

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

October 4, 2022

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, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves at 7:24 p.m., Charles Haws – Solicitor – leaves at 7:24 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager, Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Public Works, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dana Smith

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Permits:** One permit was issued for a fence last month.
- **Notices:** Several notices were sent last month for junk and someone living in a camper. Most were resolved, but he still working on a permit needed for a shed.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws

- **Stormwater Ordinance:** The ordinance will be advertised and ready for adoption at the November meeting.
- **PTMA:** Solicitor Mooney recommends providing Mark Koch the requested information regarding the headworks project, as noted in Mark Koch’s letter dated 9-26-22. Council and Solicitor Haws discuss the request and the agreement. Mr. Wertz feels that all pertinent information was provided to them at PTMA meetings that he attended. Mr. Wertz, President Kline, Vice President Botwright, and Solicitor Haws discuss the request. As of now, PTMA has received two invoices for 40% of their share of the project, with the second invoice having terms of net 30 days. There has been no feedback from PTMA on the invoices or their intentions to pay for their portion of the project.
- **Zoning Ordinance Revision:** Mr. Wertz may forward the draft to the Berks County Planning Commission, with the understanding that they have 30 days to review the document and offer comments. Solicitor Haws and Mr. Wertz discuss the 30-day review period and the scheduling of the borough’s public hearing.

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith

- **Headworks & Solids Handling, Bidding & Construction:** ARRO has reviewed payment application #3 and recommends the payment of \$205,398.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize payment of \$205,398 to EECl. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Smith and Council discuss the two change orders to modify the gate to a larger size, to accommodate deliveries and for removal of the solids dumpster.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to accept Change order 1A, for the non-automated slide gate, for a cost of \$4,339. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Mr. Grim asks if ARP funds could be used for the gate, with President Kline reporting yes. Mr. Wertz discusses purchasing the motorized parts at a later date, noting that Mr. Gruber's research showed that all necessary parts would be there when a decision would be made to motorize the gate. Engineer Smith notes that the quotes are for the same gate, with CO 1A not being motorized, while CO 1B is for a motorized gate. Engineer Smith and Council discuss the quote details. Council and Mr. Gruber discuss whether or not motorization is needed at the current time. Motion carried unanimously.

- **MS4 Renewal & Waiver:** ARRO has prepared the waiver request.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Mr. Gruber to sign the MS4 waiver request. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

- **2022 Road Improvement Project:** AMS has completed the project and submitted their invoice of \$255,133. ARRO drafted the project completion form. Mr. Gruber has conducted a site review.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve payment for AMS final invoice #6483 for \$255,133. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

- **MS4 Program Update Stormwater Ordinance:** The borough solicitor will be advertising the ordinance.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closed on October 10.

The fall/winter newsletter will be delivered on November 5. The deadline to submit content is October 28.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

The September PA State Police report notes of 90 calls in the borough.

Trick-or-Treat will be October 30 & 31, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Council is currently reviewing the Hometown Hero banner relocation form.

Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber

Clarence Bachman has accepted the offer of full-time employment with the borough and will begin on October 10, at a rate of \$20/hr.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to hire Clarence Bachman at a rate of \$20/hr. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline amends the motion to include a start date of October 10 and the position being a full-time road crew member. Vice President Botwright notes his payrate is 50¢ more than Mr. Senft, with Mr. Gruber stating that Mr. Bachman has a higher skill set. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber and Council discuss the Kline's service agreement for the VLR tank cleaning, at a cost of \$15,626. This is considered an emergency need. There is a sudden air loss in a VLR. VLR #2 was drained.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Wind River Environmental agreement for \$15,626 for the GapVax vacuum truck for the VLR tank cleaning. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Mr. Wertz reports that Mr. Gruber and staff did well in reducing the liquid in the tank. Mr. Grim asks if ARP funds may be used for the project, with President Kline stating that this agreement is for maintenance only. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discusses his conversation with Hamburg Police Chief Kuklinski, who met with the borough's crossing guards, with the guard at 4th & Franklin Sts. requesting a four-way stop at the intersection. Mr. Wertz discusses his conversations with the crossing guard at the location. Mr. Gruber and Council discuss ways to make the school crossing stop at 4th & Franklin Sts. safer.

Vice President Botwright thanks Mr. Gruber for hosting the first Meet the Manager meeting and hopes that attendance will increase for future meetings, which will be held on the first Saturday of each month.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Zimmerman reports that the borough has a salt contract through Costars and that salt reserves are at 75% capacity.

Vice President Botwright discusses the notification system for missed trash stops that she created. Residents can fill out an online form regarding their concerns on trash and recycling pickup, which links to a spreadsheet that can be viewed by Mr. Gruber or Ms. Wagner.

Council discusses the recent trash pick-up. Ms. Kennedy-Kline would like to see information regarding trash and recycling specifications on the borough website and the next newsletter. The current hauler will accept 1 bulk item per week. President Kline notes of an electronic recycling center located in Muhlenberg, that may be closer for borough residents than the center located in Bern Twp. Ms. Kennedy-Kline discusses the borough working with a firm to pick-up electronics for residents.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss valve information for the upcoming project. Mr. Gruber reports that Exeter Supply cannot provide specs unless the product is purchased, with Mr. Zimmerman stating that the manufacturer will not provide the information to Exeter Supply beforehand. President Kline suggests searching the manufacturer's website for information.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Vice President Botwright discusses the Schuylkill River Trail draft study, reporting that as a property owner bordering the borough will not give permission for the trail to be included on her land, the trail route through the borough needs to be revamped. She mentions Perry Twp. Supervisor Adam's presence at the recent SRT meeting, and states that there may be a joint Shoemakersville Borough/Perry Twp. review meeting for the finalized plans.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that Trunk-or-Treat will on October 28 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Trick-or-Treat is October 30 & 31 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

The draft zoning ordinance will be forwarded to the Berks County Planning Commission for their 30-day review. The public hearings could potentially take place in November.

Employee Relations – President Kline

Ms. Wagner reports that an application for a back-up crossing guard was received.

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

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for September 20, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for October 4, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright asks Council to forward 2023 budget requests and quotes to Mr. Gruber by 4:00 p.m. October 14.

Vice President Botwright forwarded the updated PTMA reconciliation information to the finance committee.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Kennedy-Kline, Mr. Wertz, and Ms. Randazzo discuss contacting a company to offer electronic recycling services to residents, possibly on or around Earth Day each year.

New Business

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Asks when the patch in the roadway on W. 2nd St. will be repaired, with Mr. Zimmerman stating that the work is on Folk Paving's repair list. Mr. Wertz notes the patch was not large enough to be included in the recent road project that was completed.

Mr. Paine would like the Neighbor Watch member's information to be included in the next borough newsletter, so residents know who to reach out to for concerns in their area.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St): Notes of the sinking road patch at the traffic light, with Mr. Zimmerman discussing PennDOT's requirement to wait 6 months after a road patch, for settling, and notes that the repairs are to be addressed by Folk Paving.

Mr. Geschwindt has received his requested copy of the settlement sheet for the sale of 115 E. 9th St., and asks who signed the sheet on behalf of the borough, with Vice President Botwright stating Dana Smith is the signature on the document.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for a status on the strip mall, with Mr. Adam reporting that the Perry Twp. Planning Commission has received a proposed plan, noting tentative contracts with Wawa and CVS, who both have concerns regarding sign regulations, a bank, and a retail facility. Mr. Adam discusses his recent communications with the developer. The current CVS building will be backfilled by a Tractor Supply tenant.

Mr. Geschwindt notes of activity at the Boyer's building, with President Kline stating he is only aware of roof repairs that had been made on the building.

Mr. Adam reports that the repairs (mill, patch, and overlay) to Main St., from the borough line north, to northern Zweizig Rd. are scheduled to take place the end of the week and are to last 4-5 days. The north lane will be repaired first, followed by the south lane.

Mr. Geschwindt asks when the leaves from gutters will be removed, with Mr. Zimmerman reporting that the program will start once more leaves begin to fall.

Mr. Geschwindt requests the water test results, with Ms. Wagner reporting that Suburban tested the water on September 7 at the water plant and New Era Logistics and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for details on the shed matter that was discussed during the code enforcement report, with Mr. Zimmerman reporting that the resident does not feel a permit would be needed, as the shed is not of a certain size. Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Geschwindt discuss zoning set-backs.

Mr. Adam reports that in the next few weeks, Perry Twp. will be removing 5 trees on Main St., just north of the borough line.

President Kline notes of the upcoming borough events listed on the agenda.

A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer