COUNCIL MEETING

November 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on November 9, 2022 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 Councilpersons Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Shannon Prown, and Matt Sullivan; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Mario Bacchia; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Shawn Stancill and Vippy Yee were absent.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Louis Bizzari of B & L Disposal, Ron Crawford of J. P. Mascaro, Kathryn Boland and Elizabeth Lin from the Helen Kate Furness Library Board, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theatre Marcie Bramucci, and residents Peter Howell, Deb DeMasi, Ron Ploeg, Diane Seider, Nick Slagis and Bill Thomas.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes from the October 12, 2022 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

RECYCLING CONTRACT

It was decided to rebid the 2023 recycling contract at the October Council meeting. The recycling bids were re-advertised in the Delaware County Times on October 24 and 26, 2022. Two bids were received: B & L Disposal bid $98,500 for weekly pickup only, and J. P. Mascaro bid $77,928 for weekly pickup and $58,992 for every-other-week pickup. Mr. Busby made a motion to accept Mascaro’s bid of $58,992 for every-other-week pickup, which was seconded. Discussion followed with Mrs. Seider of 6 Rose Valley Road indicating she would prefer weekly pickup. After further discussion of whether the amount of material actually being usefully recycled justified the increased cost, the motion to accept J. P. Mascaro’s bid for every-other-week recycling pickup for 2023 was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Library

Elizabeth Lin and Kathryn Boland of the Helen Kate Furness Library gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Library’s financial condition, its increased expenses for mandated staffing, and its beneficial contributions to the Rose Valley community. They requested that the Borough increase its annual contribution from $26,000 to $34,694.

Hedgerow Theatre

Marci Bramucci, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theatre, discussed the request it made last month for an additional $5,000 from the Borough’s Coronavirus Recovery Funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan to help pay for Covid related costs to meet Actors Equity Association requirements such as weekly testing.

Rose Valley Centennial Foundation

Nick Slagis, board member of the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation, requested that Council increase its annual contribution for the repair and refurbishment of Thunderbird Lodge to make it a suitable home for the Rose Valley Museum from $26,000 to $29,000. The Foundation will apply for its third $100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in the spring of 2023 and cannot receive the grant unless it already has the money to fulfill the one-for-one matching requirement. In addition, it must also come up with matching funds for a new $25,000 Planning grant from PHMC.

Anniversary Committee

Peter Howell, a member of the Borough’s 100th Anniversary Committee, distributed calendars for 2023 entitled “The Bridges of Rose Valley” to members of Council with beautiful photographs and each month’s calendar marked with events planned by various Borough organizations. The Committee will soon hand deliver a calendar to every household in Rose Valley. The cost of printing the calendars was $4,500 and the Committee has raised $3,000 to cover most of this expense. Mr. Howell asked Council to cover the remaining $1,500 from the Borough’s 100th Anniversary Fund and Council agreed to do so in January of 2023.

General

Mrs. Seider asked about the stakes placed along the road in front of her property. Mr. Hale explained that the stakes were placed there by surveyors from G. D. Houtman & Son to delineate the line between her property and Pew Park, which actually extends over to the east side of Rose Valley Road in that area.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby reported that the EAC is in the process of purchasing tiles for the new trail marker posts in the wildlife preserves. He also noted the EAC is concerned that residents do not realize that the chemicals used in products such as Mosquito Shield are environmentally very harmful because they kill most other insects on a property along with the mosquitos.

He also reminded everyone that one select bow hunter will hunt deer in the Todmorden Woods Borough-owned parkland only from November 25 to December 9, 2022 and then from January 3 to January 27, 2023, Monday through Friday from dawn until 9:00 a.m. and from 2:00 pm until dusk.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Sullivan reported that Mr. Houtmann is sending out the request for bids for the Todmorden Drive culvert repair work on Friday. The bids will be opened December 8, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Sullivan moved that Council accept the snowplowing bid from R. C. Marland submitted in October. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In Mr. Stancill’s absence, Mr. Firn reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited two thefts and one incident of theft fraud for the month of October. The Fire Report showed that the Fire Company responded to an oil burner malfunction on October 31. The Fire Marshall sent a flier on prevention of kitchen fires.

Mr. Stancill recommended that the Borough not renew its service contract with All Traffic Solutions for maintenance of the speed devices, noting we can still receive the data without the contract.

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that the Borough applied for a $637,000 grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the design and construction of a trail along the east side of Rose Valley Road from just south of Buttonwood Way to Woodward Road to provide safe pedestrian access to the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station.

FINANCES

Mr. Bacchia reviewed the Status of Funds for October and reported he had reconciled all the Borough’s bank statements with QuickBooks. Mr. Hare went over the Income Reports for October. Mr. Neilson went over the November Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the mount of $49,832.67 were approved.

Mr. Hare distributed a preliminary 2023 budget and discussion followed. Council decided that the 2023 donation to the Helen Kate Furness Library would be $29,000 and the donation to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation would be $26,000 with an additional $3,000 contributed from the Coronavirus Recovery Fund. After further adjustments, Mr. Hare asked that Council approve the advertisement of the proposed 2023 Budget with total revenue and expenses of $428,036, appropriation from Capital Reserve of $21,429, a 7.5 percent increase in Borough taxes, and a milage rate of 1.21 mils. This request was approved on a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed. The proposed budget will be available for public inspection in the Borough office for at least 10 days prior to finalization and adoption at the December 14 Council Meeting.

Council also approved, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, that $5,000 be given to Hedgerow Theatre from the Coronavirus Recovery Fund to help cover the cost of Covid related expenses.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Firn reported that Councilperson Vippy Yee submitted her resignation from Borough Council because she is moving out of Rose Valley. It was with deep regret that Council subsequently accepted her resignation on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Ms. Yee did an outstanding job while on Council as liaison to the Helen Kate Furness Library and website coordinator. She will be greatly missed.

Advertisement of this opening on Council was placed on the Borough’s website and sent out to the residents Google Group. Dr. Richard O’Flynn, Katherine Mehan, Stuart Ockman and Tony Orr applied to fill the seat. After careful consideration, the Personnel Committee recommended Ms. Kathryn Meehan of 15 Hilltop Road to serve out the unexpired term of Ms. Yee through the 2023 municipal election. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Ms. Meehan was appointed to Borough Council. She must be sworn in within 30 days.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Hale reported that all residents will be invited to attend a Gala celebrating 100 years of Rose Valley Borough on Saturday, January 21, 2023 to be held at the Old Mill from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary