

COUNCIL MEETING

April 10, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on April 10, 2024 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Cheryl Harner, Tony Orr, Shannon Prown; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Chris Bourke and Solicitor G. Guy Smith. Councilperson Kathryn Mehan and Secretary Paula Healy were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Ron Ploeg and Tyler Sullivan, a Scout in Rose Valley Troop 272.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the March 13, 2024 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

The EAC and Rose Valley Gardeners will hold their Annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm under the pavilion at the Old Mill offering great plants at good prices. EAC member Roger Latham will lead an informative nature walk in the Saul Preserve at 11:00 am.

EAC Associate Member Kathy Siwicki is organizing a “Free the Trees” workday on May 4 (rain date May 5) to free trees of climbing English ivy at three different locations. Longpoint residents will work in the Chadwick Wildlife Preserve, Rose Valley Swimming Pool members will work on trees at the pool, Scouts from Rose Valley Troop 272 will clear trees on Borough property from Old Mill Lane to Traymore Lane as part of an Eagle Scout Project. The EAC encourages all residents to free trees of English ivy by removing all vines from the base of the tree up to chest height leaving the vines that have climbed higher to die and fall off in a year or so.

Progress continues integrating EAC information into the EAC portion of the Borough website.

Resolution 5 – 2023 appointing Olivia Nnadi as a voting member of the EAC for a term of 3 years was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Orr reported that Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann and Alan Roth of Aqua PA have worked out an arrangement whereby Aqua PA is willing to make contributions-in-lieu of pavement restoration following water main replacement by Aqua. These include a contribution

of \$99,500 for the trench restoration and mill and overlay of W. Possum Hollow Road and a contribution of \$132,250 for the trench restoration and mill and overlay of Buttonwood Way, Thornpath Lane, Price's Lane and a small area at the beginning of Arbor Lane.

Engineer Houtmann advises this is a good deal for the Borough since he expects the Borough will obtain substantially better pricing than Aqua. This will allow the Borough to restore the full width of all the roads whereas Aqua is only required to perform half-width restoration on Buttonwood Way and Thornpath Lane because they only trenched one lane for their water main replacement. W. Possum Hollow Road was repaved in 2019 and the Borough's Street Restoration Standards and Specifications states that roads repaved within 8 years must have their full width restored. Price's Lane and Arbor Lane are so narrow that Aqua was going to restore their full width anyway. Liquid fuels money can also be utilized for work on Buttonwood Way, Thornpath Lane and Price's Lane because they are public Borough roads. Liquid fuels money cannot be used for work on the small area of Arbor Lane because it is a private lane. Liquid Fuels money also cannot be used to repair gutters such as those on Buttonwood Way, which is the only Aqua affected road with gutters.

Approximately 3/4ths of W. Possum Hollow Road is in Nether Providence Township and 1/4th is in Rose Valley Borough. Nether Providence put their pavement restoration work out for competitive bids earlier this year and A. F. Damon, Inc. was the lowest of seven bidders. Mr. Smith indicated that the pavement restoration of W. Possum Hollow Road in Rose Valley can be performed by A.F. Damon as a continuation of the pavement restoration work on the same road in Nether Providence at the previously bid rates.

After some discussion, Council approved the following four authorizations on motions made, seconded and unanimously approved.

- 1) Council authorized accepting a contribution from Aqua PA, Inc of \$99,500 for the trench restoration and mill and overlay of W. Possum Hollow Road in Rose Valley Borough following water main replacement by Aqua.
- 2) Council authorized the Borough to work with Nether Providence Township to see if A. F. Damon, Inc. can perform the trench restoration and mill and overlay of W. Possum Hollow Road in Rose Valley Borough as a continuation of their pavement restoration work on the same road in Nether Providence Township. The Borough will otherwise bid and contract for this work on its own accord.
- 3) Council authorized accepting a contribution from Aqua PA, Inc of \$132,250 for trench restoration and mill and overlay of Buttonwood Way, Thornpath Lane, Price's Lane and a small area at the beginning of Arbor Lane following water main replacement by Aqua.
- 4) Council authorized putting the road restoration work on W. Possum Hollow Road, Buttonwood Road, Thornpath Lane and a small area at the beginning of Arbor Lane out for bid.

Aqua PA is also willing to make a contribution-in-lieu of pavement restoration following water main replacement by Aqua of \$24,500 for the mill and overlay of all of Chestnut Lane. Chestnut

Lane is a private lane with 5 homes in Rose Valley Borough and 5 homes in Nether Providence Township. Aqua already performed the trench restoration on all of Chestnut Lane. The residents of this lane would like to have repairs made to the deteriorated base course of the lane during pavement restoration, however Aqua is only required to mill and overlay the wearing pavement course. Aqua can also only make contributions to municipalities, not individual homeowners. However, Aqua is willing to make its contribution for the mill and overlay of all of this private road to the Borough.

After some discussion, Council approved the following authorization on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved: Council authorized accepting a contribution from Aqua PA, Inc of \$24,500 for the mill and overlay of all of Chestnut Lane following water main replacement and trench restoration by Aqua.

Bill Hale will reach out to resident Jim Audley of Chestnut Lane, who is coordinating this effort with the homeowners on the lane, to explain that the Borough is willing to enter into an escrow agreement with all the homeowners on the lane to hold the Aqua money for use by whatever contractor they hire to perform the base course repair and mill and overlay. If the Borough does not obtain an acceptable escrow agreement, the Borough will hire its own contractor to mill and overlay Chestnut Lane.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that a March Police Report was not received while the March Fire Report showed 2 responses to natural gas leaks and an automatic fire alarm. The Fire Marshall sent a flier with tips for safely grilling with propane or charcoal. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed devices. An Emergency Management meeting is scheduled for May 15.

There is a sink hole 2 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep at a low point on a Borough trail easement across the first property along the old trolley track right-of-way from Woodward Road toward Rose Valley Swimming Pool. McCusker Landscaping was authorized to remediate this safety hazard at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

In addition, the large grating over the stormwater inlet along Rose Valley Road as you approach the Seider property from the south has rusted through and poses a potential safety hazard to people walking on the new trail in front of the Seider property. McCusker Landscaping was also authorized to remediate this safety hazard at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PLANNING

Ben Santee, a Scout in Rose Valley Troop 272, recently completed his Eagle Scout Project installing a crushed stone pedestrian trail along the east side of Rose Valley Road on the Borough-owned Pew Park property in front of the Seider house at 6 Rose Valley Road from the Seider driveway southward to the end of the Seider property.

Mr. Sullivan reported that Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann had indicated he had already developed most of the design for the new walking trail from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way and preferred to finish the work in house. Mr. Sullivan then made a motion to authorize G. D. Houtman, Inc to complete the preparation of the construction drawings and bid documents for the walkway from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way, with the exception of the already completed Eagle Scout Project portion from the Seider's driveway southward to the end of the Seider property. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reviewed the Status of Funds for March and reported that the Bank accounts had been reconciled with QuickBooks. Mr. Hare reviewed the March Income Reports. Mr. Neilson went over the April Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$17,464.18 from the General Fund, \$532.50 from the Highway Aid Fund, and \$5,450 from the Road Improvement Fund for stormwater related work in Pew Park, were approved.

Council approved advertising that Borough Council will consider at its May meeting the adoption of a proposed Ordinance establishing a Rose Valley Borough real estate tax credit for volunteer members of volunteer fire companies and non-profit emergency medical service agencies on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

In Mrs. Healy's absence, Mr. Hale reported the annual large trash pickup will take place on Monday and Tuesday, April 29 & 30.

Resolution 4 – 2024 appointed Dave Firm to the Planning Commission for a term of 3 years was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hale thanked those who donated material for the construction of the crushed stone Eagle Scout Project trail in front of the Seider's property including old granite curbing contributed by Bryn Mawr College through their facilities manager Jim McGaffin, stone for the short stone walls contributed by the Seider's, and crushed stone, landscape edging and geotextile fabric contributed by McCusker Landscaping.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The solicitor's report for April discussed various rules regarding Borough government and noted the bidding thresholds for 2024 are as follows: work less than \$12,600 is exempt from bidding; from \$12,600 to \$23,200 requires 3 documented written or telephone price quotes; over \$23,200 the bids must be in writing and advertised twice.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary