

COUNCIL MEETING

April 12, 2023

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on April 12, 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 Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Kathryn Mehan, Shannon Prown, Shawn Stancill and Matt Sullivan; Mayor Bill Hale, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator Brent Hopkins and Secretary Paula Healy. Treasurer Mario Bacchia was absent.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Cheryl Harner, Ron Ploeg, Diane Seider and Chip Seltzer.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the March 8, 2023 Council Meeting were reviewed. Mr. Hale noted that the motion to approve Resolution 4 -2023 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to DCNR, was also seconded and unanimously passed. With this addition, the Minutes of March 8, 2023 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chip Seltzer, President of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool Board, requested that Council waive the collection of the amusement tax from the Swimming Pool in 2023. He noted the Pool's finances are challenging because it must build a capital fund for the future rebuilding of the pools.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby reported that the EAC will hold its Spring Native Plant Sale and Environmental workshop on April 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cindy MacPherson has procured the native plants, Dr. Roger Latham will lead a walk through the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary, and Ron Ploeg will explain how to control mosquitos in an environmentally responsible way using dunks.

Mr. Busby also informed Council that the Moravian tiles have been ordered for placement on the trail guide posts in the wildlife sanctuaries. The "Rose Valley Next 100 Years" forum on waste management and recycling was held on March 14 at the School in Rose Valley. The "Free the Trees" from English ivy training will be held on April 29 and 30. The knotweed in the Chadwick and Saul Wildlife Sanctuaries will be sprayed again this year at a date to be determined.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Sullivan 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 responded so far. Mrs. Healy will resend the letter to the residents who have not yet responded.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that at the last Library Board meeting, a representative from the Delaware County Library System attended and gave a great presentation. She noted many Library Board members would like to extend the hours of operation, but that unfortunately this is not possible at this time because it would require more manpower and money. A new program called "Author Talks" offering webinars with

well-known authors through a national consortium of writers was created to honor Sandi Naylor, long time Head Librarian who passed away in 2021. The first webinar on April 27 will feature William Kempt Kruger. The Library's expenses are up, but in line with the budget. The Library desperately needs more volunteers; any interested person should contact head librarian Leah Kulikowski.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Stancil reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report showed no incidents in Rose Valley during the month of March. The Fire Report showed that the fire company responded on 3/3/23 to a heater malfunction in a residence, an automatic activation of a fire alarm at Thunderbird Lodge and an automatic fire alarm activation at 67 Rose Valley Road. The Fire Marshall provided a flier on the risks of outdoor burning.

Mr. Stancil reviewed the data from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road. He will send these reports to Trooper Naab, our community liaison, and ask about additional speed traps along Rose Valley Road.

Some of the residents on Rabbit Run have asked Mr. Stancil about the possibility of speed bumps on Rabbit Run to slow traffic down. Resident Ms. Harner, who lives on Possum Hollow, then asked about speed bumps on that road. Matt Sullivan noted that there are guidelines regarding where speed bumps should be installed. Brent Hopkins, our Emergency Management Coordinator pointed out that speed bumps are very difficult for emergency vehicles, such as ambulances and fire trucks, to get over and can cause significant response time delays because vehicles must come to almost a complete stop to go over a bump. He mentioned that Nether Providence Township and Montgomery County, Maryland, have done speed bump studies. Mr. Stancill will try to get copies of these studies.

Mr. Hopkins informed Council that he will be updating the Borough's Emergency Management Plan, which must be done every 5 years.

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that planning for the walking path across the Thomas, Pew Park and Seider properties continues to evolve and that it now appears it would be best to construct the path using macadam for ADA compliance from Woodward Road to the Seider driveway with the Delaware County Green Ways Grant money, and to construct the portion to the right of the Seider driveway using crushed stone as an Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Hale explained that he had previously been under the impression that crushed stone could be used for slopes less than 5 percent and still meet ADA requirements. However, our consultant Bob Thomas now advises that crushed stone would not be ADA compliant on slopes greater than 2 percent, which are unavoidable in this project. Even below 2 percent, limestone would have to be added to the stone to create a hard surface approaching that of concrete after exposure to water. Mr. Thomas advised that macadam be used for the walking path between Woodward Road and the Seider driveway because it would provide a handicapped accessible surface which would require little maintenance and be easy to clear of snow and ice if so desired. Mr. Hale said he had explained to the Seiders that the walking path could not be built without taking down the white pine to the left of their driveway and that the Norway maple was an invasive species that was not worth retaining, and that they had agreed that these trees would have to go. In order to install a macadam pathway, the European larch between the white pine and the Norway maple on the Pew Park property will also unfortunately have to go. Additional plantings would be installed to provide vegetative screening behind the present location of these trees. The pathway from the Seider driveway to the southern end of the Seider property would still be constructed using lightly compacted crushed stone to allow for infiltration of air and water to avoid killing the

adjacent trees. Although this section is relatively flat, Mr. Thomas advised that this surface would not technically be ADA compliant, which the Delco Green Ways Grant would probably require.

Constructing the walking path using macadam instead of crushed stone will be more expensive so, in order to get the path built across both the Thomas and Seider properties, Mr. Hale suggested that the crushed stone portion to the right of the Seiders' driveway be done as an Eagle Scout project outside the scope of the Delco Green Ways Grant. He noted that local contractors might assist such a project with services in kind.

After additional discussion, Mr. Sullivan made a motion that Council authorize the Borough Engineer, G. D. Houtman & Sons, to prepare final design construction plans at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 for a 4-foot-wide macadam pedestrian walkway from Woodward Road to the Seiders' Driveway to be constructed using the \$75,890 Delaware County Green Ways Connect Grant, and for a crushed-stone path to the right of the Seiders' Driveway to be constructed as an Eagle Scout project. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reported that Treasurer Bacchia had reconciled the PNC Bank accounts and QuickBooks. Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds and the Income Reports for March. Mr. Neilson went over the April Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$18,982.91 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Council considered waiving the collection of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool's amusement tax for 2023. After much discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to waive collection of the tax for 2023. However, it was suggested that in the future, the Pool should commit to allocating the money thus saved to a capital fund for eventually rebuilding the pools.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the Annual Large Trash Pickup will take place on Monday, May 1 and Tuesday, May 2, and that the Borough's Spring Newsletter will go out to residents shortly.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary