

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

July 2, 2024

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 Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:36 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:36 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dustin Remp - Mayor, Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** Progress is being made with several notices that were sent last month. One property has an odor along with the high grass.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Amendment to Agreement of Sale for the Pool:** The buyer proposes to extend the agreement until the end of 2024. The owner has obtained a new engineer for the project. They request changing zoning approval in the Agreement of Sale to subdivision approval and to obtain that approval by December 31, 2024, with a built-in 90-day extension. The current agreement expired in May.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to approve the Amendment to the Agreement of Sale for the real estate behind the Shoemakersville Pool, between Home Elite and the Borough of Shoemakersville. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Tractor Supply:** There has been communication with Home Elite regarding the fire code issues at the building.
- **License Agreement:** The borough may be in a position to sign the agreement.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **NPDES Permit:** Mr. Gruber spoke with Bonnie Boylan, who reported that the borough’s renewal application will soon be reviewed.
- **Tractor Supply Fire Inspection by ARRO:** President Kline references the errors in the previous report and notes that Item #3 in the current letter is incorrect, as the section cited does not relate to commercial buildings. Mr. Kee will speak with Mr. Di Martini about the review letter.

Fire Chief’s Report – Deputy Chief Tobias & Chief Wagner

President Kline and DC Tobias review the dates of the report, which notes of 55 calls.

Chief Wagner reports that Perry Twp. is planning to adopt a resolution so that the township can apply for funding for the casino funds, as the fire company cannot directly do so. The fire company’s grant writer will then apply for the funding through the township. Mr. Wertz and Chief Wagner confirm that this is the LSA Grant. The second round for the grant has a deadline in September.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough received an \$800 park donation from the Shoemakersville Lion's Club.

The borough office will be closed on July 3-5 and 11.

The deadline to include content for the next newsletter is Friday, July 12. Vice President Botwright asks Mr. Wertz to summarize the signage changes as noted in the most recent zoning ordinance adopted.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

No questions on the monthly PA State Police report.

Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber reports that the Stanley Sweeping Services quote is good until the end of the year. Recommended streets are E. Noble Ave. to the north end of Main St., E. Noble Ave. from the highway to Main St. and Reber St., from 5th to 9th St. As Mr. Gruber reports that the contractor performing the street work will be back to sweep again, Ms. Kennedy-Kline suggests waiting to sweep the streets until after the oil and chip project is completed.

The 800 block of Chestnut St. will not have the oil and chip, as Sloan Paving has not responded as to when they can complete their repairs.

Mr. Wertz notes of Hamburg's street sweeping machine, with Mr. Gruber reporting that upon his last inquiry the machine was broken, but he will reach out for an update.

Mr. Gruber reports that the borough may have the option to cost share on a line painter for repainting the yellow line on Main St., when Perry Twp. receives their equipment quotes from vendors.

The rebuild kit for the filter #1 valve at the water plant is scheduled to arrive mid-July.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Gruber, Council, Solicitor Mooney and Mr. Kee discuss the quotes received from Bachman's Roofing and RAM Roofing. Mr. Gruber will contact RAM Roofing for a more detailed written quote.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

President Kline reports that Suburban tested the water at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant on June 4 and that all requirements were met.

The valve parts have been delayed.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to approve the BK Computer quote of \$157.49 to replace the park DVR. Seconded by Mr. Grim. President Kline asks if the unit is SSD or DHD. Vice President Botwright feels that a long-term solution would be to add the unit to the Magic System. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that a steering committee meeting will be scheduled at the end of July regarding the Park Master Plan Grant.

The annual Shoey Pool Party (Christmas in July) will be held on July 24.

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 Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for June 18, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for July 2, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried by a vote of 6 yes to 1 abstain, with Vice President Botwright abstaining.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 167-2024, Naming delegates to serve on the Berks County Tax Collection Committee Executive Committee. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Grim asks for information on the committee, with Vice President Botwright explaining the requirements under Act 32 and the need for representatives from each school district and the municipalities within those districts. Motion carried unanimously.

Council discusses the rates received for employee medical insurance.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to renew the current medical plan as proposed by Strauss Insurance. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo – nothing to report

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks if there is an update on the Yocum matter, with Solicitor Mooney stating the hearing has been moved to July 3.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if the 300 block of Park St. is on the list of roads to be repaired. Mr. Wertz notes that while that area is not a priority, the roadway is on the list and will eventually be addressed. He discusses repairs/repaving/deferred maintenance.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if there was a gas leak on Franklin St., with Mr. Wertz reporting that a resident had a new gas line installed. The cost to install gas lines is discussed.

Kalem Lutz and Sean Kerschner (Skate Park): Mr. Lutz would like to see progress move forward with the upkeep of the skate park and is interested in funding opportunities to maintain and potentially upgrade the equipment. He asks if it would be possible to form a group to discuss the future of the skate park. President Kline and Vice President Botwright discuss the Park Master Plan, which includes the skate park. Mr. Lutz is part of the Master Plan Committee and is looking forward to helping improve the skate park. He and Mr. Kerschner made some minor repairs to equipment, by adding plastic lumber deck boards to cover rusty edges on ramps. President Kline notes that the borough could potentially manage some reimbursement funds for future skate park repairs.

Mr. Kerschner discusses a quote of \$7,000 he received a few years ago to fill in the larger hole areas on the skate park/tennis court. President Kline notes that Aquaphalt could potentially be used for the wider gaps. As Seal Master may have a water activated product, **Mr. Gruber is asked to research the product.** President Kline asks Mr. Kerschner and Mr. Lutz to contact the borough if there are any immediate dangers with the skate park equipment.

Dean Adams (305 5th St.): Asks for the borough's policy on street sweeping, as the area by Chestnut & 5th Sts. has been filled with dirt and debris from nearby trees since last fall. He further states that the debris moved around before the start of the road project ended up in his yard and sidewalk. Staff will look at the area in question and will manual clean up if needed.

Mr. Gruber sates that while the streets are typically swept after the leaves fall into the streets, staff has been trying to clean debris from noticeable areas. If there are any areas that need attention, Mr. Adams is asked to call the office.

Mr. Gruber reports that while the machine used before the oil & chip project was a sweeper, it was not a collector. Mr. Gruber will request a collection device when the contractor revisits the project.

Old Business

The Lion's Club carnival is scheduled for July 26 & 27.

A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer