

COUNCIL MEETING

February 10, 2021

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held via Zoom on February 10, 2021. 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. Also in attendance was Trooper Jessica Tobin from the Pennsylvania State Police.

Members of the public attending the meeting were: Carl Breithaupt, John Caldwell, Kelly Caulfield, Diane Corbett, David Dee, Tina DiChiara, Janette Dziadon, Rachel Holbert, Peter Howell, Jim Kaufman, Rob Laird, Kristina Novick, Richard O'Flynn, Ron Ploeg, Ian Rubin, Katie Rubin, John Sawyer, Chris Sembrot and Hope Thurlow.

Borough intern Shane Houseman and School in Rose Valley Head of School Ron Stanton also attended the meeting.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the January 13, 2021 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi introduced Trooper Tobin who reported that the State Police had set up a speed trap in January on Rose Valley Road that resulted in 5 tickets. Council expressed their appreciation for this work. There was also an incident in January in which a homeowner on Rabbit Run crashed his car through his garage wall into his dining room after his driver's seat slipped forward. Luckily there were no injuries. The South Media Fire Company responded and did a great job, along with Borough building inspector Jeff Gentile, in making sure the house was safe to remain in until repairs could be made. Trooper Tobin then reviewed the 2020 incidents in Rose Valley. She asked that everyone have the Amber Alert app on their cell phones noting a recent child abduction. She also announced that there were 51 new State Troopers sworn in on January 8th and that six of these will be assigned to the Media Barracks. Sadly, a Trooper in the Barracks succumbed to a heart attack in February.

The Police Report for January also showed one incident of theft/fraud and the Fire Report showed a response to the accidental activation of a fire alarm on 1/25.

Mrs. DeMasi reported that she will be reviewing and updating the Town Watch procedures for 2021. She stressed that Town Watch patrollers are only to report suspicious incidents, and not to actively intervene. She also reviewed the data from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road.

Mrs. DeMasi reminded everyone that the pandemic is still ongoing and encouraged everyone to wear a mask and practice social distancing in public, and get vaccinated as soon as possible. To date there have been 23 reported cases in Rose Valley and one death.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported on the Planning Commission meeting held on February 4. Consultant Bob Thomas reported that he was able to obtain the PennDOT right-of-way information for Rose Valley Road which shows the right of way is 33 feet wide all along the road. Previously it was hoped that the right of way might be 20 feet wide on its south/west side and 16.5 feet wide on its north/east side as indicated on some property plans. Apparently, these plans are inaccurate for historical reasons. This means there is no right-of-way advantage to locating the sidepath on the Nether Providence Township side of the road approaching Pew Park. Mr. Thomas plans to examine the properties along the road again in March and is hoping to present a draft preliminary layout for the sidepath in April.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firm reported that the deer hunt turned out to be a success with the Borough's designated hunter harvesting 8 deer from the Todmorden Woods and some private properties. He also noted the EAC is investigating the possibility of designating the Borough as a "Tree City" community and constructing a pedestrian bridge over Ridley Creek to Long Point to provide a connection between the Saul and Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuaries.

HIGHWAYS & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee reported that the Borough's Penn State Brandywine intern Shane Houseman will be assisting with the update of the Borough's website.

Ms. Yee reported that Carney Tree Co. had taken down the trees to improve the sightline at the Longpoint Lane and Knowlton Road intersection and ground out the stumps at a cost of \$9,200 to be paid out of the Road Improvement Fund. The next step is to have the embankment cut back.

The Borough received a request from local parents to remove trees blocking the sightline looking to the right for vehicles pulling out of School Lane onto Rose Valley Road. The Borough engineer recommended taking down these trees since regulations require a driver sitting 10 feet back from the edge of the road as defined by the white line to be able to see over 200 feet down the road. School Lane residents David Dee and Rob Laird argued the trees could stay because people have managed to pull out onto Rose Valley Road for years without incident and also questioned the 10-foot location. Head of School for the School in Rose Valley Ron Stanton noted it is a difficult exit and that over a hundred students are dropped off in the morning and pickup up again in the afternoon each school day. The trees include a large red oak at the corner, a doomed ash and two invasive Norway maples. Solicitor Smith recommended that the trees be removed due to the potential liability if someone is injured or killed. After much discussion,

Council agreed to remove the four trees at a cost of \$2,500 on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved with the exception of an abstention by Mrs. Voet.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported the following: The Library switched to a 3-day quarantine on Jan 21. It acquired RBDigital, so all digital magazines have now migrated to the Overdrive platform and are available through Overdrive and on the Libby app. Since we have our own collection through RBDigital (Acorn, Great Courses, etc.), we are setting up an Overdrive Advantage account. Another PPE distribution was received from the Delco Library System in January along with masks, gloves, spray sanitizer, and a sanitizing station from County offices. The Library was approved as an official community partner for Penn State Brandywine's community based Federal Work Study Program. Instead of working on-campus, eligible students have the opportunity to complete their work study program off-campus. The circulation assistant job listing has been posted, and the Library will be notified once a candidate is identified. A second round Paycheck Protection Program loan application has been submitted. The Library added 172 new items to its collection in January and circulated 2,471 physical items through contactless pickup and 2,444 digital items. Physical circulation was down 50% and digital circulation was up 58% from last January. Lori made and circulated 21 themed book bundles for children and highlighted books about Black female poets for pickup on Inauguration Day. The Library will hold its own Book-It! 5K Walk/Run event in the future, independent of Swarthmore Library. This year the "Great Getaway" fundraiser raffle will be called "The Great Renovate" and will be held online with a drawing on April 5th. Sponsors are needed and home renovation businesses and real estate companies will be encouraged to participate.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for January. Mr. Siwicki went over the Income Report for January and Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval for February and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$41,014.09 from the General Fund and \$9,200.00 from the Road Improvement Fund were approved on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed.

GENERAL

Mrs. Healy reported the Federal Reserve System transferred the \$10,500 mistakenly deposited by the Helen Kate Furness Library back into the Borough's checking account on February 4th.

Councilpersons Debra DeMasi and Bob Siwicki announced they will not be seeking another term. Vippy Yee announced she will be running again for Council and reported Leonard Busby, Shannon Prown and Matt Sullivan would also be running for Council. John Neilson announced he will be running again for Controller and Paula Healy announced she will be running again for Tax Collector. Last month, Tim Plummer announced he would not be seeking another term as Mayor and Bill Hale announced he would be running for Mayor instead of Council.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith informed Council that he had sent the required Solicitor's Letter to the Borough's Auditor. He also thanked Council for the flowers he received after his recent kidney stone surgery.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary