

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, December 7, 2015 in the municipal building located at 42 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President David Herbert presiding.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Andrew Bickhart, Donald Musser, Mark Benner, Robert Herbert, Rue Rothermel, and David Herbert were present.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Malcolm Fleming was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Mayor Joe McGranaghan, Manager Ed Hovenstine, Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Police Chief Tim Bremigen, Dave Sauers, Joshua Herb, and Jon Gray were present.

The meeting was opened with the "Pledge of Allegiance".

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilman Benner to approve the Council meeting minutes of November 2, 2015 as corrected, seconded by Councilman Musser, and approved by all.

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Mayor McGranaghan reported that the traffic delay today and tomorrow is due to PPL upgrading the power lines running across Route 11/15. The bypass ground breaking scheduled for December 17, 2015 has been delayed until spring because of the state budget impasse. The planned work will continue over the winter. Physical examinations are required for the police officers and the Mayor reported that all of the officers are fit for duty in the Borough.

Police Chief Bremigen commented that the new part time police officer, Jacob Shipman, is working out quite well. The Police Chief reported that the police department would like to hire Joshua Dreisbach as a part time police officer. A motion was made by Councilman Herbert to hire Joshua Dreisbach as a part time officer at an hourly rate of \$15.00, seconded by Councilman Musser, and approved by all.

Police Chief Bremigen introduced Jacob Shipman to Council and reviewed the November police report. The Police Chief is reviewing all options for the purchase of a police vehicle in 2016.

Councilman Musser expressed concern for the safety of the police secretary, Robyn Musser, in regards to people having access to walk into her office. A motion was made by Councilman Rothermel to take any action necessary to provide better security for the building and the police area, seconded by Vice President Bickhart, and approved by all.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Feral Cat Program Update – Secretary Leitzel reported that in 2014 twenty-seven cats were spayed/neutered and in 2015 forty-one cats were spayed/neutered. This year Companion Animal Hospital scheduled a clinic in September (twenty-seven of the cats were spayed/neutered), however Borough residents also traveled to clinics located in Bloomsburg or Berwick throughout the year (fourteen of the cats were spayed/neutered). Council was pleased with the progress of the program.

Manager Hovenstine reported that Center Street repairs were completed by UGI; however an invoice payment in the amount of \$15,952.95 has not been received at this time.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

Budget – 2016 General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund Budget – The 2016 General Fund budget is proposed at \$747,653.00. - The 2016 Water/Sewer Fund Budget is proposed at \$938,353.00. A motion was made by Councilman Rothermel to approve the proposed 2016 General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund Budget as previously presented and amended, seconded by Councilman Musser, and approved by all.

Lines at Baldwin Blvd – Lines have been added to the shoulder of Route 11/15 at Baldwin Blvd. intersection. PENNDOT gave the Borough the requirements of the line layout. Manager Hovenstine will call the contact person (Terry Flaherty) to discuss line applications on Baldwin Blvd. in front of shopping center.

Water Break – A water break was on Eleventh Avenue. Manager Hovenstine mentioned that an extra valve was installed on the water line. The Borough may want to consider water line replacement, if additional issues arise.

Water Operator Updates – Joshua Herb became a fully certified water operator in 2015. Manager Hovenstine recommended that Joshua Herb receive a merit increase of \$2,000.00 for 2016 salary. Brady Bachman has general water operator license and two subclasses, but four more subclasses are required for certification. Jason Sprengel will begin training this winter and be specialized in the water distribution. A motion was made by Councilman Herbert to approve a merit increase of \$2,000.00 for Joshua Herb's 2016 salary, seconded by Vice President Bickhart, and approved. Councilman Benner abstained due to Joshua Herb being son. A motion was made by Councilman Rothermel to amend the 2016 Water/Sewer Fund Budget to reflect an increase of \$2,000.00 to Joshua Herb's salary, seconded by Councilman Musser, and approved. Councilman Benner abstained due to Joshua Herb being son.

Water Allotment Permit/Leak Data – The Water Allotment Permit renewal application will be submitted by the end of the year. The term will be for a 25 years. Unaccounted water issues will need to be addressed as part of the renewal. Assessment of the existing water meters (especially larger commercial type), which slow down with time and leak detection program are a few strategies for water allotment.

Solar Project Revised Pricing – The Borough received a revised quote with a decrease of \$192,000.00 from Lenape Solar for the solar energy project. Manager Hovenstine will continue to search grant opportunities for the project.

Mayor McGranaghan mentioned that PPL will permit the use of LED technology for the street lights and suggested conversion of street lights. Manager Hovenstine stated that the rent paid to PPL for the street lights was the majority amount paid towards the bill.

Reservoir Structural Project – Manager Hovenstine stated that the outside structural work has been completed at the reservoir, however the inside liners of the reservoir needs addressed in the immediate future.

**SOLICITOR:**

Ordinance 2016-1, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year 2016 - A motion was made by Councilman Musser to adopt Ordinance 2016-1, fixing the tax rate for the fiscal year 2016, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

A Planning Commission meeting will not be held in December.

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP:**

A Workshop meeting will not be held in December.

Steering Committee – The comprehensive plan survey will be loaded onto the survey monkey program for a test run and we are working on a postcard to be distributed to Borough residents explaining how the survey can be completed. Manager Hovenstine recommended distributing the postcards when the Borough crew reads the meters beginning December 28, 2015.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

General Fund bills in the amount of \$21,630.49, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$117,185.91, and Local Service Tax Refund in the amount of \$104.00 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Councilman Rothermel to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

President Herbert thanked Councilman Rothermel for his time of service on Council over the years. Councilman Rothermel stated that it has been a pleasure to be apart of Council and that all Council members should be very proud of the accomplishments and the manner in which the accomplishments were made throughout the years. Councilman Rothermel stated that this has been a wonderful experience and appreciated the opportunity to serve on Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel  
Borough Secretary