

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**December 3, 2024**

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, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:42 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:42 p.m., Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person – arrived at 7:24 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Tara Kennedy-Kline

**Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber**

- **Permits & Notices:** Mr. Gruber continues to work with the resident at 604 Main St. regarding vehicles on her property.

**Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Sale of Pool Property:** Vice President Botwright asks for an update on the sale, with Solicitor Mooney stating that he will reach out to Mark Koch. Council discusses the extension that was granted. Ms. Wagner reads part of an email from Mark Koch which states that they are working on getting the pool parcel completed so that the property can be closed with the borough prior to the end of the year.

**Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee**

- **DRBC Docket Renewal:** Mr. Gruber asks if Mr. Kee has received the required renewal fee payment, with Mr. Kee responding that he has possession of the check.
- **LSA Grant for Blower Replacement:** The application for the replacement of the blowers and related improvements at the wastewater plant was submitted. President Kline discovered a mathematical typo/error on the paperwork and reviews the information with Mr. Kee.

**Fire Chief’s Report – Deputy Chief Tobias & Chief Wagner**

President Kline and Chief Wagner discuss the increase in outdoor burn calls over the past month. The burn ban has been lifted.

Chief Wagner received a call from Tractor Supply’s engineer, who requested an onsite meeting with him to evaluate access around the side of the building that was discussed in the review letter she received. The letter notes that the fire chief is to sign off on the matter. Chief Wagner informed her that he was unaware of the inspection which generated the letter and has no recent information related to Tractor Supply. Vice President Botwright reports that ARRO performed the inspection. Mr. Kee concurs and states that he forwarded the inspection results to Mr. Wertz and Mr. Gruber as had been past practice. He apologizes that the report was not forwarded to everyone.

Council discusses why Chief Wagner was contacted, with Solicitor Mooney referencing comment #4 in the review letter, which references the fire lane. Chief Wagner mentions NFPA studies that can be completed to determine the turning radius of fire trucks in relation to fire lanes.

President Kline reads from the letter and notes that Tractor Supply moved the fence in and created a one lane dead end egress that leads to the propane tank. As this is different from the plans, the fire chief is to submit a determination in writing as to whether or not the lane is acceptable. Chief Wagner states that the original plans showed the area as a drive through for tow motors. President Kline believes the review letter incorrectly listed the space as a fire lane rather than an access lane.

Mr. Grim asks why the building requires a second water source, with Vice President Botwright stating that the matter had previously been reviewed on several occasions. Chief Wagner questions the requirement for a second water source as well, as there was only one water source needed when the elementary school was rebuilt. If the water is shut off between Chestnut & Reber Sts. due to a water main break, the school will not have water service. Mr. Kee reports that a second water source is needed due to the building size and the change in use. Vice President Botwright notes that the pool was to be considered a second water source, as there is water present in the 12' area of the pool.

President Kline voices concerns on the review letter, stating that Mr. Di Martini has still not specified the NFPA sections or codes which require a second water source. He also notes that a component of the fire suppression system has not been serviced since 2013. President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss who is onsite during the inspections. Mr. Gruber reports that Louis West confirmed that all items were addressed, however during Mr. Gruber's last site visit, the padlock was still on the emergency exit door and the man gate on the fence was padlocked and swinging in. An emergency exit sign is needed on a double door inside. **Chief Wagner will forward the Tractor Supply engineer's contact information to Mr. Gruber. Mr. Kee will convey to Mr. Di Martini the need to specify sections and codes.**

#### **Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner**

Ms. Wagner reports that the borough office will be closed on December 10 and 24-27.

#### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp**

Mayor Remp and Mr. Grim discuss the 58 calls on the PA State Police report for November.

Mayor Remp will be ordering new Hometown Heroes banners for 16 damaged veteran banners, 1 Welcome to Shoemakersville banner and 1 new veteran banner. President Kline asks for contact information for the Raleigh's representative, as there are issues with LED bulbs purchased last year.

Neighborhood Watch Program members volunteered at the November 23 distribution event held by Keystone Military Families. Mayor Remp will provide a list of the 2025 meetings at the January Council meeting.

#### **Operator/Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber**

Mr. Gruber reviews the Ferguson quote of \$13,903 for 10 meters, 50 registers and 50 stopper pins.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve Ferguson Quote #0001 for meters, registers and stopper pins for \$13,903. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline asks how many of each are needed, with Mr. Gruber noting 10 meters, 50 registers and 50 stopper pins. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that the garage roof continues to be in need of repair. Mr. Kee states that the structural inspection report is being finalized and will be forwarded by the December workshop.

Mr. Gruber states that the John Deere tractor is in need of tires, a joystick, a fuel injector pump and a clutch. A John Deere service technician will be onsite on Wednesday to inspect the tractor.

Mr. Mohn has commendably identified all outdoor ground valves at the sewer plant.

Mr. Gruber will monitor the next electric bills for the sewer & water plants to determine if procedural changes have decreased the usage and costs.

Mr. Gruber reports that the water plant needs a new actuator. The current unit in place has failed and is being operated manually. He has obtained a quote of \$3,844.60 for a new actuator. There is no backup unit on the shelf.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the purchase of 2 electric actuators similar to the unit described in LB Quote 2025021 for a cost not to exceed \$7,689.20. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that the wells are operating fine even with the drought conditions.

Mr. Gruber states that the items for Santa in the Park will be moved to the park pavilion this week. President Kline confirms with Mr. Gruber that the bathrooms will not be winterized until after the event. The sink in the pavilion will be repaired.

**Junior Council Person's Report – Mr. Nabar** – nothing to report

Solicitor Mooney reports that due to a retirement in his office, he will not be able to attend meetings on Tuesdays and asks that Council consider moving meetings to Wednesdays. Mr. Kee is unavailable Wednesdays. Council reviews options with further discussion to take place at the December workshop.

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

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

**Water – President Kline**

Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on November 5 at Bell Trucking and the water plant and all requirements were met.

Mr. Smith is able to provide duct seal to Mr. Gruber for the condensation issue at the water plant.

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

Vice President Botwright reports that Santa in the Park will be on December 21. The holiday decorating contest will take place from December 16 -20.

Vice President Botwright and Mr. Gruber discuss alarm calls for the pool that she and Mr. Methax have received, which note of an ac power failure during the weekly tests. **Mr. Gruber will investigate at the pool and if necessary, reach out to the alarm company.**

**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 November 19, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for December 3, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the 2025 budget. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Ordinance 467-2024 setting the 2025 real estate tax rate at 8 mills. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Ordinance 468-2024 setting the 2025 water rate at \$14/1,000 gallons. A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to table the adoption of Ordinance 468-2024 for further review. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 170-2024 setting the 2025 refuse rate at \$135/quarter. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 171-2024 setting employee contributions for the non-uniform pension plan at 0%. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

**Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo** – nothing to report

### **New Business**

#### **Public Comment**

**Collin Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Thanks Mr. Gruber for replacement of the sign that was hit at the corner of E. Noble Ave. & Reber St. Mr. Geschwindt, Council and Mr. Gruber discuss the time of the incident and possible costs for remedial measures, such as breakaway posts, bollards and barriers. Mr. Gruber states that if the handicap ramp curbs were involved the cost would be higher. **He will reach out to an LTAP representative for input.** Vice President Botwright reports that a resident on social media stated that he obtained video and the trailer and truck numbers. The truck appears to be from Schneider. Chief Wagner recommends not using a solid barrier for the sign, as it could rupture fuel tanks on trucks if the sign were hit.

Leesport Council Member Carl Moyer (did not sign in) is present and notes that trucks hitting signs and even traffic lights in the area is unfortunately not uncommon.

A motion is made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer