CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

July 21, 2026

President Kline called the workshop of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Mark Paine, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., David Kisha – Mayor and Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes

Absent from the meeting: Dana Randazzo

Fire Chief's Report – Chief Wagner
Is waiting to hear back from the county regarding the radio upgrades. The county still needs to review and process the fire company's run cards that were submitted. Northern Berks EMS will be covering the pool. Chief Wagner and President Kline discuss the run cards and their purpose. Mr. Grim reports that the link to the fire company's website has been added to the borough's website. Vice President Botwright thanks Chief Wagner for updating the run card for the pool.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kisha – nothing to report

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber
Mentions the list of 2026 budgeted projects that can be removed from the current year budget that he previously reviewed, in part, with Vice President Botwright and Mr. Wertz; the rubber roof, curb painting equipment, automation at the water plant, filter media replacement, and clean/disinfect the water storage tank.

Mr. Gruber discusses the renewal quote from Republic Services.

Mr. Gruber reports that the Chevy truck needs work for a cost of $593.70 to pass inspection.

Mr. Gruber has obtained quotes from Ferguson for curb stop boxes, new corporations and three new fire hydrants. Ferguson is 20% - 60% less expensive than Exeter Supply.

Mr. Gruber reviews the conveyance line cleaning & televising quote from Pipe Data View Services.

As Mr. Gruber will be obtaining additional pricing for the cordless tool batteries and new tools for the wastewater plant, he asks that Council not act on the Lowes quote.

Mr. Gruber now feels that a Road Crew Foreman is needed.

Mr. Gruber will be on vacation July 25 – August 4. He will be available via telephone to staff during that time, if an emergency should arise.

Mr. Holbert is taking free classes to prepare for the drinking water exam on November 18, 2026.

AMS will be in the borough on Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. to sweep Franklin St., from E. Noble Ave. to Church Ave. Mr. Gruber asks Mr. Grim to place notice on the borough website. Mr. Grim will be the temporary point of contact for information to be posted on the borough's website.

D.E. Gemmil will be scheduled to line paint once the streets have been swept.

Mr. Gruber met with a representative from Moyer Well Drilling, who noted that there are only two wells that need to be pulled in order for the borough to become compliant to the DEP inspection. The other issues are minor and can be addressed by borough staff.

Mr. Gruber notes that while the borough has made several repairs to the skate park, it is in poor condition. He notes that the steel structure integrity underneath the features is rusting and rotting away. Staff can continue making minor repairs, but the main features will need to be fully addressed at some point. Vice President Botwright notes that this time of year the skate park is actively utilized, and that updates to the skate park are a part of the Park Master Plan. Mr. Holbert is drafting a safety checklist for the skate park and playground to develop a safety inspection procedure.

Utilities – President Kline

President Kline has been speaking with Lance Adam regarding a joint authority with PTMA. Mr. Wertz will speak with the other SMA members to get their thoughts on the matter.

Public Works – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz review the Republic Services quote for an additional year for $262,967.56/yr. for trash and $108,825.09/yr for recycling for 2027.

*A motion is made to approve the Republic Services one-year extension for 2027, for $262,967.56/yr. for trash and $108,825.09/yr. for recycling for 2027. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Council discusses the current CPI rate. Motion carried unanimously.

Rec & Community – Ms. Randazzo

Mr. Grim continues with the website upgrades. He will upload the job postings to the website.

Vice President Botwright reports that the newsletter will be distributed next week.

Admin & Finance – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President to approve the minutes for July 7, 2026. Seconded Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for July 21, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

President Kline discusses the Grasshopper phone system and quote he received. Perry Township currently uses the system.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the Grasshopper phone system for an annual cost of $660. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the J.A.M. Automotive estimate dated 7/20/26 for repairs to the 2000 Chevy truck for a cost of $593.70. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the Ferguson Waterworks Bid. No. B578201 for curb stop boxes and new corporations for a cost of $1,530. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Grim asks what new corporations are, with Mr. Gruber reporting that the corporations tie in from the main to the supply line, before it gets to the curb stop. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the Ferguson Waterworks Bid. No. B548603 for three new fire hydrants for a cost of $11,790.36. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Smith asks if the special adapters are needed for the fire hydrants, with Chief Wagner stating that the adapters will come with the hydrants. President Kline and Chief Wagner discuss the hydrants. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the Pipe Data View Services quote dated 10/9/25 to televise and clean 6,426' of 8" to 10" pipe and to inspect 28 manholes for a combined cost of $13,600. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Gruber states that they will honor the 2025 price. Mr. Gruber reviews which line will be completed. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session
Council recesses into executive session at 7:34 p.m. for employee relations. Regular session reconvenes at 8:05 p.m.

Employee Relations – President Kline
*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to advertise for the full-time Secretary/Treasurer position. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to appoint Paul Gruber as Secretary/Treasurer starting August 1, until another full-time Secretary/Treasurer is hired. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to hire Amy Botwright as a temporary bookkeeper for $29.10/hr., for a maximum of 25 hrs./wk., until a full-time replacement is found. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried by a vote of 4 yes to 1 no and 1 abstain, with Vice President Botwright abstaining.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to advertise for the Road Crew Foreman position. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Public Comment
Rusty Wagner (233 Salem Church Rd.): Feels that few borough residents utilize the skate park and notes of an incident he witnessed while working behind the Tractor Supply lot. He saw an out-of-state vehicle drive from the skate park, through the grass area and perform donuts in the Tractor Supply stone lot. He did notify Mr. Gruber.

Mr. Wagner expresses his displeasure with how Council handled Ms. Wagner's resignation, that was briefly touched upon at July monthly meeting. She provided 6 week's notice in order to train a replacement. She has worked for the borough the last 23 years, with no public acknowledgement from Council, which he feels is disrespectful to her. He does thank the residents that have expressed their thoughts to her.

He asks why Council waited over 4 weeks after her resignation to advertise for the position. He is in disagreement with Vice President Botwright receiving the same hourly rate for the newly hired bookkeeper position, that Ms. Wagner is currently being paid, after her 23 years of service.

Mr. Wagner asks if Mr. Gruber will be receiving an increase in pay, as he will be taking on more responsibilities, especially as he will need to be bonded for the treasurer position. President Kline states that the tax payers will not be taking on any extra burdens, as the taxes are not being changed. He further notes that Mr. Gruber will not be paid anything additional for the duties. President Kline states that temporary set-up is between Council and Mr. Gruber.

President Kline agrees that Council should not have waited 4 ½ weeks to advertise for a replacement. They were trying to find a replacement through referrals and word-of-mouth, however that did not work. President Kline and Mr. Wagner discuss referrals and the difficultly in finding qualified candidates. Mr. Wagner realizes that Vice President Botwright has been working with Ms. Wagner to be trained on some duties, but 4 ½ weeks of training time has been lost.

Old Business

Mr. Grim thanks Mr. Gruber for his assistance with clearing up the brown water that he had in his home. Mr. Gruber tested a water sample and flushed several hydrants in the area.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer