

COUNCIL MEETING

October 14, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held via Zoom on October 14, 2020. 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.

Guests attending the meeting were: State Trooper Jessica Tobin, and Helen Kate Furness Library Board President Kerry Phipps, Treasurer Katie Boland and Head Librarian Leah Kulikowski.

Members of the public attending the meeting were: Dave Bozentka, Anne Bradley, Marya Bradley, John Caldwell, Kelly Caulfield, Bob Caulfield, Aaron Childs, Tina DiChiara, Alan Gee, Cheryl Harner, Nancy Hirschmann, Cindy Holston, Jim Kaufman, Jessie King, Paul Leonard, Natasha Lowry, Cindy MacPherson, Frank May, Malcolm McHarg, Camille Morrison, Penni Leonard, Ron Ploeg, Sally Jenkins Redgrave, Penelope Reed, Ian Rubin, Katie Rubin, Chris Sembrot, Aaron Shaver, Richard Taxin, and Kelly Walker.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes of the September 9, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hale asked if any members of the public would like to comment. Aaron Childs complained of amplified voices outside of the Old Mill at a recent wedding. Frank May asked about gravel trails in the Saul Wildlife Preserve that were damaged in a recent storm. Nancy Hirschmann inquired about increased gunshot noise from the gun club across Ridley Creek in Middleton Township.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn discussed upcoming trail projects in the Chadwick and Saul Wildlife Preserves organized by EAC member Jim Audley. Work in the Chadwick Wildlife Preserve will take place on Saturdays and Sundays, October 24-25 and Oct 31-Nov 1 from noon to 4:00 and involve improving the trail along the ridge and building a switchback trail at the end of the ridge down to the floodplain to connect with the lower trail. Work in the Saul Wildlife Preserve will take place on Saturdays and Sundays, November 7-8 and 14-15 from noon to 4:00 and involve repairing storm damage and improving the lower and upper trails. The EAC is also investigating improved signage for the Preserves.

The Borough's current recycling contract with B & L Trash Hauling is expiring on 12/21/20. In light of the drastic decline in recycling markets in recent years, there was discussion as to whether it was worth continuing recycling since much of the material no longer actually gets recycled. It was decided that the Borough would continue its recycling program in 2021 and

revisit the matter later next year. Permission to advertise the recycling bid for 2021 was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

HIGHWAYS

Two families on Prices Lane had requested that speed bumps be installed on the lane to slow traffic, particularly delivery trucks. Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann recently inspected the lane and recommended that speed bumps not be installed but that vegetation be removed to provide appropriate sightlines around the curve and when exiting the common driveway from three residences just before the curve. Several other families on Prices Lane stated they are opposed to speed bumps. It was noted that there are no speed bumps on any public roads in the Borough, only on private lanes with institutional usage such as Old Mill Lane and School Lane.

Ms. Yee opened the one snowplowing bid that was received in response to the advertisement in “The Swarthmorean” on September 16, 2020. The bid was from R. C. Marland, as usual, with a slight increase in rates. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the 2020-2021 snowplowing contract was awarded to R. C. Marland.

Resolution 7 – 2020, applying for \$1,553 in Delaware County Liquid Fuel Tax Funds for roadwork was passed on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The damaged Todmorden Drive stormwater inlet will be repaired by Jeff George Masonry early in November.

Borough Engineer Matt Houtman has started preparing the bidding documents for improving the left-side sight line for motorists pulling out of Longpoint Lane onto Knowlton Road and out of Price’s Lane onto Rose Valley Road.

Ms. Yee would like to change the Borough’s website from Squarespace to Wix and showed examples of what the updated website would look like. Council approved Ms. Yee’s request on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet introduced Helen Kate Furness Library’s Head Librarian, Leah Kulikowski, President of the Board of Directors, Kerry Phipps, and Board Treasurer, Katie Boland. The Library team informed Council of their efforts to keep the Library operating during the pandemic and their financial difficulties. Mrs. Phipps requested that Council increase the Borough’s contribution to the Library for 2021 from \$23,000 to \$25,000.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Trooper Jessica Tobin attended the meeting to update Council on State Police activities. On October 24, there will be a prescription drug take back event at the State Police Barracks. Speed patrols will be conducted on Rose Valley Road near the Hedgerow curve. If anyone suspects voter fraud, they should notify the State Police.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports for September. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 4 false alarms, 1 theft, 1 noise complaint, 1 security check and 1 police information. The Fire Report showed that the Fire Company responded to two calls. Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the information obtained from the traffic calming devices. The Town Watch program is proceeding as usual. There have been four confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Rose Valley.

PLANNING

Stephanie reported that consultant Bob Thomas of Campbell Thomas & Co. will be attending the Planning Commission meetings via Zoom starting on November 5 to assist in the preparation of a feasibility study for a 3' – 4' wide pathway along Rose Valley Road from Possum Hollow Road to the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station. EAC members Jim Audley, Monica Gagliardi and Roger Latham will also assist the Planning Commission with the study as part of the working group.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare informed Council that he had reconciled the QuickBooks account with the bank accounts. He then reviewed the Status of Funds for September. Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Report for September. Mr. Neilson went over the Bills for Approval for October and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amount of \$24,850.00 were approved.

Mr. Hale noted that the Wharton Esherick 1934 Actors Dining Table which resided at Hedgerow House was purchased on September 1, 2020 from Hedgerow Theatre by the Borough of Rose Valley for \$50,000, in light of the Rose Valley Folk's generous offer to forgive rent for the Borough Office at \$350/month for ten years, which works out to \$42,000. The table will be displayed at the Rose Valley Museum at Thunderbird Lodge. The Museum would like to have the table refurbished. The Borough does not want to pay to refurbish or insure the table and it would be cumbersome to account for it on its books. After some discussion, Council approved donating the table to the Rose Valley Museum on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed with the condition that if Museum ever desires to dispose of the table or ceases to function, ownership of the table shall revert to the Borough.

Mr. Siwicki is working on the 2021 budget and will prepare a draft budget for the November meeting. The proposed 2021 Budget must be on public display for 30 days before it is adopted in December so there will be a special meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020 to adopt the budget and approve associated resolutions and the millage ordinance.

MANAGER'S REPORT

A Scout in Rose Valley Troop 272 would like to make a path from Traymore Lane to the Gate House property along Rose Valley Road in the woods just above the Hedgerow curve with a

wooden bridge over a small stream as an Eagle Scout Project. The consultant assisting with the feasibility study will review the proposed project and advise Council regarding its approval.

SOLLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith brought Council up to date on various items including the emotional toll the pandemic is taking on volunteer fire companies, preparation for ADA compliance during emergencies, enhanced PA COVID-19 testing requirements, and an upcoming Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grants workshop on November 4th for funding parks, trails and conservation projects.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary