

COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on November 13, 2019 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: 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 Rose Valley Environmental Advisory Committee who attended were Monica Gagliardi, Leonard Busby, and Ron Ploeg. Members of the community from Longpoint Lane who attended were: Barbara Bacchia, Mario Bacchia, Janet Baycich, John Baycich, Fritz Blanchette, Carl Breithaupt, Jason Cortazzo, Tom Henry, Ivy Kaplan, Gary Kaplan, Shin-Hyang Larson, Joyce Malamut, Anna Paciorek, Wojtek Paciorek, Juhi Pandey, Gabrielle Rinaldi, Kate Rubin, Rachael Swierzewski, Julie Shaw, David Shaw, Susan Shaw and John Shaw. Diane Corbett and Scott Corbett from Todmorden Lane, Linda Doyle from Vernon Lane and Pennsylvania Game Commission Game Warden Mark McAlpine also attended the meeting.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the October 9, 2019 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

OPENING OF RECYCLING BIDS

Two bids were received in response to the Recycling Bid Request advertised on 10/16/19 and 10/23/19 in the Delaware County Daily Times. Mr. Firn opened the bids for a one-year contract, and they were: from B & L Services - \$42,250 for full service recycling and \$19,500 for collection only with the Borough paying for processing of the recyclables; and from J. P. Mascaro - \$50,292 for full service recycling and no bid for collection only. The Bid Bonds were in order.

DEER HUNTING ISSUES

Members of the community attending the meeting expressed their concerns about the Borough's annual deer hunt and its Deer Management Program.

Kate Rubin read and submitted the following statement:

After multiple years of problems with hunters using the Longpoint/Chadwick Preserve (list can be provided separately if requested), the residents of Longpoint collectively request that the Rose Valley Borough Council take immediate action to do three things: protect the safety of Rose Valley residents from hunters and the effects of the hunt, commit to increased transparency regarding the management of the hunt, and modify the hunt to minimize negative impacts on the residents of Rose Valley, particularly those on Longpoint Lane.

We propose the following to achieve the above stated goals:

- A. Reaffirm a commitment to the safety of Rose Valley residents.
 - a. As per PA State hunting laws, bow hunters are prohibited from carrying sidearms and no one may consume alcohol while hunting. The Borough will take steps to ensure that these laws are followed by hunters involved in this hunt.
 - b. PA hunting law also requires the posting of signs delineating safety zones near dwellings. We currently have none. The Borough will post safety zone signs in the woods in all areas where hunting will occur as soon as possible.
 - c. Hunters will be given and required to wear easily visible identification that demonstrates their permission to hunt within the Longpoint/Chadwick Preserve. In addition to helping with neighborhood safety, this will provide less cover for potential vandals.
 - d. The current remedy for infractions is to contact the PGC. This is insufficient for potentially-dangerous situations. As such, an established escalation procedure other than “call the PGC” must be created and disseminated to the residents so that we can get relief from infractions of any hunting rules within an appropriate time frame.

- B. Manage the hunt effectively and with transparency.
 - a. The Council will appoint an individual to be accountable for managing the hunt operations, including performing the tracking and reporting as per the game commission’s requirements to qualify for a cull, and regular, public reporting on permits/hunters, and statistics on deer kills (by location).
 - b. Longpoint residents request participation in the planning of the hunts, culls, and EAC activities and review of the results of both endeavors. Other neighborhoods impacted by the hunt should also be offered a chance to participate in such planning and review.

- C. Currently the Longpoint/Chadwick reserve is unusable for a full third of the year. This is unacceptable. We request that the Council modify the deer management program to reduce negative impacts on Rose Valley residents.
 - a. First, the Council should reduce the hunt to the minimum number of days necessary to qualify for a cull.
 - b. We request that Council proactively budget funds for a cull so that they are available when a cull is approved.
 - c. Looking at the data from prior years and the initial deer management plan, it seems we have never reached our goal. We also have been repeatedly denied permission for a cull.
 - d. If it is determined that we will not qualify for a cull and the hunt is not effective, we request an end to the hunt. It is too dangerous and too disruptive to have an annual hunt that isn’t accomplishing its stated goal.

The residents had many questions and comments about how the hunters were selected, the duration of the hunt, the difference between a hunt and a cull, the actual number of deer harvested, the deer population, and acceptable hunter behavior. Mr. Firn, members of the EAC and PA Game Commission Office McAlpine answered the questions as best they could.

Longpoint resident representatives were invited to attend the next EAC meeting on November 26 at 7:30 pm to discuss these issues further.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

The recycling bids were opened at the start of the meeting and B & L Services was the low bidder. Discussion followed about accepting the full-service recycling bid or the collection only bid and making our own arrangements for processing the recyclables. Council approved accepting the full-service bid of \$42,250 on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The Fall Stewardship Day on October 12 was a success. Ms. Yee brought some students from Penn State – Brandywine who helped a lot. There was also a student from SHHS who was very helpful. Thank you to Ms. Yee and her group.

The Growing Greener Grant requirements have been met. Mr. Firm asked that the following bills be approved: \$4,992.50 for Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association and \$360.00 for Dr. Roger Latham. These bills were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. These bills will be added to the reimbursable costs in the Grant.

HIGHWAYS

Ms. Yee reported that the 2019 Road Work project, which involved repaving Possum Hollow Road and patching work on Todmorden Drive, had been completed. Engineer Houtmann is now checking the macadam totals for the job before he approves payment.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that the Planning Commission's next project will be working on a Best Practices Manual for Rose Valley owners of historic homes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 2 false alarms; 3 alarm activations that were cancelled by complainant; 1 911 hang up call; 2 domestic checks; 1 report of theft/fraud/forgery; 1 report of harassment/stalking; 2 motor vehicle incidents; and 1 report of criminal mischief. The Fire Report showed a response to a fire alarm on 10/31/19. The Fire Marshall sent a flier about cooking safety that will be sent out to all the residents.

Mrs. DeMasi distributed data from the speed calming devices and reviewed the reports. The battery-operated speed device will be installed on Rose Valley Road near Prices Lane when the PECO pole work is finished on Rose Valley Road.

The Town Watch Program is progressing as usual.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Children's library received a grant from the Commonwealth Libraries for "Tinkering Kits" designed to integrate STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) into our library programs.

Upcoming Lectures: November 25 at 7:00 pm: The Economic Feasibility of Preserving Historic Properties - Shelly Ashfield from the Chester Historic Preservation Committee; and on December 9 at 1:00 pm: Modern Calligraphy - Tiffany Pelaez,

A grant of \$500 from the Library Foundation of Delaware County will allow an increase in types of Museum Passes to include: National Museum of American Jewish History, Penn Museum of Archeology and Anthropology. National Constitution Center, the Philadelphia Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion, the Mutter Museum, the Academy of Natural Sciences, The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and two passes to the Elmwood Park Zoo. In the future there may be a possible addition of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

The "Well Red" event brought in much needed funds, as did the Election Day book sale.

Events coming up are: Dec 6 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm is the "larger donors" appreciation event; and Dec 19 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm is the Cookie Exchange where people bring packs of 6 cookies and exchange them for as many packs of cookies that others have brought.

Mrs. Penny Sass, who has served on the Library Board as one of Rose Valley Borough Council's two representatives for many years, will soon have to resign because she is moving. A resident is needed to fill this position. Mrs. Voet plans to recommend that Jessica Brill, who is already on the Library Board, be appointed to serve as Borough Council's second representative on the Board.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Income Reports and the Status of Funds for October. Mr. Neilson reviewed the November Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval were approved in the amount of \$58,067.36, which included the checks to CRC Watershed Association and Dr. Roger Latham, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

2020 BUDGET

Mr. Siwicki distributed the proposed 2020 budget. He explained each line item and answered questions. There will be no tax increase and the millage will remain at 2.04. Since the accepted B & L Services recycling bid at \$42,250 was \$2,750 less than \$45,000 amount in the proposed budget, the contribution to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation was increased by \$1,000 to \$23,000 at the request of the Mayor Plummer and the Parks line item was increased by \$1,750 at the request of Mr. Firn. With these adjustments, Mr. Siwicki asked Council's permission to advertise that the proposed budget will be on display in the Borough Office for the public to view until the Public Meeting which will be on December 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. This request

was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Mrs. Healy will arrange for the advertisement.

Council thanked Mr. Siwicki for all his hard work developing the 2020 budget.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plummer reminded everyone that he is preparing the State of the Borough Address and requested that everyone get their input information to him by the first week in December.

The Veterans Day ceremony went very well with about 25 attendees. The Mayor would like to have a permanent light on the flagpole so that the flag could remain there 24 hours a day. This will be arranged.

Mr. Plummer brought to Council's attention that the current Board of Directors of Hedgerow Theatre is considering selling the Wharton Esherick furniture and staircase that have been at Hedgerow since the 1930's. Mr. Esherick made these items for Hedgerow in compensation for his children's acting lessons with founding director Jasper Deeter. The sale of these artifacts would be a great loss for our historic community. Mr. Plummer urged Council to not let this happen and welcomes any suggestions to keep these historical treasures in Rose Valley.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reminded Council that 2020 is a reorganization year. Our first meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:30 to swear in newly elected Council people and to reorganize Council. The regular Council meeting will be on January 8, 2020 at 7:30.

The regular December Council Meeting will be on December 11 at 7:30 and a special Council Meeting to pass the 2020 budget and approve related resolutions and ordinances will be held on Monday, December 16 at 7:30.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary