

COUNCIL MEETING

October 9, 2024.

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on October 9, 2024 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane. 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, Kathryn Mehan, Tony Orr and Shannon Prown, Mayor Bill Hale, Treasurer Chris Bourke, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Residents attending the meeting were Bruce Hunt representing the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation, and Deb DeMasi, Scott Laughlin, Ron Ploeg, Katie Rubin and Yong Shin. Representatives from the Helen Kate Furness Library, Dianne and Don Cooney, Sandy DiCamillo, Lean Kulikowski and Emily Lovitz attended as visitors.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the September 11, 2024 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, with the exception of Mr. Busby who abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Hunt from the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation made a presentation on the ongoing work to repair and refurbish Thunderbird to make it a suitable home for The Rose Valley Museum using grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Bruce requested that the Borough again contribute \$26,000 to the Foundation in 2025 because the PHMC grants need to be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Helen Kate Furness Library President Sandy DiCamillo, Board Members Don Cooney and Emily Lovitz, and Head Librarian Leah Kulikowski made a presentation regarding the programs and services available to Rose Valley Residents. They reviewed their fundraising, finances and proposed operating budget, and requested that the Borough contribute \$33,000 to the Library in 2025.

ENVIRONMENT AND EAC

Mr. Busby reported that Angelica trees were removed and stilt grass weed-wacked in the Chadwick Preserve and that the second and final spraying of the Japanese knotweed there will take place later in October. The subject of roosters and the noise they create was discussed at the EAC meeting on September 24. Opinions on the subject varied and the dialog will continue at the next EAC meeting.

Ms. Rubin talked about an upcoming EAC event on October 20 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. It will be a kid-friendly, hands-on workshop to learn about the macroinvertebrates that live in our

creeks and what they tell us about the health of our watershed. Participants will study the contents of leaf packs placed in Ridley Creek and educators from the Stroud Water Research Center will be on hand to teach about what macroinvertebrates like to eat and why we should care about them.

Mrs. Healy asked for Council's permission to advertise for the 2025 recycling contract. The bidders will again be asked to provide alternative bids for weekly and bi-weekly pickup for the November Council meeting. Mrs. Healy was authorized to advertise for bids on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Orr reported that Innovative Construction plans to start the 2024 Borough Road Work next week. They will also be doing the private repaving work on Chestnut Lane. Mr. Orr asked for authorization to advertise for the 2024-2025 snowplowing contract. This was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Mrs. Healy will arrange for the advertising. In response to a question from Ron Ploeg about the Borough's website technology, Mr. Orr indicated he was inclined to stay with our existing website platform for next year.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that Lucy Glasson of 22 Forestview Drive has agreed to serve as Rose Valley Borough's second representative on the Helen Kate Furness Library Board, noting that she herself serves as the Council representative. Lucy, who is currently serving on the Library Board, will take over this position from Jessica Brill, whose resignation was accepted last month. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Resolution 9-2024, appointing Lucy Glasson as Rose Valley Borough's Representative at Large to the Helen Kate Furness Library Board of Directors, was approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the September Police Report listed 5 responses including a disturbance/noise complaint, motor vehicle crash on private property, false alarm, request to assist, and animal debris on road. The September Fire Report listed 2 responses to automatic fire alarms. Ms. Harner said she was finally able to talk to Michele Naab about speed traps on Rose Valley Road. Officer Naab responded that while formal speed traps have not recently been set up, the State Police do patrol Rose Valley for speeders. Ms. Harner asked that they do so on a more regular basis.

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown noted that there was a robust discussion of the walking path along the east side of Rose Valley Road from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way at the last meeting, with the plans for the walkway on display. The Borough is now waiting for PECO to upgrade their power distribution line along the road and take down larger trees to harden it against storms. The next steps include additional meetings with affected property owners to discuss concerns and

landscaping details and finalizing the bidding documents in preparation for advertising for construction bids.

FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reviewed the Status of Funds and reported he had reconciled the bank accounts. Mr. Hare went over the Income Report for September. Mr. Neilson reviewed the October Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$36,016.23 from the General Fund and \$21,549.69 from the Highway Aid Fund, were approved. The latter included \$21,069.12 to Charles A. Higgins & Sons for replacement of the pole and arm to support the flashing yellow lights for the Hedgerow curve next to the Borough Parking Lot.

Mr. Hare distributed a first draft of the 2025 Budget and requested input from Council members in preparation for developing the preliminary 2025 Budget at the November Council Meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The solicitor's report for October again discussed Ordinance 315 dealing with the discharge of firearms in the Borough. After considerable discussion, Council decided not to take any action regarding Ordinance 315 in order to retain Section 3 which states no one shall hunt on any lands owned by the Borough of Rose Valley, except as specifically authorized by the Borough.

Mr. Smith noted he needs direction regarding what kind of regulations Council wants to include in the proposed fence ordinance.

Mr. Smith cautioned there are less than 30 days between the November 13 Council meeting when the preliminary budget is to be proposed and the regular December 11 Council meeting. After discussing which date most members could attend, it was decided to hold a special Council meeting on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm to allow the required 30 days before approval of the final budget.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary