

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

December 19, 2023

President Kline called the workshop 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, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes and Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person.

Absent from the meeting: Joseph Wertz Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor

Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber discusses Mark Koch’s requested letter of support for the Perry Commercial Center. President Kline made some minor grammatical changes to the letter, which would support the developer’s request for grant funding to construct Mocerri Dr. Council discusses the letter.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to submit a letter of support to the Governor’s Office for the Home Elite project. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

After thorough review of the phone and internet invoices, Mr. Gruber reports that the borough would have a monthly savings of \$1,277.80 if Council were to sign with Comcast for upgraded internet speed and phone service, to only have local calling on the alarm systems for the sewer and water plants and eliminate the phone service at the garage and park. Phone service would remain unchanged at the pool. Council discusses the borough office phone service through Comcast.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to approve Comcast Business Service Order Agreement #37145442 for a 36-month term. Seconded by Mr. Smith. President Kline asks if Council would then need a motion to terminate Verizon. Mr. Gruber states there are no renewal terms noted on the Verizon and AT&T invoices. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that he and Mr. Kee discussed ARRO’s quarterly retainer invoice for the borough, with both agreeing that the option is no longer needed. This will result in an annual savings of \$4,265.00. Vice President Botwright reports that the retainer was in place in the event a back-up operator was needed for the sewer plant.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to discontinue using ARRO as the back-up sewer plant operator. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grim thanks Mr. Gruber for his cost saving measures for the borough.

Mr. Gruber discusses Mr. Geschwindt’s call to the PA State Police regarding a tractor trailer that drove over the corner of his property and ran over the “No vehicles 30 feet or longer in length” sign. The sign has been removed and a new sign will be installed next week. Mr. Gruber is waiting for a return call from Penndot regarding the placement of signs on Noble Ave., facing east and west, as a preliminary warning that no vehicles over 30 feet in length are permitted on Reber St.

Mr. Grim reports that the fence for the garden center at Tractor Supply appears to only have 4 feet of clearance to the grass line, instead of the agreed upon 10 feet. President Kline notes that Chief Wagner approved a 10-foot clearance from the fence to the property line, which would include the trees along the edge.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith – nothing to report

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss the Master Meter laptop. Mr. Gruber reports that Exeter Supply took the unit apart and located an improper connection which was corrected. The laptop is now working properly.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The Santa in the Park event on December 16 went well. Judging for the holiday decorating contest will take place on Thursday.

Vice President Botwright is working with DCNR to extend the deadline for the grant. The park is being surveyed.

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

Employee Relations – President Kline

President Kline reports that Mr. Mohn passed the sewer operator's exam. The results of the Category 24 exam for Mr. Methax have not yet been received.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for December 5, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for December 19, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright notes of the scheduled Wednesday meeting with M&T Bank to review security processes for the accounts, as well as the ability to process ACH payments for vendors. She further reports that the money market accounts will be changed to liquid asset accounts in order to receive a higher interest rate.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Randazzo reports that one vendor has inquired about advertising in the borough newsletter. She will speak with Solicitor Mooney as to whether or not Council needs to vote on the advertising rates.

New Business

President Kline discusses the year end financials which currently show a +\$25,000 income across all accounts.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that her bookkeeper received a call from Mike Hoffert at the Fire Company. President Kline notes that Ms. Kennedy-Kline reached out to Chief Wagner and made contact with her bookkeeper the night of the meeting and that no feedback was received. She reached out a second time with the same result.

Chief Wagner was told that when Ms. Kennedy-Kline's bookkeeper was in, they would call him for discussion. Chief Wagner did not respond after repeated attempts at communication. President Kline states that while Chief Wagner has been completely neglectful in his obligation to respond to Council, he has delegated the matter to Mr. Hoffert.

President Kline reports that after the recent water main break, Mr. Wagner reached out to Mr. Gruber and expressed his displeasure that he was not contacted about helping with the break, and that he plans to submit Right-to-Know requests on how much the borough is spending on water main breaks. President Kline notes that Mr. Gruber and Mr. Methax had previously made arrangements with Kuzan's for 24-hour access to equipment, as Mr. Methax is certified to operate the required equipment. He further states that Mr. Wagner is spreading information through the fire company on the matter, referencing a comment made by T.J. Walters during a recent discussion on road repairs.

Mr. Nabar discusses the SAFER Program, which is a FEMA program to provide funding to fire companies.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Grim to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer