

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held remotely on Monday, December 7, 2020 beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Musser presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Sauers, Maria Brandt, Mark Benner, Andrew Bickhart, Domenico Barillaro, and Donald Musser were present.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kyle Jessick was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Manager Edward Hovenstine, Mayor Joseph McGranaghan, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Scott Shambach, June Stark, and Michael Dunigan were present.

The meeting was called to order by President Musser and mentioned that the meeting was being recorded.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Barillaro to approve the Council minutes of November 2, 2020 as presented, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

VISTORS:

Scott Shambach, Meck-Tech- Grub Estate Property – Scott Shambach, with Meck-Tech Engineering Services, reviewed the Grubb Legacy Partners minor subdivision plan. The subdivision plan would divide one lot parcel into two lot parcels. The proposed use would be a restaurant and a retail store. There is no new building construction planned for this property at this time. The existing parking lot has been repaved in the fall of year 2020 and the north side will be sealed in the spring of year 2021. The site was developed prior to the Shamokin Dam Zoning Ordinance; the number of parking spaces for each lot would be considered grandfathered, if each lot continues to be utilized in a similar use as the current existing. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed minor subdivision plan of the Grubb Legacy Partners, LP property as submitted. Snyder County Planning Commission had no comments. President Musser questioned whether an agreement with the parking stalls would be noted on the deed. Scott Shambach will forward parking stall concern onto Marvin Rudnitsky. A motion was made by Councilman Sauers to approve the proposed Grubb Legacy Partners minor subdivision plan, seconded by Councilman Barillaro, and approved by all.

Scott Shambach left at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

2021 General Fund Budget – The 2021 General Fund budget is proposed at \$891,344.00 with a 1 mil general purpose tax increase. A motion was made by Vice President Bickhart to adopt the proposed 2021 General Fund Budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

The 2021 Water/Sewer Fund Budget is proposed at \$976,362.00. Manager Hovenstine recommended no increase to the water/sewer rates in 2021. A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to adopt the proposed 2021 Water/Sewer Fund Budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Barillaro, and approved by all.

Pedestrian Post Hit & Run – Manager Hovenstine stated that the pedestrian post at Eleventh Avenue and Routes 11/15 was damaged by a hit and run vehicle. The insurance has a \$1,000.00 deductible. The repair will cost \$1,348.00.

Zoning Hearing Review – Manager Hovenstine reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board meeting held on November 5, 2020 granting both variances for PPL Generation, LLC/Talon Generation LLC. Zoning Hearing Board granted the special exception use for the proposed solar power generation facility and the request for a variance regarding setbacks on the interior lot lines of its land. The variances granted to the applicant are personal to it and the land in question and are expressly limited to the facts of these applications and are not, and may not be used as, a precedent for any other variance application presented to the Board.

Cares Act – Snyder County Commissioners awarded a COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant funds for reimbursement of police payroll to the Borough in the amount of \$75,540.64. Jamie Shrawder with SEDA-COG submitted information on behalf of the Borough.

Manager Hovenstine reviewed the 2021 reappointments: David Herbert-one-year term on the Vacancy Board, June Stark-two-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board, Kerry Stark and David Jackson-four-year term on the Planning Commission, and LaDawn Leitzel-one-year term on the County Tax Collection Commission, A motion was made by Vice President Bickhart to retain appointees for 2021 reappointments, seconded by Councilman Sauers, and approved by all.

Michael Dunigan arrived at this time.

MAYORS REPORT:

Central Keystone COG Update, Property Maintenance-Mayor McGranaghan expressed concerns with delays from Central Keystone COG due to COVID. Solicitor Slivinski stated that last week the judge issued an order to close the courts, as a possible explanation on the delays. Manager Hovenstine will contact Central Keystone COG and review updated information for the properties.

Update Website – Mayor McGranaghan reported that Brett Treas had issues with logging onto the Borough’s website server, which prevented the launching of the new website design.

The Mayor reported that Police Chief Bremigen has acquired two part time police officers to work during emergencies and police grants. Nate Fisher (Retired police officer) and Riley Bremigen (recently graduated from the police academy with certification) are interested part time officers. President Musser questioned whether the insurance policy has an age restriction on the plan, and questioned safety of inexperienced officer. Vice President Bickhart totally supports Nate Fisher, knows him personally, however, has concerns for safety of inexperienced officer.

President Musser requested that the Police Chief submit a work plan for Riley Bremigen to Council and hiring subject to Council approval.

The Mayor reviewed with Council of a discussion with the Manager involving a break-in at Weller Field; there was no destruction of the property.

The Mayor stated that the police officers are required to obtain an annual physical, these physicals have not been completed at this time. President Musser suggested giving the police department a sixty-day extension.

Snyder County Commissioners are discussing a possibility of closing the Snyder County Jail to save money; if that would happen, then the police would need to transport to Centre County Jail per the Snyder County Commissioners' decision. The arraignments are proposed to be handled remotely. President Musser mentioned that the Commissioners should be informed of Council's opinion on this issue.

Police Report – Mayor McGranaghan presented the November police report.

MANAGERS REPORT:

Franchise Agreement – The Borough received correspondence from Service Electric Cablevision regarding the cable franchise agreement renewal. The current cable franchise expires on April 3, 2023. Service Electric must request the commencement of renewal proceedings within a six-month period that begins thirty-six months before the expiration of the franchise.

Senator Gordner Lease – Manager Hovenstine renewed a four-year lease of office space to Senator Gordner beginning January 1, 2021 ending December 31, 2024. Currently the Borough receives monthly rent in the amount of \$278.67 and will increase to \$294.89 monthly.

Reservoir Valve Project – Manager Hovenstine reported that all three valves are installed on the main water line. The electric service was rebuilt (underground) and the project will continue in the Spring/Summer of year 2021. The Manager is reviewing vault designs for the shut off valve.

Elevated Tank Rehab Proposal – Manager Hovenstine sent a copy of the proposal to the Solicitor for review. The project would be a total cost of \$275,000.00; the Borough would pay \$55,000.00 yearly for five years (2021-2025). The project (consisting of coat inside, paint outside, and any maintenance) would be in year 2023 and the tank would be out of service for approximately 8-10 weeks. The company (Suez) would conduct yearly inspections. The representative offered to attend the January 2021 Council meeting for presentation of proposal. President Musser requested that the Solicitor review the proposal, and if accepted then have the proposal presentation to Council.

Michael Dunigan informed Council that Governor Wolfe may have signed a bill that private clubs may keep all proceeds for additional year (not required to maintain the 60/40 split). Solicitor Slivinski stated that there are requirements in the fire company lease regarding the 60/40 split. Dr. Dunigan and the Manager are reviewing the fire company lease as to possible updates.

Michael Dunigan left at this time.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

Resolution 2021-1, a motion was made by Vice President Bickhart to adopt Resolution 2021-1, fixing the real estate tax rates for the fiscal year 2021 (tax rate general purpose increased by 1 mill from 11 mills to 12 mills and fire protection remains 3 mills), seconded by Councilman Sauers, and roll call vote called: David Sauers-Yes, Maria Brandt-Yes, Andrew Bickhart-Yes, Mark Benner-Yes, Domenico Barillaro-Yes, Donald Musser-Yes 6-Yes 0-No

PLANNING COMMISSION:

A Planning Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM to discuss the Grub Legacy Partners subdivision (Pizza Hut and Vape Shop), which was discussed under visitor section.

WORKSHOP MEETING:

A Workshop meeting was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM to discuss Fee Schedules, Personnel Employee Manual Revisions, and ESCRA Agreement Amendments.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General Fund bills in the amount of \$20,724.51, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$19,917.13, Fire Protection Fund bills in the amount of \$23,235.00, and 111 W Eleventh Avenue Fund bills in the amount of \$40.00 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Councilman Sauers to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel
Borough Secretary