

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

January 3, 2022

Mayor Remp called the reorganization meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline, Amy Botwright, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Doug Kopp – Engineer, Tim Malloy – Solicitor, Dustin Remp – Mayor, Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Foreman, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Mayor Remp calls for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Remp opens the floor for nominations for President and Vice President of Council.

*A motion is made by Ms. Botwright to nominate Mr. Kline for President of Council. Seconded by Mr. Smith. No other nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to nominate Ms. Botwright for Vice President of Council. Seconded by Mr. Smith. No other nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Remp turns the meeting over to President Kline.

President Kline reports that there are currently 3 vacancies on the Recreation Board and asks if any visitors are interested in filling a position. Perry Township resident Josh Krick is present and would like to sit on the board.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to appoint Ms. Kennedy-Kline, President Kline, and Josh Krick to 5 year terms to the Recreation Board. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

President Kline states that there are 2 openings on the Zoning Hearing Board and asks if anyone is aware if Larry Sundberg or Larry Hoffman are still interested in remaining on the board. No one has heard from either individual. He asks if any visitors are interested in sitting on the board. Borough resident Seth Breon is present and would like to sit on the board.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to appoint Seth Breon to a 3 year term to the Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

President Kline states that there are 2 open seats for the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority. No visitor interest is expressed.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to appoint Barry Bennecoff and John Santilli to 5 year terms to the Municipal Authority. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

Enforcement: Two applications were received last month; one for a shed and the other for a fence, which is currently pending. He and Mr. Gruber drove and around town, noting that several letters were issued last month for violations.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Malloy

- **Pennvest:** Presents Ordinance 458-2022, which amends Ordinance 457-2021. The updated ordinance notes that the funds to repay the loan will be a guaranteed revenue note and not a general obligation, as previously noted.

* A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Ordinance 458-2022, amending Ordinance 457-2021, stating that the funds will be repaid by a guaranteed revenue note. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline questions why the change was made from a guaranteed revenue note to a general obligation, with Solicitor Malloy stating that due to the sewer revenue pledge, this should be properly identified as a guaranteed revenue note. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor Malloy presents the Borrowing Base Certificates for approval by Council. He will verify the documentation once everything is signed by the borough.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to amend the meeting agenda to add approval of the signing of the Borrowing Base Certificate. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to authorize the Council President to sign the Borrowing Base Certificate for the sewer project. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Kopp – *report will remain on file in office*

- **Headworks & Solids Handling Bidding and Construction:** The project will be advertised on January 4 and January 14, 2022. The pre-bid meeting will be held on February 8 at 10:00 a.m. at the borough office. The question cut-off will be February 15 at 3:00 p.m. Bids are due by February 21 at 10:00 a.m.
- **WWTP Upgrades Financing:** The first meeting with Pennvest was held on November 10, 2021, to discuss the schedule for the bidding and settlement. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2022 to discuss the results from bidding the project.
- **Paving Projects for 2022:** ARRO is finalizing the specification for bidding and advertising, with a bid opening date of February 1, 2022.
- **Park Grant:** Additional items are required by DCNR to proceed with sending out the request for proposals for the park study.
- **Wellhead Protection Ordinance:** The ordinance is being considered for inclusion into the zoning ordinance.

- **PCB Pollutant Management Plan:** A meeting with PTMA took place last summer to discuss the preliminary PCB sampling results and review the next steps.

The notable next steps to be completed within the next year include:

1. Continue the discussion with PTMA representatives to share the data collected and discuss the next steps for identifying potential sources outside of the borough's jurisdiction.
2. Create and issue public outreach documents via newsletter(s) and municipal websites.
3. Conduct site visits and additional sampling at specific properties based on public outreach response.
4. If specific sources of PCBs are identified, work with the site owner to establish a plan to reduce or eliminate that source of PCBs.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that public outreach is often completed by handing out information at Children's Fair or during park clean-up events. At this time, PADEP is looking for municipalities to show progress with the plan.

- **NPDES Permit for WWTP:** The permit will expire on December 31, 2022, with the renewal application being due to PADEP by July 1, 2022.
- **Capital Improvements Plan:** ARRO will assist Mr. Gruber as needed.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

Electronic copies of the Borough Code and amendments were emailed to Council, with Ms. Wagner noting that paper copies are also available.

Ms. Wagner requests to close the office on Monday, January 10.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Currently nine applications have been received for the next round of Hometown Heroes Banners, having a deadline for submission of March 1.

Although Mayor Remp has reached out to Sgt. Mengel, neither the Mayor nor Mr. Gruber has received a copy of the December police activity report.

Mayor Remp will be providing a list of the bimonthly Neighborhood Watch meetings, which will occur on Saturday mornings at the borough office.

A committee for the National Night Out event on August 2 at the Hamburg Park will be formed.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

No formal report was submitted as Mr. Gruber was out of the office last week.

Mr. Gruber will be meeting with Ed Overberger this Thursday.

Mr. Gruber received an email from Engineer Smith regarding the additional testing required for the NPDES permit. Engineer Smith encourages the borough to perform composite sampling. **Mr. Gruber will forward the sampling list to Council.**

Mr. Gruber thanks borough staff for completing the office renovation project, borough Council for supporting the project, and borough residents, as tax payer funds were used for the project. The building will be well maintained.

New Business

President Kline briefly discusses a proposed sound system for the meeting space, but as everyone present is able to hear the discussions, a system will not be purchased.

Public Comment

Nick Kresge (120 Karen Ct.): Recently purchased his property and would like permission to place a shed and small garden on the borough owned land by his home, as the previous owner had done. He spoke with Mr. Zimmerman regarding the property and utility lines, of which only a sewer line runs along the edge of the property and is not located at the area of the proposed shed. He has agreed to maintain the land in question. Mr. Kresge further notes that his insurance company would cover the shed and that there would be no borough liability. Mr. Zimmerman notes that a zoning permit would be required. The previous owner never obtained a permit for the shed. Ms. Kennedy-Kline would like to note that the land use would not transfer to any future owners of the property. She further questions if the shed would affect the borough's MS4 program. **Mr. Zimmerman will review the MS4 map.** Engineer Smith may be contacted to discuss the matter. A letter will need to be drafted to allow for the placement of the shed.

Susan Moore (335 Pennsylvania Ave.): Received a letter dated December 15 stating that she needed to remove her chickens, as she is in violation of the borough zoning ordinance, and asks what changed now, as she has had the hens on her property for 3 ½ years. Mr. Zimmerman reports that the borough was previously unaware that they were on her property.

She notes that Mr. Wertz has a flock of chickens on his property outside, from spring to fall and that he moves them inside in the winter. Mr. Wertz responds that the chickens have died and that there are no plans to replace them.

Ms. Moore asks Council to reconsider the ordinance prohibiting backyard chickens, as they are becoming more popular. She has performed quite a bit of research regarding coops, lot sizes, and proper waste disposal. Mr. Wertz reports that the borough is currently drafting an updated zoning ordinance which would address having chickens in the borough. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that she has actively been pursuing the matter since she became a member of Council. As the ordinance is not expected to be adopted for several months, Ms. Moore is asked to submit a written request for a 60-day extension to the notice she received. She may be able to obtain extensions until the ordinance is passed. Mr. Grim requests a copy of the proposed ordinance.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for December 21, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for January 3, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Wertz emailed the latest draft of the zoning ordinance to Council that morning. He has reached out to Solicitor Mooney for clarification on the definition of a family, signs, and antennas, with relation to the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act. Mr. Wertz asks for Council's feedback on the draft and for thoughts on the current zoning district locations and zoning map. He will gather information on signs within the next 2 weeks, so that a final ordinance draft can be forwarded to Council and Solicitor Mooney, before being sent to the County.

Vice President Botwright reports that progress is being made with the Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan. A public hearing will be held at an upcoming borough meeting. Council will need to pass a resolution to adopt the plan.

Vice President Botwright and Mr. Gruber will be attending a meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, for the Schuylkill River Trail feasibility study, to discuss the trail's path from Leesport, through Shoemakersville, and on to Hamburg.

Mayor Remp has reached out to Larry Sundberg and Larry Hoffman regarding their interest in remaining on the Zoning Hearing Board. He notes that Mr. Hoffman would like to remain on the board. He has not heard back from Mr. Sundberg.

President Kline would like to hear if Solicitor Mooney has heard back from Mark Koch regarding the sale of the borough property near the pool. The \$5,000 earnest funds were never received. If no response is received from Attorney Koch, President Kline feels the borough should remove the property from the market. The interested buyer would need to remove all monitoring wells.

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 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer