

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

November 21, 2023

President Kline 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: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz Jr. and Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person.

Absent from the meeting: Dustin Remp – Mayor, Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes

Fire Chief’s Report – Chief Wagner

Asks if Council has any questions regarding the fire company budget information that was presented at the last meeting. President Kline asks why there is a significant increase in fundraising expenses from 2020-2022. Chief Wagner reports that the fundraising expenses listed for the fire company also include the expenses of the social quarters. While the expenses are combined, the funds are kept separate between the fire company and the social quarters. For the social quarter’s gambling income, 60% must go to a non-profit, which is the fire company. The remaining 40% go back into operating expenses for the social quarters. The 60% for gambling appears as a fundraising expense. Chief Wagner discusses past fire company fundraisers, citing the purchase of tickets & gambling items during COVID as a possible cause for the increase in expenses. He and President Kline further discuss fundraising and the associated expenses. While banquet hall rentals have dropped, the storage rental facility is doing well. Expenses continue to rise, making it difficult to keep up with equipment and truck maintenance. Vice President Botwright asks about training costs, with Chief Wagner noting that the majority of training is funded through Foreign Fire.

Chief Wagner discusses the possible implementation of a fire tax. President Kline notes that the donation allotments from the borough and Perry Twp. appear to coincide with the call volume for each municipality and asks if the township is underfunding the fire company. Council and Chief Wagner discuss the call volume, with Vice President Botwright noting that in 2022, 66% of the calls were in Perry Twp.

Vice President Botwright reports that .5 mills, roughly \$24,600 will go towards the borough’s 2024 fire company donation, with the \$30,000 budgeted amount. Mr. Wertz clarifies that the .5 mills is not to be labeled as a fire tax, but is an increase in the real estate tax rate that funds the general fund, for millage allocation. President Kline and Chief Wagner discuss grant options.

Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber

President Kline reviews his conversation with Lance Adam, regarding adding portable signage to the intermunicipal agreement that is being drafted for the borough and Perry Twp. Mr. Wertz feels that shared equipment and manpower will be important components of the agreement.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith reviews Folk Paving quotes for minor street repairs: \$2,000 for asphalt paving of the alley at Reber St. and \$6,320 for asphalt paving of Chestnut St.

*A motion is made to approve the minor street repair quotes of \$6,320 for Chestnut St. and \$2,000 for the alley at Reber St. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

President Kline reports that clarifier #1 had a skimmer arm fail. As two microswitches were seized closed, new switches having been ordered.

Water – President Kline

President Kline discusses the DEP notice of violation that was received for testing. The DEP generated letter that was included in the newsletter was generic and did not specify that the violation was related to reporting and not to water quality. Future notices will be posted on the borough website.

A generator was not rented for the water tanking cleaning, as the process only took 2 hours.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Santa in the Park will be held on December 16 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Council discusses obtaining trees for the event.

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 November 8, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for November 21, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Earl Felty quote to survey the borough office building and the park, for a cost not to exceed \$8,250. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wertz asks if the .5 mills would be in addition to or part of the budgeted donation amount to the fire company. Vice President Botwright's understanding is that the .5 mill allotment would go towards the \$30,000 budgeted donation, but that this could change for future budgets.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo – nothing to report

New Business

Council discusses the recent ruling regarding meeting agendas. While the preliminary agenda is forwarded to Council on Fridays, it will not be posted until the close of business on the Monday before the meeting. Mr. Wertz suggests having a mailing list of individuals that would like to review the agenda before the meeting.

President Kline offers to reach out to surrounding municipalities to aid Mr. Nabar in his Know Your Local project.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer