SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, November 3, 2025, in the municipal building located at 42 West 8th Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Benner presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Shawn Bingaman, Maria Brandt, Marlin Moyer, David Sauers, Karen Roberts, Charlene Bailey, and Mark Benner were present.

OTHERS PRESENT:
Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Manager Edward Hovenstine, Mayor Donald Musser, Van Shipe, Bob Stover, Angela Papa-Marion, and June Stark 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 October 6, 2025, and the Workshop minutes of October 16, 2025, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, and approved by all.

VISITORS:
Angela Papa-Marion – Angela Papa-Marion, Borough resident on Eleventh Avenue, questioned having a four way stop signs located at Maple Street and Eleventh Avenue, because a truck landed in her yard trying to avoid getting t-boned at the intersection. Councilman Sauers stated that Eleventh Avenue is a state road, so decisions would have to be from PENNDOT. Ms. Papa-Marion questioned who to contact. Councilman Moyer recommended Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver. Councilwoman Roberts also recommended contacting Representative Rowe and volunteered reaching out to the representatives to question PENNDOT.

Van Shipe – Van Shipe, Borough resident on Jonathan Road, stated that there is a three way stop sign that drivers are not stop at the stop signs. Mayor Musser stated that those concerns will be relayed to the new Police Chief after hiring. Councilwoman Roberts stated that when the Borough employed three full time police officers, twenty-five drivers were stopped monthly, were not giving tickets, and recommended that the police officers dedicate half a day once a week to enforce traffic violations at specific areas reported by a concerned citizen.

COMMUNICATIONS:
Secretary Leitzel emailed communication throughout the month to Borough Council.

OTHER BUSINESS:
Proposed 2026 Meeting Nights – The Council meeting night in September would be held on Tuesday, due to holiday, instead of the first Monday of the month. A motion was made by

Councilwoman Roberts to advertise the proposed 2026 Meeting Nights as presented, seconded by Councilman Moyer, and approved by all.

2025 Christmas Party – Councilwoman Roberts suggested having the 2026 Christmas Party at another location, because this year would be too short of time to relocate. The 2024 Christmas party total cost was $2,912.00 for 35 dinners: the food and gratuity totaled $2,450.00, the bartender $100.00, and the beverages totaled $362.00. Council decided to have the 2025 Christmas party on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Vice President Bailey mentioned that last year was her first gathering and stated that there were some she didn't know. Mayor Musser stated that retired employees, Council, and commission and authority members receive an invitation for the Christmas party. Mayor Musser explained that the party has been held at the fire company historically because of the revenue and location would remain in the Borough. Councilwoman Roberts expressed that the fire company receives a 3-mil tax from the residents and some donate to the fire company, and would like to have it held somewhere brighter, more pleasant atmosphere, and not smell of cigarette smoke and not to degrade the fire company.

Councilwoman Roberts wanted on the record that in September there were two local persons interested in the Police Chief position and the Borough spent over $5,000.00 to advertise and perform the interview for the Police Chief position. Mayor Musser stated that the position was posted and advertised, so it was open for anyone to apply, which allowed an interested candidate to apply. The Mayor expressed that the process was the best and impartial way to use rather than solely on someone's recommendation and to trust the hiring process. Councilwoman Roberts stated that she is a member of the Personnel Committee and was not part of the interview process.

President Benner stated that each month the minutes are approved and should be amended at that time. Councilwoman Roberts stated that topics will be specified when noted to be on the record.

2026 Budget – Tentative Adoption – Solicitor Slivinski questioned whether the contributions were recalculated as discussed. The Borough received correspondence from the Penn Valley Airport requesting an increase from $1,6500.00 to $2,000.00 for the contribution in 2026. The 2026 General Fund Budget and the Water/Sewer Fund Budget were presented for tentative adoption and advertising. The 2026 General Fund budget is proposed at $1,157,480.00. The 2026 Water/Sewer Fund Budget is proposed at $1,135,188.00 with an approximate 7.75% increase to the water rates in 2026. A motion was made by Councilman Moyer to tentatively adopt and advertise the proposed 2026 Budgets as subject to change prior to December 1, 2025, and advertise the water/sewer rates, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all. The Manager will advertise the 2026 Budgets for adoption on Monday, December 1, 2025. Solicitor Slivinski will advertise the water rate increase by ordinance.

Spooks In The Park Update – Councilman Bingaman thanked the police, fire company, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Susquehanna Valley Garden Club, DJ-Shockwave Sounds, Gator Guns, El Torito, and Dynamic Wings and Subs 522, there was a great turn out of children and parents. Councilman Moyer thanked Councilman Bingaman for all the work that is done for the Spooks in the Park.

OPEN BUSINESS:
Flood Mitigation – President Benner stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

Junior Council Person – Councilman Moyer stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

Security System – The cameras have been ordered just waiting on an installation date of November 12th and 13th.

Open Recreation Equipment – Councilman Bingaman stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

Central Keystone COG Emails – Central Keystone COG emailed report. Manager Hovenstine stated that the Director and Jim Emerty of Central Keystone COG requested a meeting with Council.

Fire Company, Financial Statements – The fire company has been reporting the financial statements monthly. Council requested that a representative, President or Financial Secretary of the fire company report monthly or quarterly at a Council meeting, Fire Chief present a report to Council, share approved fire company monthly minutes, and submit a 2026 budget to the Manager (information for future expenses). Mayor Musser questioned whether a letter was sent to the fire company. Manager Hovenstine stated that he verbally requested what Council requested to the Fire Company President Dunigan. President Benner requested sending correspondence to the fire company with the items requested.

MAYORS REPORT:
Mayor Musser stated that Elaine would be comfortable with the extra duties.
The October 2025 police report submitted by Elaine Morgan was presented.

- The old equipment in the garage is still waiting for a disposition (sell or destroy)
- The security camera installations are scheduled for November 12th and 13th
- Due to the Police Chief resigning, the Administrative/administrator duties were assigned to Elaine Morgan and the day-to-day operations relating to police work were assigned to Patrolman Hassenplug.

The old equipment – Councilman Bingaman requested a list of the equipment to be disposed of.

The Mayor would like to meet with Officer Hassenplug to discuss schedule and work duties for the last two months of the year, who would need to respond to emergency calls, have police presence at the top ten traffic areas, and input into workload. Mayor Musser would like to have someone hired to begin January 2026, with the duties of Police Chief.

MANAGERS REPORT:
Leaf Collection – The Manager reported that the leaf collection began today, weather permitting.

Healthcare Plan Renewal – A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to approve the Geisinger Healthcare plan for 2026, as presented and reviewed by the finance committee,

seconded by Vice President Bailey, and approved. Councilman Moyer abstained due to employed by Geisinger as administrative.

Investments – Two CD's mature in December, one in General Fund and one in the Water/Sewer Fund. A motion was made by Councilman Moyer to authorized Manager Hovenstine to invest the CD's into the best investment found, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

Councilwoman Roberts questioned why the 2025 police vehicle has 12,402 miles and the 2020 police vehicle has 25,544 miles. Mayor Musser stated that the 2025 police vehicle is still in base warranty and requested that the police department use the 2025 police vehicle.

Royal Farms Update – Site work is progressing, and the existing foundations have been removed, overall project completion is scheduled for the spring of 2026.

7 Brew Update – The modular building has been set on site and underground utilities have been run, project is on schedule to open in late November.

Bloomin' Bagels Update – Councilwoman Roberts reported that the owner claims to be open February 1, 2026. Manager Hovenstine reported that the building is well under construction, and the site work is nearly complete. May Avenue is paved.

Zoning Hearing Request – The zoning hearing for 87-89 Baldwin Blvd is scheduled and advertised for November 10, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

SOLICITORS REPORT:
Solicitor Slivinski researched the idea of a food truck service at the Jack Treas Park and suggested contacting Jame Eister for additional parking at the Jack Treas Park.

PLANNING COMMISSION:
A Planning Commission meeting will not be held in November.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

PAYMENT OF BILLS:
General Fund bills in the amount of $24,141.46, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of $8,304.23, and Fire Protection Tax Fund in the amount of $7,773.04 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Moyer, and approved by all.

Van Shipe expressed concern when an accident happens on Routes 11/15 or Baldwin Blvd that there is not an exit out of Orchard Hills Development and suggested opening an exit at Main Street and Veterans Bridge off ramp.

Van Shipe, Bob Stover, Angela Papa-Marion, and June Stark left at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Council adjourned to an executive session at 8:10 PM to discuss a personnel issue; reconvened at 8:57 PM. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:
Council meeting has been continued to the Workshop meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel
Borough Secretary