

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

October 7, 2025

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:20 p.m., Chip Haws – Solicitor – leaves at 7:20 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Tara Kennedy-Kline

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** While the last few weeks of code enforcement has been challenging, several violations have been resolved. The process for citing the property at 112 E. Noble Ave. will be starting over, as the District Justice office will not be taking action since the letters and citations were not addressed directly to the person who is responsible for the violation.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws – nothing to report

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** Mr. Kee and Council discuss possible locations for the side door, as the slope of the ramp is a factor. Mr. Kee will draft two concepts for the door location.
- **LSA Grant for Park Electrical Upgrades:** The grant application was submitted on September 29, 2025.
- **Utility Water Connection:** The utility water pipe has an existing tee which would be utilized to connect to chlorine lines. Potable water would be disconnected and reconnected for other connections. Minimal piping would be needed to make the change.

Mr. Kee will forward the Water Quality Management Part 2 Permit upon completion.

Fire Chief’s Report - Chief Wagner

There were 43 calls in September. A call was received for an open pit burn on a property abutting Grace Ln. The resident was asked to extinguish the burn, due to weather conditions and the lack of a spark arrestor.

The power line down call was on Water St., as a truck from Folk Paving hit the line.

Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closed on October 10 & 13. October 14 is the deadline to submit content for the winter newsletter. The November monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp reviews the 76 calls on the September monthly PA State Police report.

As only 2 Hometown Heroes applications have been received, the deadline has been extended until the end of October. The banners will be hung next year, after the holiday decorations have been taken down. Mayor Remp will assist the new mayor with the process.

The minutes for the last Neighborhood Watch Program meeting were emailed. Seven of the eight members were present at the meeting. Mayor Remp asks if any Council members would be available to assist with traffic control during Trick-or-Treating on October 30 & 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., as not all of the Neighborhood Watch members can be present.

The Watch Program members will be assisting with food distribution at Keystone Military Families on November 22.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber spoke with Sgt. Mengel regarding the ability to stop speeding vehicles on Main St., especially in the morning hours. As time permits, a trooper will sit on Luisa Ct. to deter speeders heading south.

A zoning hearing board meeting for the Blankenbiller property will be held on October 27 in the borough meeting room at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Gruber will be meeting with Hamburg Borough Code Enforcement Officer Ryan Wessner on October 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the borough office regarding the cost for Mr. Wessner to perform code enforcement duties for the borough, as the obligation has been taking time away from other duties that Mr. Gruber must perform. Council is invited to attend the meeting.

Mr. Gruber will have employee reviews completed by the October workshop.

As Sandy Holbert has expressed interest in obtaining his water license, Mr. Gruber has provided him with training materials and will assist him in preparing for the exam.

Fire hydrant flushing began on Monday, October 6 and will be completed on Wednesday, October 8.

The water tower is scheduled to be cleaned by USG Water on October 29. No permits from DEP are required. President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss draining the tank, which will be completed on October 28.

Mr. Gruber will be contacting DEP with regards to removing the pH inline probe meter in the water plant, as there is no need for the device.

Mr. Gruber reports that excavation to repair the water leak at the pool will be on October 13.

Mr. Methax is obtaining a quote for playground mulch.

Mr. Wertz asks if there is a dollar limit for the most recent LSA grant, with Mr. Kee responding that the limit is from \$25,000 - \$1M. Mr. Wertz would like to discuss projects at the October workshop.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to approve the Folk Paving proposal dated October 6, 2025 for paving on W. 6th St. at a cost not to exceed \$1,540. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

President Kline reports that Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on September 2 at Bell Trucking and the water plant, with all requirements being met.

President Kline discusses the quote from Renegade Solutions for process updates at the plant. Mr. Gruber reports that the effluent pump stopped running but the chlorination pump did not. There are currently no alarms in the building for internal pumps, however there are alarms for everything outside. The proposed work is for any and all pumps inside the plant. Alarm calls for the plant go out to Mr. Gruber, then Mr. Methax, followed by Mr. Mohn, until someone responds.

*A motion is made by Mr. Grim to approve Renegade Solutions proposal PR.098 for the water plant at a cost not to exceed \$1,625. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Vice President Botwright reports that Trunk-or-Treat will be at the park on October 31 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Perry PTO will also be holding a similar event during that time.

Vice Present Botwright will be meeting with Bryan Smith from Barry Isett to discuss grant opportunities for the park plan projects.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Employee Relations – President Kline

Employee reviews will be completed by the workshop.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for September 16, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

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

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the BKG Company quote to insulate the 8” pipe at the sewer plant for a cost not to exceed \$2,684. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline confirms that the existing heat trace will be taped back in place on the pipe. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright requests that Council send their budget worksheets to her by October 10, so that the draft budget can be forwarded to Council prior to the budget workshop on October 21. The fire company has submitted their 2026 funding request for \$50,000.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo – nothing to report

New Business

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Has been approached by several residents regarding other people’s chickens running across their properties and asks Council if the chickens should be in a pen. Mr. Wertz states this would be covered in the zoning ordinance. President Kline reviews the ordinance and notes that chickens should be kept in pens and that residents should contact the office to report any violations.

Mr. Paine was informed of a property in the area of Walnut Dr. that has a horse. He notes that the property is in both the borough and township and asks if the horse is permitted and how zoning would be affected.

President Kline notes that his own property is in both the township and the borough. As the ingress is in the borough, the property is governed by borough regulations. Rusty Wagner states that the zoning ordinance does not permit horses or cattle in the borough and notes that during previous discussions, Council would address matters related to chickens through the nuisance ordinance. Mr. Gruber asks Mr. Paine to provide his email address so he can receive a copy of the zoning ordinance. Vice President Botwright notes that the ordinance is also available on the borough's website.

Mr. Paine asks if Council has given any further consideration to increasing the crossing guard salary, with Ms. Wagner noting that this matter will most likely be discussed during budget sessions in the next few weeks.

Mr. Paine inquires of the current financial status of the pool, with Vice President Botwright stating that the pool is slightly over the \$35,000 budgeted loss, due to multiple capital expenses and unplanned repairs.

Darren Shefter (442 Main St.): On September 17 his dog was hit in the alley behind his home and asks if a speed bump or speed limit signs could be placed in the alleyway. A tractor trailer was stuck at the end of the road and a driver sped around onto the alley and hit his dog. Council and Mr. Shefter discuss the speed limit in the area. Mr. Shefter reports that the speeding most often occurs between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. **Mr. Gruber will look into Child at Play signs for the area.** Mr. Grim notes of solar powered lights that may draw the attention of drivers to slow down. President Kline reports that PennDOT regulations would prohibit the borough from placing anything on the signs, but that resident could do so on their property, provided they would not violate any ordinances.

Bill Kerper is present to discuss his quote for new laptops for Mr. Gruber and Mr. Methax, a micro pc in the garage for staff, and to clone the hard drive for the borough office computer. Mr. Kerper and Council discuss the computers, with Mr. Wertz asking if a Chromebook would be sufficient. Mr. Kerper replies that the processing speed is low and may not have enough storage. He further notes that Microsoft 10 support ends on October 14. If systems are not upgraded to Microsoft 11, there may be limited access to websites.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve BK Computer quote 2944 at cost not to exceed \$1,957.64. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer