

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

March 7, 2023

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, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo – arrived at 7:16, Dana Smith, Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves at 7:21 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:21 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager, Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Joseph Wertz, Jr., Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Public Works

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Permits & Notices:** No questions on the submitted report.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Tractor Supply Company:** Solicitor Mooney, Engineer Smith and the developer, engineer, and attorney for TSC met to discuss what should be noted in the drawing to be submitted; a sketch plan amendment to the recorded plan. At the meeting, Solicitor Mooney provided a draft agreement stating that work on the TSC building may begin while they are going through the review process of the plan. No response on the agreement has been received from TSC.
- **Wolfe Textiles:** The borough may either waive or approve the annexation plan. They are close to contingent plan approval for the area in Perry Twp. Wolfe owns several parcels and would like to consolidate them into one. There would be no other changes. Their engineer is drafting a legal description for easements, so the borough would have access to the sewer pipes. Solicitor Mooney suggests adding the plan review to the April meeting agenda. He asks if Council has any immediate thoughts to waive or approve the plan, so that the engineer can add the appropriate signature blocks to the plan. Solicitor Mooney, Council, and Mr. Gruber discuss the plan and easements. Solicitor Mooney notes that Council can approve or waive plan approval, contingent upon execution of the three easements agreements. Solicitor Mooney will request that a representative from the engineering firm be present at the April meeting to review the plan.

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith

- **Headworks & Solids Handling Construction:** ARRO recommends payment of application #8 for \$158,905.80.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve EECI payment application #8 for \$158,905.80. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Per request from President Kline, ARRO will research the following items related to the project:

- Confirmation on why controls to maintain the current polymer system were included in the bid, as the new equipment has its own polymer. Engineer Smith notes that Mr. Dietrich wished to keep the old polymer system active, but will look for documentation. If not needed, it could be removed from the project through a change order.

- Why the particular dumpsterveyor control enclosure was chosen, as the style appears to be excessive.
 - Why the dumpster building is angled toward the main building, while the headworks and elevator are square.
- **2023 Road Project:** A probable opinion of cost was completed for projects:
 - Chestnut St., 8th to 9th Sts.
 - W. 6th St., Main to Washington Sts.
 - N. Main St at Noble Ave.
 - 4th St. and Franklin St. intersection

The committee will review the projects and discuss the matter at the March 21 workshop.

- **Dioxin Waiver:** The waiver paperwork should be finished shortly. Mr. Gruber conducted the 1st quarter testing.

Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

Liquid Fuels funding of \$40,966.92 was received.

The spring newsletter will be delivered on April 1. Deadline for content is March 21.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Remp

Since only 7 Hometown Heroes applications have been received, the deadline has been extended to May 1. Mayor Remp was approached by an individual on Mohrsville Rd., requesting a banner be placed by his home. Mayor Remp requested that he contact Perry Twp., asking that they start up the program for his area.

As a NNO event will not be taking place in the borough, Mayor Remp will have a Neighborhood Watch table set up at the event being held by Northern Berks Police on August 1. Candy’s has expressed interest in participating. Mayor Remp discusses his thoughts on holding a block party on July 31, prior to NNO on August 1.

Mayor Remp and Mr. Grim recently met with PA State Police Sgt. Mengel. Mr. Grim discusses details of the meeting, reporting that both marked and unmarked vehicles patrol the borough. Sgt. Mengel is a 1995 graduate of Hamburg High School. The State Police community services officer may be available to attend a future Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Mr. Grim reports that while the State Police are struggling with staffing issues, they are still often approached by regional departments, requesting PSP resources that those departments do not have.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline discusses video surveillance ticketing that some police departments use and ask if this could be a possibility for the State Police, as they are short on manpower. The matter will be discussed with Sgt. Mengel. No State Police report was received this month.

Vice President Botwright and Mr. Grim discuss the importance of obtaining license plate information for offending vehicles. Once Neighborhood Watch paperwork is complete, Mr. Grim can submit the information to Amazon, so the watch members can receive discounts on Ring Doorbell systems.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be Saturday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Remp discusses his email regarding having a moment of silence at the Council meetings. He and Council discuss the matter, deciding that Mayor Remp has the option to have a moment of silence during his report.

Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber would like Council to consider amending the traffic ordinance to include the following as no parking areas:

- The north side of 6th St., from Main St. to Washington St.
- The west side of Main St., beginning at 2nd St. and heading south for approximately 83 ft.
- The west side of Franklin St., beginning at 4th St. for approximately 80 ft.

Council and Mr. Gruber discuss the streets, with President Kline and Vice President Botwright suggesting that surrounding residents/property owners be spoken with before proceeding. Mr. Gruber reports that Mr. Wertz has no issue with the no parking on Franklin St.

Mr. Gruber presents two types of school crossing signs for 4th & Franklin Sts. Both signs are 36", with the first having no lighting, at a cost of \$208. The second sign is solar and battery LED flashing with a timer for \$1,500.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to purchase two solar crossing signs for the 4th & Franklin St. intersection at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discusses the need to update the handheld water meter reader, as it is becoming outdated and is now unable to read data log reports. The cost has increased from \$16,000 to \$21,161.25 for the laptop reading system. President Kline reviewed budget items and notes that \$12,500 was budgeted for a well pump and \$20,000 for pulling 2 pumps. If a new well pump was not purchased and only 1 pump was pulled, \$22,500 could be used for the reader system.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to purchase the new water meter reading laptop system at a cost not to exceed \$22,000. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Mr. Grim asks how the purchase would affect the budget, with Vice President Botwright and President Kline noting that the expense could be allocated against other ledger items without having to readvertise the budget. Motion carried unanimously.

All valves for the water plant project have been received.

All major equipment is in place at the sewer plant.

Mr. Gruber will be receiving a cost for an iPad to be used with the ArcGIS. The iPad would be used to locate equipment and create a photo journal. He received a quote of \$35/mo. for a cellular signal with FirstNet. He will present additional information at the March workshop. He and Vice President Botwright discuss the Kutztown University internship program, noting that a student may be available to enter data into the ArcGIS.

Mr. Gruber spoke with the borough's flood insurance carrier, regarding updating the sewer plant's policy to include the new equipment.

Mr. Grim asks Mr. Gruber to prioritize the areas in the road project with Mr. Gruber stating that N. Main St. at Noble Ave. would be first, followed by Chestnut St., from 8th to 9th Sts.

Mayor Remp has spoken to the resident at 519 Reber St. regarding her concern of a neighbor's barking dog. Ms. Kennedy-Kline also notes that Mr. Zimmerman's report has the item listed as being resolved.

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

Mr. Gruber reports that approximately 85% of the residential water meters have been replaced.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to purchase 12 multi-jet water meters at a cost not to exceed \$3,400. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

President Kline and Mr. Gruber will be meeting with an automation provider at the water plant on Friday, to discuss the valve project and pricing for remote access for the SCADA system.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The gnome hunt will take place this month.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that the egg hunt will be held in the park on April 1.

The Children's Fair theme for the June 3 event is Shoey, It's a Magical Place. The parade route will be slightly changed. There will be fewer raffle prizes, but they will be of higher value. Volunteers are needed for the day.

The Lion's Club Carnival will be June 23 & 24.

An Earth Day event will be held at the park on April 22 at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.

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

Employee Relations – President Kline

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to hire Amanda Wessner as a second back-up crossing guard, at the rate of \$15/hr. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for February 21, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for March 7, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that 6.5 hrs. of time remain in the borough website annual contract. She suggests PSAB's recommended plugins for ADA Considerations and Functional Government.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

The spring community yard sale will take place on May 13.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline would like to have electronic recycling collection at the Earth Day event on April 22.

Council discusses the tire collection event on April 6 at the Allegheny Towing and Salvage Company.

New Business

Public Comment

Gary Billman (730 Main St.): Asks what can be done regarding people leaving large TVs in front of his apartment's dumpster. President Kline states that this would be the landlord's responsibility to have them taken to an electronic recycling facility. Mr. Billman suggests noting of electronic recycling in the next borough newsletter.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Tractor trailer truck traffic/speeding has increased in the evening around 10:00 p.m. by his home. **President Kline reports that as the borough cannot post signage related to weight/width restrictions, he can check with the solicitor or engineer to see if there is anything that could be done related to signage.** Vice President Botwright suggests contacting Sgt. Mengel regarding enforcement.

Brandon & Todd Fenstermaker (4 Main St.): Discuss two manholes near their home that rattle and create noise when driven over. Mr. Gruber met with Mr. Paine regarding the manholes, with **Mr. Gruber reporting that he would like to obtain pricing for a riser ring for the manhole** that is located in the borough. As PTMA owns the second manhole, the Fenstermakers will need to contact them regarding the issue.

Mr. Gruber and Lance Adam discuss the line painting on the south end of Main St., with Mr. Gruber stating that the northbound lane appears to be narrower than the southbound lane.

Mr. Fenstermaker asks if signage could be installed for the warehouse tractor trailer drivers, stating where specific warehouse locations are located, in order to reduce tractor trailer traffic in the borough. He states that trucks use his vacant stone lot at 2nd St. and Church Ave. to turn around.

Mr. Grim is aware of a resident who contacted the warehouses and asked that they provide their drivers with the proper truck routes.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks for the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on February 1 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for an update on the strip mall in Perry Township, with Mr. Adam stating that the developer was granted conditional/final plan approval.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for an update on the plans for TSC and CVS, with President Kline stating that a zoning hearing board meeting was held in February for Tractor Supply. Mr. Billman was present at the hearing and reports that Tractor Supply is scheduled to be in operation in July and that a Dollar Store is scheduled to backfill the current CVS building. CVS will be moved to the strip mall when the Perry Township project begins in 2+ years. While Mr. Adam states that at the hearing, Mark Koch reported that Reber St. was an alternate entrance for trucks, Mr. Billman reports that no truck trailers longer than 10' will be permitted on Reber St. and that the roadway is not to be used for delivery truck traffic. This is to be noted on the plans. Mr. Gruber suggests that Mr. Geschwindt take photos of any trucks that may not abide by the truck route.

A motion is made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer