

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

June 16, 2026

Vice President Botwright called the workshop of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Mark Paine, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, David Kisha – Mayor and Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes

Absent from meeting: Chris Kline – President, Joseph Wertz, Jr.

Fire Chief's Report – Chief Wagner

Asks when the 2026 yearly donation to the fire company will be made, as it is typically already received by this time. Vice President Botwright will be attending a Berks EIT meeting this week and will find out about the funds distribution, to determine when the borough will be able to forward the yearly allotment to the fire company.

Bell Warehouse Project – Greg Bogia

Mr. Bogia is present to provide an update on the project, noting that they attempted to keep the design to the most northern area, in an effort to work with Penndot. Penndot requested that the left turn lane be consistent and all the way through, to go south on Route 61. Approximately 1 year was spent on scoping. The project was also in court for a year, as Perry Township was attempting to change the zoning over properties. The process is being completed to select a developer. Mr. Bogia estimates a project start date in Spring of 2029, taking approximately 1 year to complete. Mr. Smith requests that project updates be sent more than once a year, with Vice President Botwright suggesting quarterly updates. Ms. Randazzo asks if the project will actually occur, as the projected start date is not until 2029, with Mr. Bogia replying that the likelihood is high. Mr. Bogia will plan to attend the next monthly meeting to answer any additional questions.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kisha

Asks Council's opinion on having officers from either Hamburg Police or Northern Berks Regional Police patrol the borough. Mr. Grim notes of his concern that the PA State Police is planning on relocating their Hamburg barracks. Mayor Kisha believes the while the department will be relocated to the area near St. Joseph's Hospital, the Hamburg station will remain open. Hamburg Police Department's initial proposal would supply officers for 20 hr./week for an annual cost of \$86,000. Council and Mayor Kisha discuss pricing and proposed work for the officers, with Vice President Botwright and Mr. Grim discussing the possibility of traffic enforcement only. Mr. Paine would like the officers to enforce speeding. Mayor Kisha and Chief Wagner review the process of how Berks DES dispatches calls. Vice President Botwright and Mr. Grim discuss the duties of the SRO at Perry Elementary. Mayor Kisha will ask Hamburg Police Chief Kuklinski to attend a future meeting.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Work is progressing at the office building.

Mr. Gruber reports that the digital speed indicator signs have been taken down, as they are degraded. Borough staff will further exam the signs to see if any in-house repairs can be made.

Mr. Gruber reports that the issue with the scum pump has resolved itself.

Mr. Gruber notes that AMS will begin the oil & chip project on Thursday, June 25; on Franklin St., from E. Noble Ave. to Church Ave. and the 300 block of Reber St. UGI has not provided a clear date for their scheduled work in the borough. Mr. Gruber states that UGI will need to replace the roadway to its prior condition upon completion of their work.

A tech from Axiom will be at the sewer plant on Monday. There are issues with the headworks lift station backing up on the screw press.

Beginning Monday, June 22, Mr. Gruber will be operating the sewer plant for 2 weeks, as Mr. Mohn will be on vacation.

Utilities – President Kline – nothing to report

Public Works – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Rec & Community – Ms. Randazzo

*A motion is made by Ms. Randazzo to hire the following lifeguards: Lilyian Stubblebine - \$15/hr., Benjamin Bitting - \$16/hr., Greyson Dennis - \$15.25/hr. and Odin Lindner - \$15.25/hr. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Randazzo discusses a pool patron's request for a refund on their \$250 family season pass, as they had an unpleasant experience with the staff. Vice President Botwright reports that the family attended the pool 5 times and had another incident today. Pool staff has requested that they not return. Council discusses what led to the refund request and how much is to be refunded.

*A motion is made by Mr. Grim to refund Kyle & Kaliegh Seidel \$250 for their membership fees to the pool, with the condition that they no longer visit the pool. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grim provides an update on the borough website, noting that the templates have been completed. There will also be more customization options for the borough events calendar on the website. Once Mr. Grim is back from vacation, he will work with CourseVector to push the updates out to the website. It will take him a few days to update the pages on the website.

Mr. Paine is expecting a water donation of 1-2 pallets for the park program.

Admin & Finance – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Mr. Grim to approve the minutes for June 2, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Grim to approve the bills payable for June 16, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reviews the proposed employee insurance rates, reporting that the insurance will renew on August 1. Council is to review the rates for further discussion at the next meeting.

*A motion is made by Ms. Randazzo to adopt Resolution 183-2026 updating the Borough's Emergency Operations Plan. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Mr. Smith asks about the updates, with Vice President Botwright stating the plan was emailed to Council. Mr. Gruber notes that past employees were removed and that physical addresses were updated. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Ms. Randazzo to approve the C.M. High, Inc. estimate #4295 of \$2,422.57 for new batteries and repairs to the traffic light. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Mr. Grim asks if there are any grant funds available to assist with traffic light repair costs, with Vice President Botwright noting that she is not aware of any grant opportunities. Mr. Gruber discusses the repairs, noting that there should be 4 signs on the arm overhanging the carwash, noting that 1 is missing. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Relations – President Kline – nothing to report

New Business

Public Comment

Rusty Wagner (233 Salem Church Rd.): Feels police in the borough would be utilized most for administrative matters, i.e. enforcing ordinances and attending District Justice cases for violations.

Mr. Wagner asks if the borough foreman position will be filled and if not, feels that those funds could be utilized for other borough expenses. Mr. Grim's understanding is that Mr. Mohn has stepped up to fill some of the former foreman's duties. Mr. Gruber reports that while Mr. Mohn has helped coordinate the borough work, he does not wish to be in charge. Mr. Gruber would like to meet with the employee relations committee on the matter.

Mr. Wagner spoke with Donald Mast and asks why the borough has not billed PTMA for 3 ½ years. Mr. Mast commented on the amount of interest the authority is collecting on the funds. Vice President Botwright states that completion of the reconciliations was put on Council, rather than continuing to have ARRO complete the work. She notes that it was discussed at a prior meeting of having ARRO once again perform the calculations. She and Mr. Wertz completed 3 years of reconciliations but have faced time constraints in completing the remaining years. Mr. Wagner asks why this was not brought up by the auditors. He and Vice President Botwright discuss how the reconciliations were completed in the past, noting that the reconciliations were pre-billed and then reconciled. Vice President Botwright explains the reconciliation process. Mr. Smith reports that the decision was made at the last meeting to have ARRO once again complete the PTMA reconciliations.

Mr. Wagner believes the borough should readdress the water agreement with Perry Township in the event the borough would need additional water supply for emergencies.

Darrin Dietrich (719 Main St.): States that his most recent water bill is the highest he has ever received and is looking for some clarity on the base bill and why his bill is higher than normal. Mr. Grim notes that the newer water meters are more accurate, whereas the prior meters did not register slower moving water. Mr. Gruber reports of a similar instance, where a resident had a newer meter installed and their water bill was higher. Staff performed a flow test on that meter, to show the usage being registered.

There were prior discussions on changing the water rates, but the rates were not updated. Mr. Gruber will coordinate a time to look at Mr. Dietrich's meter.

Mr. Dietrich is in favor of having local police presence in the borough. He comments on the use of fireworks in town. Mr. Grim notes that video of the occurrences should be taken, so that the PA State Police can enforce the matter. Reminders will be noted on social media. Mr. Grim asks if it would be possible to have a question on the ballot regarding additional police in the borough, noting that a tax increase would be needed to do so. Vice President Botwright notes that it is possible, but that it could be a time-consuming process.

Mr. Dietrich asks if there is a barking dog ordinance. Vice President Botwright and Mr. Gruber reference the ordinance, which states that the complainant must record and document the barking for a specified amount of time and then call the office to file a report.

Vice President Botwright reports that the final draft of the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area Master Plan 2026 has been forwarded. Blue Mountain Wildlife is requesting a letter of support from the borough for the project.

*A motion is made by Ms. Randazzo to send a letter of support for the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area Master Plan 2026. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Berks DES submitted a summary of the Municipal Radio System Replacement Project. Chief Wagner reports that the number of radios they purchase will depend upon the financing that is received. There would potentially be 8 mobile units and 25 portable radios.

Mr. Smith asks how a police agreement with a neighboring department would affect the borough's ability to obtain any police related grants. He also asks if the borough would receive the funds from any traffic citations that a neighboring department would issue within the borough. Mayor Kisha's understanding is that any revenue generated within the borough would be paid to Shoemakersville. Vice President Botwright feels that grants may be dependent upon who is the grantor and how the grant is worded.

Mr. Paine references discussion he previously heard regarding paying out the fire company's yearly donation in installments, rather than one lump sum. Vice President Botwright is unaware of any such discussions. She will discuss the disbursement with Ms. Wagner.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Grim to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer