

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, March 4, 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, Shawn Bingaman, Karen Roberts, Charlene Bailey, Maria Brandt, and Donald Musser were present.

MEMBER ABSENT:

Mark Benner was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph McGranaghan, Manager Edward Hovenstine, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, John Shirk, Thomas McBryan, June Stark, and David Bobb were present.

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

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to approve the Council minutes of February 5, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Bailey, and approved by all.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A Public Hearing was opened at 7:01 PM to accept public comment on the Ordinance 2024-2 to zone the recently annexed parcel of land, property located at 111 West Eleventh Avenue, to the Medium Residential (R-1) district, hearing was closed at 7:02 PM. No comment.

VISITORS:

John Shirk, Fire Chief, explained box calls regarding fire calls and communications center dispatch, and requested that Council approve the update to the box calls. A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to approve the updates on the emergency box assignments for the fire department, seconded by Vice President Sauers, and approved by all. Fire Chief Shirk reported on the fire calls for year 2023.

Thomas McBryan, ESCRA representative, reviewed the progress of the ESCRA plant project and discussed that the Chapter 94 report had excessive flows, which can increase sewer rates or DEP could stop additional connections to the sewer system in Shamokin Dam. Mr. McBryan explained Inflow & Infiltration (I & I): Infiltration example would be groundwater entering deteriorating sewer lines. Inflow example would be downspouts or sump pumps going into the sewer system. Downspouts and sump pumps should be directed into the stormwater drains. Some communities are cleaning up the I & I with aggressive investigating by using cameras in the sewer lines. Councilwoman Roberts questioned whether going into properties would be an example of aggressively investigating. Mr. McBryan answered yes. Manager Hovenstine explained that the Borough will be entering properties with the Lead & Copper pipe service line inventory, which will allow the Borough to complete a checklist for the water and sewer

services, the Borough has terra cotta lines that are ten feet in the ground, which may be infiltrating the sewer system with storm water.

Solicitor Slivinski reported that Mifflinburg Borough inspects lines when ownership of a property is transferred, and Middleburg Borough contracted with engineering company to work on an I & I project. Council recommends that a message be sent in the Spring Newsletter. President Musser recommended a camera system to check the lines and a copy of Mifflinburg's ordinance for inspection of lines as a follow up.

Thomas McBryan left at this time.

COMMUNICATION:

Manager Hovenstine will be attending the Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting to upgrade the five-year plan, which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2024, and will be held at the Middleburg Ambulance Company at 3:00 PM & 6:30 PM.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Shred Event – The shred event will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024, between the hours of 9:00-11:00AM.

Annual Cleanup – The annual cleanup will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024.

Spring Newsletter, March Mailing – Secretary Leitzel presented the 2024 Spring Newsletter to be distributed within a week. Council recommends including a message regarding sump pumps that drain into the sewer system.

Resolution 2024-2, Record Retention – Disposal of Municipal Records – A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to adopt Resolution 2024-2, authorizing destruction of certain municipal records, seconded by Vice President Sauers, and approved by all.

Ordinance 2024-2, to zone the recently annexed parcel of land, property located at 111 West Eleventh Avenue, to the Medium Residential (R-1) district – A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to adopt Ordinance 2024-2, amending the Borough's zoning code by amending the zoning map to include an annexed parcel in the residential medium density (R-1) district, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

Councilwoman Brandt questioned on the status of the property located at 111 W Eleventh Avenue. President Musser stated that the property is being rented on a month-to-month lease, however after the subdivision is completed the Borough would sell the section with the house. Solicitor Slivinski explained that the house has an on lot well and septic (which would have to be connected to the sewer system). Manager Hovenstine has a preliminary meeting with the engineer to establish a proposed site layout and a schedule for submission has been scheduled for later this month. Councilwoman Roberts questioned whether there was an anticipated time frame for the subdivision and sell of the property. The Manager anticipates the subdivision to be completed by the end of the year. Council agreed that sending the tenants at least a thirty day

notice to vacate the property, when applicable. Further discussion would be sent to a Workshop meeting.

OPEN BUSINESS:

Council requested an agenda listing for open business as follows:

Central Keystone COG Emails-Manager Hovenstine reported that the person who would send the emails had a medical issue, so a report was not received for this meeting.

Fire Company, Monthly Statements – Audit – Lease – The 2021 & 2022 Fire Company audits were received and sent to Council.

Solicitor Slivinski questioned whether the fire department is receiving donations for the games of chance. Fire Chief Shirk answered that the fire department received \$11,768.60 this year for year 2023. The Solicitor questioned whether there was an accounting report of gambling received, expenses, etc. The Fire Chief answered that for 2023 year there was gambling revenue in the amount of \$121,025.00 and expenses totaling \$101,410.66, which is a difference of \$19,614.34 and questioned the fire company officers at a company meeting whether other expenses such as utilities were deducted prior to the 60/40 split. The Mayor questioned whether the reports that were sent to the state have anything improper reported. The Fire Chief answered that he had not seen the reports to answer that question. President Musser questioned whether there is anything with the fire equipment that is deficient in and whether there are not enough funds to pay. The Fire Chief answered that there is not a deficiency, however the fund is depleting and is not able to save enough for the future expenses (such as air packs). Councilwoman Roberts questioned whether when the Fire Chief requests something whether the fire company pays for it. The Fire Chief answered no, the fire company has not paid for anything, when requested at a fire company meeting the billing is paid from the fire department account. Councilwoman Roberts suggested a separate meeting with Fire Company President and the Fire Chief to discuss these issues. The Fire Chief explained that he would not be interested in having a separate meeting. The Mayor questioned whether someone could give a definitive answer on the question of expenses and 60/40 split. The Fire Chief answered that the state could if he requested an audit. Mayor McGranaghan suggested calling for an audit if you think it is wrong. President Musser suggested getting an official ruling on the law whether facility utilities are acceptable to be deducted. The Fire Chief stated that he already did. The Mayor questioned whether it was in writing. The Fire Chief answered no, the law only explains what expenses can be deducted from the gambling revenue, which are expenses directly for that gambling. Councilwoman Bailey questioned whether the annual fund drive for the fire company goes to the fire department, whether the company that sends the fund drive receives compensation, and if the fire department sends a letter with the fund drive to explain the needs of the fire department. Fire Chief Shirk answered that the fund drive money goes into the fire department account, the company that sends the fund drive receives a flat rate of approximately \$1,200.00, and the fire department does send a flyer with the fund drive. The Fire Chief stated that the annual fund drive in year 2023 collected approximately \$15,000.00. Solicitor Slivinski will research the law for the game of chance, and whether utilities are an allowable deduction. The Solicitor requested that the fire company send monthly financial statements to Secretary Litzel to be forwarded to Council. President Musser stopped discussion, recommended official documentation, urged the gambling topic be discussed when the president of the fire company and fire chief was able to attend so both sides can make

appropriate statements, and reminded Council that the fire company is a separate entity and that the officers of the fire company govern and make decisions for the fire company.

Flood Mitigation – Councilman Benner was absent, so no update to report.

ARPA Funds (Building renovation) – Manager Hovenstine contacted the architect to stop the plans for the renovation of the garage due to estimated cost and recommended using the ARPA funds for vehicle and equipment purchases. The ARPA funds need to be spent or designated by end of year 2024 and spent by end of year 2026. Mayor McGranaghan questioned whether a new plan for building renovations has been made. Manager Hovenstine stated that a new plan is not on paper at this time.

Recovering Central Keystone COG Fees – Solicitor Slivinski will research the Borough's ability to bill property owners for the fees that Central Keystone COG billed the Borough.

MAYORS REPORT:

Police Department Equipment Upgrades – Mayor McGranaghan and Police Chief Bremigen discussed an integrated system, which will prevent tampering. This would be a proprietary purchase which will not require it to be bid on, will have information for a Workshop meeting.

Feral Cat Issue – The Mayor stated that Anne Varias, Kentucky Fried Chicken owner, has been trapping and spaying/neutering feral cats with an organization that pays for the spaying/neutering. The Mayor questioned whether the Borough was aware of this organization. Manager Hovenstine answered no.

Police Report – Mayor McGranaghan reviewed the February police report.

MANAGERS REPORT:

PENNDOT Green Light Go Grant – The Green Light Go grant was submitted on February 27th. The Green Light Go grant is a twenty percent municipal matching grant. The estimated cost to upgrade the Eighth Avenue intersection is \$416,181.00 with an \$83,236.00 Borough match. The estimated project schedule to complete the work is early 2027. There may be a possibility of other matching funds available through Senator Culver's office. Manager Hovenstine has given her office a copy of the completed application and will keep them updated throughout the process.

CSV T Utilities Meeting – Manager Hovenstine and Josh Herb attended a meeting on February 29th that discussed the next phases of the project for utility interference and preliminary timelines; the majority of the work around the water tower will not begin until the beginning of 2028.

Training – Manager Hovenstine and Ben Hummel attended a GIS training class on February 6th. The Borough is exploring the option to map our water/sewer and stormwater systems through the current RAFA mapping system. A handheld GPS unit will need to be purchased and an electronic tablet type storage device at an estimated cost of \$3,500.00, plus some training costs.

Lead & Copper Inventory – PA DEP has mandated public water systems to establish a lead water service line inventory for each connection in every municipality distribution system. Manger Hovenstine reported that the process has begun and anticipated completion date by September 2024. There is a lot of work to be done to meet the regulations. The staff attended a seminar via zoom on February 27th to better familiarize each one’s role in meeting our goal. There will be a combination of participation from the office, water customers, and field staff to meet the regulation date.

Emergency Generators Consideration – Manager Hovenstine recommended postponing the emergency generators consideration with an estimated cost of \$205,100.00 including installation.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

Solicitor Slivinski had nothing to report.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General Fund bills in the amount of \$27,277.84, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$12,005.46, W 11th Avenue Fund bills in the amount of \$400.22, and Fire Protection Tax Fund bills in the amount of \$48,580.45, were presented for payment. A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Bailey, and approved by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council adjourned to executive session at 8:40 PM, to discuss personnel issue; reconvened at 9:05 PM. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel
Borough Secretary