

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

November 6, 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 7:01 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Lowell Leaman – Engineer – leaves at 7:13 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:13 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Tara Kennedy-Kline, Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person, Dustin Remp - Mayor

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** An extension has been issued for a resident to address vehicles on her property.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney – nothing to report

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Leaman

- **DRBC Docket Renewal:** ARRO is preparing the sewer DRBC docket renewal which expires June 17, 2025. The renewal fee is \$639.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the borough to pay DRBC the docket renewal fee of \$639. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Public Works Building:** Mr. Wertz has asked Mr. Kee to prepare a PSA for 846 Main St. to be reviewed at the November workshop.
- **State LSA Grant for 2025:** ARRO will be preparing a resolution for the grant application, which is due the end of November.

Fire Chief’s Report – Chief Wagner

There are no questions on the October reports. Chief Wagner reports that the fire company is researching vendors for nozzles and hoses for the \$100,000 grant award that was received.

President Kline and Chief Wagner discuss the current burn ban, with Chief Wagner noting that the offenders are usually unaware of the ban and extinguish the fires immediately.

Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

Ms. Wagner reports that the office will be closed from November 27-29.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Remp

President Kline reports that the monthly PA State Police report was received.

Operator/Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber reports that Exeter Supply notified the borough on October 30 that the quote they submitted on October 29 for water meters would expire, as they will no longer be working with Master Meter. He reached out to Master Meter for a new vendor for their parts. Mr. Gruber and Mr. Methax will be meeting with Ferguson in two weeks.

Mr. Gruber requests approval to purchase steel plates to replace the current warped and broken grates along the north and south curblines of 6th St., near Main St.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve quote #300214787 from Steel & Metal Service Center for \$7,579 to replace steel plates on 6th St. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber and Council discuss the grease trap ordinance prepared by Mr. Gruber. Vice President Botwright asks if the ordinance is new or amending a current ordinance. Solicitor Mooney notes that a FOG ordinance was passed a few years ago. Mr. Gruber states the ordinance will include information on what not to put down a drain and will relate to installing and inspecting grease traps. President Kline states that the FOG ordinance may not have covered the need to install the traps. **Mr. Gruber will review the FOG ordinance.**

Mr. Gruber will be emailing the law/planning/zoning committee information he received from Solicitor Mooney regarding water shut offs and potential issues in gaining access to homes to replace meters. President Kline and Solicitor Mooney review the ordinance. Solicitor Mooney and President Kline discuss the Responsible Utility Customer Protection Act, which relates to the notification procedure for water shut offs. President Kline notes that from December – March, the water can not be turned off without PUC approval if the heating system for the home is tied into the water system.

As the PA DEP issued a drought warning for Berks and Schuylkill Counties, Mr. Gruber reports that a request for a voluntary decrease in water usage of 10% - 15% was posted on the borough’s website and Facebook page.

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz briefly discusses the LSA grant.

Water – President Kline

Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on October 1 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and all requirements were met.

President Kline discusses Exeter Supply’s decision to no longer offer Master Meter products. He previously recommended to Mr. Gruber to use the Exeter Supply water meter quote to negotiate pricing with the new supplier. He and Mr. Wertz discuss the matter.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Vice President Botwright reports that Trunk-or-Treat and Trick-or-Treat went well. The joint Lion’s Club event of Santa in the Park will be on December 21 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Registration will open on December 1. The holiday light decorating contest will take place in December as well.

Vice President Botwright posted the Park Master Site Plan pictures on Facebook. The final report is being drafted.

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 October 15 & 29, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for November 6, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 169-2024, naming Klacik & Associates as auditor for the 2024 borough records. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Grim asks if an audit takes place each year, with Vice President Botwright reporting that a yearly audit is a DCED requirement. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to transfer the borough funds from money market savings accounts to liquid asset savings accounts and to close the money market accounts. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Wertz reports that the accounts will have a higher interest rate of approximately 3.5%. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to advertise the 2025 budget. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo – nothing to report

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks how much the tax rate will increase and why, with Mr. Wertz reporting that the rate will increase 1 mill and go from 7 mills to 8 mills. He notes that inflation is the cause, citing a 40% increase in electricity costs and an 8% increase in health insurance premiums.

Mr. Geschwindt asks when yard waste pick up will end for the season, with Ms. Wagner stating the end of November.

A motion is made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer