

## COUNCIL MEETING

March 8, 2023

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on March 8, 2023, in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Dave Firm called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Joe Hare, Kathryn Mehan, Shannon Prown, Shawn Stancill and Matt Sullivan; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Mario Bacchia; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilperson Leonard Busby was absent.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Tony Orr, Kathy Siwicki, Bob Siwicki and Bill Thomas.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the February 8, 2023 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Firm asked if there was any public comment; there was none.

### ENVIRONMENT & EAC

In Mr. Busby's absence, Mr. Firm reported that the next EAC sponsored "Rose Valley Next 100 Years" forum will be on March 14, 2023 and will focus on the future of waste management and recycling in Rose Valley. It will be held at the Grace Rotzel Center at the School in Rose Valley at 7:30 p.m. All Rose Valley residents are invited to attend.

Kathy Siwicki attended the meeting to talk about the Tree Tenders Program conducted by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society which teaches people how to care for trees. The EAC will hold a "Free the Trees" weekend on April 29 and 30 to instruct people how to remove the English Ivy that is strangling many trees in our area. There will be a training session followed by a work session where volunteers will go onto Borough owned lands and cut English Ivy so it dies on the trees. Borough Council passed Resolution 3-2023 declaring April 29 and 30 as "Free the Trees Weekend" on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Four representatives from the Borough visited the Mascaro-owned Trash and Recycling Center in Bridgeport, Pa. They reported it looks like almost all collected material is packed and sent out for recycling or some alternative use.

The EAC will hold its Spring Native Plant Sale and Environment workshop with Dr. Roger Latham on April 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the entrance to the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary.

### HIGHWAYS

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Todmorden Drive culvert repair project was completed and that Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann has recommended payment of the \$61,550 contract amount to JMC Contractors, Inc. Mr. Sullivan made a motion to pay \$61,500.00 to JMC Contractors, Inc which was seconded and unanimously approved. Discussion followed about which accounts to make this payment from. Mr. Firn noted there was \$50,372.28 remaining in the Corona Virus Recovery Fund which had to be spent within a few years with no stormwater management or other projects on the horizon. He proposed using this Fund for most of the project cost with the remaining \$11,177.72 paid from the Road Improvement Fund. This distribution of payments was subsequently approved on a motion made, secondly and unanimously passed.

Mr. Sullivan also reported that letters were sent to the approximately dozen houses currently on septic in the vicinity of Rabbit Run and Brookhaven Road to gauge their interest in connecting to a sewer line extension if it were installed with grant funding. About half the residents have replied so far with about half of them expressing interest in connecting to a sewer extension if it was available. Matt would like to see if more residents reply before recommending how to proceed.

### LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that the Great Getaway Raffle fundraiser is in progress and the May Fair is being planned. Webinars with known authors through a national consortium of writers are being investigated. If procurement of this is successful, the Library would be able to offer taped interviews on demand.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Stancill reviewed the Police and Fire Reports for February. The Police Report cited 1 incident of theft. The Fire Report noted the fire company responded to an automatic fire alarm at the School in Rose Valley. The Fire Marshall provided a flier on the risk of fire associated with hoarding.

Mr. Stancill reviewed the data from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road and noted the Town Watch Program is proceeding as usual. He also reported he had spoken with Trooper Naab about conducting speed traps along Rose Valley Road.

### PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that, as discussed at the previous Council meeting, the Borough needs to revise its Green Ways Connect Grant submission materials to reflect that it now wants to utilize the \$75,890 grant awarded in late 2021 to design and construct a trail along Rose Valley Road on the Thomas property at the corner of Woodward Road, the Borough-owned Pew Park property in front of the Seider property and a section of the Seider property, instead of on Borough property on the south side of Rose Valley Road on either side of Old Mill Lane and within the PennDOT right-of-way in front of the historic Mill Houses near the Possum Hollow intersection. This requires the approval of a resolution authorizing a revised scope for the 2021 award.

Mr. Hale then discussed the proposed scope of work for the project within the \$75,890 budget and reviewed the design considerations and concerns of the owners regarding the Thomas and Seider properties. The path would be relatively level across these properties so it would be feasible for it to be constructed using permeable crushed stone. On the Thomas property, a hedge runs along Rose Valley Road the entire length of the property and Bill and Marjana would like a hedge to remain between their yard and the walking path. The existing hedge decreases in width from 6-feet-wide on flat ground near Woodward Road, to 4-feet-wide in the middle on an embankment rising up a few feet above the road, to only 2-feet-wide on an embankment rising up over 4 feet near the Seider property. Three trees on the Thomas property near the Seiders will have to be removed and the embankment cut back and lowered to create a bench for the walking path. The hedge in this area could be relocated further up the regraded hill. The hedge in the middle of the property can remain approximately where it is. Near Woodward Road, the width of the hedge could be reduced from 6 feet to 2 feet to make room for the walking path with the path located partly within the PennDOT right-of-way. Mr. Hale noted that a curb would be provided at the edge of the walking path where it is at the same elevation as the road to provide a change in height, color and texture to make the path clearly visible to motorists. The curb near Woodward Road would then line up with the curb running parallel to the road on the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station SEPTA property to the north, which is similarly within the PennDOT RoW.

A three-foot-wide strip of macadam exists outside the white line for over 100 feet approaching Woodward Road which people currently walk along. With a budget of \$75,890 from Delaware County, it does not appear possible to construct a walking path further from the road in this area at this time. Mr. Sullivan said he felt it was important to complete this section also as part of this project because although it might be relatively safe for adults to walk along the macadam strip, it is not safe for younger people. Matt proposed using approximately \$5,000 from the Borough's Road Improvement Fund for the money that appears to be needed to complete this section of path. Mr. Neilson noted that Council had previously indicated the walking path would be constructed using grant money and that this would be a change in approach.

In front of the Seider property, the Borough-owned Pew Park property extends across Rose Valley Road and includes most of the area where the walking path would be located. A small section of the path would be located on the Seider property itself and Diane and Warren have indicated they would be willing to grant an easement for a triangular area about 7 feet wide and 80 feet long if certain trees along Rose Valley Road in front of their house can be retained. To preserve the trees, the path will need to be constructed using crushed stone placed over geotextile fabric to allow for infiltration of air and water. A low stone wall would be constructed to confine the gravel and provide a change in elevation, color and texture to make the path clearly visible to motorists. Short segments of the path on either side of the driveway would be macadam due to the steeper slope and to prevent stone from washing onto the driveway and into the nearby stormwater inlet.

One of the white pines in front of the house is actually dead with the top gone but the remaining large trunk provides visual screening. The Seiders previously agreed that the white pine closest to the Thomas property needs to be taken down because it is too close to the road. It has since been determined that an invasive Norway maple next to this tree is also problematic, and that

large roots from the white pine to the left of the driveway extend too close to the road to install a path. Mr. Hale will ask the Seiders about also removing these trees.

The wheels of very large trucks with trailers coming up Ridley Creek Road and making the sharp left turn onto Rose Valley Road go off the macadam on either side of the Seiders's driveway. This is an unintended consequence resulting from changing Manchester and Ridley Creek Roads from two-way to one-way traffic. This problem could be alleviated if the smallest of the three white pines at the corner was removed and the traffic signs relocated by PennDOT so that the turn could be made less sharp. Mr. Sullivan suggested that PennDOT could instead be asked to install a traffic sign prohibiting very large trucks from making a left turn.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion that Council approve Resolution 2 – 2023 authorizing a revised scope for the 2021 award under the Delaware County Open Space and Green Ways Municipal Grant Program. The resolution states that the Borough has determined that it is in the public's best interest to use the award to design and construct a trail along the property at the corner of Woodward Road, the Borough-owned Pew Park property, and a portion of the property across from the southern end of Pew Park, to the extent funds allow, instead of for a trail near Old Mill Lane and Possum Hollow Road as originally proposed. Mr. Neilson expressed concern that the walking path would be constructed using crushed stone instead of macadam which would be a preferable surface for handicapped access, maintenance, and clearing of snow and ice. Mr. Sullivan noted that crushed stone was being used to avoid damaging and eventually killing the trees adjacent to the path. The motion to approve Resolution 2 – 2023 was subsequently seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Sullivan also made a motion that Council approve Resolution 4 – 2023 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the design and construction of a trail along the east side of Rose Valley Road from Woodward Road to just south of Buttonwood Way. This scope of work includes the work authorized above so that if the Borough receives a grant from DCNR, the \$75,890 Delco Greenways Connect Grant would provide matching funds.

Kathy Siwicki thanked Mr. Hale for all his work on the walking path project.

## FINANCES

Treasurer Bacchia reviewed the Status of Funds for February and reported that the PNC bank accounts and QuickBooks had been reconciled. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Income Reports for February. Mr. Hare went over the March Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$29,173.81 from the General Fund; \$50,372.28 from the Corona Virus Recovery Fund and \$11,177.72 from the Road Improvement Fund for the Todmorden Drive Culvert Repair Project; and \$370.00 from the Anniversary Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hare reported that the Borough's current fee schedule is being reviewed, and noted he wrote a letter to Nether Providence Township about the Borough's contribution to the fire companies.

He would like to see the annual meeting between the Borough and Nether Providence to discuss the fire companies reinstated.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reminded everyone that the Rose Valley Folk Variety Show will be held on March 10 and 11 at 8:00 pm at the Old Mill and encouraged everyone to attend. This will be the first Variety Show in 3 years, because the 2020, 2021 and 2022 shows were cancelled due to the pandemic. There will also be an E-waste recycling event at the old Summit School property on Plush Mill Road on March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale noted there will be a skit in the Variety Show entitled the "History of Rose Valley" to help celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Borough with Dave Firn, Kathryn Mehan and himself, among others, performing.

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith submitted his Solicitor's Report for March noting the Borough Code requires the Borough Secretary to attest documents, discussing gun possession in public buildings, and providing a copy of his annual letter to the Borough Auditors, Fischer Cunnane and Associates.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary