

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

June 2, 2020

President Kline called the teleconference of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Tara Kennedy-Kline, John Leshar – leaves at 8:00 p.m., Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Bradley Smith – Engineer, Chad Zimmerman – Foreman, and Melissa Wagner-Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Mike Dietrich - Sewer & Water Plant Operator

Public Comment: Rusty Wagner – No comments given.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Notices:** All enforcement notices sent out have been resolved, with the exception of a low hanging tree at 104 Main St.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Sale of Pool Property:** Waiting for a response from Mark Koch regarding the property.

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith

- **Road Project:** The contractor’s bonds and certificate of insurance have been received. Once reviewed, contract documents will be submitted to the borough for signatures.
- **MS4:** Engineer Smith notes that as a requirement of the US Clean Stream Law, the PADEP issued an NPDES permit for the borough. A requirement of the permit is to discuss the MS4 program and stormwater issues at a public meeting. As such, Engineer Smith discusses the 6 minimum control measures that are required with the program. MCM #1 Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts: The borough provided educational activities and posted material on the borough website about stormwater. MCM #2: Public Involvement and Participation. MCM #3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. The borough has continued outfall inspections to find illicit discharges. MCM #4: Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control. The borough continues to work with the Berks County Conservation District to ensure sediment and erosion control. MCM#5: Post Construction Stormwater Management. The borough has conducted inspections of the stormwater facilities within the borough. MCM #6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping: Borough staff has been trained in outfall and in stormwater facility inspections. Staff has also attended various seminars on stormwater and MS4 management.

In addition to the MCMs, the borough is required to implement a pollution reduction plan, which involves the Borough constructing a bioswale to remove sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus. The area for the swale has been surveyed. Swale construction has been applied for thru the Growing Greener Program. Engineer Smith opens the floor for comments. There are no questions or comments.

- **Grant Applications:** Feedback is expected to be received in July regarding the various grant applications that were submitted.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The office will close at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4 and will be closed from June 22-26. The scouts are able to deliver the newsletter in the yellow phase, and have proposed a delivery date of June 13. The deadline to submit content is June 8.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

The Hometown Heroes Program is slowly moving forward. President Kline has been working with the banner company for holiday lights for the Lion's Club. The representative noted that a spreadsheet for the banners is needed, as well as stating that some of the photos are not the proper quality. Mayor Remp has reached out and is waiting for a response from the company for further information. There is no target date for the banner presentations.

Mayor Remp has reviewed Facebook posts regarding police presence in the borough. He has contacted the PA State Police Commander to discuss the matter. There were concerns regarding speeding throughout the borough. Solicitor Mooney notes that due to Covid, the troopers have not been pulling over any vehicles unless they are deemed hazardous.

Mayor Remp and Delani Remp have received responses from 4 of the 13 individuals that signed up for the Community Watch Program.

Mayor Remp and Mr. Zimmerman discuss an individual that has been driving an ATV on Apple Ln. This matter is enforced by the PA State Police. Vice President Botwright states that she had previously contacted the State Police regarding an ATV on Park St., and that a trooper did respond.

Junior Council Person's Report – Delani Remp

The Community Watch Program is slowly moving forward.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

Mr. Zimmerman is unable to drive a borough truck in the upcoming parade for graduating high school seniors. Mr. Smith volunteers to drive a truck. Vice President Botwright notes that the event has been posted on the Shoemakersville Community Facebook page. Ms. Kennedy-Kline feels that the event should also be posted on the borough's Facebook page, so that residents would be aware of the increase in traffic during the parade time.

Mr. Zimmerman has reviewed the 4 applications received for the part-time seasonal position and recommends Clifford Weinholt, who is currently a back-up crossing guard for the borough, and Owen Zimmerman, who served as a borough park leader last year.

Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

The operator's report was submitted via e-mail and notes that Mr. Dietrich is on vacation this week, stating that Mr. Zimmerman is on the water plant alarm and Mr. Mohn will receive sewer plant alarm notifications. Mr. Dietrich will be available by phone.

Committee Reports

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith discusses the upcoming trash and recycling contracts, with Solicitor Mooney stating that the bid specifications should be reviewed in July, with bid documents going out in late August. **Solicitor Mooney will reach out to Jane Meeks at the county recycling office, to request updated recycling requirements.**

Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks for an update on the road patching surrounding prior water main breaks, with Mr. Zimmerman stating that as Folk Paving is currently busy, he may be reaching out to other contractors for pricing.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz has been in contact with James Hepner regarding paperwork for the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority. Things are moving forward and a meeting of the authority is to be scheduled. Solicitor Mooney notes that after Friday, any in-person meeting is limited to 25 people. The meeting should be advertised as well. Mr. Wertz notes that he is secretary and Mr. Hepner is currently the chairperson. **Mr. Wertz will submit his final review of the agreement between the authority and the borough to Solicitor Mooney.**

President Kline discusses funding options, such as Pennvest, for the sludge handling and screening projects at the sewer plant. The suggestion is made to break up the larger projects into smaller projects, in order to begin moving forward with the planning and application phases.

Water – President Kline

The effluent pump for filter #1 is in. The old pump may be able to be rebuilt.

Parks/Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

There will be no summer park program. Park buildings are currently locked to the public. The next scheduled park rental is June 14. Mr. Zimmerman has no issue with the extra cleaning involved in opening the park buildings.

Vice President Botwright states that over 150 of the 202 people that responded to the pool survey would feel comfortable being at the pool this season. There are several restrictions that need to be considered to open the pool. Entrance to the pool should be capped at 125 people. This number was calculated using the square footage of the surface area of the pool. 2/3 of this area is where people could be standing/swimming, allowing for 36 sq. ft. per person. Last season, there were 15 days, all in July, when over 125 people were at the pool. She discusses several other pools that will be open this year, noting that some will only offer season passes and no daily rates, while others will only be offering new season passes to those in their surrounding municipalities. If the borough were not to offer daily rates, there would need to be a significant increase in the number of season passes sold, which would not be financially feasible. Ms. Kennedy-Kline discusses having a weekly/monthly pass or a punch card for entry to the pool. Both President Kline and Vice President Botwright feel that free season passes for seniors will not be able to be offered this year.

Currently, four of the lifeguards that have applied to work at the pool have no issue with working full time. One guard would be part time. One guard has a broken foot and two guards do not feel comfortable working. Four guards are required to open the pool, which would mean all guards would have to work almost every day. Consideration could be given to only opening the pool for 5 days out of the week, or for shorter hours. Having no snack bar or slide and rock climbing wall should also be considered.

Additional cleaning of the facilities would need to take place, as well as control measures on how to turn people away once the 125 threshold is met.

President Kline notes that Council does not need to vote to open the pool, but only to hire the staff. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that pool rates would also require a vote.

A motion would be required to close the pool. He further discusses the CDC guidelines and recommendations, not requirements, for the opening of pools. Vice President Botwright notes that those guidelines do not distinguish between indoor and outdoor pools. Solicitor Mooney briefly discusses indoor and outdoor pools.

Council will focus on opening the pool, with Vice President Botwright continuing to review the feasibility and logistics of an opening. She will share the information with the rest of the committee.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz – no report

Employee Relations – President Kline

President Kline and Mr. Zimmerman discuss when the part-time employees could begin working.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to offer part-time seasonal employment to Clifford Weinhold. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright asks about the pay rate. In 2018, the part-time rate was \$11/hr.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to amend the previous motion to include the pay rate of \$12/hr. for Clifford Weinhold. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to hire Owen Zimmerman for part-time seasonal employment at the rate of \$12/hr. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for May 5, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for June 2, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills for ratification for May 19, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wagner notes that beginning this year, the school district will discontinue collection of the per capita tax, as they do not feel it is financial feasible to continue. The school district receives \$10 of the \$15 tax, while the borough receives the remaining \$5. In 2019, the borough collected approximately \$3,700 in per capita taxes. Solicitor Mooney states that several municipalities are also discontinuing collection, as the amount being able to be collected is frozen and cannot be increased. Council discusses the budget and whether or not the borough would continue with the collection, asking for the decision deadline. As the deadline is unclear, Solicitor Mooney suggests submitting a Right-to-Know request to the school district, requesting the amount that was spent to collect the tax. Vice President Botwright asks if the tax could be collected under Act 32, with the Berks EIT. Solicitor Mooney states that the borough could reach out to the agency to inquire.

Safety – Mayor Remp – no report

President Kline pulled data from the electronic speed limit sign on N. Main St. The data is from January 1 through May 31, 2020. He provides charts showing the percentage of drivers at various speeds, as well as the average speed distribution for those vehicles. President Kline and Mr. Wertz discuss the accuracy of the signs. Approximately 85,000 vehicles traveled through. Between 80% - 90% of the vehicles traveled at or near the speed limit.

New Business

Ms. Wagner states that the borough's property insurance renewal rate has increased 5.9% to \$19,057 but that it is still lower than the 2018 and prior yearly premiums.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the borough council president to sign the renewal for property and liability insurance with Tompkins. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

President Kline discusses opening the borough office to the public once the county moves to the yellow phase. The number of people in the office would be limited. Hand sanitizer would be made available. Mr. Smith makes note of a barrier, with Council and Ms. Wagner discussing the matter. A clear curtain or plexi-glass could be installed at the main counter. Guidelines for the opening of businesses are different from that of government office, which are able to open using their own discretion.

President Kline will be contacting Rileighs Outdoor Decor to obtaining pricing for the portion of the holiday lights that the Lion's Club was planning on replacing this year. The club's funds may be limited, as they did not have their chicken bbq fundraiser and will not be having the carnival this year.

Mayor Remp suggests having a Welcome to Shoemakersville banner made and placed near Sheetz. Council discusses placement of the banner.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer