

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

February 15, 2022

President Kline called the workshop 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., and Paul Gruber - Manager

Absent from the meeting: Dustin Remp - Mayor

Mayor's Report – nothing to report

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber and Council discuss direct deposit for employee paychecks.

Mr. Gruber discusses changing the cell phone provider to AT&T, noting that in order to receive the best rate, the borough would need to have autopay for the monthly invoices. That plan would be \$35/phone for unlimited service. Mr. Gruber will speak with a representative at the Hamburg AT&T store for further information.

Mr. Gruber discusses the most recent draft of the T-Mobile lease agreement, noting that the revenue will continue to increase 3% annually. T-Mobile initially requested to receive 24 months notice if the borough would request removal of equipment. They have agreed to a 12-month notice.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to generally approve the draft T-Mobile lease agreement as provided, which will have a final review by T-Mobile. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discusses the Hach renewal quote for \$4,097.38. A tech was at the plant today to calibrate the turbidimeters, which are being phased out. He also reviews the Hach quote for newer equipment. Mr. Gruber notes of the EPA's requirement to conduct calibration of turbidimeters at least every 90 days. President Kline and Council discuss the quotes and calibration of the obsolete turbidimeters.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Hach quote ending in 2v1 dated February 2, 2022 for an amount not to exceed \$21,500 and to include the recommended accessories and services. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. President Kline notes that Hach is a Costars vendor. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the annual service contract with Hach, as described in the January 12, 2022 quote. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Mr. Wertz amends the motion to include an amount not to exceed \$4,100. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber and Council discuss Mr. Gruber's trash collection service vs. borough owned equipment report. Mr. Fager reports that according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics' website, in PA, the mean wages for refuse collection is \$16.92/hr. to \$17.68/hr. President Kline notes that several drivers are receiving an increase in pay due to Covid.

Mr. Grim expresses concern over who would remove the trash if the borough's truck would be down for repairs. Mr. Smith notes that some truck companies provide loaner trucks if necessary. **President Kline asks Council to send their individual thoughts on the subject to Mr. Gruber.**

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith discusses his recent phone call with Mr. Zimmerman, who noted that handicap ramps should be upgraded to be ADA compliant if a road were to have major repairs. Mr. Gruber further explains what type of road repairs would require an upgrade to the ramp.

Mr. Gruber has been in contact with Engineer Smith, who is waiting to hear back from Charlie Paris and Mr. Paris' supervisor, regarding the 2022 road project.

Mr. Grim and Mr. Gruber discuss the pothole situation in the CVS parking lot. Mr. Gruber sent the CVS property maintenance company photos of the potholes.

Mr. Zimmerman reported to Mr. Gruber that a large truck recently turned onto W. Noble Ave. and had a difficult time navigating the right turn onto Water St. Mr. Gruber anticipates an increase in truck traffic to Premier Trucking on 869 Water St. in Perry Township, as the business will now be manufacturing truck bodies. Mr. Grim recommends placing directional signs to Premier, in an effort to reduce the larger trucks from traveling on smaller roadways. Mr. Gruber suggests contacting Premier to ask that they give drivers a proper route of travel. Mr. Gruber and Council discuss options and whether or not the street ordinance would need to be amended.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

On behalf of the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority, Mr. Wertz has been asked to draft a letter to PTMA regarding the status of the headworks project, and to note that the plans show for the abandonment of a portion of PTMA's new line and the installment of a manhole, as well as a reroute of effluent into the new screening facility.

The SMA authorized a payment to the borough, once the proper borough account has been established.

Water – President Kline

President Kline will be replacing booster pump #1, as it is currently not operational.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Chris Kline has resigned from the Recreation Board.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to appoint Jessica Harley to the Shoemakersville Recreation Board. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Grim inquired about Ms. Harley, with Vice President Botwright reporting that Ms. Harley is a borough resident that submitted a letter of interest about joining the board. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that at the next Recreation Board meeting to take place on March 7, the board will be announcing the Children's Fair theme. The board has also scheduled a Scibble tournament for March 25 at Ollie's Tavern.

Vice President Botwright has also begun advertising for lifeguards.

President Kline reached out to Raleigh's for bulk pricing on holiday lights, as they are currently having a sale. President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss the amount of each color of garland for the candle and tree lights.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz, Ms. Kennedy-Kline, and Mr. Gruber met last week to review the sign portion of the zoning ordinance. Mr. Gruber will send his comments back to Mr. Wertz and Ms. Kennedy-Kline.

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 February 1, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for February 15, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Randazzo is working on the guide for new residents.

New Business

Public Comment

Sean Fager (600 Main St.) – did not sign in

Has noticed an increase in trash and uncrushed cans falling from the backs of the trash/recycling trucks each week.

While working for the borough, Mr. Fager notes of complaints he has received from residents regarding the potholes at CVS.

Mr. Fager notes that since the ADA complaint handicaps were installed near his home, the rainwater now travels onto his sidewalk and sometimes over the sidewalk and into his basement, and never reaches the storm grate. He asks if there is any way to remedy the situation.

Old Business

President Kline briefly discusses Hamburg's Pine Street project. Mr. Wertz notes that wellhead protection would be a standalone ordinance, which the borough does not currently have in place.

Vice President Botwright and President Kline discuss the public hearing for the Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan. This matter will be added to the beginning of the March 1 meeting agenda.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer