

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**February 17, 2026**

President Kline called the workshop of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:01 p.m.

**In attendance:** Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Mark Paine, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz Jr., David Kisha – Mayor and Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes

**Blue Mountain Wildlife – Gregg Adams**

The group owns the lease to the Kernsville Dam property, which is comprised of 252 acres of land to the northwest of Hamburg. Mr. Adams provides an overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kernville Dam Recreation Area Draft Master Plan. Preliminary discussions note that once the dam is removed, the property would be turned over from the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation to DCNR Bureau of Forestry, who would like to make the area game lands. BMW however, would like the area to be turned into a regional or state park.

The plan is comprised of 3 parts: Noting what BMW has done with the Kernville property, detailing the history of the area, and listing what improvements BMW would like to make.

Mr. Grim asks if studies were completed to determine how removal of the dam would affect the river levels. Mr. Adams details the dam removal process, with his understanding that there will be no impact downstream. He further reviews the 23 improvements that BMW would like to make to the area. BMW would like to potentially partner with the state or several municipalities in order to keep the project moving forward, as volunteerism has drastically reduced.

The public comment period for the plan is February – March. In April, the comments will be reviewed with the plan being adjusted accordingly. BMW will then visit the stakeholders in May to present the updated plan. A letter of support would be requested at that time. Mr. Adams and President Kline discuss how social media will be used to inform the public of the plan.

**Mayor's Report – Mayor Kisha**

Thanks Mr. Gruber for providing a tour of the WTP and WWTP to him and Mr. Paine.

Mayor Kisha has received the Neighborhood Watch materials from Mr. Remp. Mayor Kisha will oversee the bank account for the group, as the organization is separate from the borough.

**Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber**

Presents and reviews a spreadsheet of operational costs for the WTP and WWTP. Mr. Gruber continues to work with Mr. Kee regarding water production costs. Council and Mr. Gruber review the data.

Mr. Gruber has reviewed the costs for Eurofins to provide environmental testing for drinking water and wastewater and has determined that it is more efficient to continue with SPL.

Mr. Gruber reports that a crossing guard is still needed.

Mr. Gruber reports that a previous quote of \$1,899.99 was received for a TS 800 Cutquik saw. As that saw is no longer available, the cost of a TS 910i saw from Kuzan's would now be \$2,200 noting of a discount down from \$2449.99. Council reviews the costs and saw options. Mr. Paine spoke with an employee from Kuzan's who noted that they would offer the TS 910i to the borough for \$1,999.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the purchase of a Stihl TS 910i saw for a cost not to exceed \$1999.99. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Mr. Paine asks if the borough is tax exempt, with President Kline stating yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber notes that the cost of an ultrasonic meter and accessories for the wastewater plant has increased from \$7,761.43 to \$8,206.93.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase an ultrasonic meter for the effluent tank from W. G. Malden at a cost of \$8,206.93. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Mr. Gruber notes that additional supply chain surcharges of \$393.33 will be added to the metering equipment. Mr. Wertz amends the motion to a cost not to exceed \$8,750. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

**Utilities – President Kline** – nothing to report

**Public Works – Mr. Wertz** – nothing to report

**Admin & Finance – Vice President Botwright**

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for February 3, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for February 17, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

**Employee Relations – President Kline**

A crossing guard is needed.

**New Business**

Mr. Gruber contacted Mr. Wertz regarding sewage coming from the cleanout of 321 Park St. onto Pennsylvania Ave. As the property owner did not make the necessary repairs and cleanup of the property as noted in his letter to them, Mr. Gruber contacted R.D. Contracting to perform the work, as they are less expensive than Essig. If the property owner does not pay the invoice within 30 days, the borough will contact Barley Snyder to place a lien on the property.

Mr. Gruber recommends increasing the monthly Industrial Waste Surcharge for Frontline Fabrics from \$50 to \$100.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to increase the Industrial Waste Surcharge fee for Frontline Fabrics from \$50 to \$100 effective March 1. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

**Rec & Community – Ms. Randazzo**

Mr. Grim presents his recommendations for upgrades to the borough website. He reports that the borough has \$500 in credits for website work that will expire in May. CourseVector recommends submitting any changes to the website by the end of March, so that the changes can be completed before the contract period renews. Council discusses the suggestions.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer