

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 2, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, December 2, 2024, in the municipal building located at 42 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Benner presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Shawn Bingaman, Charlene Bailey, Maria Brandt, Karen Roberts, and Mark Benner were present. Marlin Moyer attended via phone call due to business trip out of town.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

David Sauers was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Manager Edward Hovenstine, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Mayor Donald Musser, Police Chief Timothy Bremigen, Matthew Beck, Dave Hamlet, Kerry Henneberger, Howard Bowers, and Barb Bowers were present.

The meeting was opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to approve the Council minutes of November 4, 2024, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

**MEMORANDUM OF DECORUM:**

**VISITORS:**

PENNDOT CSVT Coordination – PENNDOT requested a meeting to discuss the CSVT update, Cortland Drive connector, and traffic signal. CSVT Update, three construction contracts for the southern section: awarded to Trumbell-earth movement, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of December 2024, awarded to Walsh-building the bridges and noise walls, and in design mode-paving contract which includes paving of new highway, guide rails, lighting, signals, and stormwater features (open bids for paving contract are expected late year 2025 or early year 2026). Paving contract will be completed through year 2026 and year 2027 with the mainline highway expected to open in year 2027 and anticipate in year 2028 the 61-connector will be completed and open to traffic, and the overall project will be complete. Cortland Drive connector will provide traffic between Orchard Hills development and Gunter development. PENNDOT requested Borough input on when to open the Cortland Drive connector, because this construction would be included in the paving bid proposal. Cortland Drive connector was designed with a 25 MPH speed limit. PENNDOT proposed opening the Cortland Drive connector late year 2027 or early year 2028 around the same time as the mainline highway would be opened, however prior to the 61 connector being completed, which will impact the traffic at Baldwin Blvd intersection. PENNDOT mentioned that because all traffic will be routed at Baldwin Blvd, the traffic signal will be restructured to allow left turns for traffic entering from

Sunbury and allow entrance to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge from Routes 11/15, and there will be one lane of traffic for both Northbound and Southbound lanes on Routes 11/15. The year 2028 construction season would be the removal of current ramps and when the 61 connector would be connected to the CSVT. PENNDOT recommended including the Cortland Drive connector to the paving contract bid, which would complete the paved road when the mainline highway was completed, however will have barriers to prevent traffic use of the road until the Borough would be comfortable to open the Cortland Drive connector. PENNDOT requested input on a median on Cortland Drive to deter speeding, streetlights to allow visibility (options: illuminating the bridge area itself involving three light poles, illuminating the Cortland Drive connector involving nine light poles or zero lighting). President Benner recommended tabling input for median and lighting of Cortland Drive connector until the workshop on January 16, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Green Light Go Program – Royal Farms has decided to proceed with the construction of a new store on the site. They have secured all the necessary permits and are planning construction to begin in Marh or April of 2025. Royal Farms will be securing the grant to upgrade the intersection at Routes 11/15 and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. PENNDOT will be rewriting a new agreement, to be signed by the Borough, for 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as part of the CSVT project as discussed previously.

Matthew Beck, Dave Hamlet, and Kerry Henneberger left at this time.

Howard & Barb Bowers - A Planning Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM to discuss subdivision of Howard Bowers property located at 47 Jonathan Road. Planning Commission recommended approval for the final subdivision plan to subdivide the tract into two separate parcels with new parcel address of 53 Cortland Drive. A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to approve the final subdivision plan to subdivide the tract into two separate parcels, seconded by Councilwoman Bailey, and approved by all.

Howard & Barb Bowers left at this time.

**BUDGET ADOPTION:** 2025 Budget Adoption – 2025 Budget –The 2025 General Fund Budget and the Water/Sewer Fund Budget were presented. The 2025 General Fund budget is proposed at \$1,327,815.00. The 2025 Water/Sewer Fund Budget is proposed at \$1,110,605.00 with an increase to the water rates in 2025. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to adopt the 2025 Budgets, seconded by Councilman Moyer, and approved by all.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Winter Newsletter – Secretary Leitzel presented the winter newsletter and would like to mail the newsletter next week.

**OPEN BUSINESS:**

Fire Company, Lease – Solicitor Slivinski reported that a signed lease has been received from the fire company. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to approve the Fire Company lease beginning January 1, 2025, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, approved by all.

Flood Mitigation – President Benner met with State Representative David Rowe, who recommended gathering additional information to present to DEP, which Rep. David Rowe will assist with the submission to DEP.

Council Member and Mayor Compensation/Salary – Councilwoman Brandt recommended that the vote to compensate Councilmembers and the Mayor be separated and this would affect the 2026 Budget. Councilwoman Roberts is opposed to compensating Councilmembers and the Mayor and would rather have the essential fire fighters paid. Councilwoman Roberts stated that the demands on firefighters are much greater with their high alert, momentary, even middle of the night calls and physical life-risks versus that of our councils' scheduled, low- to- no risk meetings at reasonable hours, once or twice a month. The comparison of demands leads me to believe, if we vote to provide payment to any borough support teams, it would be to the firefighters, not to council members, though I am NOT proposing any such payment for either group. And although I prefer no mayoral payment, I (said I) could go along with a nominal payment since the mayor is boss of the police force and has direct communication with them at odd hours. Councilwoman Bailey mentioned that there are administrative costs involved with writing checks and recording, whether it would be annually or monthly and stated that her opinion would be for the position of council member and mayor to be voluntary.

A motion was made by Councilman Moyer to not compensate Council members monthly or annual salary, seconded by Councilwoman Bailey, roll call vote called: M Benner-Yes, M Brandt-No, C Bailey-Yes, K Roberts-Yes, S Bingaman-No, M Moyer-Yes 4-Yes, 2-No

Councilwoman Roberts questioned whether a rate would be established, if the Mayor position would pass as compensating. Mayor Musser answered that if passed the rate would be established when the ordinance would be adopted. Solicitor Slivinski stated that the compensation would not be in effect until the election of the mayor in year 2026. The Solicitor mentioned that the motion would not be advertised until a rate is established, which does not have to be tonight.

A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to compensate the Mayor position with a salary beginning year 2026, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, roll call vote called: M Brandt-Yes, C Bailey-Yes, K Roberts-Yes, S Bingaman-Yes, M Moyer-Yes, M Benner-Yes-6-Yes, 0-No

Solicitor Slivinski recommended that Council discuss at a workshop to establish a rate.

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Mayor Musser reported that the commitment to negotiate the schedule with the police department is ongoing, Police Chief Bremigen will present examples of schedules to the Mayor, then the Mayor will reconvene the police committee and meet with the officers to discuss an agreement for the schedule, and then present to Council.

The Mayor commended everyone involved and attended the Christmas Tree Lighting service. It was magnificent.

The Mayor questioned whether the Police Chief would have a timeframe for the vehicle decals. Police Chief Bremigen stated that the vendor had technical issues with printing the graphics and will continue to work with the vendor.

Councilwoman Bailey questioned whether there would be a direction with homeless person. The Police Chief spoke with the United Way on Homeless/Transient issue and provided officers with information that will assist in a gateway to assist transients during freezing temperatures.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

Manager Hovenstine reported that the 2017 Police vehicle was advertised on Municibid, a government bidding website, and received a high bid of \$6,000.00, the reserve was set at \$9,500.00 and asked for consideration for the next sept for the 2017 police vehicle resale. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to reject the \$6,000.00 bid on Municibid, seconded by Councilwoman Bailey, and approved by all. A motion was made by Councilman Moyer to readvertise the 2017 Police vehicle in February, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, and approved by all.

**SOLICITORS REPORT:**

Solicitor Slivinski reported that Aldi, Inc and SD Lodging LLC (Econolodge) have filed tax assessment appeals, which were filed at Snyder County tax assessment.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

A Planning Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM to discuss subdivision of Howard Bowers property located at 47 Jonathan Road. Planning Commission recommended approval for the final subdivision plan to subdivide the tract into two separate parcels.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

A Workshop was scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024, was cancelled.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council adjourned to executive session at 9:20 PM to discuss personnel issues; reconvened at 9:45 PM. No action taken. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to accept the Police Chief contract with noted changes and authorize Solicitor Slivinski to execute contract on behalf of Borough Council, seconded by Councilman Moyer, and approved by all. The Mayor will meet with Police Chief Bremigen for approval of the Police Chief contract.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

General Fund bills in the amount of \$25,202.49, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$117,993.14, PLGIT ARPA Fund in the amount of \$12,558.97, and 111 W 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fund in the amount of \$2,174.82, were presented for payment. A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, and approved by all.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel  
Borough Secretary