

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

September 1, 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, Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Chad Zimmerman – Foreman, Michael Dietrich – Sewer & Water Plant Operator and Melissa Wagner- Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr.,

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks if there will be a monthly report from the state police, with President Kline stating that they may not be submitting a report on a regular basis. Mr. Geschwindt would like to note of the speeding on E. Noble Ave., especially occurring on the weekends. Some vehicles have loud mufflers. Mayor Remp states that a trooper was scheduled to be at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the status of the water report, with Ms. Wagner noting that Suburban tested the water on August 12 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for an update on the proposed strip mall near CVS, with President Kline stating that he has not heard anything on the matter. President Kline notes that Perry Township did not extend the developer's initial plan submission. Vice President Botwright notes of a recent right-to-know request that was received for the history of the use of the land. There are no immediate plans for the vacant grocery store.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Has noticed a state police presence in his area. Mayor Remp and President Kline briefly discuss the electronic speed limit signs in the area.

Mr. Paine states that the zoning hearing is moving forward for the property at 17 Main St.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Enforcement:** Notices were sent for high grass, rocks in the public domain roadway, cut grass in the street, an enclosed trailer parked on the roadway, and the need for a dumpster permit.
- **Permits:** Four permits were issued last month for fences, a shed, and a parking space.
- **Zoning Hearing Board:** A hearing for 17 Main St. has been scheduled for September 9 at the borough office. The applicant is requesting a variance for side setbacks.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Trash & Recycling Contracts:** Five prospective bidders have obtained the specifications.

- **Shoemakersville Municipal Authority:** Solicitor Mooney is reviewing changes made to the agreement by Doug Rauch, who is attempting to schedule a meeting with the authority. Mr. Wertz is also to aid in the process.
- **PTMA:** The authority plans to reach out to Council after their September meeting. President Kline states that PTMA is in breach of their contract and would like Solicitor Mooney to send them formal notification. He further notes that water tested at the plaza was determined to be borough water. The water is being metered, although no tapping fees have been paid. President Kline has counted the plaza's EDUs at 10, with Engineer Smith calculating 10-13 EDUs.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to authorize **Solicitor Mooney to send notice to PTMA regarding their breach of the contract.** Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith

- **VL#2:** The contractor has completed the work and ARRO is preparing final close out of the project.
- **Headworks and Solids Handling Design:** The design of the project is approximately 60% complete. Direction is needed from the borough on whether to proceed with a dumpster-veyor versus a distribution conveyor and support. President Kline and Mr. Dietrich discuss which option is more appropriate for the facility. The project will move forward with a stationary conveyor with a moving dumpster.
- **Road Projects:** The project is completed. Final payment of \$130,295.10 and change order and close out documents are being sent to ARRO. The change order is a deduction of \$8,313.15 for quantity adjustments.

* A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to approve the AMS deduct change order for \$8,313.15. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The borough office will be closed from September 3 – September 7.

President Kline is looking into a new recording device for the meetings. The new device will be digital and have microphones.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the fire company. Sgt. Sampson or a state police representative will be present. Mayor Remp presents information and pricing for Neighborhood Watch signs. He and Mr. Zimmerman discuss placement of the signs. Council and Mayor Remp discuss the budget of \$1,000 for the program.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to purchase 15 Neighborhood Watch signs at a cost of \$41.15/each. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Council, Mayor Remp, and meeting visitors review and discuss the proposed "Welcome to Shoemakersville" banners. Mayor Remp has spoken to each application regarding the Hometown Heroes banners. He feels confident in the projected outcome of the banners and has completed their final review. He would like to have a ceremony for the banners, perhaps in mid-October.

Mayor Remp and Council discuss an installation plan for the banners, as well as their placement. Mayor Remp thanks everyone for their patience with the process.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

The soccer association has requested to use the field behind the pool, however there is a sensor installed on the property next to the area. Solicitor Mooney will contact Mark Koch to request the sensor be moved and to remind the owner that any divots that were created will need to be filled.

Operator’s Report – Mr. Dietrich

The effluent motor and pump for filter 1 at the water plant were replaced.

The gearboxes on VLR 2 were replaced and started up. However, the floor drain to the VLR tank is being filled with grit. Enough grit ended up in the drain to prevent future draining of the tank. Mr. Dietrich is to reach out to Kline’s to discuss the problem.

While the belt press was not operational last month, there was room available in the digesters to store the excess sludge. Rotted out rollers on the conveyor were removed, with the working ones spaced out to fill in the gaps. New rollers were made for the underside of the conveyor. The new belt is expected to arrive this week, with the hope that the press will be functioning next week.

The flood gates were tested and the chlorine contact tank was drained and cleaned.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes of the change order for the road project.

Mr. Smith contacted Met-Ed regarding the list of street lights that are out in the borough.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – no report

Water – President Kline

President Kline will ask Exeter Supply to refresh their quote for the valves, as well as add 4 additional air valves to the list.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The pool will close on September 7.

The Recreation Board will discuss Trunk-or-Treat at their meeting later this month. The thought is to hold the event on October 30, while having Trick-or-Treat October 30 & 31.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Vice President Botwright discusses the recent Northern Berks Joint Planning meeting, where geology and hydrology of the area was discussed. The proposed survey, focused on long term planning for the region, is almost complete and will be available at polling locations throughout the area.

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 18, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for September 1, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt the 2021 MMO for the non-uniform pension plan at \$30,441. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt the 2021 MMO for the police pension plan at \$31,250. Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright states that budget worksheets will be forwarded by the September workshop meeting.

Safety – Mayor Remp

Ms. Randazzo notes of the traffic congestion in the area of Keystone Military Families during their distribution events. Council discusses the matter, with Ms. Kennedy-Kline stating that she will reach out to the facility director regarding the issue.

New Business - none

Old Business - none

There being no further business, a motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer