

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**May 20, 2025**

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, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz Jr. and Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes

Absent from the meeting: Chris Kline – President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dustin Remp – Mayor

**Public Hearing – Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement**

Mr. Wertz reports that the borough's franchise agreement with Comcast is soon to expire and that negotiations have begun for a new agreement. The hearing is to provide residents with the opportunity to discuss Comcast's past performance and the borough's future cable-related needs. Franchise renewal allows municipalities to assert their rights with respect to their cable operator and to receive benefits in return for granting the cable operator the right to use its public rights-of-way. Some of those benefits include strong and enforceable customer service standards, a state-of-the art cable system, protection of the public rights-of-way, franchise fees for the cable operator's use of the public rights-of-way and improved franchise fee accountability, reporting requirements on the cable operator, legal protections for the borough and better mechanisms to enforce the franchise agreement. As there are no public comments, the hearing is closed at 7:04 p.m.

**Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber**

Mr. Gruber reports that Solicitor Mooney has reviewed and approved the settlement agreement from Master Meter for 328 Apple Ln. Both the borough and Master Meter are released from any liability. The agreement will need to be signed by President Kline and forwarded to Master Meter. Master Meter will then release a payment of \$2,895 to the Noeckers.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize President Kline to sign the settlement agreement and release between Master Meter and the Noeckers. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

When they were addressing a resident concern regarding curbs, Mr. Kee informed Mr. Gruber that Ordinance 334-1993 regarding curbs and sidewalks should be amended to reflect the current PennDot requirements. Mr. Gruber reviews the recommended updates.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to forward the amended draft of Ordinance 334-1993 to Solicitor Mooney and to advertise the ordinance, subject to Solicitor Mooney's review and approval. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that the temporary occupancy permit for Tractor Supply expired on May 16, 2025. He reports that Tractor Supply has contacted a second sprinkler company to perform the necessary steps to provide the hydraulic calculations for the sprinkler system, which could be available by the end of next week.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to extend Tractor Supply's temporary certificate of occupancy for 60 days, until July 16, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber and Mr. Wertz discuss Bogia Engineering's time extension request for the Bell Warehouse project.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the time extension request for the Bell Warehouse subdivision until June 5, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that a street repair permit issued by PennDOT will expire in June. He submits a quote from Folk Paving for the work on Noble Ave.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Folk Paving proposal for the asphalt paving construction on Noble Ave. for \$2,720. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Mr. Smith asks for the specific location of the work, with Mr. Gruber reporting in front of 310 E. Noble Ave. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discusses the Berks County Planning Commission's review of the Bell addition, noting that he contacted them to add Shoemakersville as a source water protection area, as Leesport was listed. He and Mr. Wertz discuss the location of the project, as noted in the letter. Mr. Wertz states that the development is in Perry Township, with the driveway area being in Shoemakersville and being subject to the borough's zoning.

Mr. Gruber reports that as Cliff Weinhold is resigning from his crossing guard position at the end of the school year, he recommends hiring someone who may be able to shadow Mr. Weinhold before his last day.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Mr. Gruber to advertise for a new crossing guard. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that while he heard back from R&R Auto Group regarding the appraisal of the current truck, Kinley Auto Group has not responded. R&R is offering \$5,200 for the truck, plow and plow harness. They are unable to provide financing options until the truck is officially ready to be purchased. Mr. Wertz discusses the option of buying a used truck. Council and Mr. Gruber review the number of current trucks (5) and plows inhouse. The old truck is the only unit having a lift gate. Mr. Smith and Ms. Randazzo discuss the current financing rates, with Mr. Smith reporting 6.9%. Mr. Gruber proposes the option of not purchasing a new plow, as the borough would still have 4 plows in operation. Vice President Botwright estimates a yearly payment of \$13,000 with the trade-in. Mr. Wertz discusses the option to purchase the truck, as opposed to financing the vehicle.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase a 2025 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD for \$73,227 minus \$5,200 for the trade-in, from R&R Auto Group, with the funds being borrowed from the sewer fund. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that Reading Electric has a new pump/motor for the pool, to replace the current unit purchased in 2021. The new pump will have grease fittings to increase longevity.

#### **Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith**

Mr. Wertz spoke with Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, who is willing to eliminate approximately 40% of the contract, removing the double application roads. In return, the contractor would like to increase the SY unit price from \$2.54 for \$2.69, with the total cost being close to the budgeted amount of the project. **Mr. Gruber is asked to speak with Solicitor Mooney on the best way to proceed.**

#### **Sewer – Mr. Wertz**

Mr. Mohn has resubmitted the application for his operator's license.

### **Water – President Kline**

Mr. Wertz briefly discusses the proposed billing structure for water rates. He and Vice President Botwright will review the final draft rates next week.

### **Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline**

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to hire Jonah Jozefick as a lifeguard for the pool, at a rate of \$15.25/hr. Seconded by Mr. Smith. 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 Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for May 6, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for May 20, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo**

The fall Community Yard Sale will be on September 13.

Mr. Wertz verifies with Vice President Botwright that information related to not blowing grass clippings into the streets was included in the most recent newsletter. Mr. Gruber will review the ordinances, as he believes that currently, clippings are prohibited from being placed on sidewalks, however, there is no mention of the roadway. Vice President Botwright reviews the newsletter and reports that residents are asked to not sweep yard waste into the roadway, as it may clog storm drains.

### **New Business**

Mr. Gruber reads from an email that while Mark Koch would not have the settlement documents for the pool parcel ready for the meeting, he has requested that Council make a motion to execute the documents upon Solicitor Mooney's receipt and approval. Payment would then be sent for the pool property.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the borough manager and secretary to execute the deed transfer for the pool property, contingent upon the borough solicitor's approval. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Wertz requests an update on the Blankenbiller matter, with Mr. Gruber reporting that Mr. Blankenbiller sent an email before the meeting reporting that his engineer has almost completed review of the stormwater run-off. Mr. Wertz discusses his interpretation of the situation.

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 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer