

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

July 1, 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, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:23 p.m., Chip Haws – Solicitor – leaves at 7:23 p.m., and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dana Randazzo, Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws

- **Curb & Sidewalk Ordinance:** Solicitor Haws and Council review the proposed ordinance.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adopt Ordinance 468-2025 for curbs and sidewalks. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Grims asks why Section 8 is noted as reserved, with Ms. Kennedy-Kline reporting that the section regarding diagonal curb ramps was removed. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** Mr. Kee asks for Council comments, with President Botwright discussing the potential need for any additional roof repairs in the scope. Mr. Wertz reports that Bachman’s quote was for repairs only. Council will review and consider the need for any additional repairs.
- **Water DRBC Docket Renewal:** A new docket was approved on June 11, 2025 and is valid until June 11, 2035.
- **Blankenbiller Stormwater Permit:** The ordinance notes of a complete exemption for projects below 1,000 sq. ft. with new impervious surfaces and 5,000 sq. ft. of earth disturbance, with a simplified method for projects from 1,000 sq. ft. to 2,500 sq. ft. for new impervious surfaces and 5,000 sq. ft. of earth disturbance. However, the simplified method is not defined in the ordinance. The Blankenbiller project is for 1,800 sq. ft. Mr. Kee, Mr. Wertz and Solicitor Haws review methods utilizing calculations vs. charts. Until Council decides on method, the project engineer should submit their preferred method to Council for review.

Fire Chief’s Report Chief Wagner: There were 48 calls in June. The fire company sold 550 lbs. of shrimp at their event on June 30. As almost all of the storages spaces in their rental lot are occupied, Chief Wagner reports that they are considering adding 4 additional spaces.

Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

Payment of \$69,250 was received for the sale of the pool property. The borough office will be closed on July 2-4 and July 10 & 11. The deadline to submit content for the newsletter is Tuesday, July 8.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Remp

The June PA State Police report was not received.

Mayor Remp will not be at the August meeting as he will be attending the National Night Out event at the Berks County Fairgrounds.

One Hometown Heroes application has been received.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

President Kline discusses Mr. Gruber's request to proceed with Permit IDP-003 for Frontline Fabric. The current permit expires on July 31, 2025. The permit includes provisions that requirement changes can be made.

President Kline reviews the water main break on 6th St. that occurred on June 27, noting of a hole in the side of the pipe, which was repaired using a sleeve having a rubber seal. The area was backfilled with 2A modified stone. President Kline and Mr. Grim discuss the method of filling the hole in the past versus how the opening is now backfilled with the modified stone.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to approve the Reading Tractor Equipment Quote SVO151615 for repairs to the Exmark mower at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to approve the Folk Paving quote for Water St., at a cost not to exceed \$5,475. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to approve the Folk Paving quote for 5th & Franklin Sts. at a cost not to exceed \$2,240. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz reports that the wastewater plant, which annually uses 7M gallons of water, is the largest user of domestic water in the borough. Mr. Gruber uses the water as the vehicle to chlorinate. Mr. Wertz asked Mr. Gruber to each out to ARRO, to determine if processed water can be utilized instead. Mr. Gruber is awaiting a response. President Kline reviews the chlorination process.

Water – President Kline

President Kline reports that Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on June 3 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant, with all requirements being met.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that the park program has begun. Vice President Botwright notes of the annual pool party to be held on Wednesday, July 23.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the borough manager to enter into an agreement with Frontline Fabrics for Permit IDP-003. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Relations – President Kline

As budget preparation will soon begin, Vice President Botwright suggests that employee reviews be completed by September 30.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

Vice President Botwright reports that budget spreadsheets will be sent out on September 1 and asks that Council begin obtaining quotes and prioritizing projects for consideration at the budget workshops on October 21 & 28.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for June 17, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for July 1, 2025, which includes the donations to Northern Berks EMS and the Shoemakersville Fire Co., as both have submitted the requested information. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 1 abstain, with Vice President Botwright abstaining.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Mr. Grim notes of the Lion's Club Carnival to be held on July 25 & 26.

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks what permits were issued for the prior month, with Mayor Remp providing his permit list to Mr. Geschwindt. Mr. Geschwindt asks when the new diner will be open, with President Kline noting that he has not heard of an opening date.

Jonathan Mullen (383 Mohrsville Rd): Mr. Mullen lives in Perry Township, graduated from Hamburg High School, was in the Air Force and previously volunteered at the Shoemakersville Fire Co. He is requesting that Mayor Remp consider his Hometown Heroes application. Mayor Remp will review the application. Mr. Wertz thanks Mr. Mullen for his service.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Asks if the speed tables have been purchased, with President Kline & Vice President Botwright reporting that the funding was approved but no purchases have been made. The engineer will be reviewing the Penndot specs for sign placement. Mr. Paine appreciates Mr. Gruber's reports on the speed limit signs.

Mr. Paine asks why the trash rate increased to \$135/quarter, with Mr. Smith reporting that while the current hauler submitted the least expensive bid, the new contract rate increases each year.

Mr. Paine asks how much money the pool lost in 2023 and 2024. Vice President Botwright reports the following losses: 2021: \$4,000 2022: \$10,000 2023: \$32,000 2024: \$38,000 with a budgeted loss for 2025 of \$30,000 which includes capital improvements. She notes that the road crew budget increased \$7,000 and that staff pay increased by \$8,000. Lab testing, chemicals and training also increased. Mr. Smith notes that the pool was heavily used in the past week and should be considered as a public service, similar to the playground and parks. Mr. Paine and Vice President Botwright discusses pool losses, with Vice President Botwright reporting that most municipal pools annually lose between \$20,000-\$40,000. Weather is a large factor in how often the pool can be open. Swim lessons will be offered this season, which will generate revenue.

Rusty Wagner (233 Salem Church Rd.): Asks if pool prices will be increased to cover the loss, as those lost funds could be used for a variety of borough projects. Vice President Botwright reports that gate fees and season passes account for 50% of revenue, with snack bar sales at 30%-40%. While gates fee revenue decreased in 2023, it did rise in 2024. She notes that Perry Township residents receive the resident rates as the township submits a donation. Vice President Botwright calculates what township residents would have paid from the prior year if they had paid the resident rate and forwards that to the township, which in turn donates that amount to continue to allow township residents to receive borough rates. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that Perry Twp. receives the borough rate in an effort to incentivize township residents to use the pool, as the borough could not maintain the pool relying solely on borough residents. She notes that rates for seniors increased this season, as they have the lowest rates and are a large percentage of the people that visit the pool.

Council reviews and discusses the employee medical insurance proposed rates, with renewal taking place on August 1. A decision on plans will be made at the July workshop.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer