

## COUNCIL MEETING

August 12, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on August 12, 2020 via Zoom. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Members of the public attending the meeting were: John Baycich, Scott Corbett, Eric Root, Stephen Knob and Bill Thomas.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the June 10, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved. Following that approval, the Minutes of the July 8, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hale asked if any members of the public would like to comment. There were none.

### EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Firn stated once again that there will be no deer hunting in the Long Point Wildlife Sanctuary in the fall of 2020, and consequently there will be no deer cull there in 2021.

Margery Howe has resigned from the Environment Advisory Council. Mr. Firn nominated Katie Rubin, 31 S. Longpoint Lane, Rose Valley, to fill the vacancy. Resolution 6-2020 appointing Katie Rubin to the EAC was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The EAC plan submitted by Jim Audley for a new path to be created in the Long Point Wildlife Sanctuary was approved.

Vippy Yee and her daughter, Noa Dijstelbloem are working with Roger Latham to create a new EAC website linked to the Borough's website.

Repellant for the spotted lantern fly has been re-applied to the ailanthus tree and the cork tree in the Saul Wildlife Preserve thereby making both trees "trap trees."

The EAC needs a volunteer to conduct the native plant exchange/sale to be held in the Spring.

## HIGHWAYS

Ms. Yee informed Council that Mr. Houtmann has the engineering studies for improving the left-side sight lines for motorists pulling out of Longpoint Lane onto Knowlton Road and out of Price's Lane onto Rose Valley Road on his schedule of work to be performed.

## LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet conveyed the following report from HKF Library Director Leah Kulikowski: Our team of librarians checked out and delivered about 1,800 items in July during contactless pickup. In July, we held 14 virtual programs with 1139 people in attendance. Programs included weekly story times with Ms. Lori, weekly PAWS (read to therapy dogs) events, a LEGO building challenge night, 2 STEM programs with the Marshall Steam Museum, and a book discussion for adults. We have started bringing volunteers back into the building. At the end of July, we held 6 hour-long training sessions with Rachel Lundberg, a medical professional/board member, to cover COVID-19 safety and contactless pickup procedures. This has enabled us to expand our August contactless pickup hours to 3 days per week (Mon & Wed 12- 3 p.m., Thursdays, 4-7 p.m.).

Ms. Yee asked about the possibility of using Penn State students as unpaid interns. Mrs. Voet will have the Librarian get in touch with her.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 1 false alarm; 1 theft; 1 identify theft and two patrol/house checks. The Fire Report showed that the fire company responded to two fire alarm activations. The Fire Marshall also sent a flier regarding the safety of portable generators, which can pose a risk of fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators must be located away from doors, windows and vents and homes should have a CO alarm.

Mrs. DeMasi reminded everyone that Pennsylvania is still under a declared state of emergency and that guidelines should be followed. Ms. Yee noted that the Wallingford Swarthmore School District had decided to conduct classes virtually at least until October when the issue will be revisited. As of today, there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Rose Valley.

Mrs. DeMasi noted that emergency vehicles need to be able to pass down our smaller private lanes, such as Tulip Lane, to reach people's houses. She requested that a notification be sent to residents asking them to remove trees and vegetation along such lanes to ensure fire trucks and ambulances can get where they need to go.

Mrs. DeMasi urged everyone to get their flu shot early to try to avoid more problems with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## PLANNING

A Planning Commission meeting was held on August 6th. Bob Thomas, a consultant with Campbell Thomas & Co., reviewed the Conceptual Study for a Rose Valley Road Pathway his firm prepared for improving the walkability of Rose Valley Road to allow residents to safely walk to and from the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station and along Rose Valley Road within the Borough. The Concept Study will be put on the Borough's website. There was much discussion regarding the Study and the path at the meeting and this discussion will continue at the next Planning Commission meeting to be held on September 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Residents Eric Root and Stephen Knob voiced their concern about the safety on Rose Valley Road. Mr. Root and Mr. Knob live at 77 W. Rose Valley Road. They use the Borough Parking lot at the corner of Rose Valley Road and Possum Hollow Roads. They asked if an off-duty policeperson could be hired to monitor the speed and give out tickets. Solicitor Smith said that this could not be done, but that he would investigate the possibility of hiring a Constable.

The Planning Commission also reviewed and commented on DELCORA's Asset Transfer Act 537 Plan Update. The sole purpose of this Act 537 Plan Update is to address the PA DEP Act 537 requirements for the public-to-private wastewater disposal system transfer of the DELCORA system to Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.

## FINANCES

Mr. Hare reported he had reconciled the QuickBooks account with the bank statements. He then reviewed the Status of Funds for July. Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Report for July. Mr. Neilson went over the Bills for Approval for August and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amount of \$43,157.76 were approved.

Mr. Siwicki reminded all Councilmembers that the 2021 budget planning period is approaching.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plummer brought Council up to date regarding the many building improvements underway at Thunderbird Lodge. A \$99,788.00 matching grant from the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission is funding repairs to the tile roof, refurbishment of the stucco and repointing of the stone walls and porch pillars. A significant portion of the matching funds for this work will come from this year's Borough contribution of \$23,000 to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation. The window facing Rose Valley Road is also being refurbishing with funding from a \$8,000 grant from the Ethyl Sargent Clark Smith Foundation. Tim thanked RVCF member Nick Slagis for overseeing all this work and the Borough for its much needed financial support.

The Rose Valley Museum at Thunderbird Lodge is planning a virtual auction in October. The money raised will be used to help purchase Wharton Esherick furniture to be sold at a Freeman's auction in October.

Work on the historical marker honoring William L. Price is ongoing.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported that the Court House will not be holding hearings until November due to the pandemic and that he has responded to Borough residents inquiring about per capita taxes and the operation of the Old Mill during the pandemic. The mediation case between two Todmorden residents is on hold due to vacation schedules.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary