conflicting issues. President Kline notes that it was discussed at a prior meeting that each municipality wished to maintain control over its own zoning. Solicitor Mooney and Council discuss the zoning ordinance, deciding to move forward with the proposed 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 June 16, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for July 7, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Council discusses the employee medical insurance quotes received. Mr. Dietrich has also reviewed the information and does not see any significant improvements between the current plan and any of the proposed options.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to stay with the UPMC renewal plan. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Vice President Botwright notes that this is the UPMC PPO Gold Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Safety – Mayor Remp

President Kline discusses the Hometown Heroes banners, which will be 30" x 60'. Mayor Remp submitted a quote for 10-12 "Welcome to Shoemakersville" banners of the same size, to be inserted in between the banners with the photographs, as well as a 15' "Welcome to Shoemakersville" banner to hang across E. Noble Ave. in the area of Sheetz. Council feels that 2 or 3 smaller welcome banners when entering the borough would be more beneficial than the 10-12 throughout the town. The larger banner cannot be placed at the proposed location, as that portion of E. Noble Ave. is state owned.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer