

COUNCIL MEETING

November 11, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held via Zoom on November 11, 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, Stephanic 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.

Members of the public attending the meeting were: Ed Bendinsky, Leonard Busby, Janine Civitello, Tina DiChaira, Alan Gee, Peter Howell, Sally Jenkins, Lynn Kelley, Jessie King, Vanessa Lake, Paul Leonard, Kristin Novick, Ron Ploeg, Katie Rubin, Ian Rubin, Dave Shaw, Aaron Shaver, Chris Sembrot, Nick Slagis, Shannon Sutherland, Richard Taxin and Kelly Walker.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the October 14, 2020 Council Meeting were reviewed. Ms. Voet noted that Katie Boland should be identified as the treasurer of the library and that Covid was spelled incorrectly. With these corrections, the Minutes of the October 14, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leonard Busby, Chairperson of the EAC, encouraged Council to allocate \$10,000 for the construction of kiosks at the entrances to the Saul and Long Point Wildlife Sanctuaries next year. It was noted that this was included in the EAC line item for the 2021 budget.

Shannon Sutherland asked about potholes in Todmorden Drive. Paula advised her they would be repaired next week.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

There were two responses to the Borough's advertisement in the Delaware County Daily Times for the 2021 weekly recycling contract. B & L Disposal bid \$72,000 and J. P. Mascaro was the low bidder at \$58,584. The bids received were considerably higher than what we have been paying and what was budgeted for recycling. A motion to accept J. P. Mascaro's low bid which was unanimously rejected. Discussion followed whether or not the recyclables were actually being recycled. Recycling is now more expensive because the recycling market has deteriorated dramatically, and many items end up in landfills. A motion was made to reject both bids and to rebid the contract for every-other-week pickup. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The revised bids will be opened at the December 9, 2020 Council Meeting.

The EAC had two trail work weekends in October in the Chadwick Wildlife Preserve 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. Trail work is continuing in November in the Saul Wildlife Preserve repairing storm damage and improving the lower and upper trails. These

projects are being organized by EAC member Jim Audley. Many thanks to Jim and all the EAC members and other volunteers helping with the projects.

Mr. Firm made a motion to allow the hunter who has accounted for most of the deer taken in prior hunts, Justin Franks, to conduct the deer hunt in the Todmorden Woods from 11/30/20 – 12/12/20 and then from 1/4/21 – 1/23/21. After some discussion, this motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

HIGHWAYS

Ms. Yee reported that the stormwater inlet on Todmorden Drive leading to the culvert under the road had been repaired by Jeff George Masonry at a cost of \$3,115.

The sightline improvement plans for Prices Lane and Rose Valley Road, and Longpoint Lane and Knowlton Road are being finalized.

Traffic calming on Prices Lane was discussed. It was agreed that the current Watch Children/No Outlet sign would be removed from the telephone pole and put on its own pole with an appropriate speed-limit sign below it.

Aqua PA will be replacing the water lines on all the roads in the Todmorden development over the next several months.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet gave the following report about the Library's activities: Updated Wifi hardware was installed on October 24th, which included a new router and 6 access points throughout the building. There is now one public Wifi called "Furness Free Wifi" for patrons to use. Additionally, there is a separate staff wifi set up. The signal is strong on all three floors and works for streaming video and zoom meetings; it reaches to about half of the parking lot. New monitors and webcams have been set up at all staff computers, so staff members are able to attend virtual meetings or host programs from the library building. The library sold 25 bags of themed paperbacks in October at \$5 per bag (total \$126). These can be purchased at the remote pickup desk on the porch of the library.

Madsen fixed the HVAC leak above the new nonfiction books at the beginning of the month. On Oct 29th, there was some flooding in the children's restrooms and hallway due to the rain. A Retirement Planning During COVID-19 webinar is coming up on November 18th and there will be a grab-and-go craft for adults & teens. Laura is coordinating a Winter Recipe Exchange; recipes submitted from the community will be compiled in a pdf to share with everyone who participates. Lori is working with DCL on a Mock Ezra Jack Keats Award, with 10 books and a new story-walk planned for mid-January.

An online raffle will take the place of the Great Getaway this year and will probably be held in January or February. If anyone knows people interested in being on the Library Board, the board needs 5 new members, with special consideration given to those with marketing, public relations,

or human resources backgrounds, grant writing expertise, or facilities management or contracting ability.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 3 false alarms; 1 911 hang up call; 1 death; 2 patrol checks; 2 car accidents; 1 theft; and 7 traffic stops. The Fire Company responded to 1 car accident. The Fire Marshall sent a flier about kitchen safety and stove fires to be distributed to residents.

Mrs. DeMasi reminded Council members to make sure that any changes to their contact information is given to the Borough Manager to update the emergency management plan, and that any resident who has special needs relevant in an emergency should provide that information to the Borough Office.

Mrs. DeMasi informed Council that any resident of Delaware County can register on the Delco Alert system to get emergency messages from the County.

The speed calming devices are working well and Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the statistics. She sends these reports to the Pennsylvania State Police every month.

The COVID-19 pandemic still rages on. Mrs. DeMasi encouraged everyone to follow the guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing and avoiding crowds. There have been 5 confirmed cases in Rose Valley to date.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that the Planning Commission met on November 4, 2020. Consultant Bob Thomas attended the meeting to answer questions regarding the feasibility of a 3' - 4' wide pathway along Rose Valley Road from Possum Hollow Road to the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station. Bob and his assistant Doug Maisey did a site visit and walkdown of the road on November 10th along with Ron Ploeg and Bill Hale. Bob reviewed the proposed Eagle Scout project to open a new trail on the Borough property above the Hedgerow Curve with a bridge over a small stream and continuing up to Traymore Lane. He recommended proceeding with the project. Ron Ploeg has volunteered to coordinate discussions with residents along the road. Mr. Firn took part in DCNR's annual grant workshop and volunteered to help investigate available grants and the need for a grant writer. The next Planning Commission Meeting will be on December 3 at 7:30 p.m.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare noted he had reconciled the QuickBooks account with the bank accounts. He then reviewed the Status of Funds for October. Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Report for October.

Mr. Nielson went over the Bills for Approval for November and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the amount of \$34,317.41 were approved.

Mr. Siwicki distributed the proposed 2021 budget. He explained each line item and answered questions. The budget includes no tax increase. The new millage rate will be set once Delaware County makes the aggregate assessed value of all property in the Borough available. Revenue equals expenses at \$406,057 with \$214,189 of revenue projected to come from real estate tax and \$70,000 from real estate transfers. The budget includes an appropriation from Capital Reserve of \$45,000 which can be viewed as roughly covering the cost of recycling.

Capital expenses next year will include repaving and repair of roads as recommended by the Borough Engineer, projects to improve 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, and repointing the Borough-owned bridge on Old Mill Lane. Road repaving work will be paid for out of the State funded Highway Aid Fund and the Borough funded Road Improvement Fund. Funding for the last three projects, estimated to cost approximately \$75,000, should be transferred from Capital Reserve to the Road Improvement Fund.

Mr. Siwicki asked that Council approve the advertisement of the 2021 Proposed Budget. This request was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. At least 30 days must elapse before the budget can be adopted and it must be available for public inspection in the Borough Office for at least 10 of these days. A special meeting for adopting the budget will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Borough honored John Kelley of Hollywood Landscaping on October 21st for the volunteer work he has done helping the Rose Valley Gardeners at Pew Park and the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station. Mayor Plummer presented Mr. Kelley with a proclamation.

There was a socially distanced Veterans' Day ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on November 11 with about 15 people in attendance.

The historical marker honoring William Lightfoot Price (1861-1916), famous architect and founder of the Rose Valley Arts and Crafts Community, has arrived. It will be placed on Rose Valley Road near Prices Lane at a ceremony in the Spring of 2021.

Mr. Plummer thanked Bob Siwicki and Council for their work putting together the 2021 budget.

Mr. Plummer asked all Councilpersons to submit their reports for the 2021 State of the Borough Address by December 10th.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith praised Mayor Plummer and all who attended the Veterans' Day ceremony, pointing out how important it is to honor members of the armed services who sacrifice so much for our Country.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary