

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**January 5, 2021**

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the St. Luke's Church Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> & Franklin Sts, Shoemakersville, PA at 7:03 p.m.

**In attendance:** Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Tara Kennedy-Kline, John Leshner – leaves at 8:25 p.m., 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.

**Public Comment**

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Asks for the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on December 9 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for an update on the scheduled project near CVS, with President Kline stating that there has been no update from the developer, who appears to be seeking tenants for the property. Mr. Geschwindt, President Kline, and Vice President Botwright discuss a traffic light, which according to plans viewed by Perry Township, was located in the area of Kuzan's. As the borough has not seen any recent plans for the development or the traffic light, President Kline has requested copies from Perry Township.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if the developer will be purchasing land near the pool that had previously been used by the soccer association. Vice President Botwright states that the developer is not purchasing that particular area of land, but utilizing it for environmental testing only. The proposal would connect the CVS property to the new development. Mr. Geschwindt and Council discuss new traffic flow patterns and the borough's current traffic ordinance.

**Mark Paine (25 Main St.):** Enjoyed the Santa in the Park event and thanks Council and the other organizations involved.

Mr. Paine notes that speeding has again become an issue near his home and that the motorcycle previously speeding in the area has returned. Mr. Smith notes that an unmarked car was in the area 2 weeks ago. Mayor Remp states that a PA State Police representative is scheduled to be at this month's meeting.

Mr. Paine and President Kline discuss a microphone/recording system to potentially be used for future meetings.

President Kline notes that if any Council members wish to discuss matters from a resident's perspective, that they should do so at the end of the public comment period.

**Corporal Spotts (PA State Police):** Notes there were 940 calls in the borough for 2020. Of those, 111 were traffic citations and 679 were deemed general response. He notes that truck weight violations from trucks pulled over on Route 61 are not included in these figures, as asked by Mr. Geschwindt. Mr. Paine and Corporal Spotts discuss the speeding motorcycle on Main St.

## **Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman**

- **Enforcement:** Various notices were sent last month for code violations.
- **Permits:** One street cut permit was issued to UGI for a gas line repair in December.
- **Zoning Hearing:** A hearing for the subdivision at 326 & 328 Main St. has been scheduled for January 7 at St. Luke’s Church at 7:00 p.m.
- **Permits & Notices List:** The 2020 list has been updated.

## **Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Per Capita Ordinance:** The ordinance to repeal collection of the tax will be advertised and ready for adoption at the February 2 meeting.
- **Perry Plaza:** President Kline discusses the calculations he forwarded to Solicitor Mooney regarding water usage for the plaza. President Kline calculated approximately \$11,000 in water tapping fees owed to the borough, using PTMA’s calculated water usage of 627 gpd, factoring in the vacant office, and the 12 edu’s calculated by Engineer Smith. Solicitor Mooney suggested proposing this to PTMA, with the condition that usage is reviewed after Covid restrictions are released, and that a correction factor be performed. President Kline then suggests performing an average for January through March 2021, using 50% capacity. The current agreement would then need to be modified to reflect the service area. PTMA is scheduled to go online with their water service later this year. Council and Solicitor Mooney discuss the matter.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to authorize **Solicitor Mooney to send PTMA the counteroffer as proposed by President Kline.** Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried by a vote of 6 yes to 1 no, with Ms. Kennedy-Kline voting opposed.

## **Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith**

- **Growing Greener Grant:** PADEP has contacted ARRO stating that a grant of \$42,200 for the bioswale was offered to the borough. ARRO is reviewing the documents. **Engineer Smith will fill out the paperwork and have it ready for review and approval at the January workshop.**
- **Headworks & Solids Handling Design:** ARRO has completed the submission to PADEP for the Water Quality Part 2 Permit. ARRO is obtaining information from FEMA to acquire a Chapter 106 permit. An Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan was submitted to the Berks County Conservation District. Engineer Smith has spoken with Earl Felty, who stated that the survey at the plant should be completed by next week. Mr. Felty recommends replacing some missing pins.
- **WWTP Upgrades Financing:** As directed by Council, ARRO is completing an application for a Pennvest loan for the headworks & solids handling design, bidding, and construction for a total amount of \$1.6M. The application deadline is February 3, 2021. The Pennvest Board meets on April 21, 2021 for consideration and loan approval.
- **H2O and Small Project Grants:** A grant was awarded for the pneumatic valve replacement at the water plant. The grant request was fully funded at \$103,062.00. No recent communication was received regarding the grant.

- **Parks and Recreation Planning Grant:** A copy of the contract from DCNR is needed to complete ARRO's proposal for the park study. Engineer Smith notes that DCNR may require the borough to place the study work out on an RFP. The borough may be able to pursue a waiver, which would permit ARRO to complete the project paperwork. **Vice President Botwright will reach out to her contact at the state.**

### **Secretary's Report/Correspondence**

Council has no issue with Ms. Wagner's request to close the office at 2:00 p.m. on January 25 & 28 and February 4.

### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp**

Information regarding the April 1 deadline for Hometown Heroes banner applications will be placed on the borough's Facebook page.

As the fire company's new rules state that anyone on the property must be a current member, the next Community Watch meeting has been changed to Saturday, January 16 at Cousin's Pub at 11:30 a.m.

Mayor Remp has provided Delani Remp's JCP application to Ms. Wagner. The program was not able to be announced over the high school's intercom system, as students have been attending virtually. President Kline states that the application and program will be discussed at the January workshop, so that the program can be announced at the high school when students are back in the building on January 11, to allow more time for students to submit applications. Mayor Remp thanks Ms. Remp for completion of the sock drive, which netted 286 pair of socks. Twelve pairs were from borough residents, with the remaining socks being donated by the Berks County Prison.

### **Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman**

The property at 333 Main St. has been sold, with the new owner planning to give the building a facelift only, allowing the current tenants to remain.

Items from the Santa in the Park event are still being stored in the park pavilion.

A larger dumpster is needed in the park, while the dumpster for the pool can actually be smaller. The trash hauler will be contacted to have the dumpsters for the locations swapped.

Vice President Botwright notes that the recycling haulers told some residents that they do not need to separate their recycling. Solicitor Mooney states that the prior contract had a provision for the borough to receive funds from the marketing of the recyclables. The new contract gives ownership of the recyclables to the hauler.

### **Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich**

Mr. Dietrich assisted in the monitoring of well #3 water levels while PTMA ran tests of their well being developed on Route 662. He was not given much advanced notice of the testing. The borough's well was kept off for several days during that time and showed no signs of impact from the testing. The borough well and PTMA's well were not run at the same time. Engineer Smith, Mr. Dietrich, and Council discuss well output and the testing process. **Engineer Smith will determine if the borough will have the opportunity to comment on the PTMA well.**

The malfunction on the filter media is now less of an issue.

Excelsior replaced the bearings on blower #4 and a coupler that was leaking air.

While the dumpster was hauled out, staff lifted and inspected the rolling pads that the dumpster travels on, which are in good shape.

VLR #2 began being filled on December 24. Clarifier #2 was also empty and brought online, further aiding to buffer the elevated flow, which totaled 1.7M gallons over the 24 hour period.

Mr. Dietrich will follow up with the contractor regarding the blower room roof leaks.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline and Mr. Dietrich discuss water usage over the past year, with Mr. Dietrich not noting a major increase in usage. He will look further into the matter when he completes the yearly annual water report.

#### **Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith**

President Kline, Mr. Zimmerman, and Mr. Dietrich discuss cameras for the trucks, deciding that only backup cameras will be needed. Dash cameras are already in place.

#### **Sewer – Mr. Wertz - none**

#### **Water – President Kline**

A meeting regarding the RAFA system will be held with Exeter Supply at the EVO Integration office on January 25.

#### **Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline**

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to appoint Shilpa Moser and Jennifer Adams to 5 year terms to the Shoemakersville Recreation Board and Briecane Botwright and Alison Haines to 4 year terms to the Shoemakersville Recreation Board. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz**

A copy of the latest draft of the proposed zoning ordinance and a Supreme Court decision on signs was forwarded to Council. Signs, restaurant regulations and traffic flow patterns, antennas, and light industrial use in R-2 and R-3 districts were discussed. **Mr. Wertz will forward a copy of the draft ordinance to Solicitor Mooney for his review.** Solicitor Mooney notes that after his review, a copy of the revised ordinance draft will also need to be forwarded to the Berks County Planning Commission for their review.

#### **Employee Relations – President Kline**

An advertisement for a new public works employee will be drafted to be advertised in the Reading Eagle and with PA Rural Water.

#### **Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright**

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for December 15, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for January 5, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Safety – Mayor Remp**

**Mayor Remp will reach out to Jarrod Emes, who is working on a joint EOP with the borough and Perry Township.**

### **New Business**

Vice President Botwright is working with Alison Haines, who is interested in changing the polling location from the elementary school to the fire company. The Berks County Elections Board would need to be petitioned and shown reasons why the location should change. Vice President Botwright asks for public comment on the matter. Mr. Leshner notes that the fire company was previously used as a polling location.

Mr. Geschwindt and Vice President Botwright discuss the potential change in the location and what is required. President Kline notes that ultimately, the polling location can remain at the school, as the district receives state funding and can not object to being a polling site.

President Kline and Mr. Wertz discuss term lengths for the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority members.

Mayor Remp is disappointed that Recreation Board members were appointed, but that no action was taken to appoint a Junior Council Person.

### **Old Business - none**

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner  
Secretary/Treasurer