

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

June 3, 2025

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:03 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 8:04 p.m., Chip Haws – Solicitor – leaves at 8:04 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** A few extensions were granted for notices issued last month for high grass & weeds, shrubbery and vehicles.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws

- **Curb & Sidewalk Ordinance:** Solicitor Haws and Council review the proposed ordinance.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Barley Snyder to advertise the ordinance for adoption at the June workshop. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. As there may not be enough time for advertising, Mr. Wertz amends the motion for the ordinance to be adopted at the July monthly meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Resolution for Sale of Pool Property:** President Kline and Solicitor Haws review the resolution, with President Kline noting of a typographical error in the sale amount of \$75,000. Solicitor Haws states that President Kline may correct the error and sign & initial the update.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the Council President to execute any documents necessary to transfer the title for the pool parcel for \$75,000. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** 60% plans are completed. Mr. Kee will forward a list of questions that require additional Council input. The grant amount requested was \$238,000 with \$205,000 being awarded. President Kline confirms that the grant is non-matching, with the borough having to pay for any improvement over \$205,000. Mr. Wertz and Ms. Kennedy-Kline discuss the building’s readiness for the upcoming election, with Mr. Wertz stating that any upgrades would not be completed in time for the November 2025 election.
- **Brecknock Builders Improvements (Bell Real Estate):** Greg Bogia reviews the plans for the 4,800 sq. ft addition for storage, noting of the two proposed green areas. The waivers are reviewed:

Sections 3.3116 & 3.214: Mr. Wertz has no issue.

Section 4.31: Mr. Wertz has no issue.

Section 4.35797: Mr. Wertz has no issue.

Section 306.A & B: Solicitor Haws references Mr. Kee's calculation noting that the difference between 2-year and 1-year is minimal; from 1.1 to approximately 1.

Section 307.D.2.C: Mr. Kee states that since the area is already impervious, they are requesting the area be considered as impervious surface cover instead of the 20% meadow requirement.

Sections 401.B.21 and 402.B.1.4: Solicitor Haws asks for clarification if the request is to maintain as opposed to pave over. Mr. Bogia states the area will be maintained, but notes that it is in the back and is unsure if an easement would be required for that area. Solicitor Haws believes reference to maintenance of the grassed areas should be noted, so that the responsibility is not forgotten. Mr. Bogia has no issue with adding the note.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve waivers from Sections 3.3116, 4.31, 4.35797, 306A and 307.D.2.C. Mr. Bogia also asks for a waiver from Section 4.3568, as no new employees, bathroom facilities or sewer & water demand will occur. Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks if the water and sewer requirements are based on the square footage or the number of employees. Mr. Bogia and Ms. Kennedy-Kline discuss how usage would be obtained for the storage-only addition.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize waivers from Sections 3.3116, 3.214, 4.31, 4.35797, 306 A. & B., 307.D.2.C and 4.3568 for the Bell Real Estate Solution, LLC, 1079 Shoemaker Ave. project. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Mr. Grim questions the waiver for stormwater maintenance, with President Kline stating those waivers were not granted and will be added to the plans. Motion carried unanimously.

The plan will be reviewed, with a planning commission meeting being scheduled immediately before the June 17 workshop.

Fire Chief's Report Chief Wagner: There are no questions on the May call report. Vice President Botwright thanks the fire company for their response to a recent incident at the pool.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closed on June 5.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp reviews the 95 calls on the May monthly PA State Police report.

PA State Police Sgt. Mengel provides his work history and notes that he is present to address any resident concerns. President Kline asks what "see officer" on the monthly reports means, with Sgt. Mengel noting that the troopers addressed a call where no crime was committed. Mr. Grim asks for the average police response time, with Sgt. Mengel noting that troopers respond within several minutes. He reports that troopers are self-initiating calls, which will increase the chances of more troopers being assigned to his barracks, which in turn will further decrease response times. Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks what residents should do if they witness a traffic violation. The resident should contact the State Police with any information they are able to provide. Ms. Randazzo asks what residents should do if they witness a traffic violation, are unable to identify the driver, but do obtain the license plate. They are to contact the State Police, who will be able to investigate the incident.

Mayor Remp appreciates the good working relationship between the borough and the State Police. He asks Sgt. Mengel to discuss the speeding in the town. Sgt. Mengel reports that when there is a reduction in the speed limit, there must be at least 1 mile after the posted signage before the driver can be pulled over. Unfortunately, within the borough, Main St. is less than 1 mile.

There is no such requirement for an increase in the speed limit. Traffic study requirements regarding the adjustment of speed limits are discussed.

Mr. Grim discusses a curfew, with Sgt. Mengel replying that while a municipality may have a curfew ordinance, the State Police does not enforce local ordinances.

President Kline asks what the borough can do to deter crime in the borough, with Sgt. Mengel noting that the lights in the park are beneficial, as well as the Community Watch Program.

Mayor Remp reviews the 95 PA State Police calls listed on the May report.

Round 6 for the Hometown Heroes banners continues to be open, with the hopes of having a ceremony by the end of the year.

The next Neighborhood Watch Program meeting will be on June 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the borough office.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

An ordinance is being drafted to prohibit residents from placing grass clippings and leaves into the streets.

Mr. Gruber reports that there were no major issues with the street sweeping program, just a few cars that were not moved from the road.

Mr. Gruber reports that the new pool controller is scheduled to be installed by June 13.

The meter for the water plant will be installed by Malden on June 5.

Mr. Gruber discusses Council's approval needed for the 2025 road project. Vice President Botwright reports the contractor's proposed SY unit price is an increase from \$2.54 to \$2.69.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the 2025 road maintenance contract, removing the double application areas from the project and to increase the cost of the single application by 15¢, increasing the unit price from \$2.54/sq yd to \$2.69/sq yd. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wertz will contact AMS regarding the previous motion.

Mr. Gruber reviews the monthly spreadsheet created to show the operational costs for the water and wastewater plants. The report submitted is for April costs. He and Vice President Botwright discuss chemical usage, which may fluctuate based upon demand. Mr. Gruber and Mr. Wertz review the monthly costs, with Mr. Gruber noting that the repairs to the distribution system in April are not a normal occurrence.

At repeated requests from Mr. Paine, Mr. Gruber submits information obtained from the electronic speed limit signs, noting that 71% of traffic passing through the 900 block of Main St. travels at a speed of less than 25 mph. 32% of traffic passing by 25 Main St. travel at less than 25 mph. On Franklin St., 95% of vehicles drive less than 25 mph and 42% of traffic on E. Noble Ave. travels less than 25 mph. Mr. Paine asks if times can be included on the future monthly reports.

Mr. Wertz asks Mr. Kee to investigate what is required in scope and cost to increase the speed limit.

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz and Vice President Botwright drafted the 2023 PTMA reconciliation report, waiting for Ms. Wagner to confirm details before finalizing and sending the report to PTMA.

Water – President Kline

President Kline reports that Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on May 6 at Bell Trucking and the water plant, with all requirements being met.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that the Children’s Fair will be on Saturday, June 7 with the parade beginning at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to hire Xander Valentino as a jr. park leader for \$12/hr. and Jonathan Thrush as a park leader for \$15/hr. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

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 May 20, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for June 3, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Wertz, excluding payment to the fire and ambulance services. Vice President Botwright amends the motion to approve the bills payable, with the exception of checks #16467 & #16462. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks why those payments are excluded, with Mr. Wertz replying that payment should be held until the entities’ financial reports are submitted, per requirements in the state statute. Vice President Botwright cites Borough Code Section 1202, with Mr. Wertz adding Section 1202 (82), March 17, 2008, Ed Rendell. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 2 no, with Mr. Smith and Ms. Kennedy-Kline voting opposed.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Randazzo will be obtaining further information from Jillian Hyde regarding Ms. Hyde’s offer to loan live traps to the borough for residents to trap cats. Vice President Botwright discusses residents that feed cats in their garage, but do not consider the animals their pets; feral vs. domesticated. Ms. Randazzo discusses the lack of grants for the spay/neuter process.

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks who purchased the pool property, with President Kline responding Home Elite. Mr. Geschwindt asks what changes will be made to the curb & sidewalk ordinance, with President Kline reporting that the ordinance will be updated to reflect PennDOT changes; curb width from 36” to 48” and further discusses grade and slope. The section referencing diagonal curb ramps will be removed. No 36” sidewalks currently in place would be affected, just repairs or any new sidewalks and any ADA ramps moving forward from the date the ordinance is adopted. Mr. Geschwindt discusses his sidewalk work to be completed on Noble Ave. and notes of the borough’s 10’ right-of-way from the edge of the curb in to each property. Vice President Botwright notes of PennDOT’s ownership on Noble Ave. Mr. Geschwindt refers to the lines and grades established from the borough’s topographical map. If his sidewalk repairs are to be made at 48”, they will extend much further than the neighboring 36” sidewalks.

Council will review the ordinance amendments with the engineer, to see if the proposed changes will apply to repairs or just new construction. Mr. Gruber reports that the curb ramp spec is out of date, not the curb width itself, and should be set at a 4' minimum, as well as the addition of Publication of 72M and the removal of diagonal curb ramps. Mr. Wertz discusses sidewalk requirements and how future permits for work could be affected. Ms. Kennedy-Kline recommends that Mr. Geschwindt consult with his contractor on the matter.

Jim Heckman (806 Main St.): References the May 20 workshop, asking how much is in the sewer fund, with Mr. Wertz and Vice President Botwright reporting \$800,000. Ms. Wagner believes the amount is closer to \$1.3M. Vice President Botwright and Mr. Wertz discuss the amount in the account, with Vice President Botwright noting that a significant amount of the funds is from the loan received to pay off the sewer plant repairs. Mr. Wertz reports that the borough received a loan for the full amount of those repairs at \$2.2M. As PTMA opted to pay for their percentage of the work in cash, approximately \$600,000 the borough is paying off those funds in the amortization schedule.

Mr. Heckman asks how the funds being borrowed from the sewer fund for the new truck will be repaid, with Mr. Wertz replying that the funds will be transferred from the general fund to the sewer fund.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Requests that when a PA State Trooper is present to speak at a meeting, that they be placed on the agenda first, so they may return to their duties. Council will consider that for future meetings, with Mayor Remp noting that the Sgt. Mengel volunteered to attend the meeting.

Mr. Paine discusses the impact that social media and Ring cameras have had on identifying criminal offenders and asks if the borough has a curfew. Council and Mr. Paine discuss a curfew and note that residents should contact the police if an incident occurs at their home. The borough's current ordinance stipulates 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Wertz discusses his meeting with Sam Harter from Tompkins Insurance, regarding the borough's renewal of insurance. Mr. Harter is working on ways to adjust coverage for the properties and vehicles, in an effort to reduce costs. Mr. Harter further reported that he did not have an updated borough driver's list. Mr. Wertz asks Chief Wagner to supply a list of current firefighters. Chief Wagner will provide a list of active members to Council.

For additional clarification on what is covered at each site, President Kline requests the Tompkins location map for the borough owned properties. Council discusses the number of buildings/structures at each location. Mr. Wertz reviews the differences between building & personal property and fixtures.

A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer