

COUNCIL MEETING

June 12, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on June 12, 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; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Treasurer Joe Hare was absent.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the May 8, 2019 Council meeting were approved with the following corrections: under Environment & EAC, change the date from May 3 to May 4 and revise the grade of stone from 2B to 2A, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn informed Council that the native plant sale on May 4 brought in \$389 in profit and that the Pennsylvania State Game Commission had signed off on our plan for documenting the need for a deer cull next winter. The plan involves monitoring additional plots on Borough property in the Saul and Long Point Wildlife Sanctuaries and in the Todmorden Woods. He asked Council members and other residents to send him pictures of deer herds or deer damage to their property to support our request to the Game Commission.

The Saul Wildlife Sanctuary path improvement project proposed by Jim Audley is scheduled to take place during the week of July 15. Mr. Firn asked Council to increase the budget for the project from \$800 to \$1300 so that a second motorized wheelbarrow can be rented to transport the crushed stone and other provisions can be purchased. Council agreed to increase the project budget to \$1300 on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. This project will require a lot of manpower and Borough residents, EAC members, Council members and Scouts will be asked to help out.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy and Mr. Siwicki informed Council that the Borough office computer's hard drive had crashed. Our computer consultant Jim Cassidy helped purchase a new computer for the office and has been working on restoring our files from the cloud. However, he has not yet been able to restore some more recent files. Bob Siwicki has been working to resolve problems with our QuickBooks account. It appears a third party may have spoofed the Borough into renewing its subscription through them instead of directly through Intuit. A new version of QuickBooks has now been installed on the computer. Council discussed having a person come to talk about computer hacking, fraud and computer safety. Mr. Siwicki will look into this.

Mr. Hale reported that he met with Susan Audley and Lynn Gee at Pew Park to discuss alternative locations for the Rose Valley sign and that it was agreed that an appropriate location

for the sign would be in front of the garden with the roses and split rail fence near the Moylan Train Station.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & CABLEVISION

Borough Engineer Matt Houtman informed us that he is working on the 2019 Road Work bids for repaving Possum Hollow Road and hopes to be able to open them at the July Council Meeting.

Vippy is having problems updating the Borough website due to the recent computer crash and because she is still working on obtaining access via Squarespace.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that well known author Christina Abt will be speaking on June 27. On September 19, there will be a lecture on water conservation and native plants organized by the Audubon Society and Redbud Native Plant Nursery. A Pop-Up Beer Garden will follow on September 27. The first Sandi Nailor memorial author visit/talk is tentatively scheduled for February 29, 2020.

The Library will soon have museum passes that members can sign out for 3 days and visit such places as the Elmwood Park Zoo, Mutter Museum, Pa. Academy of Fine Arts and the Academy of Natural Sciences.

The Library Board has two openings that need to be filled. They are looking for motivated people with leadership skills and would favor candidates who have financial, technical, fund raising and sales expertise. Interested people should contact Library president Lynne Alvarez through the Library.

Amazon Smile, which enables users to make charitable contributions to organizations when making purchases, has included the HKF Library as a charity option. Anyone making purchases using Amazon Smile is encouraged to designate the Library as their charity choice.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Fire Report cited one incident on 5/15/19 at 20 School Lane where the fire company responded to an automatic fire alarm. Fire Marshall Poissant sent a flier cautioning people about the dangers of setting off their own fireworks. The Police report noted the following incidents: 7 false alarms; a speech on 5/8/19, a 911 hang up call on 5/17/19, a response to a burglar alarm on 5/26/19; and two calls about a dead animal on 5/29/19.

Mrs. DeMasi distributed reports generated using the data collected from the speed sign devices on Rose Valley Road and discussed the information.

Mrs. DeMasi and Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Sammel have been working to update the Borough's Emergency Management Plan. Mrs. DeMasi distributed a draft version of the document to Council and noted that individuals will need to be designated to fill the various roles identified in the plan.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Status of Funds. Mr. Nielson went over the Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$24,021.35 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that the proposed demolition ordinance that the Planning Commission has been working on was given to Bob Linn of Linn Architects, which handles the Borough's Building Inspections, for his review and comment. The next meeting of the Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for July 11 at 7:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Plummer reported that there was a good turnout at the Borough's Memorial Day ceremony and reminded everyone that June 14th is Flag Day when they should fly their flags.

Planning is ongoing for the Borough's 22nd Annual Fourth of July Parade from Moylan Train Station and subsequent ceremony and picnic at Rose Valley Swimming Pool. Many volunteers are needed to organize this event; those interested should contact Mr. Plummer.

The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation received a grant for just under \$100,000 from the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission for the preservation of Thunderbird Lodge. The grant will be used to preserve the exterior stucco and stone walls and portions of the terracotta tile roof. There are strict PMHC requirements that the RVCF must comply with in performing work under this grant.

An effort is underway to have a Pennsylvania State Historical Marker in honor of William L. Price, who founded the Arts and Crafts Community of Rose Valley in 1901, erected along Rose Valley Road near the location of his former home.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith brought Council up to date on the following issues: the Sigismondi tax assessment appeals; the front-yard tree house on Longpoint Lane; the sewer lateral leak along Rose Valley road in the Valley Green; the Verizon cable contract renewal; and resident questions regarding the Delcora rate increase.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary