

COUNCIL MEETING

February 12, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on February 12, 2020 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were: Council persons Debra DeMasi; Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki, and Judy Voet; Controller John Neilson; and Secretary Paula Healy.

Those absent were: Council person Vippy Yee, Treasurer Joe Hare, Mayor Tim Plummer and Solicitor G. Guy Smith.

Visitors attending the meeting were State Trooper Jessica Tobin, and residents Scott Corbett and Julie and David Shaw.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the January 8, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hale recognized Mr. Corbett. Mr. Corbett attended the meeting to complain about excessive noise and language coming from his next-door neighbor's. Last year, they had a wooden halfpipe built in their backyard close to the Corbett's property line that they use to practice skateboarding. The halfpipe makes a lot of noise when skateboarders ride on it, especially adults. They also a trampoline installed. Mr. Hale talked with the neighbor, Heather Jones, last fall asked her to move the half-pipe and trampoline so they were at least 20 feet away from the property line. Heather said they would not be using the equipment during the winter and would re-visit the issue in the spring. Actually, the Zoning Code requirement for a 20-foot setback in Zone A only strictly applies to accessory buildings defined as a "structure with a roof which is built for the shelter or enclosure of persons or property." The neighbors also have a shed that Mr. Corbett thinks is within 20 feet of the boundary line, but this is not clear without a survey and no noise is coming from the shed. Mr. Corbett was advised to call the State Police when he hears excessive noise coming from his neighbors' property.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw attended the meeting to again voice their objections to deer hunting on Long Point. Mr. Firn and Mr. Hale acknowledged their concerns. The EAC now has two representatives from Long Point Lane as associate members, and the Shaw's were also encouraged to attend the monthly EAC meetings.

Trooper Jessica Tobin attended the meeting to report on incidents that happened in the Borough in 2019 and on upcoming programs being offered by the State Police. Mrs. Healy will send the Camp information out to the residents. Trooper Tobin also informed Council that the State Police are offering a course in De-escalation Training. The course is 1.5 – 2 hours long. Anyone interested should contact Trooper Tobin.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 3 false alarms; 2 alarms cancelled by the complainant; 2 school checks; 1 identity check; 2 road hazard/animal debris; and 3 see officer/police information. The Fire Report showed an incident of assisting medical services on 1/10/20.

Mrs. DeMasi distributed information from the speed devices and reviewed the information.

The Emergency Management Plan is to be reviewed and updated every six months; Mrs. DeMasi reported that this has been done.

Because of the Borough Office break-in in December, Mrs. Healy will look into a security system for the office.

PLANNING

There will be a public meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board on February 25, 2020. A request was received to subdivide the property at 71 – 73 West Rose Valley Road. This is a non-conforming property so any change to the property requires a variance from the Zoning Board Hearing.

Resolution 2 – 2020 appointing Bruce Hunt as an alternate representative to the Zoning Hearing Board was passed on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that the EAC will be working on the project to improve the walkability of Rose Valley Road. The consultants recommend the creation of a steering committee comprised of residents and other stakeholders.

Dr. Mary Beth Kelly has resigned from the EAC. Mary Beth contributed greatly to the EAC and will be very much missed. Council thanked Mary Beth for all her hard work and dedication.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Library has a new Director, Leah Kulikowski. She will be starting March 2. The Library is in need of 3 more Board members. Candidates having experience in the areas of buildings and grounds, and fundraising would be most desirable. The League of Women Voters is holding demonstrations of the new voting machines on March 6 between 12 noon and 3:00 p.m. The Book-It! 5K Walk/Run from the Wallingford Train Station to Swarthmore Library will occur on April 25 starting at 9:00 a.m. Sponsors are needed.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Report for January and went over the Status of Funds.

Mr. Neilson reviewed the February Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$17,902.01 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The Borough held a public meeting on Monday, February 10 at the Old Mill to discuss the possibility of the Borough helping to keep some of the Wharton Esherick furniture being auctioned by Hedgerow Theatre in Rose Valley. Mr. Hale asked those in attendance if they supported using on the order of \$40,000 of the Borough's capital reserve fund to purchase some of the furniture which the Borough would retain ownership of while allowing it to be displayed at the Museum. He noted that the Borough Solicitor had advised Council that protecting the historical heritage of the Borough would be a permissible use of Borough funds, and that Hedgerow Theatre had the legal right to sell the furniture to further their charitable purpose of promoting theatrical performance and education. The consensus of those present was that this was a desirable thing for the Borough to do.

The Rose Valley Folk held a meeting of its members on February 11 at which it was suggested that the Folk forgive the payment of rent by the Borough for use of the Borough Office for a period of ten years. The Folk previously forgave the Borough's rent for ten years to allow the Borough to purchase land along the entrance to Old Mill Lane. This ten-year period ended in December of 2019. The Office rent is set at \$350 per month, which works out to \$42,000 over ten years. The Folk has scheduled a special meeting of the membership for March 3 to discuss this proposal and also the possibility of the Folk donating or lending additional funds directly to the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society for the purchase of furniture. The proposed purchase of Esherick furniture by the Borough will be further discussed at the March Council Meeting. The auction will be held on March 31 at Freeman's Auction house in Philadelphia.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary