

BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING

December 13, 2023

A Public Meeting was held on December 13, 2023 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. to solicit public comment regarding the proposed 2024 budget. President of Council Dave Firm called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Shannon Prown, Shawn Stancill and Matt Sullivan; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Mario Bacchia; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Council member Kathryn Mehan was absent.

Members of the public attending the meeting were the following Scouts from Rose Valley Troop 272 working on Communications Merit Badge: Chase Hoover, Ian Jacobs, Jesse Lin, Nathan Lin, Andrew Noll, Arav Rajesh, Aromal Rajesh; and residents Chris Bourke, Marge Firm, Peter Howell, Jim Kauffman, Christopher Noll, Tony Orr and Ron Ploeg.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Firm asked if there were any comments on the proposed 2024 budget. There were none. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

December 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on December 13, 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 7:34 p.m. The Council members and others present are listed above.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 8, 2023 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby read Resolution 12 – 2023 which he had prepared expressing Council's appreciation of longtime volunteer, Jim Audley, who is retiring from his position on the EAC, and asked that Council approve it. The resolution was then approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Busby reported that the first phase of the limited archery deer hunt started on November 27 and ended on December 8, 2023. The second phase of the hunt will start on January 3 and end on January 26, 2024. Hunting is being conducted by one authorized bow hunter and only in the Borough-owned Todmorden Woods. Mrs. Firm asked how many deer had been taken so far this year and Mr. Busby replied that two had been harvested to date.

At the November EAC meeting, resident Stu Ockman presented a plan to restore the pond on the south side of the Traymore Lane bridge. After careful consideration, the EAC voted unanimously not to recommend this plan to Council.

There is a vacant position on the EAC. Any interested Rose Valley resident should contact Mr. Busby or the Borough office.

HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Mr. Sullivan reported that Aqua PA is replacing water lines on various roads in Rose Valley which is causing many traffic detours. Within the Borough, Aqua is so far working on Possum Hollow, Buttonwood Lane, Thornpath Way and Price's Lane. Mr. Sullivan reminded Council that it had adopted updated pavement restoration standards that require Aqua to perform road repaving that is either half-width or full-width depending on the extent of disturbance on each of those roads. Engineer Houtmann will ask Aqua representatives to see if it would like to consider making a contribution to the Borough instead of completing the repaving. Depending on the amount offered, it could result in the Borough obtaining money that would allow it to do more extensive repaving than Aqua would do itself.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Stancill reported the November Police Report showed no incidents and the November Fire Report cited three responses to automatic fire alarms, one smoke investigation and one investigation of a natural gas leak. The Fire Marshall provided a flier about winter holiday safety. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed devices, and Town Watch is proceeding as usual.

PLANNING

In response to a question from Ron Ploeg, Mrs. Prown reported that the Borough is still waiting to see if it is awarding funding for the Rose Valley Road trail from its grant applications to the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Local Share Account, or Round 4 of the Delaware County Green Ways Grants Program. Mr. Sullivan noted that at the moment, State grant application awards are hung up in budget negotiations.

FINANCES

Mr. Bacchia reviewed the Status of Funds for November and reported he had reconciled the bank accounts with QuickBooks. Mr. Hare reviewed the November Income Reports and Mr. Neilson went over the December Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made,

seconded and unanimously passed, the bills for \$38,495.78 from the General Fund, \$519.58 from the Highway Aid Fund and a payment of \$5,102 to J. J. Danielle from the Road Improvement Fund for the Todmorden Drive gutter repair work were approved.

Mr. Hare presented the Final 2024 Budget for the Borough of Rose Valley. Mrs. Healy reported that the proposed budget approved at the November Council Meeting has been on display in the Borough Office since November 27, 2023 and was advertised as required in the Delaware County Daily Times on November 15 and 16, 2023. Mr. Hare reported the Final Budget calls for total revenue and expenses of \$397,160, a 5 percent increase in Borough taxes and a millage rate of 1.27 mills. Joe noted that the 2024 total taxable assessment value for the Borough recently provided by the Delaware County Board of Assessment was \$208,153,965, slightly lower than last year's number due to assessment appeals. The expense for contribution to the fire companies also increase slightly. This made the final amount of appropriation from Capital Reserve to balance the budget \$11,689. After answering questions, Mr. Hare moved that the Final 2024 budget be approved. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Mr. Firn thanked Mr. Hare for all his work developing the 2024 budget.

Mr. Bacchia has submitted his resignation from the Treasurer's position. Council accepted Mr. Bacchia's resignation on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. On behalf of Council, Mr. Busby thanked Mr. Bacchia for his hard work and diligence while serving as Treasurer. Mr. Firn asked for nominations to fill the position of Treasurer for the Borough of Rose Valley. Mr. Hare nominated Chris Bourke noting he has been a resident of Rose Valley since 2018 and has financial experience. Mr. Firn asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Chris Bourke was appointed Treasurer.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale noted the Borough has celebrated its 100th anniversary year with a Gala in January, a Fourth of July parade and picnic at the pool, the Minquas Trail walk on Long Point in September, and that other organizations such as the RV Museum, the RV Centennial Foundation and Hedgerow Theatre have also held commemorative events throughout the year. He noted December 23, 1923 was the actual date the incorporation of Rose Valley as a Borough was approved by the County.

On behalf of Council, Mr. Hale thanked Dave Firn for his 4 years of leadership as Council President, his many years as Environment & EAC chair before that, and his service to the Borough in various other capacities since 2007.

Mr. Sullivan noted that it was Mr. Stancill's final meeting as well and thanked him for his service on Council.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith and Mr. Firn prepared a Borough of Rose Valley Social Media Policy that sets forth guidelines for use of the Borough's social media, e.g., the Borough website and EAC Facebook

page. After some discussion, the Policy was adopted on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The Council Reorganization meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. The regular January Council meeting will be on January 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Smith reminded Mrs. Healy that all the Borough Meetings must be advertised.

GENERAL

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

Resolution 9 – Setting salaries for 2024

Resolution 10 – Setting permit fees for 2024

Resolution 11 – Appointing Fischer Cunnane as Auditors for 2024

Resolution 12 – In Appreciation of Jim Audley’s Service to the EAC

Resolution 13 – Appointing Matthew Sullivan to the Planning Commission

Ordinance 354, setting the millage at 1.27 mills for 2024, was adopted on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary