BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING

December 14, 2022

A Public Meeting was held on December 14, 2022 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa., to solicit public comment regarding the proposed 2023 budget. President of Council Dave Firn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Kathryn Mehan, Shannon Prown and Matt Sullivan; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Mario Bacchia; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilperson Shawn Stancill was absent. Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann also attended the meeting.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Tina DiChiara, Jim Kaufman, Ron Ploeg and Diane Seider.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Firn asked if there were any comments on the proposed 2023 budget. There were none. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

December 14, 2022

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on December 14, 2022 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Dave Firn called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The Council members and others present are listed above. Mr. Firn welcomed the newest member of Council, Kathryn Mehan, who was sworn in on December 8 to serve out the unexpired term of Vippy Yee through the 2023 municipal election.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 9, 2022 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Seider of 6 Rose Valley Road asked about the status of the Rose Valley Road walking path and if Possum Hollow and Woodward Roads had been considered as an alternative route to the Moylan-Rose Valley train station. Mr. Firn responded that the project is contingent on receiving grant money and that the Borough was not awarded an additional Delaware County Green Ways Connect Grant. It is now waiting to see if it receives grant money from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The DCNR grant will require a 20 percent match and the $75,890 Delco Green Ways Connect Grant previously awarded to the Borough can be used as matching funds. Additional matching funds may be required depending on the size of the DCNR grant. Mr. Hale noted that Possum Hollow and Woodward Roads were not a viable option since pedestrians at that intersection would actually be closer to the Wallingford Train Station. Mr. Neilson asked if Council had approved proceeding with the walking path beyond the preliminary planning stage. Mr. Sullivan responded that if DCNR grant money was awarded, Council would have to vote to accept the grant and award contracts for final design followed by construction. Mrs. Seider said she would like to have a referendum on the walking path instead of having Council decide.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby reported that the EAC, with leadership from member Katie Rubin, plans to host a series of forums where Borough residents can learn and envision how to make Rose Valley’s environment sustainable over the next 100 years.

Leonard also noted the first segment of the deer hunt in the Todmorden Woods from November 25 to December 9 has concluded. The second segment will run from January 3 to January 27, 2023, Monday through Friday from dawn until 9:00 a.m. and from 2:00 p.m. until dusk.

The Mercer tiles for the trail marker posts in the Saul and Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary are expected to be delivered within the next few months.

HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Mr. Houtmann reported that the bids for the Todmorden Drive culvert repair work were opened on December 8 and were as follows: Eagle Contracting - $129,725; Bertolet Construction- $107,030; MOR Construction - $87,975; N. Abbonizio Contractors- $64,453; JMC Contractors - $61,550. Mr. Houtmann said the low bidder, JMC Contractors, was a reputable company he had worked with before and recommended awarding them the contract. Mr. Sullivan made a motion to award the Todmorden Drive culvert repair contract to JMC Contractors at a cost of $61,550. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Sullivan reported that about a dozen houses on the section of Rabbit Run near Brookhaven Road still have septic systems. He would like to explore the possibility of obtaining grants to connect these houses to an existing sewer main, such as the one at Engle Drive and Brookhaven Road. Matt will talk to Delcora and Nether Providence Township about how this could be accomplished considering the feasibility of gravity or pumped flow. A grant could cover 80% or 90% of the cost with the remaining 10% to 20% matched by homeowners, possibly through deferred payment by placing a lien on their property. Matt will assess the interest of the affected homeowners and keep Council apprised.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan said she had nothing yet to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In Mr. Stancill’s absence, Mr. Firn went over the Police Report which showed the State Police responded to one crash in November. There was no November Fire Report .

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown noted the discussion during public comment of the Rose Valley Road walking path and said she had nothing further to report.

FINANCES

Mr. Bacchia reviewed the Status of Funds for November and reported he had reconciled the Borough’s bank statements. Mr. Hare went over the Income Reports for November. Mr. Neilson went over the December Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the amounts of $35,269.83 from the General Fund, and $8,550.88 from the Road Improvement Fund for surveying and plan preparation work for the Rose Valley Road walking path grant applications, were approved.

Mr. Hare presented the proposed 2023 budget for the Borough of Rose Valley, which was approved at the November 9, 2022 Council Meeting. Mrs. Healy reported the proposed budget has been on display in the Borough Office since November 24, 2022 and had been advertised as required in the Delaware County Daily Times on November 21 and 23, 2022. Joe noted the $428,036 budget calls for a 7.5 percent increase in Borough real estate tax revenue, appropriations from capital reserves of $21,429, and an increase in the millage rate from 1.12 to 1.21 mills. Mr. Hare asked if there were any further comments or questions. There being none, he made a motion to approve the final 2023 budget which was subsequently seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Hare for his diligent work developing the 2023 budget.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Hale reported that invitations are going out shortly to all residents inviting them to a Gala celebrating 100 years of Rose Valley Borough on Saturday, January 21, 2023 to be held at the Old Mill from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. The “Party of the Century” will feature an open bar, seated dinner, live music and dancing, with Gala dress or period attire suggested. The cost will be $75 per resident.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported that the Borough’s franchise agreement with Comcast does not expire until May of 2025, although Comcast has already started trying to get the Borough to enter into a new agreement.

Mr. Smith also provided a copy of Resolution 4 – 2015 to Council members which states that the Borough will accept a gift of the Olmsted Property (a/k/a Thunderbird Lodge) from the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation if called upon to do so in the future. Mr. Hale explained that this assurance from the Borough was required by the Olmsted Trust before it would gift the property to the relatively-new Rose Valley Centennial Foundation. Mr. Smith noted that this was not necessarily a binding commitment because one Council cannot unduly bind future Councils.

Mr. Smith also reminded Council that votes regarding Ordinances must be done by roll-call vote, while all other Council votes may be done by a show of hands.

GENERAL

The following Resolutions were adopted on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed:

Resolution 8 – Waiving certain additional real estate tax charges per Act 57 of 2022

Resolution 9 – Setting salaries for 2023

Resolution 10 – Setting permit fees for 2023

Resolution 11 – Appointing Fischer Cunnane as Auditors for 2022

Resolution 12 – Appointing R.C. Marland as Snowplower for 2023

Resolution 13 – Appointing J. P. Mascaro as Recycler for 2023

Resolution 14 – Appointing Bryon Sherwood to EAC

Resolution 15 – Appointing Hope Thurlow to Planning Commission

Resolution 16 – Appointing Ron Ploeg to EAC

Resolution 17 – Appointing Bruce Hunt to ZHB as Alternate

Resolution 18 – Appointing Jessica Brill to Library Board

Resolution 19 – Appointing Kathryn Rubin to EAC

Ordinance 353, setting the millage at 1.21 mills for 2023, was adopted on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed by roll-call vote.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary