

COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on March 11, 2020 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. 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, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Treasurer Joe Hare; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Councilperson Stephanie Middleton, Mayor Tim Plummer and Controller John Neilson were absent.

Members of the community attending the meeting were: Barb Bacchia, Mario Bacchia, Janet Baycich (Hufton), John Baycich, Carl Breithaupt, Scott Corbett, Chris Curtin, Gary Kaplan, Joyce Malamut, David Shaw and Julia Shaw.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the February 12, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The Long Point residents attended the meeting to again express their opposition to continued deer hunting in the Long Point Wildlife Preserve. Mr. Firn reported that the EAC had decided to recommend to Council that no deer hunting take place in the Preserve during the 2020 - 2021 season. Mr. Shaw asked if the cull had been suspended. Mr. Firn noted that the cull had unfortunately only harvested 2 deer, that it was uneconomical to continue it on current terms, and that its suspension would be discussed at the March EAC meeting. The use of the herbicide glyphosate to treat invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed and running bamboo on Borough land was also discussed. The Borough will notify residents and post signs in the wildlife preserves when WEEDS, Inc. sprays to control invasive plants in the future.

Scott Corbett attended the meeting to complain about excessive noise coming from his next-door neighbor's property and the location of their recreational equipment. Mr. Corbett was advised to call the State Police when he hears excessive noise coming from next door. Mr. Hale explained that the Rose Valley zoning ordinance does not require the wooden half-pipe and trampoline next door to be set back 20 feet from the property line because they are not accessory buildings.

Chris Curtin attended the meeting to complain about the condition of two of his neighbors' properties on Applebough Lane. There are numerous abandoned cars parked next door and an old tractor and other items across the street. Mr. Hale volunteered to talk to the neighbors about these issues.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 1 false alarm; 1 disabled motorist; 1 death; 1 patrol check and 1 speech to Borough

Council by Trooper Jessica Tobin. The Fire Company investigated a carbon monoxide report on 2/6/20 and assisted the EMT's on 2/28/20.

The Town Watch program needs new members. Mrs. DeMasi is preparing a recruitment letter that can be used to encourage participation in the program.

Trooper Jessica Tobin would like to give an internet safety talk. This will be arranged after the current coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firm reported that the deer cull only netted 2 deer, apparently because the bait was ineffective since plenty of food was available elsewhere due to the extremely mild winter, and that the cull company said it was not economically feasible for them to continue being paid on a per deer basis. The permit is in effect until the end of August; however, the Borough would have to pay the room and board expenses of the professional deer hunters if they come back. The EAC will address this issue at their March meeting. The Borough will notify residents and post signs in the wildlife preserves when WEEDS, Inc. sprays invasive plants in the future.

Jim Audley was nominated to fill the vacancy on the EAC created by the resignation of Mary Beth Kelly/DeCrescenzo. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Resolution 3 - 2020 appointing Jim Audley for a 3-year term on the EAC was approved.

HIGHWAYS

Ms. Yee asked Mrs. Healy to arrange a time with Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann for the 2020 annual Road Inspection.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Helen Kate Furness Library now has a new head Librarian, Leah Kulikowski, previously of the Cecil County, Maryland, library. The Library is still in need of board members.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reported he had completed the bank reconciliations. Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Report for February and the Status of Funds. He also reviewed the Bills for Approval for March and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$21,373.43 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Delaware County has sent a new assessment to Rose Valley homeowners, which should represent the fair market value of their property. When all the reassessments have been determined after the appeal process has been completed, each taxing authority will receive a new total assessment amount upon which they can base their 2021 millage. Taxing authorities are expected to get this new amount in November 2020.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Large Trash collection will take place on May 4th and 5th.

MAYOR'S REPORT

A letter to Mr. Plummer from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was distributed. The letter reported that PHMC had approved a new historical marker in honor of William Lightfoot Price (1861-1916), famous architect and founder of the Rose Valley Arts and Crafts Community. This marker will be placed on Rose Valley Road across from Thunderbird Lodge. The approximately \$3,000 cost of fabricating and installing the marker will come out of the budget for parks, which has sufficient funds.

The Borough is monitoring the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania declared a Disaster Emergency due to the virus on March 6 to take effect at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2020 in anticipation of the expected threat to health and safety posed by the spread of the virus.

GENERAL

The Borough previously held a public meeting on February 10 to discuss the possibility of using on the order of \$40,000 of the Borough's capital reserve fund to purchase some of the Wharton Esherick furniture being auctioned by Hedgerow Theatre at Freeman's Auction house in Philadelphia on March 31. The Borough would retain ownership of the furniture while allowing it to be displayed at the Rose Valley Museum at Thunderbird Lodge. The consensus of those present was that this was a desirable thing for the Borough to do.

The Rose Valley Folk held a special meeting of its members on March 4 at which forgiveness of the payment of rent by the Borough to the Folk for use of the Borough Office for a period of ten years was approved to enable the Borough to purchase Wharton Esherick furniture at auction. The Folk previously forgave the Borough's rent for ten years to allow the Borough to purchase land along the entrance to Old Mill Lane. This ten-year period ended in December of 2019. The Office rent is set at \$350 per month, which works out to \$42,000 over ten years.

In light of the Rose Valley Folk's generous offer to forgive \$42,000 in rent over ten years, Council approved the Borough using up to \$50,000 from its capital reserve fund to purchase Wharton Esherick furniture at auction 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 10:27 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary