

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, April 3, 2023, in the municipal building located at 42 West 8th Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Musser presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Sauers, Shawn Bingaman, Mark Benner, Paige Visneski, Karen Roberts, Maria Brandt, and Donald Musser were present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Manager Edward Hovenstine, Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Mayor Joseph McGranaghan, Police Chief Bremigen, Solicitor Matthew Slivinski, Sue Snyder, Elaine Herbert, Diana Bickhart, John Shirk, June Stark, Jacob Shipman, Eric Hassenplug, Nicki Milligan, and Dr. Michael Dunigan were present.

The meeting was opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Benner to approve the Council minutes of March 6, 2023, and the Workshop minutes of March 16, 2023, as presented, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

VISITORS:

Susan Snyder, Borough Resident, questioned whether a procedure would be in place to notify homeowners of the sewer work that was being done, so that the homeowner could be out of the house and open the window to prevent the smell from entering the home. Manager Hovenstine explained that a sewer line was blocked, the Borough crew checked the main sewer line, which was backed up, the vac truck was used to clear the blockage, which can cause the removal of the water in traps (which will cause sewer gases in the houses), this does not happen every time. The Manager stated that when this procedure is done the Borough doesn't know who will be affected and other times no one knows that the procedure is done. Susan Snyder stated that sewer gas smell is still in the house. Vice President stated that running water at sinks and tubs will put water in the traps. Ms. Snyder stated that water was run at the sinks and the tub. Manager Hovenstine questioned whether there was a floor drain in the basement, because water would need to be put in that drain also. Susan Snyder questioned whether notifying door to door or a flyer a couple of days ahead of time would be feasible. President Musser discussed that this situation was an emergency type situation. Manager Hovenstine stated that the Borough crew acted quickly, so that Borough residents would not have sewer backup in the houses on that line and when the Borough has a scheduled flush of the system, then Borough residents are notified.

Jacob Shipman and Eric Hassenplug – Patrolman Shipman stated that the police contract negotiations have begun. Patrolman Hassenplug sent a letter to President Musser in February and President Musser sent a response in March. Patrolman Shipman mentioned that the police are willing to meet with Council for further details and express concerns. President Musser

explained the process of the negotiations: letter sent from patrolmen to Council President, Council President sent a response to the initial letter and when President Musser receives the information, then a committee will be formed to review correspondence.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Shamokin Dam Fire Company Lease – Fire Company President Dunigan stated that the proposed lease was presented to the committee at the fire company and the decision was unanimous not to renew the lease as presented. President Musser questioned whether the fire company will present an alternative to the proposed lease. Mr. Dunigan reviewed sections that are not being abided by according to the charter. The Mayor questioned whether the fire company was being run according to the by-laws. Dr. Dunigan and Fire Chief Shirk responded that the social side and the fire fighter side each have a set of fire company by-laws that do not match. The Mayor recommended that the first order of business would be to form a by-laws committee to reconcile the differences between the two sets and arrive at a unified set of by-laws from which the fire company would be run. Councilwoman Roberts commented that during the fire company monthly meeting there was a statement made that the fire company building was built by fire company funds, so therefore not owned by the Borough. President Musser stated that to remain transparent the entire fire company should be audited and move forward with the recommendations from the auditor. Nicki Milligan questioned whether an IRS Form 990 was not an audit. President Musser answered no because the Attorney General’s letter states a professional certified audit would be completed annually. The fire company lease discussion was tabled.

Michael Dunigan and Nicki Milligan left at this time.

MAYORS REPORT:

PENNDOT Safety Issues – Mayor McGranaghan discussed the emergency exit out of Orchard Hills section when Baldwin Blvd is not available. PENNDOT had the emergency exit onto Veteran’s Memorial Bridge blocked due to construction. The Mayor contacted PENNDOT, which gave a response of within a week or two the contractor will grade the roadway for an exit.

Property Updates – Mayor McGranaghan mentioned that the properties located on the North Old Trail are making progress with the improvements.

Police Report – Police Chief Bremigen reviewed the March police report.

- Patrolman Shipman attended a five-day training for criminal investigation, which was useful in March.
- COPS Grant will be discussed at a Workshop meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM.
- Aggressive Driving Grant will run from March 20th to April 23rd.
- Police Chief Bremigen attended the State Criminal Justice Advisory Board meeting in State College.
- Officer Shipman, Officer Bremigen and Police Chief Bremigen attended drug investigator training in Harrisburg.
- Office Shipman attended virtual training in Confidential Informant Management and Fentanyl/Drug Testing practices and is certified to use a new testing kit.

- Police Chief Bremigen continues to work with outside resources to include a mental health roundtable that is aimed at community issues.

MANAGERS REPORT:

Backflow Proposal – Manager Hovenstine reviewed the proposed law for backflow preventors on the water system at individual residences and suggested adding a quarterly fee (approximately \$5.00) to the water rate to become certified to inspect and to test the backflow preventors. The council agreed that the inspection and testing should be done by the Borough crew.

GASB 68 Reports 2021 – The Manager received the GASB 68 Reports for the year 2021, which has the non-uniform pension and the police pension over 100% funded. The pensions are with PMRS, and solid pensions offered to full-time employees.

CCR 2022 – 2022 Water Quality Report – Manager Hovenstine completed the 2022 CCR Report with DEP requirements and was posted to the website. The deadline for the report is June 30, 2023.

Truck Replacement – The Manager reported that the 2003 GMC will need to be replaced soon. President Musser recommended replicating the small dump truck.

Misc. Project Updates – Eagles Wind Coffee shop plan on attending the May Council meeting for approval of final land development plan. Royal Farms started the process of demolition such as removing utilities; however, a demolition permit has not been received at this time.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

Royal Farms – Liquor License – Hearing- Solicitor Slivinski reviewed the process of a hearing that would be held for Royal Farms to apply for a liquor license available in another municipality and stated that Royal Farms would have to request the hearing from the Borough.

Shamokin Dam Motor Inn Traffic Signal Agreement – The Solicitor suggested sending a bill out to the current owner and past owner for the agreement. The Mayor questioned whether the new owner would continue with the agreement. Solicitor Slivinski answered that the new owners would like to negate the agreement. President Musser questioned whether the agreement would be enforceable moving forward. Solicitor Slivinski answered yes.

Service Electric Cablevision Franchise Agreement – The Borough and Service Electric Cablevision have a franchise agreement that began in year 2013 with a term of ten years, which expires on April 4, 2023.

111 West Eleventh Avenue – Annexation – The Solicitor stated that an ordinance would be adopted by Monroe Township at a hearing and that Shamokin Dam Borough would be responsible for the cost incurred by Monroe Township, then the Borough would hold a hearing to adopt an ordinance for annexation of the property located at 111 West Eleventh Avenue into the Borough.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

A Planning Commission meeting will not be held in April.

WORKSHOP:

A workshop meeting was held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM to discuss the COPS Grant.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General Fund bills in the amount of \$21,439.18, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$20,707.46, Fire Protection Tax Fund bills in the amount of \$1,662.38, 111 W 11th Avenue Fund bills in the amount of \$203.72, and Cares Act Fund bills in the amount of \$803.50 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

President Musser appointed Mayor McGranaghan, Vice President Sauers, Councilwoman Brandt to the police negotiation committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel
Borough Secretary