

COUNCIL MEETING

September 13, 2023

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on September 13, 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 and Matt Sullivan; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy

Council members Shannon Prown and Shawn Stancill, and Treasurer Mario Bacchia were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Cheryl Harner, Peter Howell, Tony Orr and Katie Rubin.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the August 9, 2023 Council Meeting were reviewed. Mr. Leso's misspelled name was fixed and the deer hunting dates were corrected to read from 11/27/23 to 12/08/23 and from 1/03/24 to 1/26/24. With these corrections, the Minutes of the August 9, 2023 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Howell informed Council of upcoming Rose Valley Museum events. The Museum will be open on September 23 & 24 featuring drawings by Howard Fremont Stratton with a lecture on Stratton by Sara McDonald on the 24th. The Historic Minquas Trail Walk will take place on September 30 jointly sponsored by the RV Centennial Foundation, the Borough of RV and the RV Museum. An "Arts & Crafts to Moderne" tour of six historic RV houses by different architects, Thunderbird Lodge and Hedgerow Theatre will be held on October 21. A symposium entitled "Hedgerow Theatre in Rose Valley: 100 Years of Arts, Craft and Community" dovetailing the intersection of Rose Valley, Wharton Esherick and Jasper Deeter will be held on November 11.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Busby reported that the EAC will hold a cleanup weekend on September 16 & 17 in the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary on Long Point. Trails will be cleared for the upcoming Minquas Trail Walk, a new dog-waste station installed, trail-marking posts set and invasives removed.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Sullivan reported Nether Providence Township has indicated they would support a joint grant application with RV Borough to allow Rabbit Run residents near Brookhaven Road to tie into the NP sewer system. The next step will be to explore the engineering feasibility of this project and possible allocation of costs. The sewer extension cannot be a standard gravity flow system due to flat elevations and suspected high bed rock in this area.

Mr. Sullivan also reported that Engineer Matt Houtmann received three bids for replacing about 15 feet of sunken gutters on either side of the northern stormwater inlet at the culvert on Todmorden Drive. The lowest bidder was J. J. Daniella, with a bid of \$5,105. These gutters need to be repaired before road resurfacing can occur. Mr. Sullivan moved that Council accept the J. J. Daniella bid of \$5,105 for this work. This motion was duly seconded and unanimously passed.

Mrs. Healy indicated she will advertise for bids for the 2023 – 2024 snowplowing contract to be opened at the October Council Meeting.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that a new water fountain was installed with the cost covered by a \$4,000 donation from the Reina family in memory of Betty Reina, a longtime volunteer at the Library, and a \$1,880 donation from a Board member. The Board of Directors are looking to fill 5 Board seats; anyone interested should contact the Library or Ms. Mehan. The Library is facing staffing issues; the Head Librarian is in need of a part-time assistant and volunteers are needed to man the desks. The Fall Well-Red fundraiser will be on September 23. Music on the Front Lawn with food trucks will be on September 28. The Virtual Author Series will feature three authors via Zoom: Adam Alter on 9/20; Amor Towles on 9/27 and Rick Steves on 10/10.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In Mr. Stancil's absence, Mr. Firm reported that the August Police Report showed no incidents in Rose Valley and the August Fire Report showed 4 responses to automatic fire alarm activations. Typical data was received from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road and Town Watch is proceeding as usual.

PLANNING

In Mrs. Prown's absence, Mr. Firm reported that 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.

Mr. Firm then introduced Resolution 9 – 2023 for discussion. Mr. Hale reviewed the background to this resolution by noting that the Borough has been awarded a \$75,980 Round-2 Delco Green Ways Connect Grant for the final design and construction of a safe walking trail along the east side of Rose Valley Road from Woodward Road southward to the Seider's driveway. The Borough has also decided to construct a safe walking trail from the Seider's driveway southward to the end of the Seider property as an Eagle Scout Project funded by others. Resolution 9 – 2023 authorizes the Borough to apply to the Delaware County Planning Department for a Round-4 Green Ways Connect Trail Grant for the final design and construction of a safe walking trail within the Borough's ultimate Right-of-Way southward from the Seider property to Buttonwood Way. Following Mr. Busby's suggestion to change the wording of the first paragraph to simply

state that Rose Valley Road is unsafe for pedestrian traffic, Mr. Firm made a motion to approve Resolution 9 – 2023. This motion was duly seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Smith is working on preparing the Grant Agreement documents for the \$75,980 Round-2 Delco Green Ways Connect Grant with Delaware County Solicitor Jonathan Lichtenstein, including the Declarations of Public Trust which will need to be recorded for both the municipal right-of-way on the Thomas property and the Borough's Pew Park property.

Matt Sullivan noted another grant program called the Local Share Account is accepting applications for municipal projects such as sidewalks with no match required. The application is due by November 30, 2023.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds and Income Reports for August. The Anniversary Fund received an additional \$491.10 in income from the Pool Party. Mr. Neilson went over the September Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$14,382.06 from the General Fund and \$556.75 for street lighting from the Highway Aid Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Mr. Hale explained that street lighting is now being paid out of Highway Aid at the suggestion of Borough Engineer Matt Houtman because it is an allowable expense and there is quite a bit of money in the Highway Aid Fund with little near-term road repaving work anticipated. This will also help offset the expected shortfall in real estate transfer taxes this year. Mr. Houtman also suggested paying snowplowing and salting expenses out of Highway Aid going forward since they are also allowable expenses. Mr. Hare reminded Council members to provide their input for the 2024 budget.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that, in addition to the RV Museum events mentioned earlier by Peter Howell, the Gardeners of RV will hold their annual meeting at the Old Mill on September 18.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary