

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

July 5, 2022

Vice President Botwright called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:01 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President- arrived at 7:04 p.m., Amy Botwright –Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline – arrived at 7:04 p.m., Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves at 7:14 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:14 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dustin Remp – Mayor, Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Public Works

New borough employee Uriah Hertzog is present to introduce himself to Council and the public. Mr. Geschwindt asks what type of work he will be performing. Mr. Hertzog is a full-time employee in the public works department.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman – nothing to add to the submitted report

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Parking Ordinance:** The ordinance restricting parking on E. Noble Ave. is ready for adoption.
- **Sale of 115 E. 9th St.:** The auction will take place on July 28. The property is listed on the auctioneer’s website and Solicitor Mooney will be advertising the legal notice this week.

Vice President Botwright turns the meeting over to President Kline.

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith

- **Headworks & Solids Handling, Bidding & Construction:** ARRO is receiving, logging, and reviewing shop drawings from Eastern Environmental. Provided that deliveries are on time, the anticipated start of actual construction is the beginning of August. President Kline requests that the contractor submit a milestones update. Engineer Smith reports that the contractor has preliminary work scheduled until mid-August, when the precast concrete is to be delivered.
- **PCB Pollutant Management Plan:** The annual report for the Pollutant Management Plan is due in August. The borough manager has requested that ARRO prepare the report this year.
- **MS4 Program Update Stormwater Ordinance:** ARRO is preparing a draft ordinance to update the stormwater management ordinance to comply with the MS4 Program. A draft ordinance will be provided for discussion at the workshop meeting.
- **Water Plant Instrumentation Update:** The permit application for the instrumentation update was submitted to PADEP on June 7. The application is currently under review by PADEP, with the borough to potentially receive the permit before mid-July.
- **Capital Improvements Plan:** The borough manager has requested ARRO assist in planning, designing, and permitting the replacement of the air piping from the blowers to the digesters.

- **PTMA Reconciliation:** Mr. Wertz does not feel that an amended agreement would be needed with PTMA, for the borough to request reimbursement for the Headworks project. Solicitor Mooney recommends Council speak with PTMA regarding any proposed changes to the payment structure, before he would become involved with the process.

On July 8, Mr. Wertz, Vice President Botwright, and Mr. Gruber will have a Zoom meeting with Mr. Kopp from ARRO, to discuss the expenses used to calculate the reconciliation amounts.

Mr. Gruber asks if PTMA would be billed as the borough receives the invoices. Mr. Gruber states that Council may wish to consider having PTMA pay for their testing, similar to Wolfe Dye & Bleach, who will pay for their own lab tests, per the Industrial Discharge Permit.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The August monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 3.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp – nothing to report

Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber has donated 5 old borough cell phones to “Help End Child Hunger with No Child Hungry.”

Mr. Gruber requests that Council approve pay increases for Mr. Mohn from \$20/hr. to \$20.50/hr. and for Mr. Senft from \$18.15/hr. to \$19.50/hr., as they have both displayed positive attitudes and have been helpful and openminded regarding their additional responsibilities.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to increase Mr. Mohn's hourly rate from \$20 to \$20.50 and Mr. Senft's hourly rate from \$18.15 to \$19.50, effective with the current pay period. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber feels that part-time employees should receive the same hourly rate as full-time employees, as they are performing the same work and do not receive any benefits. There is one current part-time employee, as well as a crossing guard who has offered to work part-time during the summer.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to add to the agenda the review of the pay rate for part-time employees. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to increase Max Kline's hourly rate to \$17 and to authorize the borough manager to pay up to \$17/hr. for any future part-time staff. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 2 abstain, with President Kline and Ms. Kennedy-Kline abstaining from the vote.

In order to continue discussions with PTMA regarding PCBs, Mr. Gruber has scheduled a meeting at the Perry Township office on July 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Gruber reports that digester #2 has about 1 ½' of sludge/trash remaining at the bottom. Kline's may need a high vacuum truck to complete the cleaning. At Mr. Wertz's suggestion, Mr. Gruber will first try using the fire hose to dilute the sludge. Mr. Gruber and Mr. Wertz discuss the cost of vacuum trucks. Moving forward, Mr. Gruber will budget for digester cleaning to occur every 3-4 years.

Mr. Gruber and Vice President Botwright discuss concrete parking space stops at the pool. When looking at the pool entrance, the area affected would be to the left of the main gate. This will be discussed during the budget workshops.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

The contractor is scheduled to coat the streets included in the road project at the end of July. Mr. Gruber reports that Mr. Zimmerman will be obtaining dates so that the public can be notified.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

President Kline reports on the pneumatic issues with the tensioners. **Mr. Gruber will look for replacement regulators.**

Water – President Kline

Instead of welding directly to the tank, T-Mobile has proposed to weld a brace to the underside of the catwalk. Mr. Gruber suggests having Suez review the plans, and forwards President Kline the contact information for the Suez representative, so that updated drawings can be forwarded to them for review.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire Gabriella Valentino as a part-time park leader at \$10/hr. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

There are 4 full-time park leaders and 1 part-time leader, as approximately 120 kids are registered, with 70-80 attending on a daily basis.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjust park leader Emily Zimmerman's hourly rate to \$10. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline asks why the rate change, with Vice President Botwright stating that the Rec Board wishes to have all leaders at the same hourly rate. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that for next season, the Rec. Board is considering charging a nominal fee for park program attendees that reside outside of the borough or Perry Twp.

Vice President Botwright notes that due to lifeguard staffing issues, the pool will continue to be closed one day during the week, as well as potentially having reduced hours on some days.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz:

Mr. Wertz has emailed Council the next set of revisions for the zoning ordinance. As there are a few remaining items to discuss, there will be one final review of the ordinance before it will be forwarded to Solicitor Mooney and the Berks County Planning Commission.

Employee Relations – President Kline

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Highmark Blue Shield Premier PPO \$1500 A plan, which is a direct renewal of the current plan, for the employees' medical insurance. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for June 21, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for July 5, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Ordinance #460-2022 regulating parking on E. Noble Ave. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Vice President Botwright and Ms. Wagner explain that minor updates were made and that the ordinance needed to be adopted at the monthly meeting and not the June 21 workshop. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Randazzo reports that the pedestrian crossing signs placed on Main St. have been noticed by drivers. Mr. Gruber notes that Mr. Zimmerman has ordered bases to ready 10 more signs.

New Business

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Mr. Paine has noticed the pedestrian crossing signs and feels that they are effective in slowing traffic.

During the community yard sale, Mr. Paine walked on both sides of Main St. and received the following concerns from residents:

- Speeding on Main St. and the fact that the street is split with ambulance coverage. Mr. Paine informed the resident that ambulance companies cover for each other when they are out of the area.
- There is brush overgrown on the sidewalk at 518 Main St.
- Traffic is not stopping at the stop sign at Miller St. & Main St.
- The potential for business incentives to entice a grocery store to open in the borough.
- Suspicious vehicles are looping the 500 block of Main St. Mr. Paine asked the resident to contact the State Police when this occurs.

Mr. Paine reports that in addition to the motorcycle group in the 300 block of Main St., there is also a second group, which he believes to be the Pagans, in the 100 block of Main St. He has spoken to the State Police on the matter, noting that if the group heads towards Leesport, that any concerns should be directed to the Northern Berks Regional Police.

Mr. Paine asks if the data collected from the electronic speed signs will be made public, with President Kline stating that he is working with Mr. Gruber to load the appropriate software onto a borough computer so that the information can be viewed.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Mr. Geschwindt asks if the contractor will be back to finish the road work on Reber St., with President Kline and Mr. Gruber stating that the slurry seal is scheduled for the end of July and that the borough is working to narrow down the exact days.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the water report, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on June 1 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Old Business

Vice President Botwright reports that Bill Kerper will reach out to John Zupancic for a quote for the new e-mail platform, which is needed by August 1.

Vice President Botwright notes of the community yard sale scheduled for September 10 and the Lion's Club carnival to be held on July 22 & 23.

A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer