

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Shoemakersville Borough**

**April 4, 2023**

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:04 p.m.

**In attendance:** Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves at 7:35 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:35 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager, Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Public Works, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dustin Remp

**Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman**

- **Permits & Notices:** Five notices were sent last month, with all still pending. In March, one zoning permit was issued for a patio and one building permit was issued for a pool.

**Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Wolfe Textiles:** The easement agreements are ready for Council’s consideration.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to accept the easement agreements for Wolfe Textiles, subject to final review and approval by Solicitor Mooney and Mr. Gruber. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the Council President to sign the waiver statement on the Wolfe final plan. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

**Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith**

- **Headworks & Solids Handling Construction:** ARRO recommends payment of application #9 for \$205,727.25.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve EECI payment application #9 for \$205,727.25. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

ARRO recommends approval of change order #5; the electric work for the existing polymer system was deleted from the contract and power to the door at the dumpster building was added. There is no change in price or time.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve EECI change order #5, with no change in price or time. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. President Kline asks if the overhead door is new or was missed, with Mr. Gruber noting that the electric was missed on the plan. Motion carried unanimously.

**Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner**

The borough office will be closing at noon on April 5 and will be closed on April 6 and 7.

**Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp** – not present – no report submitted

**Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber**

Mr. Gruber reports that the first GIS meeting will occur on April 12.

Mr. Gruber continues to work with Penndot representative Charlie Paris to draft the 2023 street repair bid package. The information will be ready for the April workshop.

Mr. Gruber presents a quote from Main Stream Industries for 2 push button solar pedestrian crossing signs for a total cost of \$3,700 to be installed at 4<sup>th</sup> & Franklin Sts. The signs will be ordered.

Mr. Gruber has passed his subclass 6 for water distribution exam.

Mr. Gruber notes of Mr. Senft's resignation from the borough, effective today. He was a quality employee. An ad will be placed to fill his position.

Mr. Gruber reviews the quotes received from Wiring by Wall for a new disc aerator for VFD 3 for \$3,895 for a new disc aerator for VFD 1 for \$3,895 and a potentiometer control upgrade for \$1,712. Council and Mr. Gruber discuss the quotes.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve Wiring by Wall Quotes Q23-0241, Q23-0242, and Q23-0243 for a total cost not to exceed \$9,512. Seconded by Mr. Grim. President Kline notes that there are 4 aerators, with 2 drives being replaced over the last 2 years. The new drives will give the borough all new current technology. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wertz and Mr. Gruber discuss a VFD on raw sewage pump #2. Mr. Gruber would like to include this in next year's budget.

Mr. Gruber and Council discuss the quotes received from Folk Paving for various areas at the sewer plant. Location #1 is beside the dumpster building and heading out of the gate. Location #2 is between aerator #1 and the fence. Location #3 is past the headworks structure, inside the fence and to the back of the fence. Council discusses the cost per location. Solicitor Mooney notes of the bidding requirements

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Folk Paving quotes for areas #1 and #2, at a cost not to exceed \$8,700. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reviews the water meter report spreadsheet, which lists all water meter locations. Vice President Botwright would like the report to include why some meters are not being read and for how long. Mr. Zimmerman notes that meters are typically not read due to either access issues or the need to replace the meter head.

Mr. Gruber reviews the quote of \$816.32 from Colonial Electric, for the new light pole and the fixture in the park.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Colonial Electric quote QT320296 for \$816.32. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discusses the quote from Exeter Supply, to replace the meters at wells #1 and #3. This will be further reviewed at the April workshop.

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

Mr. Smith and Solicitor Mooney discuss the trash contract which is up for renewal this year. Council and Solicitor Mooney discuss having a bag limit versus no limit.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to add the trash contract discussion to the agenda. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Solicitor Mooney to prepare a draft trash contract for the May monthly meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer – Mr. Wertz** – nothing to report

**Water – President Kline** – nothing to report

**Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline**

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that the egg hunt at the park on April 2 was well attended. She thanks Seth and Kelly Breon for running the event. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that moving forward, the Rec. Board will also be involved with the egg hunt.

\*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to hire Braden Fetherolf as a park leader, at a rate of \$10/hr. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports on the Earth Day event to be held at the park on April 22 at 10:00 a.m. Crafts will be available for kids.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that Children's Fair will be on June 3. The parade route will be shorter this year and will end at the park. Mayor Remp will need to approve the route.

\*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to add the cash donation for the purchase of bikes for the Children's Fair raffle to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to approve \$500 for the purchase of bikes to donate for the raffle. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Volunteers are needed for the event. Vice President Botwright discusses the sign-up link on Facebook. This year the fair will have a talent show and a magician present.

**Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz** – nothing to report

**Employee Relations – President Kline** – nothing to report

**Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright**

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for March 21, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for April 4, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 157-2023, approving the updated Emergency Operations Plan for the borough. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo**

Ms. Randazzo reports on the Shoey Strays organization, which is an online Facebook group created to aid with the TNR cat situation in the borough. The volunteers live trap the cats, transport them to be spayed/neutered, offer space in their homes for the animals to recover, and then release them back out to their area.

Jillian Hyde is present and notes that she began the online organization to further the efforts of resident Mary Jane Schlenker, to TNR cats in the borough. She also works with the Berks Animal Hospital, the Animal Rescue League and No Nonsense Neutering to schedule appointments, which are difficult to come by. She also suggests placing information on the TNR program in the borough newsletter.

Deb Driesbach from No Nonsense Neutering and Berks Cats in Crisis is present to discuss the cat population in Shoemakersville. She notes that from 2014 to now, 403 cats in the borough were fixed. This stopped approximately 3,630 future kittens from being born.

Alexis Pagoulatos is in attendance to represent the Animal Rescue League. The organization does have a low cost spray/neuter clinic, which conducts 30-40 procedures each day. The appointments fill up quickly. She provides information on how residents can humanely manage the cat population in the community, which she previously shared with Mayor Remp. She discusses the differences between owned and unowned cats.

Heather Messner also works with Ms. Hyde and is extremely involved in the TNR process. She has various resources that can be offered to the borough to aid in the process. She also discusses the SpayUSA program and notes that the borough may be able to apply for grant funding for the spay/neuter procedures.

Alexandra Young is present to discuss community outreach and the importance of the TNR program. She states that during COVID shutdown, procedures were not able to occur. Therefore, the cat population greatly increased. Organizations are still playing catch up to get the population under control. She recommends adding the TNR program to the borough's website.

Those present from all cat organizations are asked to forward their contact information and beneficial material, that can be passed on to residents, to the borough office. President Kline asks how the borough can further aid in the process, with Ms. Pagoulatos and Ms. Messner stating that the borough can continue to officer the vouchers and should also look into applying for grants.

### **New Business**

#### **Public Comment**

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Asks for the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on March 7 at the water plant and New Era Logistics and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt notes that Tractor Supply is scheduled to open in July and asks if the traffic light will be installed prior to the store's opening. Neither Borough Council nor Lance Adam are certain when the light will be in place. Mr. Geschwindt is concerned that the deliver trucks will drive through town and utilize Reber St. to access the store until the light is installed. He feels this is a major safety issue. Mr. Geschwindt will take photos of trucks in violation and forward the information to Mr. Gruber.

**Mark Paine (25 Main St.):** Thanks Mr. Gruber and staff for their recent work at the manholes by his home. He asks if weight or length limit signs could be placed on the south end of Main St., to deter tractor

trailers from driving into town. Council discusses the inability to post at certain locations. President Kline states that length limit signs can not be posted on a straight road, as the limit is due to turning radii.

Mr. Paine notes that several residents in his area are complaining of high water bills and asks if the rates were increased. Vice President Botwright reports that the water rates were not increased since 2014. President Kline has seen the recent Facebook posts and does not recall those residents either at a meeting or making a formal complaint on the matter.

Mr. Paine asks how the sewer plant project is being funded, with President Kline reporting the funds were obtained through financing. President Kline reports that the water rates for the borough are high, as the borough is a small municipality and has high iron and manganese that needs to be treated.

Mr. Adam notes that the Perry Township supervisors approved a donation to the Shoey Pool at their recent meeting.

**Old Business**

President Kline reviews the upcoming borough events listed on the agenda.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer