

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Shoemakersville Borough**

**April 6, 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 7:01 p.m.

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

Absent from the meeting: Chad Zimmerman - Foreman

**Public Comment**

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Asks for the status of the proposed strip mall, with President Kline reporting that the county approved the NPDES permit for the project and that the owner is seeking tenants.

Mr. Geschwindt questions the traffic light permit noted on the agenda, with President Kline stating that as part of the strip mall project, a traffic light will be installed. As such, the timing on the traffic light at Route 61 & Noble Ave. needs to be adjusted. Since the borough is responsible for the light at Sheetz, Council must approve the change.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the results of the water quality report, with Ms. Wagner noting that Suburban tested the water at the water plant and New Era Logistics on March 10 and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt notes that the roadway by his driveway has broken up over the winter months and asks that the borough make any necessary repairs. Mr. Wertz notes of additional potholes on Water St.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if the PA State Police has submitted any reports noting of speeding violations on Noble Ave. Mayor Remp notes that no report was received this month, with reports to be expected every 3 months. Mr. Wertz and Mr. Paine discuss the speeding motorcycle on Main St.

**Kathleen Sundberg (801 Main St.):** Asks if street cleaning can occur in the borough, as there is a lot of residual gravel left from last year's tar & chip project. She asks that Council consider not using tar & chip in the future. Mr. Wertz notes that Council will be reviewing options for a double layer application, as well as a slurry mixture that would lessen that issue, although the expense is greater than that of the usual tar & chip. Ed Overberger from ARRO is present and briefly discusses the application process for those options. Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that street sweeping will be scheduled for this year.

**Larry Sundberg (801 Main St.):** Notes of 3 abandoned vehicles that have been parked on 8<sup>th</sup> St. by his home for months. Two have flat tires and all three are out of inspection. He contacted the State Police, who stated they may be able to send the owners a notice, provided the borough has an applicable ordinance. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that the borough does have an ordinance. He did contact the borough office on the matter, but the vehicles have not yet been moved.

Mr. Sundberg states that on the borough map, 8<sup>th</sup> St. is shown as being platted to the highway, and asks if the borough abandoned the property. There are currently private property and no trespassing signs in the area. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that the area is private property.

**Mark Paine (25 Main St.):** Requests an update on the microphone situation for borough meetings, with President Kline reporting that the borough has purchased the property at 9<sup>th</sup> & Main Sts. and will be holding meetings at that location sometime in the future. The borough will incorporate a system into the new space.

**Ed Overberger (ARRO Consulting):** Speaks during the engineer's report.

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

President Kline will speak with Mr. Zimmerman regarding the abandoned vehicles on 8<sup>th</sup> St.

### **Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Pool Property:** Waiting for the committee's changes to the agreement of sale.
- **PTMA Water Agreement:** Solicitor Mooney attended a virtual meeting with President Kline and Mr. Wertz. The three discuss the agreement, with Mr. Wertz suggesting that the information be forwarded to PTMA for their review, before another meeting is scheduled. The committee will review the information and forward to Solicitor Mooney for comment.

### **Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith**

- **Headworks & Solids Handling Design:** Mr. Overberger provides an update on the Headworks & Solids Handling design, noting that DEP considers the borough's application complete. By adding the building, within a 1,000' radius around the building if there is a flood, it will raise the height of the flood between 1/8" and 1/4". The borough may now move forward with the Pennvest, however Pennvest will not accept the application without the borough having the approved Chapter 105 and/or 106 permits in hand. The DEP Waterways Department is delayed. If the application is unable to be completed in time for the July Pennvest meeting, the application will be submitted for their October meeting.
- **Growing Greener Grant:** PADEP is in the process of authorizing the borough's agreement.
- **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.
- **Chapter 94 Report:** The report was completed and submitted to PADEP.
- **Source Water Protection Annual Report:** The report was completed and submitted to PADEP.
- **Pollution Minimization Plan:** ARRO is addressing DEP's comments on the plan.
- **2021 Road Project:** A revised cost estimate was sent to Council.
- **Sheetz Land Development:** Sheetz needs to return a signed maintenance agreement and bond to the borough and solicitor.

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

The county will be sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Drop-off for county residents on April 17 at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School. Pre-registration is required.

Council has no issue with Ms. Wagner's request to close the office at noon on April 12 and all day on May 28.

### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp**

A total of 15 applications have been received for the second round of Hometown Heroes banners. He will review the information and send the photos to Amy for finalization, before being forwarded to the banner company.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on April 24 at noon.

Mayor Remp will be meeting with Sgt. Mengel, the new State Police commander for the Hamburg barracks.

Mayor Remp received a call from Ed Burns, who noted that the railroad representatives did not like the homemade dams that he constructed on his property. Council and Mayor Remp discuss the situation, noting that the matter lies between the railroad and the property owner.

Mayor Remp and Mayor Holmes have been discussing moving the National Night Out event from August 3 to October 5. The second Tuesday in October is considered the official NNO back-up day for the event. President Kline notes that some food trucks owners are not renewing their license for the year. Ms. Kennedy-Kline suggests having local businesses set up food. The event is scheduled to take place in the Shoey Park this year and perhaps be held in Hamburg next year, as their park is currently undergoing renovations.

Mayor Remp notes of the Shoey Baseball opening ceremonies which will take place on Sunday, April 11 at 1:00 p.m.

### **Public Works Report – Mr. Zimmerman – no report**

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

The alternating relay for the air compressor controls stopped working, as well as one of the motor contacts. Mr. Dietrich is alternating sides manually each week, due to the replacement cost and pending valve upgrades. President Kline notes that he may be able to obtain a replacement unit.

A booster pump VFD control caused several faults. A replacement unit is on order.

Mr. Mohn continues to repaint pipes inside the water plant building. He also worked with Mr. Dietrich on preparing and submitting the annual water withdrawal reports for 2020.

The automatic exercising unit on the sewer plant generator is not responding. A repair quote is being obtained from Penn Power.

Steve Cryts will be at the plant this week to inspect the blower room roof. He will be accompanied by a rep for a new sealing product that he has been using. The product is more durable and has a better ability to seal and fill cracks than the original material Mr. Cryts previously used on the roof. Mr. Dietrich and President Kline discuss an aluminum decking walkway overtop of the roof, as well as necessary repairs for the blower room door.

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

Mr. Smith reports that the following estimates for road repairs are with base repair kept out:  
Single application: \$21,000 Double application: \$46,000 Double application & slurry seal: \$55,000

Council and ARRO discuss how to bid the project, with Mr. Overberger noting that splitting out the base repair from the sealing/tar & chip could work. The borough budgeted \$100,000 for road repairs.

Council discusses which roads would receive what type of work. Engineer Smith is to provide estimates for items 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 from ARRO’s project list, with the slurry and PA Ave., Rose Ln. Plum Ln., and Canal St. for the single application. Engineer Smith recommends only having the travel lane of PA Ave. repaired, as the parking lane is in good condition. This will be an alternate bid.

Vice President Botwright reports on LTAP, a PennDOT program that can assist municipal road departments on maintenance and safety topics. LTAP could perform a study and lay out options to resolve speeding and traffic flow issues. The Berks County Planning Commission is trained to assist with the program as well.

Mr. Smith notes that the HVAC review for 846 Main St. has been scheduled. Council discusses services needed to have the building ready to move into. The borough could retain ownership of the current office space if there would be a use. Otherwise, the building would go to auction.

**Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report**

**Water – President Kline**

President Kline recommends not storing the new booster pump for the VFD at the water plant when it arrives, until it is needed, as corroding could become an issue.

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

The first park rental is scheduled for April 24. All items from the Christmas in the Park event are to be removed.

Vice President Botwright reports that the 2021 pool rates will be unchanged from 2020:

<u>Season Passes</u>	<u>Borough &amp; Perry Twp. Residents</u>	<u>Non-Residents</u>	
Single (Adult or Student)	\$125	\$150	
Senior (62+)	\$25	\$50	
Family (4 passes)	\$225	\$300	
Additional Passes	\$20	\$25	
<u>Guests with members (per day)</u>		<u>Guests without members (per day)</u>	
Adults	\$10	Adults	\$15
Students and Seniors	\$6	Students and Seniors	\$10

As Perry Township will be making a donation, their residents will receive the same rate as borough residents.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the pool rates as proposed. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

The Dutch Oven food truck may be running the snack bar this season. All pool amenities will be open this year.

Vice President Botwright and Mr. Zimmerman will need recertification for pool pesticide application this year. She will be taking her class on April 22.

\*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to purchase bicycles for the Children’s Fair at a cost not to exceed \$500. Seconded by Mr. Smith. President Kline confirms this is what was previously done. Motion carried unanimously.

**Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz**

Mr. Wertz is still reviewing and updating the proposed zoning ordinance. He recommends that signs have a standalone ordinance.

**Employee Relations – President Kline**

President Kline has reached out to several of the applicants for the public works position. He has spoken to one candidate, who is very interested in the position and will be filling out a borough employment application.

Vice President Botwright feels that a part-time seasonal employee would be beneficial during this time.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire Max Kline at a rate of \$14/hr. for part-time seasonal employment. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried by a vote of 5 yes to 2 abstain, with President Kline and Ms. Kennedy-Kline abstaining.

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

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for March 2 & 16, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for April 6, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 140-2021, authorizing the signature of the traffic light permit application for Home Elite’s project by Route 61. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Overberger reports that 50% of the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act should be distributed in June, with the balance being forwarded in 2022. He recommends placing the funds in a general account and then perhaps separating it into its own account, once final rulings are made on what type of projects can be completed with the funding.

**Safety – Mayor Remp** – nothing to report

**New Business**

President Kline notes that the e-mail and webpage hosting for the borough is scheduled for renewal in May. President Kline and Vice President Botwright discuss the matter, with President Kline reporting that he has had past issues with the extreme security protocol with the e-mail, but has not experienced any recent issues.

Vice President Botwright notes that the borough receives a good rate for the hosting. Issues with sending and receiving e-mail are discussed, with Vice President Botwright stating that e-mail can be checked on a computer or through cell phones via the web portal, if there are issues with setting up a cell phone to receive e-mail.

**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 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,     Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer