

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

February 2, 2021

President Kline called the teleconference of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order at 7:05 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright –Vice President, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves the meeting at 8:01p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Chad Zimmerman – Foreman, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: John Leshner, Dustin Remp - Mayor

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Had a flag out for 2 weeks and did not receive a complaint until borough staff were out to change the battery on the electronic speed limit sign near his home. He states the print on the flag is small and cannot be seen when driving past. President Kline and Mr. Zimmerman both state that the letter was sent due to the profanity on the flag. Mr. Paine has no issue with blocking out the wording in question and will later re-hang the flag. He feels that Trump supporters were targeted with the flag/sign notices.

Mr. Paine feels that the borough did a good job with plowing the roadways, but asks what the plan will be for future snow removal, as more inclement weather is expected for the weekend. Mr. Zimmerman states that Folk Paving has been contracted to remove snow from the intersections along the snow emergency route, as well as Franklin St. up to 8th St., and Reber St. up to CVS.

Mr. Paine asks if a description and additional information can be provided to residents when an ordinance is adopted by Council. He and President Kline further discuss the request. Vice President Botwright notes that ordinances are advertised in the Reading Eagle prior to adoption at a meeting, but that resolutions are not. She further explains the process. President Kline will attempt to further detail the ordinances to be passed during the particular meeting. Unless specifically noted on the agenda, an ordinance will not be adopted at a meeting.

Mr. Paine has heard that Council workshops are considered private meetings and those residents are discouraged to attend. Mr. Smith states that the workshops are public meetings that the public is always welcome to attend. President Kline agrees, noting that residents have attended past workshop sessions. Workshops are advertised along with the monthly Council meetings. He further notes that workshops are typically held at the borough office, as the borough must pay to use the church for meetings. It is always preferable to hold meetings at the borough office. Workshop meetings have been being held via Zoom, as proper social distancing cannot happen in the borough office. Mr. Paine and President Kline discuss meetings and past relationships between Council and the public.

Mr. Paine asks how soon residents may place their trash out for pickup, with Mr. Zimmerman stating that the trash may be set out 24 hours before the scheduled time. Mr. Paine notes that a nearby resident often has their trash out days in advance. Mr. Paine, Mr. Zimmerman, and Council discuss the address. He is asked to call the borough office when this occurs, so that a notice can be sent to the property owner. Mr. Zimmerman will monitor the area.

Mr. Paine asks what can be done regarding the condition of the property at 372 Main St. Council and Mr. Zimmerman discuss the property, noting that multiple notices have been sent to the owner.

Mr. Zimmerman will proceed with sending out another notice to the owner.

Mr. Paine reports that the owner of 17 Main St. has the building project on hold, due to current material prices.

Mr. Paine asks if the borough plows can take a pass down Front St. Mr. Zimmerman notes that the dump truck is too big to fit on the street, but that a utility truck was sent down the roadway.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Enforcement:** Various notices were sent out last month for code violations, all of which have been resolved.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Proposed Zoning Ordinance:** Solicitor Mooney will review the changes and provide feedback to Council.
- **Sale of Pool Property:** Solicitor Mooney is still waiting to hear back from Mark Koch. The buyer may soon be ready to close on the property.
- **Perry Plaza:** The settlement offer is being finalized. President Kline discusses the usage calculations for the property. PTMA's water system is close to being completed and placed online. Engineer Smith will speak with Sue Werner on the matter.
- **Handicap Parking Spaces:** Solicitor Mooney reports that the borough must remove snow from the street at handicap parking spaces per ADA regulations, noting that the borough is given a reasonable amount of time to have the spaces accessible. He will look into whether or not the borough would need to open up handicap ramps at sidewalk intersections. Businesses are required to open the ramps, as ADA regulations stipulate that they are responsible to have their business be handicap accessible. Her further notes that anyone with a handicap placard may park in the handicap spaces, not solely the individual that initially applied for the space. Mr. Zimmerman will address the handicap parking spaces.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith

- **Growing Greener Grant:** ARRO has submitted the required forms to PADEP. PADEP will be contacting President Kline and Ms. Wagner once the agreement is completed and ready for authorization.
- **Headworks & Solids Handling Design:** The Water Quality Management Part 2 permit was issued by PADEP. ARRO has obtained the information from FEMA to complete the 106 permit for the new headworks facilities in the floodplain. The analysis of the floodplain is proceeding and an application will be submitted to PADEP shortly. HVAC design for the dumpster building is being finalized. The electrical design for the project is ongoing. An Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan was submitted to the Berks County Conservation District.
- **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 May 5, 2021. The Pennvest Board meets in July for consideration and loan approval.

- **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 \$103,062.00. President Kline is reviewing recent information he received on the matter.
- **Parks & Recreation Planning Grant:** A copy of the contract from DCNR is needed to complete ARRO's proposal for the park study.
- **Source Water Protection Annual Report:** ARRO will complete the annual report by the March 31, 2021 deadline.
- **Berks County Source Water Protection Meeting:** ARRO attended the meeting on behalf of the borough. The borough may wish to advertise Chemsweep, which provides licensed pesticide applicators a means to dispose of unwanted pesticide products. A webinar will be held by SAN on March 10 regarding the increase in heavier rainfall events in Southeast PA. This information could be placed on the borough website or in a newsletter and could be used for MS4 and source water protection.
- **Berks County MS4 Steering Committee Meeting:** ARRO attended the meeting on behalf of the borough. The Science Research Institute for high school students is run out of Albright College. They are looking for tours of facilities or talks about what the municipality does. The Berks County Conservation district has extra rain barrels that could be available to residents, if the borough were to host a talk on rain barrels. In the spring, there will be a video contest for students to make a 2 minute video on stormwater. Cash prizes will be awarded. If these items are posted on the borough's website or in a newsletter, this would count towards the public education for MS4.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The 2020 borough audit will begin on February 10. The office will be closing at 2:00 p.m. on February 4. Council has no issue with Ms. Wagner closing the office on March 11.

Mayor's Report – nothing to report

Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman – nothing to report

Operator's Report – Mr. Dietrich

President Kline reports that Hach serviced the turbidity meters at the water plant. All monthly reports were completed.

Verizon repaired a phone line at the sewer plant. Raw pump #1 experienced a failure. The impeller shaft was found to be broken between the rubber Lovejoy coupling and the impeller itself. A repair/replacement cost is being obtained from Axiom.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

The Red Knights PA Chapter 10 will be holding a memorial ride on May 30, and as part of the ride, have requested to ride on Route 61 through Shoemakersville. They have already reached out to the PA State Police and Penndot.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the borough secretary to draft a letter approving the Erik Hirner Memorial Ride on May 30, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks if the borough

would be responsible to provide fire police for the blockers, with Solicitor Mooney stating that the group will supply the blockers. Vice President Botwright asks if they have submitted a route for the entire ride, with Ms. Wagner stating that they only noted of the portion along Route 61 in the borough. Council and Solicitor Mooney discuss the ride route. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline and Mr. Smith discuss submitting the street repair list used for 2021 budget purposes to Council for the yearly road projects recommendation from the committee.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

President Kline checked and cleared a fault on the booster pump at the water plant.

President Kline met with Exeter Supply and a representative to discuss the RAFA System, a control system for the water plant that would allow for remote access. He will speak with Mr. Dietrich regarding the system.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The committee will meet to discuss the list of rules to appear on the park signs that need to be replaced. Vice President Botwright suggests reviewing the park ordinances for rules.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Executive Session

The Board recessed into executive session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss real estate and legal matters. President Kline explains that Council and the solicitor will be in executive session, while any other parties in the meeting are placed in a waiting room. The recording will be paused during the session. Regular session reconvened at 8:41 p.m.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize and instruct the code enforcement officer to withdraw the complaint associated with the docket for MJ23306. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to retain Berkshire Hathaway as real estate broker for a potential purchase of 846 Main St. Shoemakersville. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 1 abstain, with Ms. Randazzo abstaining.

Employee Relations – President Kline

President Kline will work with Ms. Wagner to download the approximately 70 applications received for the public works position, onto Google Drive, for the committee's review, as well as Mr. Zimmerman. Recommendations for any of the applicants should be submitted to the committee and borough office.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for January 19, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for February 2, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Ordinance 455-2021, repealing collection of the per capita tax. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline states that the ordinance notes that the borough will no longer be collecting the per capita tax. The school district has also stopped collecting the tax. The borough's cost to collect the tax is greater than the revenue received. Vice President Botwright explains that the state mandates that the maximum amount the borough may charge is \$5 per person. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 135-2021, approving the updated Emergency Operations Plan for the borough. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. President Kline notes that the EOP addresses what steps are to be taken during an emergency in the borough. This is a joint plan between the borough and Perry Township, as both municipalities have the same EMC and share resources. Motion carried unanimously.

Safety – Mayor Remp – nothing to report

New Business – nothing to report

Old Business – nothing to report

There being no further business, a motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner
Secretary/Treasurer