

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

March 5, 2024

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:10 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline - President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo – arrived at 7:36 p.m., Joseph Wertz, Jr., David Kee – Engineer, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes, Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Amy Botwright – Vice President, Dana Smith, Dustin Remp - Mayor

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** The resident receiving the stop work order last month has picked up a zoning hearing variance application. This same resident received a notice regarding open burning in February.

A resident on Main St. received a notice regarding sewage from the rear of their property going into the alley. They are working on a resolution.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Cable Franchise Agreement:** Was working with Mr. Gruber on the agreement, but believes that the borough should work with Dan Cohen and the cable consortium, as was done in the past. Mr. Gruber spoke with Mr. Cohen and has forwarded the proposal to Council. Mr. Cohen’s firm conducted franchise fee audits and found underpayments approximately 65% of the time. Funds are then received before the new contract is negotiated. **Mr. Gruber will have information available at the March workshop.**
- **Police Pension:** The preliminary hearing for the former borough police chief has been continued twice and is scheduled for May. The District Justice for the hearing has been changed.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **Tractor Supply:** A land development application was submitted and conditionally approved. The majority of the review letter is complete. The code stipulates that 2 more fire hydrants are needed; however, this could be reduced by receiving a letter of authorization from the fire chief.
- **Growing Greener Grant:** The contractor has completed the bioswale and will come back in the spring for maintenance. Documents for the grant were submitted to PADEP and have been approved for closeout.
- **NPDES Permit – Wastewater Treatment Plant:** The permit expired on December 31, 2022. The renewal application was submitted to PADEP on March 31, 2022. ARRO has received verification of the submission to PADEP.
- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** The grant application was submitted on 11/28/23. The improvements include modifications to the front and rear parking lots, front door,

adding a side door with ADA ramp and other related improvements. ARRO prepared a PSA to prepare bid plans and specifications for the project. The applicable percentage of PSA engineering fees can be rolled into the grant. **Mr. Wertz will speak with the committee regarding the PSA.**

- **Chapter 94 Report:** The report is being finalized. **Mr. Gruber will forward Mr. Kee the necessary calibration reports.**

Fire Chief's Report – Deputy Chief Tobias

Deputy Chief Tobias will work on breaking down the incident type/location report, to show what types of calls occurred specifically in the borough.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closed on March 29.

Hach has mailed a reimbursement check for \$4,411.96 which covers double-payment of a bill from 2023 that was discussed at the February workshop.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp – no report

Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber reviewed several snow emergency ordinances and has forwarded a draft revision of the borough's ordinance to Council. He feels borough staff and Council should work together to call a snow emergency.

Mr. Gruber received complaints regarding a semi-rig with New Jersey tags being parked on Main St. Per Berks DES, the borough is only permitted to run PA plates. While Mr. Grim suggests contacting the PA State Police on the matter, Mr. Gruber feels that if the troopers do not consider the matter a priority, they will not open an incident report and have the plates run.

Mr. Gruber's laptop is failing. He has received a quote of \$500 from BK Computers to replace the computer.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the BK Computers quote 2459 of \$500 for a replacement laptop for the borough manager. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

By Friday, Mr. Gruber will be receiving quotes on the street repairs from Mike Smith at Folk Paving. Mr. Gruber is waiting to hear back from Charlie Paris at Penndot regarding the project.

Mr. Gruber reports on the high winds from February 28 that knocked down a tree on 10th St. and notes that Mr. Bachman responded that evening to cut up the tree enough to open the roadway to traffic. Mr. Gruber reached out to Christian Leinbach, who contacted Met-Ed, so that the borough can work with Met-Ed to avoid situations of power outages at the water plant and surrounding borough residences during weather events. Mr. Gruber thanks President Kline for his email on the matter, with President Kline reporting that installing a new cutout would be the simplest solution.

Mr. Gruber would like to advertise for a part-time seasonal employee for grass cutting and grounds maintenance to work Monday – Wednesday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at a rate of \$15/hr.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to advertise for a part-time seasonal employee as described by the borough manager, at a rate of \$15/hr. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Although Mr. Gruber will be on vacation from March 11 – March 15, he will be available.

Mr. Mohn will be completing and submitting a monthly sewer plant report to Mr. Gruber.

President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss Renegade Solutions, with Mr. Gruber reporting that the vendor was onsite this day and replaced 1 module and the ends of the other cable, with filter #2 now running.

Mr. Gruber notes that the fire company receives donations when filling swimming pools and asks Chief Wagner if the department could recoup funds for assisting residents when handling tree down calls. Chief Wagner reports that the Perry Township road crew handles the trees in the township and that there are few tree calls in the borough.

Junior Council Person's Report – Mr. Nabar

Mr. Nabar reviews his Know Your Local project, having 3 more Council members to interview. Later this month he will post interviews on www.knowyourlocal.org and on various social media outlets.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that Mike Smith from Folk Paving will be submitting quotes for the road project.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that a large tree that fell at the park during last week's storm was cleaned up. The stump will be addressed when weather permits. President Kline appreciates Mr. Bachman's positive work ethic when dealing with the tree that fell on 10th St.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

President Kline explains what typically occurs when the water plant loses power during a storm; a branch/tree falls on the aerial line that runs from 10th St., west to well 4 and south to well 5. When the lines fall, they dead short, which kills the cutout, and power is lost to the plant, along with the west side of a portion of the 800-900 blocks of Main St. He forwarded a sketch to Met-Ed, with the hopes that they will move the cutout from down Apple Ln. up closer to the wells, so that when future events occur, power is only lost to the wells and leaves the property south of that intact.

President Kline reports that Suburban tested the water at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant on February 6 and that all requirements were met.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The Rec Board is sponsoring an egg hunt at the park on March 23 at 3:00 p.m. and a Scibble tournament on March 22 at Ollie's Tavern, with registration starting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Employee Relations – President Kline

An ad will be run for a part time seasonal employee.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for February 20, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for March 5, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

President Kline notes of the Miller-Keystone blood drive being held on March 12 from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Fleetwood Bank on Main St. Donors can register on the M-K website.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that the meat and produce for the Keystone Military Families Easter distribution event was lost, due to a control panel issue with their refrigerator/freezer truck. Mr. Breon will attempt to repair the truck's control panel. Anyone wishing to make donations for the food drive to replace what was lost may contact Ms. Kennedy-Kline or Ms. Lord directly.

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks when yard waste pickup will begin, with Ms. Wagner reporting the first week of April.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for an update on the proposed warehouse near the Kwik Shoppe. President Kline reports that no official plan submissions have been forwarded to the borough.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the status of the strip mall next to CVS. President Kline has not heard of any recent developments. Rusty Wagner notes that Mr. Homel hopes to have roadwork for the infrastructure begin within the next year. The hope is that the road will take away the increased traffic flow from behind the Tractor Supply building. Bids have gone out for the site work.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if the encroachment issue behind the Tractor Supply building has been resolved. Mr. Grim discusses the Indemnification Agreement, which was not finalized.

Rusty Wagner (233 Salem Church Rd. Hamburg): Reports that although Tractor Supply tried to fix the potholes behind the building, Mr. Homel asked Mr. Wagner to address the matter, which will be taken care of when weather permits. The plan is to loosen, grade, and roll the area, monitoring the situation every few weeks.

Old Business- none

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer