

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

October 6, 2020

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the St. Luke's Church Hall, 5th & Franklin Sts, Shoemakersville, PA at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Chad Zimmerman – Foreman, Michael Dietrich – Sewer & Water Plant Operator and Melissa Wagner- Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Tara Kennedy-Kline, John Lesher

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Mr. Geschwindt asks if the November Council meeting will still be held on November 3, as that is also Election Day, with Council stating the monthly meeting will still occur on the 3rd.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the results of the water tests, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on September 9 at the water plant and New Era Logistics, and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if Council plans to address the divot in the roadway at the end of his driveway. President Kline and Mr. Zimmerman discuss the matter, noting that as it is fairly late in the paving season to obtain a quote, the public works department will fill in the area with Aqua Patch until a quote can be obtained in the spring.

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Mr. Paine notes of his concern that a motorcycle continues to excessively speed on Main St., coming from the direction of Mohrsville. Mr. Paine, Council, and Mayor Remp discuss the driver.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Enforcement:** Notices were sent last month for landscaping encroaching on the sidewalk, grass in the streets, profanity on signs, a fence permit being required, and not cleaning up after a dog.
- **Permits:** Two permits were issued in September for a dumpster, and a fence.
- **Zoning Hearing Board:** A hearing for 615 Water St. has been scheduled for October 15 at St. Luke's Church. The applicant is requesting to have a home based business.
- **Dumping on Public Domain:** Mr. Zimmerman has spoken to Solicitor Mooney and has been in contact with UGI, who had instructed their contractors to dump product from their projects in the wooded area at the dead end of Pine & 4th Sts. They will be sent a notice of violation.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Perry Plaza:** Has not received a response regarding the recent notice that was sent to PTMA.

- **Sale of Pool Property:** A letter rescinding the bid for the property was sent. The party is still interested in purchasing the property and would sign an agreement of sale immediately. Solicitor Mooney and Council discuss the property. The equipment was not removed from the land.
- **Trash & Recycling Contracts:** Notices of award will be sent to the contractors once approved by Council.
- **Shoemakersville Municipal Authority:** Solicitor Mooney provides the agreement for President Kline to sign.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith

- **H20 and Small Project Grants:** A grant was awarded for the pneumatic valve replacement at the water plant. The grant request was fully funded at \$103,062. President Kline discusses vendors for the project.
- **Parks and Recreation Planning Grant:** DCNR has awarded a Community Recreation and Conservation Planning Grant for \$10,500 to develop a master site plan for the Shoemakersville Park. ARRO will create a PSA for the project.
- **MS4 Program:** The 2020 annual report for the MS4 Program was electronically submitted to PADEP on September 29, 2020.
- **Kantner's Tire Stormwater Report:** ARRO has completed a technical review of the project, with all issues being addressed by the property owner, however there are several administration items that still need to be completed by Kantner's.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

A thank you letter was received from Northern Berks EMS for the borough's annual donation.

The borough office will be closing at noon on October 8 & 9 and will be closed all day on October 12.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

The Hometown Heroes banners have arrived and will be presented at a ceremony to be held at the Borough Park stage on October 17 at 1:00 p.m. All applicants have been notified. Contact with the softball team that has the ball fields rented for the day has been made, with the group having no issues with the presentation taking place. Mayor Remp and Mr. Zimmerman discuss what will be needed for the event. The Welcome to Shoemakersville banners have been installed.

Members of the Neighborhood Watch have met to discuss the signs that were stolen in town, noting that they were unable to catch the thief.

Mayor Remp has spoken with Ed Burns, owner of 379 Main St., who has requested an update regarding the water issue at his property. As several entities are involved in the matter, **Mr. Wertz will once again reach out to the railroad to discuss the property.** Council and Mayor Remp discuss the ditch that needs to be cleaned out, the drainage issue, and the ownership of the area in question. Solicitor Mooney discusses the stormwater issue, noting that the borough can send the railroad a notice of violation, stating that either they clean out the ditch, or the borough will address the issue. They borough would need to obtain an easement whether it be by prescription or agreement, to clean the ditch.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

The dumping issue on Pine St. will be addressed.

Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

Axiom picked up the old effluent pump and motor from filter #1 for an estimate on rehabbing. Mr. Dietrich and Mr. Wertz discuss the cost. Monthly reports and testing were completed. President Kline and Mr. Wertz discuss blower #3.

Excelsior evaluated the vibrations in blower #4 and recommend replacing the bearings. Clarifier #2 was drained and cleaned, with the skimmer arm landing correctly being sloped to return it into position smoothly.

The conveyor belt for the belt press was repaired, with the press being placed back in service. The most recent breakdown cost 6 weeks of production.

Kline's opened the blocked drain for the VLR #2 tank. They also cleared more grease from the top of VLR #1 and the influent wet well.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Council and Solicitor Mooney discuss the low bidders for the trash and recycling contracts.

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to award the trash contract to Eagle Disposal, at a cost of \$188.40/unit/year for 2020-2021 and \$195.70/unit/year for 2021-2022 and to award the recycling contract to Republic Services, at a cost of \$67.80/unit/year for 2020-2021 and \$70.20/unit/year for 2021-2022. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. President Kline asks for the contract length, with Solicitor Mooney stating that the initial term is for 2 years, with two 1 year options to extend. Motion carried unanimously.

A request was received to close 9th St., from Main St. to Park St. on October 10, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a public auction.

*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to close 9th St., from Main St. to Park St. on October 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Vice President Botwright states that letters should be sent to residents affected by the closure. President Kline notes that no parking signs should also be placed along the roadway. The motion is amended to include placement of the signs. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to have the Hometown Heroes banners hung beginning October 19, honoring the placement requests of: Robert Werley at 506 Main Street, Ronald Sell at Noble Avenue & Chestnut Street, Lewis Berger at 922 Main Street, and the Kline/Borkey Family together, with the rest of the banners hung on lighted poles at the discretion of staff, unless an alternate list is provided in advance. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mayor Remp notes that he has spoken with several other applicants who have also requested special placement of their banners. President Kline discusses the height at which the banners may be hung on the poles, submitting a drawing of such. He and Mr. Zimmerman further discuss the poles, with President Kline noting of the communication zone concerns if the banners were to be hung on poles owned by Verizon. The motion is amended to have staff hang the banners according to the plan as presented and honor the location requests as best as possible, avoiding conflict with the utility zones. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Axiom to repair the effluent/water pump for a cost not to exceed \$2,000. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

The Shoemakersville Municipal Authority meeting recently held at the borough office went well. Mr. Wertz discusses the agreement between the authority and the borough. The authority's funds will be kept in a borough reserve account, specifically for sewer and water projects.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the Council President to execute the Agreement for Administration, Operation and Management Services between the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority and the Borough. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Solicitor Mooney to sign and accept the title of the sewer plant property. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Water – President Kline

Quotes will be obtained for the H2O and Small Project Grants.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Trunk or Treat will be held on October 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Visitors will be required to register for time slots.

The borough was awarded the Parks and Recreation Planning Grant from DCNR.

Council and Solicitor Mooney discuss the sale of the pool property, noting that a final decision will be made at the October 20 workshop.

President Kline states that the lights at the basketball court were replaced. Council discusses the lights.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Review of the proposed zoning ordinance continues. Side yard regulations for residential and commercial areas are being currently being evaluated.

Vice President Botwright notes that the survey for the Northern Berks Joint Planning Commission will soon be complete.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the Kantner's Tire land development plan, contingent upon completion of administrative items 1-5 as noted in the October 6 ARRO letter. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

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 September 15, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for October 6, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried by a vote of 4 yes to 1 abstain, with Vice President Botwright abstaining.

Vice President Botwright notes that the 3rd quarter pension statement was received.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 133-2020 authorizing the Council President to sign the Winter Maintenance Agreement with Penndot. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright states that budget figures are due by October 16.

Safety – Mayor Remp – no report

New Business - none

Old Business - none

There being no further business, a motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer