

COUNCIL MEETING

May 8, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on May 8, 2024 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Cheryl Harner, Kathryn Mehan, Tony Orr, Shannon Prown; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Chris Bourke and Solicitor G. Guy Smith. Councilperson Joe Hare was absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Jim Audley and Henry Hund, Town Watch Captain Pat Edmondson and Frankie Lyszkowski, a Scout in Rose Valley Troop 272.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the April 10, 2024 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Edmondson attended the meeting in his capacity as Town Watch Captain for Mobile Unit 2 which handles central Rose Valley. He reported that instead of having a different volunteer patrolling each day of the month, there are currently only 21 people covering his area requiring many to do double shifts. Mrs. Healy will send out a recruitment letter to all the residents for this area plus Unit 1 in Todmorden and Unit 3 on Long Point.

HIGHWAYS. INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Orr reported that Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann is coordinating the repaving of Possum Hollow Road in Rose Valley by A. F. Damon with Nether Providence Township Engineer Charles Catania and preparing bidding documents for trench restoration and mill and overlay of Buttonwood Way, Thornpath Lane, Price's Lane and a small area at the beginning of Arbor Lane.

Jim Audley, a Rose Valley resident on Chestnut Lane who is coordinating the repair of the base course of the roadway and subsequent repaving with homeowners on the street, discussed work performed by Aqua. Chestnut Lane is a private street with 5 homes in Rose Valley Borough and 5 homes in Nether Providence. Jim reported that about a year ago, he asked Aqua PA not to do any pavement restoration on the street after their water main replacement work because the residents wanted to repair the deteriorated base course. However, Aqua performed the trench restoration work in March while Jim was still in Mexico which lowered the amount Aqua was willing to contribute in-lieu of pavement restoration to \$24,500 for the remaining mill and overlay work. Council authorized accepting this \$24,500 contribution from Aqua PA for payment to the contractor the residents on the lane hire to perform the required road work. Jim is soliciting bids for the base course repair and mill and overlay of the wearing course.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported “Delco Gives” will be held on May 8 and 9 and asked that people consider giving to the Helen Kate Furness Library. The Annual Appeal is now underway and is crucial since government funding covers only about sixty percent of the operating budget. Even though there are around 55 active volunteers, more are needed since about 20% of the time slots are unfilled. Estimates from roofers are being solicited for replacing leaking roof sections. Additional board members are needed to fill several vacancies. Photo sessions with Rachel Kessler Photography are available at HKF with proceeds benefiting the library. Fundraising events in April including food trucks with live music, games/book sales and Jazz in the Stacks raised several thousand dollars despite some dismal weather. The Virtual Author Series in June will feature Matt Shindell discussing “For the Love of Mars”, “Housemaid” author Freida McFadden with “Psychological Thrillers and the Queen of Twists”, and Tiffany Jewell examining “Systematic Racism in the American Educational System”.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the April Police Report listed 1 car crash, 1 theft and 1 incidence of theft-fraud, while the April Fire Report listed an investigation of an outdoor odor on 4/23 and a response to a fire-alarm activation on 4/30. The Fire Marshall sent a flier on lithium-ion battery safety. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed devices. Ms. Harner will talk to Michele Naab, our State Police liaison, about speed traps on Rose Valley Road. Mr. Sullivan reported he has heard that PennDOT is planning to reduce the speed limit on Rose Valley Road from 35 to 30 miles per hour.

Mr. Hale reported that the sinkhole on the Borough trail easement across the first property along the old trolley track right-of-way from Woodward Road toward Rose Valley Swimming Pool was fixed by McCusker Landscaping at a cost of \$1,795. McCusker has also ordered the replacement grating to cover the stormwater inlet along Rose Valley Road as you approach the Seider property from the south.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Busby reported that the Annual Native Plant Sale on April 27 and the “Free the Trees” workday on May 4 were very successful. He thanked all the members of the EAC and the volunteers who helped with these events. The informational Minquas Trail sign is ready to be installed near the end of Long Point and the invasive knotweed will be sprayed later this year.

PLANNING

Mr. Hale reported that G. D. Houtman, Inc is working on the final design of the new walkway along Rose Valley Road from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way.

FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reviewed the Status of Funds for April and reported that the Bank accounts had been reconciled with QuickBooks. Mr. Neilson reviewed the April Income Reports and the May Bills for Approval. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$44,448.37 from the General Fund and \$537.69 from the Highway Aid fund were approved.

Ordinance 355 enacting tax credits for volunteer members of volunteer fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical service agencies was advertised on April 29, 2024. On a motion made and seconded, Ordinance 355 was unanimously adopted. Mr. Orr noted that Borough Council must approve all applicants for this tax credit.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the Borough's Annual Large Trash pickup held on April 29 and 30 went very well.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale reported that the Rose Valley Museum will hold their Annual Family Picnic on May 18 on the south lawn of Thunderbird Lodge from 5:00 to 8:00 and encouraged everyone to attend.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The solicitor's report for May discussed various topics including the role of the President Pro Tem; for whom the Borough solicitor is authorized to perform work; security requirements regarding the Borough Office and computer; and the fact that time restrictions are not permitted on the posting of political signs.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary