

COUNCIL MEETING

August 14, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on August 14, 2019 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. Vice President of Council Dave Firm called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer, Treasurer Joe Hare, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Judy Voet and Bill Hale were absent.

Guests attending the meeting were: Trooper Jessica Tobin, Pennsylvania State Police Community Liaison; Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Sammel; Brent Hopkins, 507 Brookhaven Road; and Rose Valley Museum board members Ryan Berley, Morris Potter and Jim Reed.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the July 10, 2019 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Rob Sammel, the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator, is moving to Colorado. He submitted his resignation to Council effective August 31, 2019. Mr. Sammel has done an excellent job for years in this position and it was with regret that Council accepted his resignation on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mrs. DeMasi nominated Mr. Brent Hopkins to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator effective September 1, 2019. Mr. Hopkins has lived in the Borough for many years and is a member of the Garden City Fire Department. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed Mr. Hopkins was appointed Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mrs. DeMasi and Mr. Sammel have been working to update the Borough's Emergency Operations Plan. Mrs. DeMasi presented a draft of the Plan and asked that all Council members review it and get back to her with any thoughts. The Plan is compliant with the most current Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) regulations. The Plan has been reviewed by Larry Bak of the Local Emergency Planning Council and Thomas Clark, EMC for Delaware County.

Trooper Jessica Tobin attended the meeting tonight to review the July Police Report and to touch base with Council. Mayor Plummer and other Council members informed Trooper Tobin about the danger of speeding on Rose Valley Road, especially after the Hedgerow Curve as vehicles approach the Price's Lane intersection. Members of Council asked Trooper Tobin if the State Police could ask PennDot for better signage and to trim vegetation back along the sides of the road. Trooper Tobin praised Rose Valley for our very active and long-lived Town Watch Program.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 6 false alarms; 3 motor vehicle incidents; 3 debris on the road incidents; 1 report of theft; and one report of criminal mischief. The Fire Report showed 3 incidents of response to an automatic fire alarm and 2 incidents of electrical wires being down. Fire Marshall Poissant sent a flier about clothes-dryer safety which will be distributed to the residents.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the data retrieved from the traffic speed devices on Rose Valley Road.

The Town Watch Program is proceeding as usual.

PLANNING

Rose Valley Museum board members Ryan Berley, Morris Potter and Jim Reed attended the meeting to express their desire that the Borough to institute a Historical Architectural Review Board to oversee changes to historical buildings within the Rose Valley Historic District. They felt regulations concerning improvements to historic houses are essential if Rose Valley is to preserve its historic look as an Arts and Crafts community. This subject is discussed in Section 2.5 of the University of Pennsylvania Graduate Program in Historic Preservation's Study of Rose Valley performed in the Fall of 2017 (go to www.rosevalleyborough.org for UPENN report.) The Study also recommended a Best Practices Homeowner's Manual be created to provide guidance to owners of historic homes on how to maintain and improve them. It was suggested that Council invite Cory Kegerise, a Community Preservation Coordinator with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to provide information to Council regarding these issues.

Ms. Middleton informed Council that the proposed demolition ordinance is still under review by Bob Linn, whose local architectural firm serves as the Borough of Rose Valley's Building Inspector.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn let Council know that he is working on gathering information for the Pennsylvania Game Commission to allow Rose Valley to have a deer cull. Because the Game Commission wants to have comparisons from year-to-year, it looks as if the Borough will have to wait until January 2021 to hold a deer cull.

The path restoration project went very well. Jim Audley, EAC members, Scouts and other volunteers worked really hard in hot, humid weather to fill in muddy areas of the Saul Wildlife trail with gravel and relocate portions of the trail to somewhat higher ground. Thanks to all who participated in this undertaking.

Mr. Firn met with Andrew Bunting, arborist and former Curator of the Scott Arboretum, to evaluate trees that were damaged by the windy summer storms. Two trees are leaning on other trees, however Mr. Bunting felt that because the roots had not come out of the ground, these trees were not in need of removal.

Dr. Latham, EAC member, has sent the Borough office information about the destructive, invasive spotted lantern fly, which will be sent out to all residents.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE, CABLEVISION & TECHNOLOGY

The Borough received 5 bids for the 2019 Road Work project which was advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times on 7/22/19 and 7/25/19. The bids were: DiRocco - \$81,403.75; Charlestown - \$76,865.00; Gessler - \$75,112.00; A. F. Damon - \$73,235.00; and InnConn - \$64,925.00. Mrs. Yee motioned that low bidder InnConn be awarded the 2019 Rose Valley Borough road work contract, which mainly involves repaving Possum Hollow Road. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The franchise agreement with Verizon has been renewed for 5 years.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Report and Status of Funds for July, 2019. Mr. Hare reported he had reconciled the bank accounts. Mr. Neilson went over the Bills for Approval. The Bills in the amount of \$37,337.36 were then approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith brought Council up to date on the Verizon franchise agreement renewal, zoning issues on Vernon and Applebough Lanes, and provided some background concerning Historical Architectural Review Boards.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary