

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

July 7, 2026

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, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Mark Paine, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, David Kisha – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:49 p.m., Chip Haws – Solicitor – leaves at 7:49 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

Absent from the meeting: Joseph Wertz, Jr.

Hamburg Police Services – Chief Kuklinski & Mayor Holmes

Chief Kuklinski distributes information describing services and the associated costs that the Hamburg Police Department can provide to Shoemakersville Borough. Call types are similar in both boroughs. The focus would be on quality-of-life issues, such as ordinance enforcement, as well as vehicle code violations. Mayor Holmes notes of the growth along the Route 61 corridor. He states that Hamburg Police offers bicycle patrol, motor carrier enforcement and crime prevention services.

Mr. Grim asks for Hamburg's current and long-term plans to educate their officers. Chief Kuklinski reports that the department is 1 of 3 in Berks County that is accredited by the PLEAC. Officers are to complete 12 hours of on-line training. Mayor Holmes reports that standards are being raised and that the yearly training is becoming more intensive.

President Kline and Chief Kuklinski discuss patrol hours, with Chief Kuklinski stating that busy traffic flow times and issues are similar within the municipalities. He utilizes a reporting system that shows when Hamburg's peak times occur. He has been in Shoemakersville to determine peak hours where officers would be beneficial. They discuss the data that can be obtained from the electronic speed limit signs.

Hamburg Police would have jurisdiction when patrolling the borough, with any fines issued being given to Shoemakersville. Solicitor Haws notes that the entities would enter into an intermunicipal agreement to move forward.

Code Enforcement, Zoning & Permits – Mr. Gruber

- **Notices & Permits:** Several notices regarding high grass & weeds have been resolved. Mr. Gruber discusses a letter that was sent to both the prior and current owner of a property for high grass & weeds, as settlement on the home took place during the time period when the violation was to be addressed.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Haws – nothing to report

Engineer's Report – Mr. Kee

- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** Work at the office is underway. As the contractor encountered soft soil below the sidewalks, a few minor quantity adjustments were made.

Bell Warehouse – Gregg Bogia & Alice Bogia

Mr. Bogia reports that a main delay with the plans is that the project was in court for a year, as Perry Township was attempting to change the zoning over properties. The project can now move forward. The scoping process is down to a 6–8-month time-frame. The left turn lane will be continuous. As requested, quarterly updates on the project will be provided to Council. Bell is in the final stages of contracting with a developer.

Solicitor Haws, Mr. Kee and Council discuss the requested extension.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to extend the Bell Warehouse time extension request through June 4, 2027, provided quarterly updates are presented to Council. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief's Report – Chief Wagner

There were 61 calls in July. Chief Wagner requests the status of the 2026 fire company disbursement, with Vice President Botwright noting that as all real estate taxes have been received, the amount of \$47,591.90 will be processed at the next meeting. Mr. Paine confirms that this will be the July workshop. Chief Wagner asks if the fire company should plan on next year's allotment being provided around this same time next year, with Vice President Botwright stating that should be the case.

Chief Wagner reports that the paving work is finishing up at the fire company. Vice President Botwright thanks Chief Wagner for his training of the pool staff on the recent AED donation from Perry Twp.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

Ms. Wagner notes of a \$500 park donation received from the Lion's Club.

As the refuse and recycling contracts expire in December 2026, President Kline asks Ms. Wagner to research the escalation clause, to determine the costs for 2027 if the contract were to be extended for 1 year.

Ms. Wagner reports that electricity pricing is being obtained, as the current contract expires in December 2026.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kisha

Mayor Kisha thanks Chief Kuklinski and Mayor Holmes for attending the meeting and providing police services information.

The PA State Police responded to 96 calls in the borough last month. President Kline provided Mayor Kisha with an analysis of this year's calls, minus May, sorted by call type.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be October 13, at which time they will discuss providing crossing services for trick-or-treat nights.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber reports that the 2025 quote from D. E. Gemmil for line painting will be honored. Lines will be painted on Main St., from Miller St. south to the borough line, E. Noble Ave., north to the borough line and all of Franklin St.

The check valve for the sewer plant was received and is ready for installation.

Axiom plans to receive the new RAS pump on July 10 and has scheduled the installation of the pump and check valve for July 13.

Mr. Gruber thanks President Kline and Gary from KNG Electrical for their quick response over the July 4 holiday to repair two filter pumps that stopped working at the pool.

Utilities – President Kline

SPL sampled the water on June 2 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant, with all requirements being met.

Public Works – Mr. Smith – nothing to report

Rec & Community – Ms. Randazzo

The deadline to submit content to Vice President Botwright for the August 1 newsletter, which covers August 1 – October 31, is July 17.

Mr. Grim shows the current status of the borough website. As the cost for CourseVector to create just the homepage and 1 interior page was \$700, he will continue the process to update the website over the next few weeks. He will adjust the mobile views as well.

Mr. Grim plans to convert the ordinances in pdf files to be searchable, to create more automation on the website. This will also aid in meeting the proposed ADA requirements for websites. He thanks Mr. Gruber for providing website content for the borough garage and water & sewer plants, and Vice President Botwright for drafting information on the park, pool and Recreation Board.

Admin & Finance – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for June 16, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright and Mr. Gruber discuss the bill from Painter Plumbing & Heating, for work completed to the kitchen sink in the snack bar at the pool. Mr. Gruber reports that the strainer on the right was completely degraded and the piping underneath was leaking, with a bucket being underneath. Mr. Gruber was recently informed that the piping fell apart and that Mr. Smith and Mr. Wertz took care of the repairs. Vice President Botwright would like to confirm if a new strainer had been installed. **Mr. Gruber will call the contractor regarding the work and invoice.**

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for July 7, 2026, with the exception of the Painter Plumbing & Heating invoice. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 1 abstain, with Vice President Botwright abstaining, as she is being reimbursed for pool expenses.

Council discusses the plans for employee medical insurance.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the renewal of the Highmark Blue Shield PPO Blue \$1500 100/80 Gold plan. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright asks Council to begin planning for the 2027 budget.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the line painting quote from D.E. Gemmill. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

President Kline reviews the BK Computer quote regarding security gateways.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the BK Computers quote of \$1,544. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Relations – President Kline

President Kline believes everyone knows Ms. Wagner will be leaving the borough at the end of July. President Kline and Vice President Botwright note that discussion should take place on a staffing transition plan, a review of the current staff structure & position descriptions and an open position description & advertisement/recruitment plan.

Executive Session

Council recesses into executive session at 8:26 p.m. to discuss personnel. Regular session reconvenes at 8:48 p.m.

Public Comment

Darrin Dietrich (719 Main St.): Feels that having the Hamburg Police patrol Shoemakersville would greatly improve the quality of life in the borough. He states that Shoemakersville is the only borough in Berks County with over 1,000 residents that does not have its own department. He contacted the PA State Police over the holiday weekend regarding fireworks violations, which he has videos of, but that they did not respond. He feels that violators of borough ordinances should be held accountable.

Rusty Wagner (233 Salem Church Rd.): Reports that summers can be difficult for the fire company to have drivers and asks that Council consider paying Mr. Mohn if he were to leave during his work day to respond to a fire call.

Mr. Wagner asks to see a copy of the police information provided by Chief Kuklinski and Mayor Holmes.

Mr. Wagner asks if the contractor for the office building renovations can be contacted regarding the stone pile that was dumped in front of the building, partially blocking the entrance. **Mr. Gruber will reach out to the contractor.**

Mr. Wagner asks if any action will be taken regarding the Executive Session, with President Kline reporting no.

Old Business

Mr. Paine asks for an update on the PTMA reconciliations, as he is on the utilities committee and has not received any information on that matter or on any other committee he is a member of. President Kline states that the matter falls under the finance committee, with Vice President Botwright stating that she will be meeting with Mr. Wertz on Thursday to review the information that will be provided to ARRO. Vice President Botwright is unsure of the amount owed to the borough. Mr. Wagner estimates the amount to be \$200,000.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer