

COUNCIL MEETING

October 11, 2023

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on October 11, 2023 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Dave Firn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Kathryn Mehan, Shannon Prown and Matt Sullivan; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Mario Bacchia; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Council member Shawn Stancill was absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Tina DiChiara, Cheryl Harner, Peter Howell, Bruce Hunt, Tony Orr, Ron Ploeg and Katie Rubin. Kathryn Boland, Dianne Cooney, Don Cooney, Leah Kulikowski, Emily Lovitz and Sarah Ware attended in support of the Helen Kate Furness Free Library. Eagle Scout candidate Ben Santee and his father David Santee also attended.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the September 13, 2023 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ben Santee, a Scout in Rose Valley Troop 272, attended the meeting to present his proposed Eagle Scout Project for approval. Ben plans to install a crushed stone pedestrian trail along the east side of Rose Valley Road on the Borough-owned Pew Park property in front of the Seider house at 6 Rose Valley Road from the Seider driveway southward to the end of the Seider property. The surface of the trail will be crushed stone to allow water and air to infiltrate down to the roots of the Seider's large trees next to the trail and narrow to 3 feet in width near these trees. The materials for the project will be donated by others. This portion of the trail is being done as an Eagle Scout Project because the Seider's trees next to the trail would eventually be killed if the trail had to be 4 feet wide with excavation done to construct a hard surface trail over a 6-inch-deep bed of stone, as would be required for grant funding.

Head Librarian Leah Kulikowski and Board members Emily Lovitz and Kathryn Boland made a presentation regarding the Helen Kate Furness Free Library and the programs and services available to Rose Valley residents. They reviewed their fundraising, finances and proposed operating budget, and requested that the Borough contribute \$31,000 to the Library in 2024.

Bruce Hunt from the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation made a presentation on how the Foundation is working to repair and refurbish Thunderbird Lodge to make it a proper home for the Rose Valley Museum. It was recently awarded its third \$100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission which will be used to complete work on the southern museum porches and restore the north wall of the museum, including the glass doors and windows of the main entrance foyer and the second-story windows. Bruce requested that the Borough again contribute \$26,000 to the Foundation in 2024 because the PHMC grant needs to be matched dollar-for-dollar.

John Neilson commented that more attention needs to be given to the grounds around Thunderbird Lodge.

Katie Rubin said she felt many Rose Valley residents would prefer weekly recycling and were willing to pay the extra cost. She also reminded everyone that the EAC sponsored Next 100 Years will hold a forum on climate change on October 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the School in Rose Valley in the Grace Rotzel Center.

Tina DiChiara said she supports weekly recycling and asked if Council meetings could be held at a more convenient time for families with young children.

PLANNING

Council approved Ben Santee's Eagle Scout Project on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mrs. Prown reported the Borough is still waiting to see if it receives the \$250,000 grant it applied for from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to design and construct a pedestrian trail along the east side of Rose Valley Road from Woodward Road southward to Buttonwood Way. This project would use the \$75,980 Delaware County Round-2 Green Ways Grant it received to provide additional project funds and the required 15% match.

Shannon noted the Borough can apply for a PA Local Share Account Grant to fund the trail project. These grants distribute gaming revenues to support projects in the public interest and require no matching funds. Applications are due by November 30, 2023. She then made a motion to approve Resolution 10 – 2023 authorizing the Borough to apply to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for a \$250,000 Local Share Account Grant for the final design and construction of a safe walking trail southward from the Seider property to Buttonwood Way. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Solicitor Smith discussed the Grant Agreement required for the \$75,980 Delaware County Round-2 Green Ways Grant, including the Declarations of Public Trust, Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions which will need to be recorded for both the 25-foot-wide municipal right-of-way on the Thomas property and the Borough-owned Pew Park property. The Grant Agreement was approved for signature on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Busby reported that the EAC voted at its last meeting to recommend to Council that recycling continue with pickup every other week to avoid the environmental impact of recycling trucks driving around the Borough every week. A motion was made to advertise for bids for 2024 recycling with the bidders asked to provide alternative bids for weekly and bi-weekly pickup for the November Council meeting. Mr. Sullivan suggested that a clause be added for an optional one-year extension of the contract. The motion to advertise for 2024 recycling bids was seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Busby also distributed a proposed EAC budget for 2024 with items totaling \$21,550.

HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Mr. Sullivan reported that, in regard to the Rabbit Run sewer extension, all nearby Nether Providence residents are already connected to sewers. He would like Council to authorize Engineer G. D. Houtmann & Son to conduct a feasibility study for connecting Rabbit Run residents to sewers. Mr. Sullivan noted grants are available for these types of projects and asked Council to authorize Engineer Houtmann to prepare an application for a Small Water & Sewer Grant from DCED. These requests were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The Todmorden Drive gutter repair work on either side of the northern stormwater inlet at the culvert will be done by J.J. Danielle later this month.

One snowplowing bid from R. C. Marland was received in response to a request for bids advertised in the Delaware County Times on September 26, 2023. The pricing was the same as for 2022-2023. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, R. C. Marland was awarded the 2023-2024 snowplowing contract.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that the Library's Fall Well-Red Fundraiser was a success bringing in \$16,971 with all expenses covered by donations. The Virtual Author Series via Zoom has been well attended. Upcoming authors will be Ruth Weir, John Irving and John Stamos. Ms. Mehan supports the HKF Library's \$31,000 contribution request for 2024.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In Mr. Stancill's absence, Mr. Firm reported that the September Police Report showed 2 car crashes and the September Fire Report showed a response to assist a homeowner on 9/21/23 and an alarm system activation on 9/27/23. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed devices and Town Watch is proceeding as usual.

FINANCES

Mr. Bacchia reviewed the Status of Funds for September and reported he had reconciled the bank accounts with QuickBooks with the exception of one refund item. Mr. Hare reviewed the September Income Reports. Mr. Neilson went over the October Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills in the amount of \$35,078.43 from the General Fund and \$518.02 from Highway Aid for streetlighting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Mr. Hare is working on the 2024 budget and reminded Council members to provide their input.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the Rose Valley Museum will sponsor an “Arts & Crafts to Moderne” Historic House Tour of 6 homes in Rose Valley designed by different architects plus Hedgerow Theatre and the Rose Valley Museum at Thunderbird Lodge on October 21. This tour is part of the Borough’s 100 anniversary celebration.

Aqua Pa will soon be replacing the water main on Possum Hollow Road.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith noted that if the preliminary 2024 budget is approved at the November 8 Council meeting, the final 2024 budget could be approved at the December 13 Council meeting since there are more than 30 days between the two meetings.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary