

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 1, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, April 1, 2024, in the municipal building located at 42 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Musser presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

David Sauers, Karen Roberts, Mark Benner, Shawn Bingaman, Maria Brandt, Charlene Bailey, and Donald Musser were present.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Mayor Joseph McGranaghan, Manager Edward Hovenstine, Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, and Michael Dunigan were present.

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

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the Council minutes of March 4, 2024, seconded by Vice President Sauers, and approved by all. Councilman Benner abstained due to not attending the March Council meeting.

**VISITORS:**

Fire Company President Michael Dunigan – Michael Dunigan addressed Council regarding a plumbing issue at the fire company upstairs. The fire company will have to close for a day for the repair to be completed. Harry’s Plumbing & Heating submitted a proposal in the amount of \$1,950.00 to replace a thirty-foot section of waste line for social hall bathrooms. Mr. Dunigan requested that the Borough pay for the repairs. Manager Hovenstine stated that there is approximately \$4,300.00 in the building fund. A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to use the building funds for the repairs in the amount of \$1950.00, seconded by Vice President Sauers, and roll call vote called: David Sauers-Yes, Donald Musser-Yes, Mark Benner-Yes, Maria Brandt-Yes, Charlene Bailey-Yes, Karen Roberts-Yes, Shawn Bingaman-Yes 7-Yes, 0-No

Michael Dunigan left at this time.

**OPEN BUSINESS:**

Council requested an agenda listing for open business as follows:

Central Keystone COG Emails-The Borough received the code enforcement activity report for February and March 2024.

Fire Company, Monthly Statements – Audit – Lease – The 2021 & 2022 Fire Company audits were received and sent to Council. Solicitor Slivinski will email Michael Dunigan a copy of the proposed updated lease on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Flood Mitigation – Councilman Benner reported that PEMA needed the loss and repetitive loss information from FEMA. The paperwork was approved for FEMA to share this information with

PEMA. Councilman Benner reached out to representative from PEMA on confirmation, however, have not heard back yet.

Recovering Central Keystone COG Fees – Solicitor proposed amending code of ordinances.

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Police Report – Police Chief Bremigen will email the March police report.

Mayor McGranaghan questioned whether the demolition of the motel located at 2943 N Susquehanna Trail was halted. Vice President Sauers stated that the Borough should demand that the buildings be torn down within ninety days, if not then the Borough will demolish and place a municipal lien on the property, because the state of the buildings are a safety, structural and security concern. Solicitor Slivinski mentioned that the Borough had two options: Central Keystone COG to continue with the property maintenance process, which include daily penalty fines or filing a complaint in court for the property owner to demolish. Manager Hovenstine stated that the property has a demolition permit and DEP abatement, Central Keystone COG was trying to secure a letter of intent on the demolition process. Demolition permit requirements: must start within six months and finish within two years. Solicitor Slivinski will contact the solicitor for Central Keystone COG to find out the status of the demolition.

Solicitor Slivinski reviewed the current Borough Code respecting penalties for violations, which are a fine not less than \$100.00 not more than \$1,000.00 include attorney fees and court costs and questioned whether to increase the minimum amount and include enforcement costs, which would be the Central Keystone COG fees. Council agreed to direct the Solicitor to move forward with an ordinance to increase the minimum fines for violations from \$100 to \$500 per violation, plus reasonable enforcement costs, attorney fees and court costs.

Mayor McGranaghan had complaints regarding two properties near the entrance of the Fabri Dam park, the police department sited the owners for property maintenance.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

Manager Hovenstine presented the proposed subdivision plan for property located at 111 W 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and mentioned that the next step would be to present it to the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Brandt questioned whether the tenants were sent a notice. President Musser questioned the requirement to vacate a property. Solicitor Slivinski answered that the notice would be a thirty-day notice or more. President Musser suggested that the property manager send a sixty-day notice to vacate to the property. The Solicitor mentioned that the house would be sold by sealed bids or public auction. The Mayor suggested getting the property appraised after vacated and maintained. The Manager estimated that the property would be readily available for sale in August.

The Manager received a citizen request for the possibility of a three-way stop sign at Jonathan Road and Cortland Drive. Council tabled the idea until the connector for Cortland Drive and Chestnut Street was built.

Police Vehicle Pricing – Police vehicle final costars discount price: \$47,210.00 from ARPA funds, equipment final costars discount price: \$12,558.97 from ARPA funds, totaling \$59,768.97. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to approve the purchase of police vehicle and equipment totaling \$59,768.97 with ARPA funding, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, and approved by all.

Manager Hovenstine requested advertising for a part-time borough crew position with twenty-four hours per week with a \$20.00 hourly rate and hired by the end of April. A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to advertise for a part time crew position, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

Main Computer Server Replacement – A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to purchase a computer server with a cost of \$12,347.86 with ARPA funding, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

CSVT Engineering Reimbursement Request – A request for the final engineering reimbursement costs for the CSVT water line replacement was sent to PENNDOT in the amount of \$8,478.65.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilman Bingaman requested reimbursement in the amount of \$330.97 for the supplies purchased for an Easter egg hunt scheduled for year of 2025.

Councilwoman Bailey questioned whether the Borough would be concerned with vacant properties. Vice President Sauers answered that if the taxes and water/sewer bills are paid, and the property is not violating any property maintenance code, then there would be no concern for the Borough.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:**

Solicitor Slivinski reviewed the small games of chance regulations regarding distribution of proceeds with Council. President Musser suggested scheduling a workshop with the Fire Company President and the Fire Chief to discuss the regulations.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

A Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM to discuss the subdivision plan of property located at 111 W 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

General Fund bills in the amount of \$15,836.00, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$106,191.41, 111 W 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fund bills in the amount of \$766.82, and reimbursement to Councilman Bingaman in the amount of \$330.97 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council adjourned to executive session at 8:05 PM, to discuss personnel issue; reconvened at 8:58 PM. No action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel  
Borough Secretary