

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**July 5, 2023**

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

**In attendance:** Chris Kline – President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor – leaves at 8:49 p.m., David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:30 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:30 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Amy Botwright – Vice President

**Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber** – no questions on the submitted report

**Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Amendment to General Obligation Note with Customer’s Bank:** The ordinance was advertised and is ready for adoption. Customers Bank will pay their own solicitor.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adopt Ordinance 464-2023 for modifying the note with Customers Bank. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Garbage/Recycling Contracts:** Jane Meeks has made her final comments on the RFPs, with Solicitor Mooney reporting that Ms. Meeks recommends removing glass from the recycling contract, as centers are not currently processing the material. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes of several vendors that appear under a search for glass recyclers. Council discusses the matter and decides to remove glass from the recycling contract. Solicitor Mooney and Mr. Gruber will be listed in the RFP as contacts for any vendor questions.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to authorize the advertisement of the RFP for the trash and recycling contracts. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor Mooney reports that Ms. Meeks recommends that the contract periods run for full calendar years and not end at October 31, like the current contracts.

- **Tractor Supply:** Solicitor Mooney was present on the phone conference with Home Elite, who stated they would speak with Tractor Supply to reconcile the differences with the 2 sets of plans. Mr. Wertz discusses Mr. Gruber’s finding of a notation on the structural plans, for piping from in front of the building running underneath to the back of the garden center area.

**Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee**

- **Tractor Supply:** The tenant plans to open in August.

After reviewing the Recorder of Deeds website, Mr. Kee reports that the borough appears to own the storm sewer and would be responsible for any repairs. He further notes from the Tractor Supply meeting that they plan to lower the grates behind the building, to get the water into the inlets.

- **2023 Road Maintenance Project:** The contractor has posted signs for the project to begin on July 12. They anticipate 1 day for the double seal coat and 1 day for the fog seal at a different date.
- **Growing Greener Grant:** The draft plans for the swale design near the intersection at Main St. and Apple Ln. are being finalized and have been forwarded to Mr. Gruber. ARRO recommends the borough issue conditional approval to bid the bioswale project.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to issue conditional approval for bidding the Growing Greener Grant bioswale, contingent upon review by Mr. Gruber and finalization of any other grant requirements. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Pollutant Minimization Plan:** The annual PCB reporting will be finalized and sent to DEP by the August deadline.
- **MS4 Annual Report:** The report for June to January, the reporting period prior to issuance of the waiver, was submitted to DEP.

### **Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner**

The borough office will be closed on August 11 and 14-18.

### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp**

Mayor Remp reports that the 7 Hometown Heroes applications and photos has been submitted to Rileigh's. The draft application to relocate banners will be finalized.

The Neighborhood Watch group will be present with the Shoemakersville Fire Co. at the NNO event being held at the Schuylkill Valley High School in August.

Mayor Remp briefly discusses the 66 incidents on the PA State Police report for June.

### **Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber**

Mr. Gruber is waiting to hear back from Sheetz regarding the as-builts and the return of their Letter of Credit.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase Stenner chemical injection pumps and hoses for wells #1, #3 and the water treatment plant, from USA Bluebook for a cost not to exceed \$2,400 plus the cost of shipping. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that the 2 out of service grinders in the wet-well will be removed after the headworks project is complete. Before those grinders are removed, a bar grate needs to be installed in the channel. He has obtained a quote of \$3,134 from Mobile Welding Service for fabrication of a stainless-steel grate.

Mr. Gruber and President Kline discuss grating and the screening system.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Grim to add the purchase of the steel grate for the sewer plant to the agenda. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber notes that Renegade will be onsite at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday to begin working on filter #1. Once the work is completed and samples are taken with negative bacteria present, the work on the second filter can begin.

Mr. Gruber reports that Hach will be at the water plant on Thursday for their scheduled pm obligation and to look at the CL 17 analyzer.

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

**Sewer – Mr. Wertz**

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to accept the verbal quote from Mobile Welding Service for the stainless-steel bar grate at a cost of \$3,134. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

**Water – President Kline** – nothing to report

**Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline**

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that 2 “No dogs on the field” signs have been posted at the park. Mr. Gruber notes that more of those signs and “Park at your own risk” signs will also be installed.

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

**Employee Relations – President Kline**

Council discusses the increased job duties for Brandon Nabar, who is currently a lifeguard at the pool.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to hire Brandon Nabar as a part-time seasonal employee for water asset data entry and GIS inventory functions, at a rate of \$15/hr. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session**

Council and Mr. Gruber recess into executive session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss personnel. Regular session reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to add to the agenda the hiring of a borough employee and road crew wage adjustments. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to hire Gary Methax as road crew supervisor at a rate of \$28/hr. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to increase Mr. Mohn’s hourly rate to \$24. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to increase Mr. Bachman’s hourly rate to \$23. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright**

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for June 20, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for July 5, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

**Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo**

Ms. Randazzo will soon begin advertising for the September 16 community yard sale.

## New Business

### Public Comment

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Asks when trash will be picked up for the week, with Ms. Wagner noting that as the holiday was before the regularly scheduled pick-up day, trash will be removed on Friday.

Mr. Geschwindt requests the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on June 6 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for clarification of the oil & chip signs that were placed at 7<sup>th</sup> & Reber Sts., with Mr. Gruber reporting that the signs are related to the road project. UGI is scheduled to revisit their worksite on Reber St. to repair the roadway. This area is not part of the road project.

Mr. Geschwindt does not feel the crosswalk sign in the middle of the road on Reber St. should be in place, as the sign is not located at a crosswalk. Mr. Gruber feels the sign was moved and placed there by someone other than a borough staff member. **He will address the matter.**

Mr. Geschwindt asks who is the zoning officer for the borough, with President Kline stating that Mr. Gruber is the borough's acting codes/zoning officer. Mr. Gruber was appointed at the June workshop. Council and Mr. Geschwindt discuss workshops, which are open to the public as are Council's monthly meetings.

**Darrin Dietrich (719 Main St.):** Notes of loud fireworks that occurred on Saturday and Tuesday, both on the street and on the Babe Ruth field. He contacted the PA State Police, who did not stop out. Mr. Grim reports that he should continue to contact the State Police on such matters and if possible, to obtain video of the incident so that an official complaint can be filed and the individuals may be cited.

Gary Billman is present and notes that he and his grandchildren were using smaller fireworks in front of their apartment and that Mr. Dietrich yelled and cursed at him from across the street. Mr. Dietrich and Mr. Billman discuss the incident. Marian Hoffman and Shennon Heckman are present and confirm the use of fireworks by Mr. Billman. Mr. Dietrich and Mr. Billman also discuss a previous matter when a family member of Mr. Billman's was revving their vehicle's engine in front of Mr. Dietrich's home. President Kline discusses the PA state law regarding fireworks.

Mayor Remp spoke with the family that was setting off fireworks on the ballfield.

Mr. Dietrich reports of speeding on Main St. Mayor Remp asks to receive any video or license plate information that can be obtained, so that he may forward it to the State Police.

**Mark Paine (25 Main St.):** Asks if Council has made a decision regarding paying employees who are first responders that leave work to assist at an incident. President Kline reports that the borough follows the state guidelines.

Mr. Paine suggests the borough contact B&M Disposal to inquire how they dispose of glass.

Mr. Paine asks if Council can review the minutes of the workshops at the monthly meetings. President Kline notes that the minutes are available on the borough's website. Ms. Wagner can make copies of the minutes or post them on the outside bulletin board for individuals that do not have internet access.

Mr. Paine notes of the continued speeding on Main St. He asks if there is anything noted on the State Police report for June 28, as a trooper was parked near his home. Mayor Remp does not find any speed related incidents for that day. Council and Mr. Paine discuss speed tables and other traffic calming devices. President Kline spoke with Folk Paving, who has installed speed bumps for schools and private parking lots, but not for municipalities.

President Kline is waiting to hear back from Bethel Twp., who recently went through the Penndot process for installing speed tables.

Mr. Paine notes of several potholes in the middle of the 100 block of Main St. Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that the potholes are scheduled to be filled.

**Gary Billman (730 Main St.):** Signed in but left the meeting before addressing Council.

**Old Business**

The community yard sale is scheduled for September 16.

A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer