

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

April 7, 2026

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Mark Paine, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, David Kisha – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:23 p.m., Chip Haws – Solicitor – leaves at 7:23 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

Absent from the meeting: Joseph Wertz, Jr.

Code Enforcement, Zoning & Permits – Mr. Gruber

- **Notices & Permits:** The utility trailer parked on the roadway was removed. The borough will be billed for the work completed to remedy the sewage issue at 321 Park St.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws

- **Liquor License:** The updated resolution for the property at 600 Shoemaker Ave. needs to be signed in order to reflect the correct business name, as the applicant’s name initially provided by their attorney was not accurate.

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution 181-2026, transferring a liquor license to Star City Diner. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** The Borough needs to sign the agreement in order for the Notice to Proceed to be issued. A preconstruction meeting will be held on April 13.
- **LSA Grant for Park Electrical Upgrades:** The grant application was submitted for electrical improvements at the park pavilion, bathroom and bandshell on September 29, 2025. The grant was awarded to the Borough.
- **Well Analysis:** ARRO and Mr. Gruber are working on an evaluation of the wells. Information is being gathered on well usage, operation costs and additional information as part of the analysis.

Fire Chief’s Report – Chief Wagner

The county will be making a bulk radio purchase as was done in 2012. The radios would utilize encryption in order to allow Berks County users to communicate with Schuylkill County. While there was 0% financing for the last upgrade, the projected rate will be 4.7% if the municipality would sign the necessary agreements with the county and the fire department. The department has 33 portable radios and 10 mobile units that could be upgraded. Even with the 60% discount through the bulk purchase, the estimated cost would be approximately \$225,000. Chief Wagner further discusses the radios and costs. The County is in the information gathering stage and has given the providers 10 days to make a decision on whether or not they will be participating, with the departments needing to provide the requested information by April 13. Chief Wagner will update Council as the matter progresses.

Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closing at noon on April 20.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kisha

The PA State Police responded to 94 calls in the borough last month. The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m., where the members will be discussing the Children's Fair. Mayor Kisha will forward a list of members to the borough office.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber has prepared and loaded the 2026 Street Project to PennBid.

Mr. Gruber reports that the RAS pump #2 at the sewer pump failed and requires emergency work. Three new valves are needed to isolate the RAS pump. On Friday, Axiom will install two of the valves, one before and one after the pump will be installed, to isolate the pump so that it can be removed, rebuilt and reinstalled.

The generator block heater failed at the sewer plant and needs to be repaired.

Fire hydrants will be flushed on April 21 – 23.

As requested, Mr. Gruber has forwarded his ideas to decrease overtime to the employee relations committee.

Mr. Gruber reports that the concrete work at the pool has been completed. Mulching has been completed at the park.

Utilities – President Kline

Suburban sampled the water on February 3 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant, with all requirements being met.

Public Works – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Rec & Community – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Randazzo discusses DigiQuatics, an app that would track pool chemical usage, pool maintenance and aid in the scheduling of pool staff, at a cost of \$500/yr and would cover 25-30 users. The app would automatically send text alerts if an issue would arise with the chemical levels, etc. Vice President Botwright further details the app and reports that the current app used to schedule staff is \$300/yr.

*A motion is made by Mr. Grim to purchase the DigiQuatics app at an annual cost not to exceed \$500. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Randazzo reports that Barry Isett has agreed to waive their \$5,000 fee to complete the DCNR C2P2 grant application for the new pavilion, ADA parking and an ADA accessible path. The new pavilion will be closer to the Babe Ruth field.

*A motion is made by Ms. Randazzo to approve the PSA for Barry Isett to complete the DCNR application at no cost. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Randazzo reports that the next step is to apply for the DCNR Small Communities Grant for the new park pavilion, for a projected cost of \$170,000 with a \$70,000 match from the Borough. Vice President Botwright reports that the electrical upgrade work and any community volunteer hours can count towards the match. Chief Wagner recommends verifying whether or not one grant can be used as the match for another grant, as often times DCNR does not permit that. Vice President Botwright states that it is possible with certain grants and further reviews the grant matching process.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the DCNR Small Communities Grant application for the new park pavilion for \$170,000. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Vice President Botwright confirms for Mr. Paine that Barry Isett is waiving their \$5,000 fee. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Randazzo reports that the borough received the grant to update the electric in the current park pavilion. Vice President Botwright and President Kline discuss the upgrade and the associated match for the grant.

Ms. Randazzo notes that any content for the May newsletter should be provided to Vice President Botwright by April 10.

Ms. Randazzo notes of the \$2,500 donation request to Perry Township for their residents to receive the same season pass rate as borough residents.

Ms. Randazzo reports that the Spring Yard Sale will be on Saturday, May 16 from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Admin & Finance – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for March 17, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for April 7, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to sign the agreement with Arlan R Wessner Inc for the Borough Hall ADA Improvements project. Seconded by Mr. Smith. The start date is currently unknown. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Relations – President Kline

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve Donald Hinkly as a crossing guard at a rate of \$21/hr. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright is obtaining quotes for firms to update the employee manuals.

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks if any permits were issued last month, with Mr. Gruber reporting that a permit for a pole building was issued to the owners of 316 4th St. on March 26.

Mr. Geschwindt asks what DCNR stands for with Vice President Botwright replying the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.

Mr. Geschwindt asks when the electrical upgrade will take place at the park, as the Lion's Club member that previously handled electrical work for their July event has passed away. The work will be after the event, as the plans still need to be drawn.

Vice President Botwright notes of Larry Sundberg's email regarding the need for a Majority Inspector to work at the poll in Shoemakersville.

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer