

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

February 3, 2026

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:03 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, David Kee – Engineer, Chip Haws – Solicitor, Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

Code Enforcement, Zoning & Permits – Mr. Gruber

- **Notices & Permits:** The monthly list of permits issued is included in the meeting packets.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws

- **Amending Meeting Agendas:** Vice President Botwright confirms with Solicitor Haws that Council may now add items to the agenda during the meeting, provided the motion is approved by a majority vote, with the updated agenda being posted after the meeting. Solicitor Haws reviews the case law.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** Bids will be received on February 27. One contractor has asked about the cost of the permits, with Council noting that the fees will be waived.

Fire Chief’s Report – Chief Wagner

There were 62 calls in January. The truck committee is considering the purchase of an engine/tanker truck that has become available and is \$300,000 less than they had anticipated spending, as the original company backed out of the contract. As all but 1 of the storage units are rented, they are considering moving the fence to gain four more 40’ slots.

Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The Blue Mountain Wildlife presentation will take place at the February 17 workshop.

The borough office will be closed on February 13 & 16. Council has no issue with Ms. Wagner’s request to close the office at noon on February 18.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Kisha

Met with Sgt. Mengel. Sgt. Mengel will give advance notice when he attends a future borough meeting, so that the public can be made aware and attend to discuss their concerns.

Mayor Kisha will be taking over the Neighborhood Watch Program, with the next meeting being in March.

Dustin Remp will continue working with Mayor Kisha on the Hometown Heroes Banners Program, highlighting the 250th Anniversary of the United States, in an effort to further promote the program. The program may then close after this round.

Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber

Requests Council approve the C.M. High proposal of \$250 for annual preventative maintenance for the traffic light/controls.

President Kline presents and briefly reviews the updated Council committee list.

New Business

Public Comment

Gary Billman (730 Main St.): Mr. Billman cleared the snow from the sidewalks at his apartment building during the recent storm. The new apartment owner stated that as there are regulations that their driveway must be kept open to the sidewalk, the owner had the driveway plowed open, pushing snow into the road. President Kline reports that the owner can be sent a notice stating that snow may not be placed in the streets.

Mr. Billman and Council discuss the removal of snow when it plows closed sidewalks and handicap ramps. This can be difficult to clear, as the snow becomes compacted and hardens in this cold weather. The borough plows have rubber edges, which cannot clear snow down to the street.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks for the outcome of the zoning hearing, with Mr. Gruber stating that the board ruled in favor of Billy Blankenbiller.

President Kline reports that Suburban Testing Labs sampled the water on January 6 at Bell Trucking and the water plant, with all requirements being met.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the C.M. High proposal for annual preventative maintenance for the traffic light, at a cost of \$250. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve and sign the Intergovernmental Agreement for the UCC Board of Appeals. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for January 20, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for February 3, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Mr. Paine asks how to determine what bills are being paid, with Vice President Botwright stating that the list of bills can be accessed using the meeting link that is forwarded to Council the Friday before each meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire Marjorie Quirin as a crossing guard at the rate of \$21/hr. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline asks when she can begin work, with Ms. Wagner noting immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that the next Rec Board meeting will be on February 19, to discuss the 75th Children's Fair. As volunteer assistance has been quite low, the group will also discuss whether or not this will be the final year of the fair.

Vice President Botwright notes that the next newsletter will be mailed out in the near future.

Vice President Botwright and Mr. Wertz will be meeting with the consultant from Barry Isett on February 25 to discuss additional grant opportunities for the park.

Vice President Botwright asks if door-to-door signage needs to be posted for boil water advisories if the Code Red System is not used. Mr. Gruber replies that the affected sections of the borough were notified and that everyone will be made aware when the boil water advisory is lifted. Some calls may have been missed.

Ms. Wagner notes that due to the large amount of non-working phone numbers, the majority of Code Red calls for the snow emergency did not go out. Ms. Wagner is working with Code Red to resolve the issue.

Mr. Grim asks for details on the water main break at Chestnut & 5th Sts., with Mr. Gruber reporting that an entire valve needed to be replaced. The repair scheduled at Main & 9th Sts. for 11:00 p.m. this night will not require a boil water advisory. The affected residents have been notified of the possible low pressure.

Mr. Gruber and Vice President Botwright discuss what occurs for a boil water advisory to be issued, with Mr. Gruber stating that whenever positive pressure is lost and residents would not have any water, an advisory is needed. If the repairs can be made under pressure, then an advisory is not required.

President Kline discusses the 4 vehicles that were towed during the snow emergency. The owner of one of the vehicles, which was disabled, contacted Mr. Gruber, asking him to pay a portion of the towing bill. Mr. Gruber was cursed at by the resident through voice mail and emails. Before the vehicle was towed, Mr. Gruber offered his assistance with equipment and manpower to relocate the disabled vehicle. President Kline states that Mr. Gruber is not required to make any payment. The snow emergency notice was put out, with the vehicles not being towed until 5 hours later. Ample time was given to move the vehicles.

Ms. Randazzo notes that 2 of the vehicles were parked near her home and that she witnessed Mr. Gruber make every attempt to locate the owners of those vehicles, in an effort to not have the cars towed.

Vice President Botwright heard the discussions between the resident and Mr. Gruber while the vehicle was being towed and notes that the resident was belligerent while Mr. Gruber remained civil. Council further discusses the matter.

Mr. Gruber discusses the recent water main breaks and snow removal projects, stating that he will include as many details as possible regarding the incidents in his emails to Council. He and Ms. Randazzo discuss the continued use of Facebook, as Ms. Randazzo is able to update the borough's page. Vice President Botwright mentions the plan in place to notify residents, with Mr. Gruber noting that the Emergency Response Plan will be updated.

Mr. Gruber reports that Exeter Supply is able to supply parts afterhours and will not charge any additional fees, provided the borough picks up the order.

Mr. Gruber will be speaking with Suburban Testing Labs to inquire about a 24-hour turn around time for water samples when a water break is involved. He notes that the samples must be on ice and only have an 8-hour hold time, so samples cannot be taken in advance.

Vice President Botwright asks Mr. Grim for an update on the website revisions, with him noting that he continues to work on a mock-up site, which will be more cell phone friendly.

Mr. Smith thanks borough staff, R.D. Contracting and Perry Township for their work on the water main break, where they remained onsite until 1:00 a.m.

Mr. Grim and Mr. Gruber discuss the age of the water valves. Mr. Paine and Mr. Gruber discuss replacement of the valves, with Mr. Gruber noting that each repair and replacement is noted in the GIS, which is updated by Mr. Holbert.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer