

COUNCIL MEETING

July 10, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on July 10, 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 Dave Firn, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Deb DeMasi and Stephanie Middleton, and Treasurer Joe Hare were absent.

Guests attending the meeting were: Kurt Christensen, 11 Buttonwood Way, and Curt Krouse, 28 Todmorden Drive.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the June 12, 2019 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hale welcomed the two guests who are running for Council in the November election. Kurt Christensen expressed his concern about tree maintenance along the old trolley path behind the Rose Valley Swimming Pool and asked if the owners of various trees could be identified. It was noted that there are maps of the Pool property and adjacent properties which could be used to ascertain where the property lines are.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that the Deer Management Plan continues to be worked on by him and Roger Latham.

The Path restoration project in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary is scheduled to begin on July 15 and continue for a week. Helpers are needed to assist Mr. Audley with this project. A switchback trail at the back of the Old Mill upper parking lot was constructed as part of Gabe Ma's Eagle Scout Project. The poison ivy in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary along the paths was sprayed by Weeds Inc at a cost of \$300.

The Borough's recycling contract with J. P. Mascaro expires at the end of 2019. The recycling market has deteriorated badly since China stopped purchasing recycled material from the U.S. The cost of recycling is expected to increase dramatically in the future, and the Borough may need to reconsider how it handles recycling.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & CABLEVISION

Mr. Smith has been working on the Verizon Franchise Agreement. Resolution 2 – 2019, which authorizes the execution of the Cable Franchise Agreement between the Borough and Verizon Pennsylvania, was presented to Council for its approval. This resolution was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Engineer Matt Houtmann has been working on the Borough's 2019 Road Work bid specification. He will advertise the work and plans to open the bids on July 30 at 11:00 a.m. in the Borough Office. Award of the contract to the lowest qualified bidder will take place at the August 14 Council Meeting.

Ms. Yee asked Council if anyone objected to her investigating changing our website server. There was no objection to this request.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Library has lots of up-coming events. They are:

August 7 – House Plant Potting/Exchange, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

September somewhere between the 13th and 27th – Installation of a Pop-up Garden in the front of the Library sponsored by the Audubon Society and Redbud Nursery. Beer will be provided by 2SB Beer Co.

September 17 – Lecture

Carolyn Folk and the Providence Garden Club have been installing gardens around the parking lot.

The Library is beginning their budget process for 2020. Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Directors should contact the Library or Mrs. Voet.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi was on vacation, but submitted the following report:

Fire Report: There were two fire emergency calls for June 2019. An automatic fire/alarm sprinkler system activation at the School in Rose Valley due to a leak associated with pipe corrosion, and a motor vehicle accident on Rose Valley Road at Prices Lane. Borough Fire Marshall Matt Poissant would like to remind residents to be aware of electrical hazards in wet or damp areas. These hazards can be managed by taking the precautions necessary for safety, such as installing ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) outlets where water/dampness may be present and seeking guidance from a qualified electrician.

Police Report: There were a total of 27 incidents including 11 false alarms; one hang-up call and one theft by fraud; one patrol check and one security check; two domestic calls; one call for police information; one call for dead animal road hazard; and one motor vehicle collision. The State Police conducted two traffic stops along Rose Valley Road and issued three traffic violation citations.

Town Watch: Continuing as usual, with vacation scheduling for the summer months and ongoing recruitment.

Speed Calming Devices: Borough Parking Lot, June: 81,061 total vehicles; daily average 2,702; speed average 33.28 mph; 85% speed 39.35 mph; high speed 70 mph; sign effectiveness 73.4%.

Thunderbird Lodge, June: 108,145 total vehicles; daily average 3,489; speed average 33.09 mph; 85% speed: 38.8 mph; high speed 71 mph; sign effectiveness 75.4%.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Status of Funds for June and Mr. Neilson went over the July Bills for Approval. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$16,990.56 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the problems the Borough Office has had following the computer crash, first recovering our QuickBooks account data, and then with the new online version of QuickBooks. Mr. Siwicki asked that Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$500 for obtaining a training program for the newly installed online version of QuickBooks since it is so different from the Desktop Pro version. This expenditure was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. After some discussion, it was decided that Mr. Siwicki should write a letter to the business software supply company that previously held our QuickBooks account formally notifying them that our contract with them was terminated and that no further charges were to be made.

PLANNING

Mr. Hale reported that the proposed demolition ordinance has been given to Bob Linn of Linn Architects, the Borough's building inspector, for review. He is still working on it.

The Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for July 11, 2019 has been cancelled.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plummer shared with Council how wonderful the Borough's July 4th Celebration was, with the parade, and picnic at the Pool. He read the following letter into the minutes:

It was a *Great Day in Rose Valley!*

Thank you for making our 2019 July 4th Celebration one of the Best Ever! Special thanks to Bill Hale, President of Borough Council; Dave Firn, Vice President of Council; Paula Healy, Borough Manager; Chip Seltzer, Chair of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool Board; Mary Hertzog, Vice President of the Pool Board; and to State Representative Leanne Krueger who was instrumental in The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation receiving a \$99,000 plus grant for the preservation of Thunderbird Lodge. Thanks also to Matt Maytis, Pool Supervisor; his assistant, Kevin Windsor. The pool guards had the pool in excellent shape and helped out with all pool tasks; they were terrific! The pool was beautifully decorated before the parade by a loyal crew who turned the scene into a Red-White-and-Blue panorama. All-around helpers included Gail and Bill Hale, Marge and Dave Firn, Bob and Paula Healy, Tom Plummer and Margee Hanford, Kevin and Camille Morrison, and Deidre Waters. Balloons were delivered by Dave Firn. The parade was led by Boy Scouts from Rose Valley Troop 272, under Scoutmaster John Traverso. There were wailing fire engines from South Media Fire Company; antique cars driven by Dennis and Michele Morris, Peter Dijstelbloem, Jim Reid, and Paul and Elena Dodge. A forest of

decorated bicycles, wagons, scooters and walkers. Over 250 stood for the Scout flag raising, National Anthem (beautifully sung by Vippy Yee), and the Pledge of Allegiance (led by Leanne Krueger). Uncle Sam provided a brief summary of the events leading up to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Games in the pool, ably led by Gabby Rinaldi, were followed by a sumptuous picnic. Our faithful crew cooked and wrapped 20 dozen hamburgers and as many hot dogs in one hour! They included: Peter Howell and Deirdre Waters, Dave Firn, Debra DeMasi, Gail Hale, Bob and Paula Healy, John Neilson, Michael Rinaldi, Vippy Yee and John Bauer.

Guests formed two lines around tables overflowing with burgers and dogs, and donated salads and desserts. Perhaps the best part of the day was the neighborhood picnic that followed. Our sense of community was felt by everyone.

Uncle Sam

Mr. Plummer also discussed speeding on Rose Valley Road after the Hedgerow Curve approaching Price's Lane and suggested that another speed sign could be installed at this location. He also reminded Council that 2023 will be Rose Valley's 100th Anniversary as a Borough. He suggested that the budget for the Anniversary Fund could be increased from the current \$1,000 a year so that a Volume III of the History of Rose Valley might be written.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported that he had written letters to two residents, one regarding the relocation of a boat and canopy from the front yard, and the other the removal of junk cars.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary