

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2024**

The Re-organizational and the regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, in the municipal building located at 42 West 8th Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Musser presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Manager Edward Hovenstine, Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Mayor Joseph McGranaghan, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Chet Telatovich, Paige Visneski, and David Bobb were present.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Oath of Office – Mayor Joseph McGranaghan administered the Oath of Office to incumbent Council Members Donald Musser, Karen Roberts, and David Sauers.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor McGranaghan.

RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

Election of Officers:

President – Councilwoman Roberts nominated Don Musser for President of Council. A motion was made by Councilman Sauers to close the nominations for President of Council and elect Don Musser as Council President, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

Vice President – President Musser nominated David Sauers for Vice President of Council. A motion was made by President Musser to close the nominations for Vice President of Council and elect David Sauers as Vice President of Council, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

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

REAPPOINTMENTS:

A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to reappoint Manager Hovenstine to a two-year term, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, and approved by all.

A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to reappoint Secretary Leitzel to a two-year term, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to reappoint Slivinski Law Offices as the Borough Solicitor to a two-year term, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

Appointments: The following terms have expired as of December 31, 2023.

Zoning Hearing Board, 2 Year – Tim Minori, Bruce Marion, and Atty. Robert Cravitz, Solicitor
Civil Service Commission, 6 Year - Vacant
Planning Commission, 4 Year – Robert Noll and David Sauers
Penn Valley Airport Authority, 5 Year – David Herbert
East Snyder Park Board, 3 Year – Citizen, 2 Vacant appointments
Shamokin Dam Fire Task Force, 4 Year – Donald Musser, Joe McGranaghan, and three Citizen positions
Vacancy Board, 1 Year – Rue Rothermel
Snyder County Tax Collection Commission, 1 Year – LaDawn Leitzel, Ed Hovenstine
Franchise Committee – Citizen

President Musser stated that Civil Service Commission, East Snyder Park Board, Franchise Committee, and Emergency Services Task Force have vacancies to fill.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to appoint Boards, Commissions, Authorities, Misc. Committees, and Services as listed, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to retain existing financial depositories (Cetera Investment, Edward Jones Investment, First National Bank, Mifflinburg Bank & Trust, PLGIT, and Truist Bank) for a two-year term, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

Councilman Benner questioned whether the vacant Council seat would be filled at this meeting tonight. President Musser explained that the Borough would invite residents to send a letter of interest for Borough Council and meet with interested parties at the Workshop on Thursday, January 18, 2023, at 7:00 PM and fill the vacancy that night, which will be prior to the next monthly meeting in February. Councilwoman Roberts declined the Council seat for the two-year term. Solicitor Slivinski explained that the vacancy to Council should be filled by February 1, 2024, if not, then the Vacancy board consists of Council and Chairman of Vacancy Board (Rue Rothermel, who breaks a tie vote) would meet and have fifteen days to fill the position, if the fifteen days expire before the vacancy is filled, then a judge would decide, who to fill the vacancy. Councilwoman Brandt questioned whether Council could fill the position at this meeting. The Solicitor answered yes. A motion was made by Councilman Benner to appoint Paige Visneski to the vacancy on Council two-year term, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, 3-Yes, Shawn Bingaman, Mark Benner, Maria Brandt, 3-No, Karen Roberts, David Sauers, Donald Musser; Mayor McGranaghan breaks the tied vote with a No vote. Final Vote: 3-Yes, 4-No

A Workshop meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM to fill vacancy for the Council, two-year term. The Borough will except letters of interest up until Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

VISITORS:

David Bobb questioned whether the Borough had a shelter of any kind. Manager Hovenstine stated that the Borough does not have anything. President Musser stated that in the past St.

Matthew Lutheran Church during extremely cold weather would open the recreation building as a shelter, however that is not available 24/7.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Benner to approve the Council minutes of December 4, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, and approved by all.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Borough received correspondence from Cyril Runkle, Borough resident, expressing interest in any volunteer administrative openings within the Borough.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor McGranaghan questioned whether Council would agree to change the police weekly hours from 42 ½ hours to 42 hours beginning year of 2024. President Musser answered yes.

The Mayor reported that the police department completed the annual physicals.

Monroe Township inquired whether the Shamokin Dam Borough would consider offering police protection to the township. The Mayor tabled this discussion until more information was provided to the Borough.

Police Chief Bremigen is analyzing bids for a comprehensive plan for cameras (to include vehicle cameras and body cameras) and a license plate reader.

The Police Chief will email the December police report to Council.

Mayor McGranaghan reported on the property located at 3517 N Old Trail, owned by Carl Carr, Jr. in reference to the progress of the property improvements per Jim Emery with Central Keystone COG. The Solicitor explained that there are three items that Central Keystone COG provides: New construction code, property maintenance code, and fire safety inspection. President Musser requested that a representative attend the February Council meeting. Councilwoman Roberts will research other municipalities and availability of other options. Councilwoman Brandt questioned whether a list of properties in question could be distributed prior to the February council meeting.

MANAGERS REPORT:

Manager Hovenstine reported that Richard Kline officially retired on December 29, 2023, after over 35 years of service. Mr. Kline will continue to help with snow removal. The Manager mentioned that Council will have to consider a replacement for that position, possibly a part-time position.

111 W Eleventh Avenue is now annexed into the Borough. The proposed zoning of the property would be (R-1) Residential-Medium Density, which is the zoning district of the surrounding properties in that area.

Royal Farms Site – The demolition schedule for the existing buildings has been established. The DEP notice of abatement by the contractor was filed and forwarded to the Manager. Abatement (removal of all hazardous materials) is scheduled to begin in early January 2024, with full demolition to follow in mid-February. Royal Farms final/updated land development plans were submitted and are ready for final signatures, all items listed on the original conditional approval have been met.

Pension GASB 68 Reports – 2022- Non uniformed pension liability is \$138,776.00 and the pension is 95.02% funded. Police pension liability \$49,109.00 and the pension is 97.13% funded.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

Ordinance 2024-1, Amending Quality of Life Ordinance respecting the feeding of feral animals. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to adopt Ordinance 2024-1, amending the quality-of-life ordinance respecting the feeding of feral animal, seconded by Vice President Sauers, and approved by all.

Aldi filed for a tax appeal with the Snyder County Board of Assessment. The Solicitor stated that any agreement would have to be approved by the taxing districts (Borough, School District, and Snyder County).

PLANNING COMMISSION:

A Planning Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM to discuss the Preliminary Land Development Plan for W & L Mazda.

WORKSHOP:

A Workshop will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, to fill the vacancy for the Council, two-year term.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General Fund bills in the amount of \$16,765.33, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$15,216.85, and 111 W 11th Avenue Fund bills in the amount of \$488.04, 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.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel
Borough Secretary