

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 2, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, October 2, 2023, 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:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Mayor Joseph McGranaghan, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Elaine Herbert, Diana Bickhart, and David Bobb were present.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

A Public Hearing was opened at 7:01 PM to accept public comment on the annexation of property located at 111 West Eleventh Avenue, hearing was closed at 7:02 PM. No comment.

Solicitor Slivinski stated that a proposed ordinance will be presented on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 7:00 PM to accept transfer of property located at 111 West Eleventh Avenue from Monroe Township to Shamokin Dam Borough and effectuating a change of boundaries between the municipalities.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Visneski to approve the Council minutes of September 5, 2023, as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, and approved by all.

President Musser reported the Manager Hovenstine was absent due to family related matter.

**VISITORS:**

David Bobb thanked the police department for stopping an individual for riding a four-wheeler on private property without permission.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Spooks in the Park Donation Letter – Councilman Bingaman requested a Spooks in the Park donation letter on Borough letterhead for businesses that donate towards the event. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to authorize Secretary Leitzel to print a donation letter on Borough letterhead for businesses to donate for the Spooks in the Park event, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, and approved by all.

Central Keystone COG Meeting – An annual Central Keystone COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023, President Musser is the Borough’s appointed representative and

will be attending the meeting. A topic of discussion will be a draft of their firearms weapons policy.

The final highway occupancy permit through PENNDOT has not been approved at this time for Royal Farms. Mayor McGranaghan reported that the Mayor could enforce the Borough's code with respect to property maintenance, if Central Keystone COG would not take action. President Musser suggested an official letter with a deadline on the demolition as December 31, 2023. A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to authorize an official deadline from now until December 31, 2023, on the demolition of property located at 2943 N Susquehanna Trail, Royal Farms, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved all.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Resolution 2023-7, Non-Uniform Pension – A resolution that establishes the non-uniform employees withholding to the pension plan from the required 4 1/2 % to 3% for the 2024 year only. A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to adopt Resolution 2023-7, Non-Uniform Pension Plan, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

Resolution 2023-8, Police Pension – A resolution that waives the uniform employee contribution to the Police pension fund for the 2024 year. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to adopt Resolution 2023-8, Police Pension Plan, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, and approved by all.

Opportunity to be Heard – President Musser suggested and read an opportunity to be heard notice for all agendas: Borough citizens may address Council at this time on specific issues of concern. As we open our public comment period there are some guidelines that you need to be aware of:

- There is a five-minute limit per person.
- If someone has already shared the same thoughts as yours please do not repeat what has already been said. We have a limited period of time and want to ensure that we hear various points of view.
- Public comment will be stopped if it continues for too long to allow Council to conduct business as outlined on the meeting agenda.

The Mayor explained that other municipalities have similar provisions. President Musser questioned each Council Member whether they were in favor of this notice: Maria Brandt-Yes, Mark Benner-Yes, Paige Visneski-Yes Karen Roberts-Yes, Shawn Bingaman-Yes, David Sauers-Yes, and Don Musser-Yes

Feral Cat Program Fee – Secretary Leitzel requested that the amount of \$40.00 be increased to \$55.00 for reimbursement of spay/neuter fees. President Musser mentioned that the humane way to control the population of cats is the spay/neuter program. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to continue with the feral cat program and increase the spay/neuter reimbursement fee to \$55.00, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Fish Ladder Project – Mayor McGranaghan discussed the poor condition of the property at the Fabri Dam park where the contractor was constructing the fish ladder and also spoke with Senator Lynda Culver regarding the condition the park is in after the construction. Senator Culver will check on funding to fix the roadway and check into grants for better conditions.

Manager Hovenstine and Police Chief Bremigen held interviews with two candidates for the part time police administrative assistant position, both applicants were qualified. The Manager and the Police Chief recommended Elaine Morgan to hire for the position. A motion was made by Councilwoman Visneski to hire Elaine Morgan for the part time police administrative assistant position at a starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, and approved by all.

Police Report – The Mayor presented the August police report.

Mayor McGranaghan would like to commend St. Matthews Lutheran Church for their 150 years of service to the Borough of Shamokin Dam both from a religious and a community standpoint.

Councilman Benner discussed a boat parked on Center Street and commented whether the no parking signs were installed correctly. Vice President Sauers mentioned that the no parking sign was installed over forty years ago. The Mayor stated that if the boat is obstructing traffic, then it should be moved. President Musser discussed that if the ordinance was not interpreted right originally, that needs corrected, and a courtesy letter to have the boat parked off the street to avoid blocking traffic. The Mayor will speak with Police Chief Bremigen regarding the parked boat and will research the ordinance for no parking signs on Center Street.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

President Musser reviewed in Manager Hovenstine's absence.

Emergency Generators – Manager Hovenstine would like to obtain pricing to install emergency generators for the water treatment system, specifically at the water treatment plant, raw water station and reservoir and recommend providing LP gas powered generators as a backup power source. Council agreed to obtain pricing for emergency generators for the water treatment system.

Borough Crew Ad – The ad was placed, resumes with references were due back at the Borough office by Friday, September 29, 2023. There were seven resumes received. Manager Hovenstine is requesting a Personnel Committee meeting to review the applicants, choose to interview three or four of them, and recommends establishing an hourly rate range to offer applicants.

The Manager recommends a range of \$22.00-\$24.00 per hour depending on credentials. Mid to late October would be a timeline to have the position filled. President Musser stated that the members of the Personnel Committee are Maria Brandt, Mark Benner, and Karen Roberts, and that the President will replace Maria Brandt on the committee, because someone related to her has applied for the position.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

A Planning Commission meeting will not be held in October.

**WORKSHOP:**

A Workshop meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 7:00 PM to present the proposed ordinance for annexation of property located at 111 West Eleventh Avenue and to discuss the proposed 2024 Budget.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

General Fund bills in the amount of \$117,434.97, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$15,267.33, 111 W 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fund in the amount of \$1,227.07, and Fire Protection Tax Fund in the amount of \$12,170.00 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Visneski, and approved by all.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel  
Borough Secretary