

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Tuesday September 5, 2017 in the municipal building located at 42 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Herbert presided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

David Sauers, Mark Benner, Andrew Bickhart, Donald Musser, and David Herbert were present.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Robert Herbert and Rue Rothermel were absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Manager Ed Hovenstine, Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Mayor Joseph McGranaghan, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Police Chief Timothy Bremigen, Jo Wright, Shari Snyder, Deborah Brosious, Randy Brosious, Phyllis Solomon, Dennis Adams, Chet Telatovich, Jon Gray, Jeff Colyer, Chyvonne Rhoads, Kyle Jessick, and Dom Barillaro were present.

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

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilman Benner to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2017 meeting of Council as presented, seconded by Councilman Musser, and approved by all.

**VISITORS:**

Feral Cats – Deborah Brosious, Borough resident, commended the Borough for the feral cat program; however the ordinance pertaining to dogs should be changed to include cats. Mrs. Brosious provided Borough Council with copies of ordinances from Herndon and Selinsgrove Borough as examples for this change and recommended online viewing of the Northumberland Borough’s ordinance.

Mrs. Brosious expressed opinions on feeding feral cats as follows: that when a person starts feeding feral cats, then that person is asking the cats to be their pets and stay in our community, which makes that person responsible for their health care; because the cats have been invited into the community by that person. By feeding cats you keep them in the Borough, feral cats build colonies, so each person that feeds the cats is building a colony. There are a few colonies in this area and they keep growing. Deborah Brosious continued with feral cats bring disease, worms, feces, fleas and ticks into the yard. A responsible pet owner sees that the yard is flea and tick free and provides veterinary care when needed. They are becoming a danger to the community: they will attack animals and small children, if provoked. They also think a sand box is their litter box. Animals should be on a leash and feces should be cleaned up by pet owners or persons caring for them including cats. One way to control cats would be on a leash or an electric fence as some people do for dogs: that would keep the cats out of my yard, from harassing my dog and from defecating in the neighbor’s garden. While gathering information for this issue, Mrs. Brosious

was questioned how the borough would enforce a similar ordinance; her answer was with a warning and a fine. If the ordinance would be revised, Borough residents should not be afraid to report a violation of feeding wild animals. The Borough requested that residents do not feed wild animals in a newsletter distributed to Borough residents. If someone reports that someone is feeding cats, then the report should be taken seriously and start issuing fines. If you are going to feed and love these cats you need to be careful with their health and make sure that they are not going to bother other people. Deborah Brosious stated that she would like to make a motion to revise the dog ordinance to include cats and other animals and also include no feeding wild animals, if you do not want to be responsible for their care because you could be fined if you do.

Mayor McGranaghan questioned whether the dog ordinance mentions anything regarding other animals. The Police Chief answered that other animals are mentioned regarding feces. Mayor McGranaghan stated that an issue with the feces could be enforced, if you can find the animal responsible and owner. Police Chief Bremigen stated that identifying the correct animal and owner would be an issue. Mayor McGranaghan explained that the only way to prove which cat is defecating on a property would be: a police officer would see the cat defecating or a resident would file a complaint with the police department, and go to court to testify that this cat which is being fed by my neighbor is the one defecating on property. The Police Chief recommended that the outdoor feeding of animals section (no person shall leave food or anything intended to be food for cats or dogs unattended outside of their home; and food shall be considered unattended, if it is outside the home and in a location or container accessible by an animal, and the person is not present.). Mayor McGranaghan discussed that a quality of life ordinance would be a more efficient way to enforce this issue.

Jo Wright with PA Pets stated that the feline population must be controlled with spay/neuter and Shamokin Dam is offering a program that other communities have copied, as a reasonable approach and solution to an existing cat problem. Ms. Wright explained that if it were possible to remove all the cats from the Borough, other cats would come in from other areas as well as multiply at a faster rate, which is referred to as the vacuum effect. Jo Wright expressed that someone feeding the stray cats does not make them responsible, because these animals do not belong to them. Ms. Wright referred Council to the Pennsylvania Crimes code #5511, which states that to deprive any animal of food etc. is an offense. Shari Snyder explained that her situation with the spay/neuter program worked in her community.

Deborah Brosious responded that the rules for dogs should be the same for cats. The Mayor stated that the cats that are being spay/neutered are defecating, looking for food, and are a potential health hazard. Councilman Sauers explained that his dog contracted hookworm and will be on medicine for the rest of her life; because of eating feral cat feces.

President Herbert suggested that the Borough should continue with the TNR program through PA Pets, send a letter to all citizens of the Borough expressing these concerns, and have the Solicitor review the ordinances submitted. Deborah Brosious stated that the feral cat program is not enough to control the cat situation. Mrs. Brosious questioned whether the Borough could require licensing for cats. The Mayor answered that some municipalities have required cats to be licensed. Manager Hovenstine suggested a community event to explain the program, discuss issues, and educate the community. Council recommended sending a letter to residents with the

citizen's concerns, continue with the TNR program, hold a community meeting to educate the community, and have the Solicitor review the suggested ordinances submitted to Council.

Deborah Brosious commented that in the Herndon Ordinance if someone is feeding and housing cats, then that person accepts ownership of the cats. Councilman Musser questioned who enforces the Herndon Borough ordinance, because the Herndon borough does not have a police department, and State Police will not enforce borough ordinances. Mrs. Brosious stated that the Herndon Borough Council designates who will enforce the ordinance (example code enforcement officer, zoning officer, etc.).

Jo Wright and Shari Snyder left at this time.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

2016 Audit – A motion was made by Councilman Musser to accept the 2016 audit and to authorize advertisement of the 2016 audit, seconded by Councilman Sauers, and approved by all.

Pension MMO – The Non-Uniform Pension Plan Obligation for 2018 is \$36,025.00 and the Police Pension Plan Obligation for 2018 is \$28,367.00 due December 31, 2018. These obligations do not take into account any state aid.

Resolution 2017-3, Non Uniform Pension Plan – A resolution that establishes the non-uniform employees withholding to the pension plan from the required 4 ½ % to 3% for 2018 only. A motion was made by Councilman Musser to adopt Resolution 2017-3, Non Uniform Pension Plan, seconded by Vice President Bickhart, and approved by all.

Resolution 2017-4, Police Pension Plan – A resolution that waives the uniform employee contribution to the Police pension fund for the year 2018. A motion was made by Councilman Benner to adopt Resolution 2017-4, Police Pension Plan, seconded by Councilman Musser, and approved by all.

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Mayor McGranaghan, President Herbert, Vice President Bickhart, and Manager Hovenstine attended a meeting with PENNDOT regarding the CSVT at the Borough Office. The meeting discussed the concerns that were expressed in correspondence sent by Manager Hovenstine.

Council reviewed the August police report.

The Shamokin Dam Police Department participated in the Snyder County Night Out on Tuesday, August 22, 2017.

The police officers attended Advanced Search & Seizure School in Harrisburg that was sponsored by the District Attorney's office.

The police department participated in a sobriety checkpoint on Friday, August 25, 2017 and a DUI roving patrol on Friday, September 1, 2017.

Police Chief Bremigen will be participating in Project Awareness (a community event on drug education, prevention and support) on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 from 5:00-8:00 PM at Susquehanna University.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

Water Allocation Permit – Manager Hovenstine reported that the water allocation permit originally was a term of fifty years with annual reporting, however since the permit has been renewed in 2016, with a term of twenty-five years additional annual follow up work to maintain the permit.

Street Schedule – New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company are scheduled to begin preparation work on Stetler Avenue on Monday, September 11, 2017. The Borough crew will remove a tree near the road. New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company are scheduled to repave Stetler Avenue on Monday, September 26, 2017.

2018 Streets Project – Manager Hovenstine mentioned that the 2018 streets project would include resurface of Maple Street from 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue to crest of hill with storm water project included.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:**

The Solicitor had no report at this time.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

A Planning Commission meeting will not be held in September.

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP:**

A Workshop meeting will not be held in September.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

General Fund bills in the amount of \$22,441.05, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$129,934.25, and Fire Protection Tax Fund in the amount of \$42,240.00 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Councilman Musser to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel  
Borough Secretary