

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, January 4, 2021 in the municipal building located at 42 West 8th Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Musser presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Benner, Domenico Barillaro, Maria Brandt, and Donald Musser were present.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kyle Jessick and David Sauers were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

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

Council President expressed great sorrow with the announcement that Vice President Bickhart had passed away on January 3, 2021. Vice President Bickhart served on Council since year 2004.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Barillaro to approve the Council minutes of December 7, 2020 as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, and approved by all.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Manager Hovenstine discussed correspondence from the Snyder County Board of Assessment, which stated that the County will abolish the per capita tax for the county and will eliminate the database after the year 2021 county/municipal billing. Council will have to decide how to proceed after year 2021. The Manager mentioned that the per capita tax collected is approximately \$5,000.00 per year. The Borough will contact Berkheimer for rate of collection for per capita tax. The police department utilizes the data base for information on who is residing in the borough.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Disposal of Certain Municipal Records – A motion was made by Councilman Benner to adopt Resolution 2021-1, authorizing destruction of disposal of certain municipal records, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, and approved by all.

MAYORS REPORT:

Police Report – Police Chief Bremigen presented the December police report.

Police Chief Bremigen, Part Time Officers – Police Chief Bremigen discussed Council’s concerns regarding insurance policy and safety. The Police Chief reviewed work plan for the part time officers such as: Buckle Up grant, warrant services, Aggressive Driving grant, cover

vacation and sick time; and would review work plan after a six-month period. President Musser requested quarterly duty reports throughout the year showing hours worked and reimbursement through grants. The Police Chief proposed a starting hourly rate of \$20.00 per hour for Nathan Fisher and \$17.00 per hour for Riley Bremigen after six-month period review would possibly consider rate change. Mayor McGranaghan suggested using the monthly police report to inform Council of the part time officers duties. Council approved hiring the part time officers at the proposed starting rate.

Police Chief Bremigen will be attending a webinar held by Geisinger regarding the COVID vaccine for emergency response personnel.

The Police Chief left at this time.

Website Update – Mayor McGranaghan reviewed the updated website and suggested an ongoing maintenance agreement. Manager Hovenstine suggested that the Borough hire Jeff Margel, current IT contact, to maintain the website. President Musser requested that the website maintenance knowledge be available to the Secretary.

Central Keystone COG Update – Property Maintenance – Mayor McGranaghan reported that there has been no activity moving forward by Central Keystone COG with the properties, Phillips Motel and Queen Avenue; due to COVID and personal circumstances. The Mayor reported that a complaint was submitted regarding the maintenance at Pontius property.

MANAGERS REPORT:

INSA Zoning Hearing – A Zoning Hearing Board meeting was held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 to review the application for variances of INSA, LLC and Sunbury Generation, LP for special use exception of Sunbury General, LP for a temporary construction roadway at 3090 N Old Trail, and for parking spaces requirement and for an increase of maximum building coverage from 20% to 30% coverage by INSA, INC. The Zoning Hearing Board granted the variances.

Cares Act Receipt – Manager Hovenstine reported that the Borough received funding from the Cares Act. The Borough opened a General Fund checking account at BB&T for deposit of funds and closed a Water/Sewer Fund checking account at BB&T (which these funds were deposited into Water/Sewer Fund checking account at Mifflinburg Bank). The Manager will review year 2020 Income and Expenses to determine, where any Cares Act funding would be reimbursed to General Fund.

Security Upgrades – The Manager proposed possibly using some of any remaining Cares Act funding for security upgrades at the office. President Musser suggested a new secure front door. The Mayor suggested storing evidence at a temperature-controlled location and questioned whether a plan was in process. Manager Hovenstine responded that the Police Chief and the Manager have had discussion regarding these items.

ESCRA Letter & Grease Issues at Pump Station – Council reviewed and accepted the draft response to Beau Hoffman, Monroe Township Solicitor, regarding ESCRA agreement. Manager Hovenstine reported that there have been grease issues at the pump station, which has subsided.

The Manager drafted a letter to businesses in the Borough, updated the grease trap survey sheet since 2014, and requested monthly records maintained.

DEP Permit Amendment Submission – Manger Hovenstine submitted the DEP Permit amendment for the reservoir and elevated water tank upgrades with assistance from HRG Engineering.

AT&T Update – Manager Hovenstine reviewed maps for the location of the switch hub, and the agreement was sent to the Solicitor for review.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

Solicitor Slivinski explained that Council would appoint a member to Council for year 2021, and a borough resident would run for election in years 2022 and 2023 that would fill out the vacant seat of Vice President Andrew Bickhart. The Solicitor stated that Council would need to appoint someone to Council at the February Council meeting. Council decided to contact Rue Rothermel, an experienced former Councilmen, to fill the vacant position for year 2021.

Solicitor Slivinski mentioned that the action against Stephanie Lewis for municipal liens on water/sewer in the amount of \$4,558.76 is waiting on judgement from the courts.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

A Planning Commission meeting will not be held in January.

WORKSHOP MEETING:

A Workshop meeting will not be held in January.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General Fund bills in the amount of \$17,512.71, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$9,905.64, and Fire Protection Fund bills in the amount of \$4,509.25 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Councilman Benner to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Barillaro, and approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel
Borough Secretary