

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

October 21, 2025

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 – leaves at 9:05 p.m., Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz Jr., Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dana Randazzo, Dustin Remp – Mayor

Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber

The water tower will be drained starting on Saturday, for the scheduled cleaning on Wednesday, October 29. Mr. Gruber and President Kline discuss tank drainage levels and switching the tank to pressure mode. They will meet on Monday afternoon to set the VFDs.

Mr. Gruber describes the pool leak that was located underneath the concrete near the diving board, and the repairs that were made. Vice President Botwright notes that the leak was appearing in the grass by the snack bar.

Mr. Gruber obtained a price of \$169/each for Children at Play signs for the 400 block of Apple Ln. Council and Mr. Gruber review the speed limits as noted in the traffic ordinance. President Kline notes that any change in speed limit signage would require a traffic study. Council discusses other areas along Apple Ln. where the signs would be beneficial.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase Children at Play signs at a cost not to exceed \$1,600. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber requests a plot plan of where the signs should be installed.

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz discusses the option to bill the borough for the domestic water used at the sewer plant and to include the expense as part of the PTMA reconciliation. Council discusses the matter.

Mr. Wertz notes of ARRO’s recent feedback regarding the change from using domestic water to process water at the plant. Mr. Gruber feels the work needed to make the change is simple, with configuring scaffolding for the project being the most challenging aspect. **Mr. Gruber will research scaffolding companies.**

Council further discusses the matter, with **Mr. Wertz stating that he will contact PTMA to note that the use of any domestic water at the plant will be included in the annual reconciliation, starting with 2026.**

Water – President Kline

Mr. Wertz would like to request a PSA from ARRO for a preliminary engineering report to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of reducing water production capacity, as well as the use of a filter bed. He states that the borough is producing more water than is needed, as PTMA has their own well. Wells 1, 3 and 6 would be able to support the borough and wells 4 and 5 may not be needed. Well 6 may be able to be sequestered like wells 1 & 3. If wells 4 & 5 and possibly well 6 would not be running through the plant, the filter portion of the plant would not be needed.

President Kline reports that the ground storage tank at the plant is not on the system other than through the pumps; it can not be backfilled. Mr. Gruber and Mr. Wertz discuss well sequestering and the potential need for a small filter bed. Mr. Wertz reviews potential costs savings by not needing to maintain wells 4 & 5. He feels the project to decommission the wells may be eligible for the state LSA grant. Permits are discussed. **Mr. Gruber will contact DEP to discuss the possible work. Mr. Wertz will contact ARRO for a PSA.**

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Trunk-or-Treat will be at the park on Friday, October 31 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. There is no rain date.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline would like to update the signage and pool membership applications for the 2026 season, to account for any disrespect towards staff.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz, Mr. Gruber and Mr. Methax met with Ryan Wessner to discuss Mr. Wessner's qualifications to become the borough's zoning and building inspector, at a rate of \$75/hr. Mr. Wessner is currently performing building, zoning and codes work for Hamburg Borough. He would also assist in reviewing any ordinances that would affect his position.

Mr. Gruber feels that Mr. Wessner would better serve Council in the position. President Kline questions whether or not Mr. Wessner would enforce any codes violations, with Mr. Wertz reporting that Mr. Wessner could potentially assist, but would not completely take over the code enforcement duties.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to appoint Ryan Wessner as the borough's primary zoning officer and building inspector, with Paul Gruber being the secondary zoning officer and Bill Murphy being the secondary building inspector. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 1 no, with Mr. Smith voting opposed.

Employee Relations – President Kline

Vice President Botwright will email the review forms to Council for the borough manager and secretary.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for October 7, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for October 21, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Council and Mr. Gruber discuss possible projects for the state LSA Grant. Ms. Kennedy-Kline would like to see a project related to the park. Mr. Gruber recommends new equipment. Mr. Grim notes of repairs at the borough garage. Council briefly discusses the structural review of the garage.

As the grant award is for projects/property ranging from \$25,000 - \$1M, Council decides to submit a grant application for the park drainage issue.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo – nothing to report

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Asks if Council has given any thought to increasing the crossing guard salary, with President Kline replying that while no immediate action was taken, the matter will be discussed during the budget process.

Mr. Paine notes of Kutztown Borough's streetlight program and asks if Council has considered updating the borough's lights to LED. Mr. Smith discusses the contract with Met-Ed, which states that it could cost the borough \$250-\$500 per light to buy out the contract. Once the contract period ends, Met-Ed would replace older lights with LED. **Mr. Gruber will forward the Met-Ed contract spreadsheet to Mr. Smith.**

Council discusses the possible locations for the side door for the ADA improvements to be made at the borough office. President Kline suggests that ARRO put an overlay on the CAD drawings that were completed a few years ago.

Budget Workshop

The board recessed into a budget workshop at 8:23 p.m. Regular session reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer