

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

January 7, 2025

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 8:14 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person, Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes, Gary Methax – Public Works Supervisor and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Amy Botwright – Vice President, Dana Randazzo

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the 2025 appointment list as presented. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Brecknock Builders – Tony Luongo

Mr. Luongo presents prints on behalf of his client Bell Real Estate Property, who wishes to construct a 4800 sq. ft. addition for warehouse space, onto an already existing building. The area is partially impervious with gravel. They also wish to demo, remove and replace a loading dock. With the addition of a sidewalk area with man doors and stairways with ramps, the area becomes a 5300 sq. ft. – 5400 sq. ft. change, which would trigger additional stormwater requirements. They are looking to avoid drafting a full stormwater management plan and would prefer to complete a small project stormwater management submission. If the sidewalk and stairways were eliminated, the project would be under the 5000 sq. ft. threshold. Mr. Luongo, Ms. Kennedy-Kline and President Kline discuss pervious & impervious surfaces and how green space could be of assistance. Mr. Wertz suggests the contractor follow the ordinance as best as possible and ask for waivers as they arise.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** The vehicle matter at 604 Main St. has been forwarded to the District Justice’s office. Two cease & desist orders for unpermitted construction work have been issued to 600 Shoemaker Ave. and 1048 Shoemaker Ave.
- **Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network:** The information obtained when license plates are run for violations is considered a criminal justice record, with any associated files to be kept locked in a secure area. While the nature of the offence may appear on the monthly enforcement reports, the specifics are no longer able to be included. The training taken by Mr. Gruber and Ms. Wagner to run the plates is good for two years. Solicitor Mooney states the act is being updated to reduce the opportunity for identity theft.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Barbon Matter:** An executive session will take place later in the meeting.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **Shoemakersville Plaza Minor Subdivision Plan (TSC):** Mr. Kee received the resent final minor subdivision plan submittal. The plans were conditionally approved in 2024. Mr. Kee reports that a site inspection meeting is being scheduled to review the outstanding conditions to be met. Mr. Gruber has received notice that the egress for the lawn & garden center and the sprinkler inspection are being addressed.

The only item pending by the time the site meeting takes place appears to be the second fire hydrant.

Solicitor Mooney states that Council could either reaffirm the conditional approval now or write a letter to the developer stating the date of when all contingencies have been met.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to reaffirm Council's conditional approval of the Shoemakersville Plaza Minor Subdivision Plan. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Shoemakersville Pool Minor Subdivision Plan:**

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to reaffirm Council's conditional approval of the Shoemakersville Pool Minor Subdivision Plan, based upon the developer's purchase of the borough's parcel. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks if this would provide an additional 90 days for the developer to purchase the land, with President Kline replying yes, as of December 17, 2024. Motion carried by a vote of 4 yes to 1 no, with Ms. Kennedy-Kline voting opposed.

Fire Chief's Report - Chief Wagner

Chief Wagner reports that the call volume for 2024 is between 800-831 calls. The calculations are being finalized.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks for an update on the elementary school alarm, with Chief Wagner stating that the alarm was taken offline on Friday to make the proper repairs for a bad sensor and was up and running for school on Monday. As there have not been any additional calls, he believes the issue has been resolved.

President Kline asks if the fire company is required to respond to multiple false alarm calls, with Chief Wagner reporting yes, citing a situation whereby a building at Wolfe Dye & Bleach kept reporting false alarms. However, once such alarm was legitimate, reporting a working structure fire. There are few such incidents in the borough. As there are more alarm calls in Perry Township, that municipality adopted an ordinance stating that the property owner could be fined after 3 false alarms.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

Ms. Wagner reports that the borough office will be closing at noon on January 20. She requests to close the office on February 14.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp and Mr. Grim discuss the 66 calls that occurred in December. Several of the calls were at Sheetz.

All 17 Hometown Heroes banners and 1 Welcome to Shoemakersville banner has been ordered. As the sponsor for one of the replacement banners has passed away, Mayor Remp is trying to locate a friend who may be willing to pay for the reprinted banner. Council offers suggestions for individuals Mayor Remp may wish to contact. He notes that there is \$150 remaining in his allotment that could ultimately be utilized to pay for the banner.

Mayor Remp is finalizing the 2025 Neighborhood Watch Program meeting schedule.

Operator/Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber, Council and Mr. Methax discuss the tires and the repair of the joystick for the John Deere tractor.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase all 4 tires from Kantner's Tire at a cost not to exceed \$2,902. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve Deer County estimate 012118 to repair the joystick for the bucket control at a cost not to exceed \$2,800. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve USA BlueBook quote 1119621-1 for yearly water plant supplies, at a cost of \$5,669.45. Seconded by Mr. Grim. President Kline asks how this year's cost compares to 2024, with Mr. Gruber noting of a price decrease of 4%. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber thanks Mr. Kee for allowing Mr. Nabar to scan borough records at the ARRO office. Mr. Nabar has obtained pricing from Amazon for 2 blueprint racks with 30" clamps and 12 – 36" clamps at a cost not to exceed \$875, including shipping. Council discusses the purchase with Mr. Kee noting that ARRO may have some supplies that could be of use. Mr. Gruber will speak with Mr. Kee before any purchases would be further considered.

Council, Mr. Gruber and Mr. Methax discuss the condition of the garage roof at 242 Main St. and the associated Sensenig Co. quote of \$6,700 for roof repairs to be performed as required. Mr. Wertz discusses the condition of the roof when he was last onsite. Council reviews the quotes previously received from RAM and Bachman, with Solicitor Mooney noting that Bachman's price may not always factor in the required prevailing wage rate. Mr. Kee notes from the ARRO report that roof areas 2 and 3 are in poor condition. As there could be additional repairs due to mold and other factors, Mr. Grim asks if there would be any grants available to aid in the cost to demo and replace the garage. Mr. Kee notes from the report that an approximate cost to build a new pole building could be \$150/sq. ft. He states that the building area is located in a flood plain. A new 4,000 sq. ft. structure could cost around \$600,000.

President Kline notes that the building could either receive a temporary roof repair now or make no repairs and only use the building for storage. Major roof repairs or an entirely new building is not in the budget. Mr. Kee feels the roof repairs would provide the needed time for Council to plan for the next phase.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to direct the borough manager to solicit additional quotes for the replacement of roof #2. Seconded by Mr. Grim. President Kline adds roof area #2 as referenced on the Bachman quote. Mr. Gruber notes that Bachman's original quote for roof area #2 was \$13,450. The quote from RAM did not differentiate between the sections. Solicitor Mooney states that 3 quotes need to be received unless there would be a state contract involved. Mr. Grim would like to have the quotes ready for the January workshop. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber and Mr. Wertz have reviewed the electric usage at the sewer plant from December 2023 vs. December 2024, with Mr. Wertz noting of a usage decrease of 15%. However, there was a 40% increase in the cost of electric.

Mr. Gruber is working with Mr. Nabar to complete a cost analysis to include electric, labor and chemical usage for the wellhouses and the water plant. Ms. Wagner is to contact IGS and Met-Ed to determine their time frames for peak and non-peak hours.

Mr. Gruber reports that as all 4 quarters of PFAS sampling has resulting in "non-detect," the sampling now only needs to take place triennially.

Mr. Gruber reports that there are several Christmas items, including bicycles, that remain in the park pavilion. President Kline will speak with Vice President Botwright regarding any items that may belong to her. Ms. Kennedy-Kline will reach out to the Lion's Club regarding the bicycles.

Junior Council Person’s Report – Mr. Nabar

Mr. Nabar discusses the America250 PA Grant that is available to create, uplift, improve and expand programming, projects and events that would engage residents to celebrate America’s Semi quinentennial in 2026. The second grant period will be open from April 1 – May 15, 2025, with awards being announced in June 2025. The awards may be in the amounts of \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$20,000. No more than 10% of the funding may be applied towards staffing/personnel funding. Mr. Wertz believes this would work well as a Children’s Fair theme and notes that the fife, drum and banner personnel that were in the parade for the 200th anniversary are available for the 250th anniversary.

Executive Session

Council, Solicitor Mooney and Ms. Wagner recess into executive session at 8:14 p.m. to discuss the Barbon litigation. Regular session reconvened at 8:33 p.m.

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

Suburban Testing Labs tested the water in December 5 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and all requirements were met.

The water rate motion will continue to be tabled until Mr. Wertz is able to review Mr. Gruber’s completed cost analysis.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adopt Resolution 172-2025, updating the signatory for the DCNR grant for the Park Master Plan. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Vice President Botwright will be the borough’s signatory. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline would like to update the Recreation Board ordinance to allow for a total of 9 members, permitting at least 4 of those members to be from Perry Township or to be outside of the borough, but that still have a Shoemakersville mailing address. A council member would be a liaison between the board and the council. Solicitor Mooney will forward Ms. Kennedy-Kline a copy of the current ordinance for her to revise.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Employee Relations – President Kline – nothing to report

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for December 3, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for January 7, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills for ratification for December 17, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve and authorize a borough official to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement for the UCC Board of Appeals. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve and advertise the 2025 meeting list. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Mr. Wertz reports that the meetings will continue to take place on Tuesdays. Council discusses Election Day, deciding to move the November meeting to Wednesday, November 5. Motion amended by Mr. Wertz to move the November meeting to Wednesday, November 5. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo – nothing to report

New Business

Public Comment

Mark Paine (20 Main St.): Thanks Council for the Christmas in the Park event, which his daughter greatly enjoyed. He would like to offer his assistance again for the 2025 event.

Mr. Paine notes that the PA State Police were heavily patrolling in his area during New Year's Eve and Day.

Mr. Paine feels that administrators on Shoemakersville related social media sites should not be permitted to ban someone from a site. President Kline reports that the only official borough run pages are the Shoemakersville Borough site and the Borough Community page, and that the borough has no control over other borough related pages.

Mr. Paine is unclear of the fire tax wording and asks if the fire company will receive the fire tax funds in addition to their yearly allotment. Mr. Wertz reports that .5 mills have been allocated to the fire company. Council discusses when the .5 mill increase went in to effect, with President Kline stating the change was included in the 2024 budget. President Kline states that the fire company receives an annual contribution, but the .5 mills were approved and will vary with assessments. Solicitor Mooney notes that those funds must be used for specific fire related purposes. Ms. Wagner asks if the .5 mills is to be in addition to the annual contribution or a part of that yearly budgeted allotment, with Mr. Wertz stating that the matter was clarified at an October meeting. *Ms. Wagner is to review the minutes.*

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks when the yearly audit will be completed, with Ms. Wagner replying that she is currently scheduling the audit, which needs to be completed and forwarded to the State by April 1.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer