

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

September 2, 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 7:01 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo – arrives at 7:07 p.m., Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:23 p.m., Chip Haws – Solicitor – leaves at 7:23 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Amy Botwright – Vice President

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** No new permits were issued. A few minor violations are outstanding. The matter at 604 Main St. was resolved. The violations at 112 E. Noble Ave. have been forwarded to the District Justice; a hearing date will be scheduled.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws – nothing to report

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** Mr. Kee reports that as the area is far and steep, the ramp cannot be taken to the back of the property.
- **Speed Limit on Main St.:** President Kline and Mr. Wertz reference a prior conversation regarding the changing of the speed limit on Main St. Mr. Kee notes that a traffic study would be needed. Mr. Wertz reports that ARRO research indicated that it would be difficult to raise the speed limit, due to regulations. Mr. Kee reports that the type of district the area is in is relevant.
- **Stop Signs:** Mayor Remp asks what would be required to have additional stop signs on Main St., with President Kline noting that a traffic study would be required.

Fire Chief’s Report - Chief Wagner

There were 63 calls in August. President Kline asks if the maximum height of buildings permitted is based upon the equipment owned by the fire company. He was at Glen-Gery, who has decided to abandon ripping down the current structure and will have the warehouses at a different site, due to the fire company. Chief Wagner states that the maximum building height is regulated by the municipality, with the Perry Twp. code allowing for up to 50’.

Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closing at noon on September 11 & 19.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp reviews the 92 calls on the August monthly PA State Police report.

Two weeks remain for Hometown Heroes applications to be submitted for the current round.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be September 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Trick-or-Treating will be October 30 & 31 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Neighborhood Watch members will assist with traffic control.

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber contact Eric Weaknecht's office regarding tractor trailer traffic in the borough on streets that were signed "No Trucks" and was informed that the borough would need to petition PennDOT for signage restrictions on state owned roads.

Mr. Kee discusses the ARRO review letter for the Bell Warehouse that is located mainly in Perry Twp., with driveway access being in the borough. The developer has addressed the majority of the items. Mr. Kee reviews the waivers being requested for plan scale, curbs & sidewalks along a PennDOT road and a retaining wall extending along the driveway. The infiltration basin will be in Perry Twp., approximately 400' from borough well #3. There is little the borough can do regarding this, as the township did not adopt the borough's wellhead protection ordinance. DEP regulations are for 100' - 400.' The borough could contact the Conservation District to make note of the proximity of the basin's location to the well.

Mr. Gruber reports that AMS will return to the borough in approximately 1 week to sweep the streets that were oiled and chipped, providing 48 hrs. notice beforehand.

Mr. Gruber is reviewing errors made in the labor cost calculations for the plants, noting that the previously reported cost for June at the wastewater plant was \$6,501 when it should have been \$5,594.

Mr. Gruber discusses the bad RAS valve at the wastewater plant, noting that the casing broke when he and Mr. Mohn were turning it, as the valve was difficult to turn. He recommends also replacing the second valve as it is of the same age and condition.

Mr. Gruber will be meeting with Greg Rapp, the superintendent at the Lansdale Borough wastewater plant to look at their UV disinfection system. He has also reached out to Wyomissing Valley regarding their UV disinfection system and Sinking Spring on their utility water disinfection system. Council is invited to attend any of the meetings.

Quotes for new blowers at the sewer plant are to be obtained.

A new water heater for the water plant was obtained from Sid Harvey and installed by Mr. Methax.

Mr. Gruber reports that hydrant flushing has been pushed back to the end of October, as water tank maintenance will occur near the end of October. They will be performing a full inspection and a chemical cleaning. At President Kline's request, **Mr. Gruber will notify them of the rust spots on the outside of the tank.**

The BECSys has been working well, with the exception of an event the weekend of August 23 when the cyanuric acid level rose high. The level was decreased with chlorine neutralizer and is now stabilized.

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz asked ARRO to complete an evaluation on the cost to upgrade the plant to use process water instead of domestic water, with the outcome being \$500,000 +/- \$100,000. He feels the process water and UV disinfection systems should be explored, possibly utilizing a grant for the UV project.

Mr. Wertz would like ARRO to develop specifications for utilizing process water instead of domestic water at the sewer plant. The matter will be placed on the agenda for the September workshop.

Mr. Kee updated Mr. Wertz on the LSA grants, noting that the LSA local grant closes at the end of September and the LSA state grant closes on November 30. President Kline confirms the base amount for the local grant is \$25,000.

Mr. Wertz would like ARRO to prepare a grant package for the Local LSA Grant for the electrical service at the park pavilion. This is a no match grant. The matter will be placed on the September workshop agenda.

Water – President Kline

President Kline reports that Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on August 5 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant, with all requirements being met.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Doggie Dip Day will be on September 6 from 10-3. Trunk-or-Treat will be October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz reviews the waivers requested for the Bell Warehouse land development plan, focusing on the waivers from installing curbs and sidewalks, for the project located at the NE corner of Routes 61 & 662. Council discusses the proposed curbs and sidewalks and what is currently in place at the other 3 corners of the intersection.

Lance Adams notes that the Barta bus will be making stops for the Bell Warehouse employees and notes that those employees will need safe access to the warehouse.

Employee Relations – President Kline

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to hire Tanya Santos as a 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 Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for August 19, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for September 2, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adopt the 2026 MMO for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan at \$42,946. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adopt the 2026 MMO for the Police Pension Plan at \$25,540. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 1 no, with Ms. Kennedy-Kline voting opposed.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase two RAS shut off valves from Exeter Supply for a cost not to exceed \$4,400. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Mr. Wertz asks if the work will be performed with in-house labor, with Mr. Gruber replying in the affirmative. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the purchase and installation of a new water heater for the water plant, with the heater being purchased from Sid Harvey and the installation being completed by Kerry Herbst, for a combined total cost not to exceed \$3,000. Mr. Smith reports that the heater is being replaced in kind. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

The Community Yard Sale will be on September 20. The number of participants is currently low. Ms. Randazzo will be speaking with Vice President Botwright to have the information posted on the Facebook pages. Mr. Gruber reports that the yard sale was placed on the sign at the water tower.

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks if Tractor Supply received their occupancy permit, with Mr. Gruber reporting that the permit was issued.

Mr. Geschwindt asks what level is needed to have the monthly water tests approved. Mr. Gruber reports that no bacteria may be in the water and that chlorine residuals could be at .4 mg/L or .2 mg/L, depending on where in the system the sample is obtained. Mr. Geschwindt asks what occurs if bacteria is found, with Mr. Gruber noting that Suburban Testing contacts DEP and that residents would be notified.

Lance Adam (81 Northview Ave.): Recommends raising the crossing guard wages. He spoke with Chief Kuklinski, who states that they are adequately staffed with guards and that their hourly rate is \$21.

Mr. Adam notes that Scott Homel is working on the strip mall's NPDES permit and looking at silt socks, with construction anticipated to begin in 2026.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Mr. Paine reports that residents often ask him to take their concerns to the meetings as they fear a negative attitude from Council. He refers to his comment at a previous meeting regarding the \$11M cost of the park upgrades. He understands that the project will spread out over a number of years, but feels that he should have been treated more professionally when he was told that the cost of the project was not \$11M, when it actually was. Mayor Remp notes that Council is doing the best they can and that there could always be some sort of adversity. Ms. Kennedy-Kline does not feel Council will spend \$11M on the park. She apologizes for her behavior at the prior meeting and explains that Council has put in a lot of time on the project. She feels Council is also targeted with conspiracy theories and felt defensive when Mr. Paine commented that the upgrades may invite people from outside of the area to the park. The upgrades are to make the area more pleasant for everyone in the borough. Visitors from outside of the area would create an increase in revenue for park rentals and from pool patrons. She does not wish to be exclusionary.

Mr. Paine feels the public should have been made more aware of the project, with President Kline noting that the project has been discussed over a period of years and that Mr. Paine was present at the November 2022 meeting during which time the project was discussed. Mr. Wertz reports that Vice President Botwright apologized for her error with the \$11M cost, as that amount was the dream cost for all phases to be completed, with the likelihood of that occurring being slim to none. Mr. Wertz had also asked Vice President Botwright for updates on the master plan, noting that the Local LSA Grant would cover 100% of the cost of the electrical work at the park.

Mr. Paine notes of a motorcycle being parked on the sidewalk across the street from Ollie's Tavern and asks for the minimum width of clearance needed, as a different resident on E. Noble Ave. had been asked to move their motorcycle from the sidewalk, when the sidewalk is 36"+ in width. Chief Wagner notes that the clearance may be 1' as a home on Miller St. parks their vehicles on the sidewalk, forcing pedestrians to walk into the street. Mr. Gruber reports that the required clearance is 36." **He will address the matter.**

Mr. Paine asks what can be done regarding the weeds along Church Ave. by the railroad tracks. Mr. Gruber notes that the railroad is responsible. President Kline suggests that a letter be sent to the railroad. Mr. Wertz believes the railroad's right-of-way office should be contacted. **Mr. Gruber will reach out to the railroad.**

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion withdrawn.

Mr. Grim discusses his conversation with Vice President Botwright regarding ADA compliance guidelines for the borough website. As he has experience with WordPress, he will be reviewing the templates available and will provide feedback to Council.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer