

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

March 17, 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 7:05 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President – arrived late, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Mark Paine, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz Jr., David Kisha – Mayor and Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes

Absent from meeting: Michael Grim

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Kisha

The first Neighborhood Watch meeting of 2026 was held on March 10. Plans for the year and moving forward were discussed. The next meeting will be on May 12.

Mayor Kisha discusses the crossing guard vacancy at E. Noble Ave. & Chestnut St.

Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber reviews the request from the September 11 National Memorial Trail Alliance regarding their proposed installation of signage along the planned portion of the trail that runs through the borough. Vice President Botwright notes that the proposed route appears to mirror a large portion of the Schuylkill River Trail and asks if the Memorial Trail signage could be placed on the same posts as the Schuylkill River Trail signs. **Mr. Gruber will contact the Alliance representative on Wednesday.**

Mr. Gruber spoke with David Kee and Charlie Paris regarding the rental of chip seal equipment. The borough would be responsible for any liability factors and any unforeseen issues with the equipment.

Before the next meeting, Mr. Gruber will be submitting a spreadsheet regarding the reduction of overtime.

DEP completed a full inspection of the water plant.

Utilities – President Kline – nothing to report

Public Works – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Gruber will be adding the streets that were not completed in last year’s road repair project proposal to the 2026 road repair list. Mr. Wertz reports that not all streets on the list will be addressed, as the budgeted repair amount will be exceeded. The final list will be presented at the April meeting. Council reviews the condition of several borough roads. Mr. Gruber and Mr. Wertz discuss double bituminous seal coat over streets that have already been treated with a single seal coat.

Rec & Community – Ms. Randazzo

Vice President Botwright provides an update on the meeting with Barry Isett regarding grant opportunities for the park. Barry Isett will be submitting a proposal for their firm to complete the DCNR application for the newer pavilion at the park, as a smaller project. They will work on a plan to use awarded grant funding as a possible match to proposed grant awards. They will also be submitting a PSA for managing the grants.

Ms. Randazzo notes of the gnome hunt in the borough this week.

Ms. Randazzo reports that the next Rec Board meeting will be on March 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Office.

Volunteers are needed for Children's Fair on Saturday, June 6.

Ms. Randazzo reviews the updated park mulch pricing. Mr. Gruber and Council further discuss the quotes.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase 234 yds. of non-certified mulch from Berks Soil & Stone in an amount not to exceed \$4,600. Seconded by President Kline. Ms. Randazzo asks if the cost includes delivery, with Mr. Gruber noting that it does. Motion carried unanimously.

Admin & Finance – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the Borough Council President to enter into the Borough of Hamburg Sweeper Rental Agreement, which is for a cost of \$1,000 and includes an 8hr. day with an operator. Seconded by President Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Axiom Hydraulic Service Quotation No. 3088953 of \$3,350 for service to the effluent pump at the water plant. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the purchase of a Pentair sand filter for \$1,999 from PoolPlaza.com. Seconded by President Kline. President Kline asks if this is a new project or a continuation, with Mr. Gruber stating it is a continuation of replacing the bulk heads. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for March 3, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for March 17, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Relations – President Kline

Council reviews the continued need for a crossing guard at E. Noble Ave. & Chestnut St.

Executive Session

Council recesses into executive session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss employee relations. Regular session reconvenes at 7:45 p.m.

Donald Hinkley will be asked to submit an application to be rehired as a crossing guard.

Old Business

Mr. Paine asks if the crossing guard positions will be fully staffed with the potential rehiring of Mr. Hinkley, with Vice President Botwright reporting that all 3 positions would then be filled.

Mr. Smith asks for an update on the LSA grant for the ADA improvements at the borough office. Mr. Wertz reports that a Notice of Intent to award is to be issued to the contractor.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted - Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer