

COUNCIL MEETING

February 13, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on February 13, 2019 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; and Controller John Neilson. Councilperson Stephanie Middleton; Treasurer Joe Hare; Mayor Tim Plummer; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy were absent.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the January 9, 2019 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that our local Penna. Game Commission official did not approve the Borough's request for a deer cull this winter, apparently due to a change in policy toward culls within the PGC. EAC member Roger Latham, who is well known to the PGC as a deer expert, will discuss this issue with PGC higher ups to try to resolve this issue for next winter.

There is still about \$7,000 in unused grant monies that could be used in 2019 for additional herbicide spraying to control invasives, replacement and additional plants for streambank restoration, and signage. The grant must be closed out by October 2019.

Bob Siwicki discussed his recent tour of the main Mascaro recycling plant and his discussions regarding the problems affecting recycling now that China has stopped accepting recycled material from the United States. Our two-year recycling contract with J.P. Mascaro & Sons is up for renewal at the end of the year and we will need to understand how best to write the bidding documents in this new environment and how much costs are likely to go up. He invited members of Council to visit another Mascaro recycling facility with him on February 22 in the afternoon.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE, CABLEVISION & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee reported that Gessler was able to place the required macadam in the gutters of certain driveways during a break in the weather and thus the Longpoint Lane project is now complete. Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann recommends payment of \$107,075 to Gessler Construction at this time. Of this amount, \$1,553 will be paid out of the General Fund as County Aid with the balance of \$105,522 paid from the Borough Road Improvement Fund. G.D. Houtman & Sons also submitted an invoice of \$1,971.50 for the balance of engineering expenses related to the Longpoint Lane project which will also be paid from the Borough Road Improvement Fund. On a motion made and seconded, these two payments from the Borough Road Improvement Fund were unanimously approved.

So far this winter, the expenses for salting and snow ploughing total \$22,301, out of a budget of \$50,000.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Library held its annual corporate meeting on January 15, followed by the regular January Board Meeting. President Lynn Alvarez noted the Library raised over \$80,000 last year, thanks to increased municipal funding. A bequest from recently deceased Mandy Vail substantially increased the endowment fund. The \$1 fee for DVD rentals has been eliminated. The Great Getaway drawing will be held April 9. The Annual Appeal mailing will go out in mid-April. The Book It! 5K Walk/Run will be held on April 27; participants can register at runtheday.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report listed one false alarm; a report of a suspicious person (1/3); one domestic security check (1/9), one patrol check at a private residence, and one report of shots fired in the area (1/19); and a referral to a fire department to assist in the pumping out of a basement in Traymore (1/27). The Fire Report consisted of two false alarms, one tripped at a residence by cooking (1/3), and one of undetermined cause at the Old Mill (1/18); one assist to the residence in Traymore as noted above; and one EMS assist for an individual on a trail in the Saul Wildlife Preserve (1/28).

Our Borough Fire Marshall, Mr. Poissant would like to remind residents that Winter storms can include dangerous features such snow, ice, strong wind, and severe cold. Residents are requested to help our fire fighters by keeping access to fire hydrants clear.

Mrs. DeMasi passed around a report generated from data collected by the speed-sign devices on Rose Valley Road and discussed the findings. She noted that for some reason, while about 90,000 vehicles travel along Rose Valley Road each month toward Swarthmore, only about 72,000 vehicles travel in the opposite direction toward Media.

The Town Watch program is progressing as usual. Recruitment letters for Longpoint and Central Rose Valley continue to be reviewed as these areas need additional volunteers. A proposed draft of revised guidelines was circulated and discussed. The date for Town Watch Appreciation Night has be set for Monday, April 15th, at the Old Mill.

Debra also noted that Governor Tom Wolf proposed a per-capita sliding scale to fund Penna. State Police in his budget that would range from \$8 per person for municipalities with less than 2,000 residents (Rose Valley has about 1,000) to \$166 per person for those with 20,000 or more people. In his previous two budgets, he proposed a flat \$25-per-head fee which went nowhere. Of the 2,571 municipalities in Pennsylvania, the State Police provide full-time coverage for 1,297 and part-time coverage for 414.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Status of Funds Report for the month of January. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Income Reports for January and the Bills for Approval for February. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the amounts of \$50,828.88 from the General Fund, including \$1,553 in County Aid for the Longpoint Lane Roadwork were approved for payment.

PLANNING

The next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Borough Office.

GENERAL

Borough Manager Paula Healy successfully had both her knees replaced on February 4th and is now recovering at home. Mr. Hale will take her roses on behalf of Council as soon as she is able to see visitors.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

G. Guy Smith provided a Solicitor's Report for the meeting noting that we should expect to pay a lot more for recycling in future years; the ongoing Sigismondi tax assessment appeals; an amended fee schedule under the Right to Know Act which we must come into line with; revised bidding thresholds adjusted for 2018 inflation at 2.3%; minor changes to the State fireworks law; a new amendment to the statewide Borough Code requiring publication of annual financial information in a newspaper of general circulation; and our ongoing annual audit by Fischer, Cunnane and Associates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.