

COUNCIL MEETING

December 9, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held via Zoom on December 9, 2020. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith; and Secretary Paula Healy.

Members of the public attending the meeting were: John Baycich, Ann Bradley, David Fastiggi, Alan Gee, Jack Henry, Cindy Holston, Carol Kroch, Alex Nelson, Richard Nelson, Ron Ploeg, Sally Redgrave and Marion Taxin.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the November 11, 2020 Council Meeting were reviewed. Mrs. Voet noted an extra word and a misspelling. With these corrections, the Minutes of the November 11, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

In response to the re-advertising of the 2021 recycling contract on November 18 asking for bi-weekly pickup, two bids were received which Mr. Firn opened. B & L Disposal bid \$51,200 and J. P. Mascaro was the low bidder at \$41,832. Mascaro was awarded the 2021 recycling contract for bi-weekly pickup on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Mr. Firn informed Council that Environmental Advisory Commission member Leonard Busby had investigated whether or not the recyclables were actually being recycled and concluded that most of the material collected is indeed recycled.

Mr. Firn thanked Jim Audley for organizing the trail improvement work performed over two weekends in October and two weekends in November. The trail improvement projects were accomplished for less than the \$2,500 budgeted and 46 volunteers, ages 3 to 76, helped to create a new trail in the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary and make improvements to the trails in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary. Many thanks to all who participated in the project.

HIGHWAYS & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee is working on completely redesigning the website for the Borough and moving it to a new hosting platform. She went over the advantages of the new website and features it will have including easier access to Borough documents, the ability to search the site, an area to announce Borough events and news, and incorporation of the EAC website. She also recommended the Borough develop a social media policy. Ms. Yee also mentioned the possibility of the Borough

providing internships for students at Penn State Brandywine. Mr. Smith suggested they might help review and organize the various ordinances the Borough has enacted over the years.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Delaware County Library System had purchased 100 “hot spots” that people who have trouble connecting to WiFi can check out like a library book. The Helen Kate Furness Library is closed for browsing, but open for curbside pickup. Laura McBride, who is currently working part-time as the Public Services Librarian, will become full-time starting in 2021.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 3 false alarms, 1 identity theft and 2 domestic security checks. The Fire Report showed that the fire company responded to an automatic fire alarm activation on 11/22/20. The Pennsylvania State Police sent a notice about scams and the importance of always locking your car. The Fire Marshall sent an information sheet about the dangers of holiday candles. These will be emailed to the residents.

The Town Watch program is proceeding as usual, with no passing of equipment due to pandemic restrictions. New patrollers are needed, and a recruitment drive will begin after the pandemic is more under control.

Mrs. DeMasi went over the data from the speed calming devices on Rose Valley Road.

Mrs. DeMasi emphasized the importance of following guidelines for controlling the pandemic noting cases and deaths are on the rise in Delaware County. There have been 9 reported cases in Rose Valley to date. Vaccines are on the way but may not be available to the general public until the spring. Everyone should continue to social distance, wear masks and wash their hands frequently.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that the Planning Commission met on December 3rd. Consultant Bob Thomas discussed his work to date on the feasibility study for a 3' - 4' wide pathway along Rose Valley Road from Possum Hollow Road to the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station. He reviewed the site visit and walkdown along both sides of Rose Valley Road he did on November 10th accompanied by his assistant Doug Maisey plus Ron Ploeg and Bill Hale. He noted the pathway may be on one side of the road in one area and on the other side of the road in another with consideration given to safely crossing the road. He also provided pictures of various trail surfaces. Bob advised that we have a clear plan in mind before we begin to talk with individual landowners along the road. He also said the most important aspect of the project is to obtain the right-of-way or easements needed for the pathway. Dave Firm has volunteered to work on investigating and applying for grants. Ron Ploeg has volunteered to coordinate talking to

landowners and institutions along the road. The next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Jack Henry of Rose Valley Boy Scout Troop 272 attended the meeting to ask Council for approval of his proposed Eagle Scout project. He would like to open a new trail on the Borough property above the Hedgerow curve on the southwest side of Rose Valley Road with a bridge over a small stream and continuing up to Traymore Lane. Mr. Henry explained the project and Council members asked questions. Consultant Bob Thomas inspected the proposed location for the new trail during his walkdown and recommended proceeding with the project. Mr. Hare asked that the gardens at the Traymore pillars be considered in planning the location of the trail. Council approved the project and agreed to provide funding for materials on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, and complimented Jack on his excellent written and oral presentation.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for November. Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Report for November. Mr. Neilson went over the Bills for Approval for December and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the amount of \$40,960.98 were approved.

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the 2021 Budget. With the recycling bid for biweekly pickup coming in at \$41,832, the appropriation from Capital Reserve was lowered to \$37,832 so as to balance income with expenses at \$398,889. Bob recommended reducing the Capital Reserve fund to approximately \$150,000 over time through budgetary appropriations. The 2021 Budget calls for no tax increase leaving budgeted real estate tax receipts unchanged at \$214,189. Delaware County recently reassessed all the properties in the County to bring them into line with market values. Older properties in the Borough were being carried at assessed values far below market while newer construction was assessed at higher levels. The total assessed value of all property in the Borough is now \$215,083,980, which yields a millage rate of 1.00 mills, down from 2.04 mills. There will be a special Council meeting on December 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. to approve the 2021 Budget and associated resolutions plus the millage ordinance. Mr. Hale thanked Mr. Siwicki for his excellent work developing the 2021 Budget.

In anticipation of funding needs for projects to improve the sight lines at Prices Lane and Longpoint Lane and repoint the historic Borough-owned bridge on Old Mill Lane, Council approved the transfer of \$50,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to the Road Improvement Fund on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plummer is working on the 2021 State of the Borough Address to be presented at the January 13th Council meeting. He still needs input from some Council members.

The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation is currently conducting its end-of-year fundraising campaign to raise money needed for matching its next Pennsylvania Historical and Museum

Commission grant to make Thunderbird Lodge a suitable home for the RV Museum. Tim thanked RVCF member Nick Slagis for diligently overseeing all the renovation work performed at the Lodge this year and preparing the quarterly reports required by the State.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith brought Council up to date on possible changes regarding PennDOT maintenance of drainage facilities along State roads in small municipalities such as ours, the upcoming annual increase in bid thresholds, and the need to still keep written minutes of all Borough meetings even in the age of Zoom. He reminded everyone that a quorum is needed for the December 14 Budget Meeting.

Mr. Hale asked that there be a brief executive session following the meeting to review a personnel matter, which was the celebration of the Borough Manager's birthday.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary