

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

February 1, 2022

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

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves at 7:46 p.m., Charles Haws – Solicitor – leaves at 7:46 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Public Works

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman – nothing to report

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws

- **Pennvest Loan:** Has received the notarized debt statement and borrowing base certificate. The next Pennvest conference call will take place in March.
- **T-Mobile Tower Agreement:** Solicitor Haws and Mr. Gruber discuss the agreement. Solicitor Haws will speak with Solicitor Mooney regarding his feedback on the matter.

- **Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan:**

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to amend the agenda to add approval of the advertisement of the public hearing for the Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to advertise that the Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan will be presented at the March monthly meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline asks if each municipality must advertise and have their own meeting, with the case being yes. Vice President Botwright and Solicitor Haws discuss the possibility of holding the hearing and adopting the plan at the same meeting.

Vice President Botwright amends the motion to include adoption of the plan in addition to advertisement of the plan, at the March monthly meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith

- **Headworks & Solids Handling Bidding & Construction:** The project was advertised for bidding. The pre-bid meeting will be held on February 8 at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Office. The cut-off for questions is February 15 at 3:00 p.m. Bids are due through Pennbid by 10:00 a.m. on February 21. The next meeting with Pennvest will be on March 2.
- **Paving Projects for 2022:** The project can be bid as soon as approval from Charlie Paris at PennDOT is received.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize ARRO to bid the project once Penndot approval is received. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

- **WWTP Upgrades Financing:** The first meeting to discuss the schedule for bidding and settlement was held on November 10, 2021. The next meeting to discuss bid results is March 2, 2022.
- **Park Grant:** ARRO received a review letter from the Berks County Planning Commission for the grant. Vice President Botwright has uploaded all required information to the appropriate website.
- **Wellhead Protection Ordinance:** The ordinance is being considered for inclusion into the zoning ordinance.
- **PCB Pollutant Management Plan:** ARRO reports that PADEP wishes to see movement from municipalities in finding sources of PCBs.
- **Capital Improvements Plan:** ARRO will assist the borough manager as needed to update the plan.
- **Hamburg Land Development Plan:** Hamburg has a land development plan that falls within the borough's source water protection area. The county has recommended that the borough review the plans and offer comments, as the area is located in one of the borough's wellhead protection zones.
- **Traffic Study for a 4-way Intersection:** Ms. Kennedy Kline discusses a resident request to change the 2-way stop at Franklin & 4th Sts. to a 4-way stop. Council and Engineer Smith discuss the requirements for a traffic study to be conducted, which include the need for 300 vehicles to pass through the intersection in any 8-hour period. Council will utilize the data from the electronic speed signs. Engineer Smith notes that a professional engineer would need to submit the information, but that the borough could complete some of the research. There are different requirements for a 4-way stop as opposed to adding just a single stop sign where none previously existed.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The 2021 borough audit will take place this week.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

PSP Corporal Beam is present to address resident concerns.

James Heckman notes of an incident whereby \$400 was found in the 800 block of Main St. and was turned into the State Police, and feels that the resident who turned the money in should be recognized.

Mayor Remp reports that there were 59 calls in January in the borough. President Kline and Cpl. Beam discuss utilizing private property for troopers to park and watch for potential traffic violations.

Cpl. Beam reports that troopers are in the borough several times each shift, but that call response times can vary depending on other ongoing incidents. Unfortunately, they are operating at minimum manpower. However, he reports that the call volume in the borough is lower than in Schuylkill County.

Mr. Grim asks for information regarding the 911 hang-up calls at a location 2 days in a row. Cpl. Beam will need to research the call.

Vice President Botwright and Cpl. Beam discuss calling the State Police versus the Dog Warden for matters, with Cpl. Beam stating that the State Police may be able to handle dog matters if the warden is unavailable.

Nine Hometown Heroes banner applications have been received ahead of the March 1 application deadline. Mayor Remp and Council discuss and approve accepting applications for Perry Twp. residents as well.

The 2022 Neighborhood Watch meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Office on February 5, April 9, June 4 (at 9:00 a.m.), September 24, October 15, and November 12. There are approximately 13 members, with 6 or 7 members present at each meeting.

Mayor Remp attended a Cub Scout meeting on January 31, to discuss community service and leadership. He asks Council to review the scouts' responses to the question "How would you handle residents that do not clean up after their dog?" after the meeting, to pick the best response and to possibly post this in the next borough newsletter.

Operator's Report - Mr. Dietrich

The raw water pump for filter #2 has been making intermittent noises. Mr. Gruber has received information from Axion regarding repair and replacement costs, which he will forward to Council on Wednesday.

The RAS pump is still working.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber has received a proposal for propane from Eddinger Propane of \$2.04/gallon, with the price locked in and never rising. The borough's current supplier charges \$2.76/gallon.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the payment of \$1,250 to Boyle Fencing for repairs to the fencing at the water plant. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. President Kline recommends contacting the insurance company to file a claim.

Mr. Gruber reports that there continues to be issues with the First Net cell service when accessing borough emails on wifi. Pricing from AT&T is to be obtained for service.

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

The Shoemakersville Municipal Authority conducted the first of 4 quarterly meetings last month. Funds are ready to be issued to the borough once a specific account is established.

Water – President Kline

A water leak was repaired on Water St.

President Kline and Mr. Gruber will discuss the valves needed at a later date.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to advertise for summer employees in the Reading Eagle and The Merchandiser. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline clarifies that the ad is for pool and park employees. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that the Recreation Board will be meeting at the Borough Office on February 7.

Vice President Botwright has loaded all information for the current phase of the park grant onto the DCNR website.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz reports that he has received 5 sample sign, banner, and flag ordinances from Vice President Botwright. The remaining item to address in the ordinance is inclusion of the wellhead protection information. Council discusses the matter, with **President Kline stating that he will reach out to Engineer Smith for further guidance on the wellhead protection inclusion.**

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 January 18, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for February 1, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to appoint Larry Sundberg to a 3-year term to the Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright asks if any visitors present would like to join the hearing board, while President Kline explains the duties and process. Mr. Billman expresses interest in joining.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to appoint Gary Billman to a 3-year term to the Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that the new Berks EIT website is up and running.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

The committee is working on creating a welcome packet for new residents. The packet could include a list of local businesses, borough meeting schedules and ordinances, and information on signing up for Code Red.

New Business

Chief Wagner discusses the process for updating the fire company's run cards, which are used by the county to determine which trucks and fire companies will respond to specified borough calls.

For future meetings, Chief Wagner requests to be moved closer to the beginning of the agenda, as the monthly council meeting falls on fire company training night.

Chief Wagner provides information on fire company operations, and requests that Council consider allocating some of the borough ARP funding to the fire company. Council and Chief Wagner discuss fire company financing, training, and the new storage facility that was installed to create increased revenue.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to modify the agenda to include allocation of ARP funds to the fire company. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to allocate \$8,000 of ARP funding for the firefighter training budget. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Mr. Smith asks Chief Wagner for the training budget for fire police, which is currently unavailable. Mr. Wertz amends the motion to allocate \$10,000 of ARP funding for firefighter and fire police training to the fire company. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. President Kline and Chief Wagner discuss the typical budget training amount. Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks if this amount should be considered the fire company's allocation of the ARP funding, with Mr. Wertz replying no. Vice President Botwright further notes that these funds are in addition to the \$30,000 budgeted amount allocated to the fire company. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks about the agenda item for the Hamburg Borough Pine Street LD, with President Kline stating that this was discussed during the engineer's report, noting that there will be development in Hamburg that could affect the borough's source water.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the results of the water report, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on January 5 at the water plant and New Era Logistics and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if the proposed Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan is available on paper, with Vice President Botwright reporting that only electronic copies are available. The plan is also available on the borough's website.

Old Business

Mayor Remp states that the Hamburg mayor's schedule has increased, and that Mayor Holmes has expressed concern that Hamburg businesses have not fully recuperated enough to donate funds for National Night Out. Mayor Remp and Council discuss moving the event to the borough park, which Mayor Remp will discuss with Mayor Holmes.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer