

ROSE VALLY BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
July 9, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on July 9, 2025 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Cheryl Harner, Kathryn Mehan and Shannon Prown. Mayor Bill Hale, Treasurer Chris Bourke, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy were also present. Councilman Tony Orr and Controller John Neilson were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Sarah Mutter and Earl Varney.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the June 11, 2025 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby reported a resident was confronted at the entrance to the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary regarding access to the Sanctuary. Mrs. Healy subsequently spoke to the confronting individual explaining that the Borough has a 50-foot-wide access easement for the Sanctuary from Longpoint Lane, and the misunderstanding was resolved. Mr. Busby also reported the EAC plant sale was very successful with receipts of \$8,159.55, expenses of \$4,367.80, and a profit of \$3,791.75.

PECO previously indicated it would make trees available for residents to plant to replace those taken down for its power line upgrade project. Mrs. Healy contacted Michele Garrity, PECO's governmental liaison, who said that while PECO did indicate that the replacement trees would be made available, it is still working with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to see if trees can be obtained. Ms. Harner asked for a list of native trees the EAC recommends for replacing those taken down by PECO.

The EAC is working on identifying best practices for future road salting and snowplowing, and the appropriate project for the Borough to undertake to meet its MS-4 stormwater requirements. It was also noted that it has been suggested that neighbors could coordinate with one another so that only one trash hauler makes pickups on a particular street.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

In Mr. Orr's absence, there was no Highways report and the meeting was not live-streamed or recorded.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that the Library received \$16,406.00 in donations from Delco Gives Days which will be used in part for tree work. There are two part-time positions open. The Library will hold a "Well Red" fundraiser on September 20 and Ms. Mehan encouraged everyone to attend.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the June Police Report showed 12 responses to incidents including three motor vehicle crashes, two false alarms, a disabled motorist and animal debris on the road. The June Fire Reported showed that the Fire Department responded to 5 incidents including three for downed power lines from the windstorm on June 19, an automatic fire alarm, and a motor vehicle accident. Typical data was received from the speed device near Thunderbird Lodge and Town Watch patrols are proceeding as usual.

The proposed Advance Life Support (ALS) Ambulance Cost Sharing Agreement was approved by Nether Providence Township and Swarthmore, Rutledge and Rose Valley Boroughs, however Morton Borough unexpectedly decided to enter into an agreement to use Springfield Ambulance's existing paramedics instead. To enable the agreement to move forward, Nether Providence agreed to advance \$82,500 directly to Swarthmore Fire & Protective Association to cover what Morton would have had to pay in 2025. Nether will receive \$8,250 in credits annually against its ALS Ambulance contributions over the next 10 years. This allowed the initial quarterly payments in the agreement to remain approximately the same, although Rose Valley Borough's call percentage was reduced from 3.0 to 1.6 percent and its initial quarterly payment to only \$2,242 because its previous numbers had not excluded the northern portion of the Borough covered by Media Fire Company's ALS ambulance. With these adjustments, the Agreement was signed by all the municipalities and Swarthmore Fire & Protective Association and became effective on July 2, 2025. Swarthmore Fire is now in the process of hiring paramedics and purchasing equipment to upgrade its Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance to ALS capability. Quarterly payments will decrease due to increasing reimbursements with quarterly payments in 2026 anticipated to be roughly four-tenths of the initial amount.

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann received favorable references regarding James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving and the company was therefore awarded the construction of the Rose Valley Road Walking Path Project including all fence work. G. D. Houtman & Son is in the process of preparing the bidding documents for replacement landscaping with McCusker Landscaping providing consulting services.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the proposed Fence Ordinance noting it had been duly advertised. Mr. Busby suggested some minor editorial word changes and then made a motion that Council approve Ordinance 359, setting forth certain minimum requirements for the construction and erection of fences within the Borough, with these minor changes. This motion was seconded, and the Fence Ordinance was unanimously approved by individual voice vote.

The Fence Ordinance sets forth the following requirements:

Section 3. Regulations.

- A. No Fence shall be constructed or erected that is greater than eight (8) feet in height.
- B. No Fence shall be placed directly on the edge of any property line. The exterior of all fences shall be located at least six (6") inches inside all property lines.
- C. Fences must have the finished side facing outward toward any adjacent property or right-of-way, or street. All support posts and support rails shall face inward toward the center of the property. Welded wire fences, when installed as part of a post and rail fence, or split rail fence, shall be on the inside of the fence posts and shall face inward toward the center of the property.
- D. No Fence shall be erected or constructed within the right-of-way of any street except upon receipt of a special exception granted by the Zoning Hearing Board.
- E. No Fence shall have an above ground electric current.
- F. No barbed wire, or razor wire, or other dangerous types of Fences shall be permitted.
- G. No Fence shall constitute an obstruction to vision as described in the Borough Zoning code or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code.

Section 4. Deer Fencing. A Deer Fence up to 10 feet in height is permitted, subject to the following restriction: The Fence is located behind the rear building line.

Section 5. Permits Are Not Required. No building permit, or any other kind of permit is required for the construction, installation, or maintenance of a Fence on private property, that is erected pursuant to the requirements of this Ordinance.

FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reported he had reconciled all the Borough's bank accounts as shown in the June Status of Funds. Mr. Hare went over the June Income Reports and reviewed the July Bills for Approval. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$19,939.41 from the General Fund, including \$2,242.00 for the initial quarterly payment for the ALS Ambulance Cost Sharing Agreement, were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the windstorm on June 19 brought down numerous trees which blocked roads and took down electrical lines. Hilltop Road, Rabbit Run, Possum Hollow Road and Rose Valley Road were all initially blocked, and an historic house was cut in half by a fallen tree. It took several days to progressively reopen the roads, and electricity was out for four days in some areas. Portable generators had to be brought in for a June 21 wedding at the Old Mill.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hale reported that the Fourth of July Parade from the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station to Rose Valley Swimming Pool was a success. Scouts from Troop 272, kids on bikes or in strollers and wagons, assorted vehicles, elected officials and South Media Fire Company arrived just in time for the 2:00 pm departure. At the pool-side ceremony following the parade, the Scouts raised the American Flag, State Representative Leanne Krueger led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and Earl Varney sang the National Anthem.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith distributed a written report addressing what the term “grandfathered” means under Pennsylvania Law.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary