

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

June 16, 2020

President Kline called the workshop meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the St. Luke's Church Hall, 5th & Franklin Sts, Shoemakersville, PA at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Edward Overberger – Engineer, and Jason Coyle – ARRO Operator – leaves at 8:24 p.m.

Absent from the meeting: John Leshner, Dustin Remp - Mayor, Chad Zimmerman – Public Works

President Kline states that the workshop will begin with a meeting of the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority and then lead into public comment. Once the agreement between the borough and authority is finalized, the deed paperwork can be completed.

Shoemakersville Municipal Authority: James Hepner, John Santilli, Barry Bennecoff, Joseph Wertz

Mr. Hepner calls the meeting of the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority to order. There is no prior meeting minutes.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to nominate Mr. Hepner for President, Mr. Bennecoff for Vice President, Mr. Santilli for Treasurer and Mr. Wertz for Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Santilli. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to close nominations. Seconded by Mr. Santilli. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Bennecoff to appoint Klacik & Associates to perform the 2019 tax audit, at a cost not to exceed \$1,500. Seconded by Mr. Santilli. Mr. Santilli asks if the change was made due to the cost of the previous auditor, with Mr. Wertz stating cost was the main factor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wertz will have the paperwork to the auditors this week.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to pay Reading & Northern Railroad \$1,146.96 and Georgeadis-Setley \$530.50. Seconded by Mr. Santilli. President Kline asks about the payment to the railroad, with Mr. Wertz stating that it is the annual fee for the railroad crossings. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wertz states that as of the end of May, the authority account has a balance of \$7,583.96. President Hepner and Mr. Santilli are authorized to sign the checks. Mr. Wertz notes that the authority's CD balance is \$242,341.10.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bennecoff. Authority meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Public Comment

Carissa Wisniewski (710 Reber St.): Is a 12 year resident of the borough and while she is glad the pool is opening, she feels that the pool rates for the 2020 season are too high, especially since an entire month was lost due to Covid-19. She does not feel the current rate is feasible and that it should be a pro-rated amount, as was the case when the pool closed early for construction several years ago. She has an autistic grandson that uses the pool for therapy. She feels that seniors should have free access to the pool, as they are on fixed incomes. She notes that while the pool will be open until September 7, it will be closed on school days, which would decrease the available time to swim. It will be difficult to register for time slots, as everyone will have to compete for entry to the pool.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline states that numerous considerations were taken into account when determining the season rates. Several hundred responses were received regarding the online pool survey. Only a limited number of people may be at the pool at one time. Every person that enters through the gate must be counted. This is the reason for the senior rates. If free seniors were allowed entry, then paying patrons would not be permitted entry if the pool were at capacity. The pool will be more expensive to run this season than it was in the past, due to the increase in the safety equipment and cleaning supplies that must be purchased. Staff will also need to be paid more, as their duties have increased. Ms. Kennedy-Kline states that Council cannot allow the pool to become a financial burden to the taxpayers. Ms. Wisniewski feels that if it is not affordable to run the pool, it should not open for the season. She is disappointed in the increase in rates and will petition her neighbors.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Coyle from ARRO is present to introduce himself as the borough's back-up sewer plant operator. He provides an update of the VLR #2 project, noting that it is 95% complete. The gear drive assembly that was ordered will arrive in mid-July.

Mr. Overberger states that Doug Kopp is working with Brad Smith to oversee the road project. Mr. Overberger discusses the issue at the end of Apple Ln., which has worsened since winter. Steve Bright from Folk Paving will determine if there are any leftover materials to perform a base repair in that area on Apple Ln. Apple Ln. must be widened in order to qualify for liquid fuels. Mr. Overberger and Ms. Kennedy-Kline discuss the cost of widening the roadway and what is included in the bid. President Kline states that the entire roadway will not be paved, noting that only the affected areas will receive base repair.

Mr. Overberger discusses the H2O and Small Project Grant and DCNR Park Grant applications, stating that they are typically awarded in July, but that this year the process will be delayed. The amount being funded could also be affected. If the amount funded is only a portion of the application, the borough would not be penalized if the project was not done. He recommends reaching out to the borough's state representatives to further discuss the projects. **Mr. Wertz will contact Representative Knowles and President Kline will call Senator Argall.**

Mr. Overberger and Council discuss the headworks and solids handling projects, with Mr. Overberger stating that if the projects are combined, ARRO's cost for design, bidding and construction would be \$117,050. Separately, the headworks project would be \$78,515 and the solids handling project would cost \$78,161. Mr. Overberger explains the Pennvest loan process. With Pennvest, engineering must be completed upfront. These costs can be reimbursed once the loan is in place. If both projects are combined, the borough fits into the Pennvest normal project category. If the projects are separated, they would each be eligible for Pennvest's new small community program. For Pennvest, the project must be design ready at the time of the loan and either have the DEP permit or be approved for the permit. USDA is a 40-year term that will be at market rate, which is currently 4.25%. Mr. Overberger and Council further discuss the timing of the Pennvest and USDA awards, as well as the urgency of the projects.

The estimated cost for the headworks project is approximately \$600,000 and the solids handling cost is around \$575,000. **Mr. Overberger will check on the timelines for Pennvest application submittals.**

Mr. Santilli asks how PTMA and Wolfe Dye & Bleach figure into the process. President Kline states that PTMA is to pay 20% of any capital expenditure over \$25,000 while Wolfe Dye & Bleach does not have a requirement for capital expenses. Mr. Santilli asks why PTMA pays less than the borough on projects if they own more capacity. President Kline states that the borough should plan on funding a project, to be prepared for anticipated expenses. Project costs are discussed.

Mr. Wertz will forward his comments on the agreement with the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority to Solicitor Mooney. Mr. Santilli feels that if these projects would have been completed several years ago, they could have been done for a lesser expense.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

June 29 is the anticipated start date for the road project. President Kline notes of Mr. Zimmerman's suggestion to send a letter to any property owner affected by the roadwork scheduled on Apple Ln. The letter will note that those residents may have limited access to their property.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz states that beginning July 20, Mr. Dietrich will be out for 2 weeks. Mr. Coyle will be out to visit the plant before this time to learn the specifics of the plant and press. He will receive training at the plant from Mr. Dietrich, who will review detailed operating procedures with Mr. Coyle, to ensure proper back-up coverage if needed during Mr. Dietrich's absence.

Mr. Wertz notes that staff put the air compressor back together. Mr. Coyle was at the plant during a portion of this time.

Water – President Kline

President Kline states that the heating & air conditioning unit in the lab is a window unit, which is not functioning properly. Kerry Herbst and the supplier have both agreed to honor their quotes from 2019 for the split unit.

*A motion is made by President Kline to authorize the expense of \$4,375 to Tri-County Heating & Cooling for a heat pump system for the water plant lab. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Mr. Wertz questions the BTUs, with Mr. Smith responding 18,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Ms. Kennedy-Kline states that the current pool capacity will be limited to 125 people. Entry to the pool for the first 2 weeks will be limited to season ticket holders. If the pool is not close to capacity during the first 2 weeks, entry through gate fees will be made available. Vice President Botwright notes that there will be 2 times slots. Sunday through Friday the times will be noon – 3:45 p.m. or 4:15 – 8:00 p.m., with Saturday times being noon – 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The diving board will be open, the slide may open later in the season, and the rock climbing wall has been temporarily removed. The snack bar will be closed, however coolers will be permitted. No glass bottles or alcohol will be allowed.

Vice President Botwright notes that last year 360 season passes were sold, with an average daily pool use of 50 patrons. Ms. Kennedy-Kline, Ms. Randazzo, and Vice President Botwright discuss pool pass rates and income. While the snack bar will be closed, food trucks will be invited to be outside of the pool. Council discusses the occupancy limitations and the Department of Health guidelines during the yellow and green phases.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to set the 2020 pool season ticket rates as published. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline would like to thank the Perry Township supervisors for their generous donation which allows township residents to receive the resident rate pricing.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to set the 2020 pool employee rates per the list, with the exception of Alex Kline. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Roll call vote: Mr. Smith, Ms. Randazzo, Ms. Kennedy-Kline and President Kline vote yes, while Vice President Botwright and Mr. Wertz abstain. Motion carried.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire Alex Kline as gate coverage manager for \$9.00/hr. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Roll call vote: Mr. Smith, Ms. Randazzo, Vice President Botwright, and Mr. Wertz vote yes, while Ms. Kennedy-Kline and President Kline abstain. Motion carried.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright for BK Computers to install a wifi extender from the borough office to the pool, at a cost not to exceed \$750. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright notes of a group of high-school aged boys that have been practicing baseball at the field. Council discusses the provision for organized sports to begin practicing during the phases.

Council discusses park rentals. Mr. Wertz supports keeping the restrooms locked and suggests having portable toilets at the park, in an effort to reduce costs and additional bathroom cleaning for the borough. *Council discusses the matter, with Mr. Wertz noting he will obtain a quote.*

Ms. Wagner notes that the softball team will be renting the Babe Ruth field for 8 consecutive Sundays, beginning Sunday, June 28.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Council discusses the dumpster ordinance, with President Kline noting that the intent of the ordinance was to limit the time that a dumpster remains on site. President Kline states that the wording focuses on dumpsters in the roadway and makes very little mention to those on private property. Ms. Kennedy-Kline recommends having all applicants fill out the paperwork, with the fee applying to those dumpsters to be located in the roadway. An amendment to the ordinance noting a permit fee schedule will be discussed at a later time.

Employee Relations – President Kline – no report

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

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

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for June 16, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Council will review the employee medical insurance paperwork and make a decision on plans next month. Mr. Wertz notes than an employee requested input on the chosen plan, as he would be willing to pay more if there was value in a different plan.

Safety – Mayor Remp

Ms Randazzo notes that the white canopy on the property of 372 Main St. blew into the street and blocked traffic. Motorists pulled the canopy to the side of the road. **Mr. Zimmerman will be asked to contact the property owner regarding the dismantling of the canopy.**

President Kline discusses the interaction between Mayor Remp and Tim Seyfert on the Shoey Gang Facebook page. He notes that the police had not been making as many traffic stops as they have been, in order to reduce contact due to Covid. There has been an increase in PA State Police visibility in the borough in the last week or two.

President Kline will be making contact with a Penndot District 5 representative to discuss traffic calming devices.

Old Business

Mr. Wertz was approached by Ed Burns regarding the water issue at 379 Main St. E.R. Felty has completed the survey. The borough engineer completed a report on the matter. There would be significant benefit to changing out the storm grates and boxes. Council's belief is that the railroad owns the area where the water flow issue originates. The ditch downstream is filled in 3'. The railroad had previously agreed to clean out the area, although this does not appear to have been done. **Mr. Wertz will reach out to the railroad.** The borough could change 2 to 3 storm grates and add 1 length of pipe.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer