

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

December 15, 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, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer, and Chad Zimmerman – Foreman.

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

Engineer’s Report

Engineer Smith notes that there will be a \$5,000 increase to switch components in touch with the water and the sludge press from carbon steel to stainless steel. Mr. Wertz and President Kline discuss the steel upgrade. The change in steel will be made.

Engineer Smith has received the 2021 preliminary grant schedule from the state. The Growing Greener Grant will be due in the summer. The PA Small Water & Sewer Grant, and the H2O grant, for larger projects, will be happening in the 2nd or 3rd quarter next year. The DCNR Park Grants will open January 19 with the due date being April 14. The Keystone Historical Preservation Grant will close March 1. **Engineer Smith will speak with the contact regarding an update on the grant the borough received for the valves at the water plant.**

Mayor’s Report- Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp received a second letter regarding the political sign in his front yard. He discusses his disagreement with the ordinance, noting that he has a support sign and not an election sign. He plans to remove his sign after January 20. Mayor Remp and President Kline discuss their interpretations of the ordinance, as well as the difference between a campaign sign and a support sign. Vice President Botwright references the section of the ordinance relating to temporary signs. The number of notices that were sent regarding the removal of signs is discussed, with Mr. Zimmerman stating that 22 letters were sent out, with 21 of the recipients complying. Ms. Randazzo feels that if someone does not like an ordinance they should still follow it, but to then do something to change the ordinance.

Mayor Remp states that Mr. Zimmerman may not be qualified to be the code enforcement officer, as the first letter that was sent out was done so without his knowledge, although it still contained Mr. Zimmerman’s signature. Mr. Zimmerman states that the sending of the letters had previously been discussed; however Ms. Wagner sent them out sooner than he planned. Mayor Remp feels that the matter is now becoming personal. He further states his position that Mr. Zimmerman should have been fired for his prior conduct. President Kline mutes Mayor Remp, stating that he is violating a matter that was discussed in an executive session. As Mayor Remp agrees to continue in the meeting without further violating the previously discussed matter, he is un-muted.

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman

A Code Red alert regarding the snow emergency was sent out, based upon the NWS reports. The snow emergency will be from noon on December 16 to noon on December 17. Mr. Zimmerman discusses his plan to plow the borough roadways. The applicable parts of the park will be plowed for Saturday’s holiday event.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith spoke with Andrew Casey from Eagle Disposal regarding the trash containers. Mr. Casey stated that if the containers were used, they would like only 3 bags of trash to be in them, not the current borough allotment of 4 bags. The container matter will not be pursued.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Routine maintenance will be taking place at the plant this week.

President Kline discusses the PUC fines that were recently imposed upon the borough, with relation to PA One Calls that occurred during the Route 61 project that was completed last year near the traffic light. This matter relates to borough utility lines that were hit by the contractors. Mr. Zimmerman will review the log for the calls in question. He is to locate any evidence that the lines were marked, even if there was no official One Call response from the borough. President Kline would like the borough's side of the One Call process to be refined, to eliminate any potential future errors. Council discusses the PA One Call process.

Mr. Wertz notes that the Shoemakersville Municipal Authority's CD is due in May.

President Kline discusses PTMA's capacity as noted in the agreement. While PTMA has more capacity, the borough pays more for repairs, as the authority is at 40%. PTMA feels Wolfe Dye & Bleach should pay for part of the plant expansion; however Wolfe has no obligation to do so. A meeting with PTMA will be scheduled for early next year.

Confirmation of the sewer plant survey will be made with Mr. Felty.

Water – President Kline

President Kline will be in the area on Thursday, in case any emergencies occur.

Mr. Zimmerman notes that another meeting will be scheduled regarding the RAFA system.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Vice President Botwright discusses the holiday event in the park scheduled for Saturday. Approximately 150 kids are scheduled to attend, however their arrival times are staggered to meet the governor's mandates. President Kline and Mr. Zimmerman discuss set-up of the Lion's Club items for the event.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz will be conducting the final review of the proposed zoning ordinance over the next few weeks and asks that any remaining comments be forwarded to him immediately.

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 December 1, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Safety – Mayor Remp- no report

JCP Report – Delani Remp

Mayor Remp provides an update on the sock drive, stating that he reached out to his employer for a contribution. He notes that Circle of Friends is closed, due to COVID. Mayor Remp states that the drive can continue until after the mandates are lifted, or he discusses Ms. Remp's suggestion of giving the donations to Opportunity House. Mayor Remp and Council discuss the matter, with Mayor Remp stating that Ms. Remp will make the final decision on charities.

New Business

President Kline discusses the sale of 333 Main St. and the anticipated displacement of the Keystone Military Families organization. He further discusses the condition of the building and the rotted base of a main support beam.

Mr. Zimmerman states that the no parking signs for Saturday's Keystone Military Families food drive will be placed out on Thursday afternoon.

Old Business

Mayor Remp offers to speak individually with council members after the meeting, regarding the tension and personal things that are going on behind the scenes. He further discusses the political support sign in his front yard. He states that he would like Ms. Wagner to write the correct minutes and to be accurate this time with things that were said. President Kline, Vice President Kline, and Mayor Remp discuss what is required in meeting minutes versus an actual transcription of the meeting. Anyone is entitled to access of the meeting recording until it is deleted after the written minutes are approved.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer