

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

August 5, 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 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Tara Kennedy-Kline, John Leshner, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Chad Zimmerman – Foreman – arrived at 7:22 p.m., and Melissa Wagner-Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Joseph Wertz, Jr., Michael Dietrich – Sewer & Water Plant Operator

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): States there continues to be a water issue on Reber St., with water pooling in a crevice by his garage. The recent rain water has drained away, but Mr. Geschwindt notes that the area collects snow and ice in the winter. If the area were tapered properly, the water would drain away towards Chestnut St. He feels the issue could easily be fixed with macadam and would do so himself, but notes that the action would be illegal. **Engineer Smith states that typically it is not deemed an issue if the water drains away after 24 hours, but he will take another look at the roadway.**

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the status of the water report, with Ms. Wagner noting that Suburban tested the water on July 8 at the water plant and New Era Logistics and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Rusty Wagner (7th St.): Is the contractor for the proposed post frame building for Kantner's Tire and is present to answer any questions related to the project and the letter submitted to the office by the project engineer. The matter will be addressed during the zoning committee report.

Chief Wagner (Shoemakersville Fire Co.): Notes that there were few storm related issues in the borough. There was flooding on 7th St. at the dead end, which is typical during a rain event. A tree had fallen on a parked car on 6th St., with President Kline stating that the tree has since been removed from the vehicle. Chief Wagner states that several fire company vehicles were taken to Muhlenberg and Oley to assist with the flooding situation.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Asks if a notice will be sent to 214 Church Ave. as the grass and weeds are hanging into the roadway. President Kline states the matter will be addressed with Mr. Zimmerman once he arrives at the meeting.

Mr. Paine notes that the zoning hearing matter for 17 Main St. is moving forward, with area residents seeming to be in full support of the building.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Sale of Pool Property:** Solicitor Mooney notes that Mark Koch stated that the developer is still interested in the purchase of the property. He will let Solicitor Mooney know if the client has any changes to the agreement of sale. Solicitor Mooney and Vice President Botwright discuss the deadline for response noted in the agreement. **President Kline will speak with Perry Township supervisors to discuss the extension for the portion of the project located in the township.**

- **Trash & Recycling Contracts:** Mr. Smith has reviewed the specifications and notes of some date and option corrections to be made. President Kline discusses single stream, with Solicitor Mooney noting that single stream could affect the borough's grant funding, and that it may be better to keep recyclables separate. He has spoken with Jane Meeks in the county recycling office, who notes that the recent restriction of collecting certain recyclables, such as paper, appears to have ended.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to approve the bid specifications for the recycling and solid waste contracts. Seconded by Mr. Smith. The contract is for two years, with 2 one year possible extensions. Vice President Botwright states that the motion should include the changes requested by Mr. Smith. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

- **PTMA Water Agreement:** Nothing has been heard from Mark Koch regarding the water connection for Perry Plaza. A meeting between all parties is suggested. Solicitor Mooney and President Kline discuss the water connection. Solicitor Mooney states that if the service line to the plaza were to be turned on, the borough could either shut down the line to the township, which would terminate service to all Perry residents on that line, or send them a cease and desist notice. If the notice were ignored, the borough could then sue for injunctive relief. President Kline notes that PTMA is under a consent decree with DEP. The decree notes that when water becomes available, they have 60 days to connect. Water would not be available from the borough until the agreement is amended. The initial request from PTMA was for 3 edu's for the plaza. Previous requests to PTMA for edu calculation figures went unanswered. Solicitor Mooney and President Kline discuss edu's.
- **Shoemakersville Municipal Authority:** Council's changes have been incorporated into the agreement, which will be forwarded to Doug Rauch.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith

- **VLR#2:** The new drive unit was delivered to DESCCO, who is planning on returning to the plant this week to start installation of the unit.
- **Headworks and Solids Handling Design:** The ARRO design team and Mr. Wertz met at the wastewater plant to consider alternatives to the location of the influent screen location. ARRO is moving forward with an alternative location in front of the VLRs that will allow more variety in equipment options, allow for construction without interrupting day to day operations, will leave the control building undisturbed, and lead to lower long-term maintenance costs.
- **WWTP Upgrades Financing:** ARRO has begun an application for a Pennvest loan for the headworks and solid handling design, bidding, and construction, for \$1.3M. The application deadline is November 4, 2020. Complete design and DEP permits must be in hand prior to submission. The Pennvest board meets on January 20, 2021 for consideration and loan approval.
- **Road Projects:** AMS completed installation of the bituminous seat coat, but needs to return to sweep the streets.
- **Grant Applications:** Feedback on the various applications should be received closer to the end of the year.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The borough office will be closed from August 26-28.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp will be meeting with the new PA State Police station commander, Sgt. Sampson, on Friday. If a trooper is unavailable to attend a Council meeting to provide a report, which was the case for this meeting, a request will be made to have the report e-mailed to Mayor Remp.

Vice President Botwright has been resizing the photos for the Hometown Heroes banners, which are being worked on by the Rileigh's design team. She and Mayor Remp discuss the photos.

The Crime Watch Program has been renamed to the Neighborhood Watch Program. The second meeting held on August 2 was attended by ten people, which were all a part of the initial group that signed up for the program. The group has opted to go with the red Neighborhood Watch signs, with Mayor Remp noting that an order will be submitted for review at the workshop meeting. Mr. Smith and Mayor Remp discuss changing the meeting day, which will now be moved from a Sunday to a Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Next year's National Night Out event will take place on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

Mayor Remp states that Delani Remp may be resigning from her position as Junior Council Person.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to order three "Welcome to Shoemakersville" banners from Rileigh's for a cost not to exceed \$470. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Paine has been in contact with Mayor Remp regarding the increased police presence in the borough.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

Public Domain Areas: There are several paper streets that were never dedicated to the borough. Solicitor Mooney states that once 12 years has passed, the areas in question would revert back to the homeowners on either side. He states that for any paper street in a subdivision, any homeowner in that subdivision has a right of access over the throughway. A homeowner could have their property surveyed and file a quiet title action, to have the area behind their home made part of their property. Then the setback would be measured from that portion of their property back, keeping in mind that there must be right of access for neighboring properties. Even if a property owner were to obtain a quiet title deed and wish to build on the area, they could not utilize the entire alleyway, as neighbors cannot be denied access to their property. They would need to obtain permission from 100% of the neighbors in the subdivision, all waiving their rights to access the property.

Permits should be issued using the deeded property lines for setback and side lines. Mr. Leshner notes that the previous borough solicitor had discussed the matter, noting that Franklin St., Chestnut St., and Reber St. from Noble Ave. to 10th St. were all in the same subdivision. President Kline and Solicitor Mooney discuss closing the roughly 17 public domain areas in the borough, with Solicitor Mooney noting that a public hearing would be needed to close the areas. He further notes that the borough really could not close the streets if they technically never owned the roadways.

- **Enforcement:** A weed notice will be sent to the property owner of 214 Church Ave.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Recent Rain Event:** The Godwin pump at the sewer plant was prepared for use, although it was not needed. The wet wells got high but were kept under control.

Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

President Kline note that blowers #3 & #4 have been surging, and that when they surge they break. He further states that two of the intake valves were stuck and should have been actuated. He, Mr. Wertz, Mr. Coyle, and Mr. Dietrich will meet to discuss preventative maintenance for sewer plant equipment.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

The trash and recycling contracts were previously discussed.

The contractor will be out to sweep the streets included in the road project.

The UGI project is finished.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – no report

Water – President Kline

Well #3 communications is down. President Kline pulled the radio for diagnostic testing.

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

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Engineer Smith and Council review the Kantner's Tire building project. The SALDO notes that a land development plan is required. Engineer Smith and Council discuss the parking lot, pole building, and impervious surface area. President Kline submits a map of the area.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to waive the SALDO final land development plan requirement for the Kantner's building, per the HNT waiver request letter. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Vice President Botwright asks if the building will be over an area of part macadam and part gravel, with Mr. Wagner stating that the area is all impervious, consisting of packed millings and stone. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Smith notes that while the trench meets the requirements of the stormwater ordinance, no calculations were submitted. He does not recommend a waiver from the stormwater ordinance, as the borough is an MS4 community.

The county requires an E&S Plan submission if the disturbance is over 5,000 sq. ft. The initial plan incorrectly noted an area of 7,200 sq. ft. The proposed truck bay and stormwater trench will disturb 1,600 sq. ft. This matter is considered a non-issue.

Solicitor Mooney states that while not required, a pre-bid meeting would typically be held for questions related to the recycling and garbage contract. Due to COVID, he suggests that bidders e-mail the office any questions, with the responses being sent to all bidding parties. Council is agreeable to not holding a pre-bid meeting.

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 July 21, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for August 5, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright asks Council to begin making lists of projects and figures for the 2021 budget.

Safety – Mayor Remp – no report

New Business

Old Business

President Kline and Mr. Zimmerman discuss Clifford Weinhold, the substitute crossing guard who expressed interest in working part-time for the public works department. Mr. Zimmerman has reached out to Mr. Weinhold, but has not yet received a response. He will continue to contact Mr. Weinhold.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that the south side of the borough garage was not yet painted. Mr. Zimmerman states that the siding is scheduled to be removed and replaced.

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 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer