

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, October 7, 2024, in the municipal building located at 42 West 8th Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marlin Moyer, Shawn Bingaman, Charlene Bailey, Karen Roberts, Maria Brandt, David Sauers, and Mark Benner were present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Manager Edward Hovenstine, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Mayor Donald Musser, Police Chief Bremigen, Anne Lawrence, Rosi Nolder, Clair Heimbach and Diana Bickhart were present.

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

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bailey to approve the Council minutes of September 3, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, and approved by all.

VISITORS:

Anne (Heimbach) Lawrence grew up in Shamokin Dam. Mrs. Lawrence extended deepest gratitude to each department in the Borough that helped facilitate the memorial service for the honorable Judge Michael Sholley at the St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Saturday. Anne Lawrence explained that a lending library at St. Matthew Lutheran Church called Marv’s book barn in memory of Marvin Heimbach has been there for three to four years. Books were not being returned, so Mrs. Lawrence spoke with the Police Chief and through conversation the suggestion was to place a lending library at each of the parks in the Borough. Anne Lawrence requested permission to install a little library at each of the parks in the Borough and the family will maintain the library. The family will be applying for a grant in the spring. Solicitor Slivinski added that the Borough could remove the libraries at any time. A motion was made by Councilman Sauers to approve the installation of a little library at each park and match the grant up to \$1,000.00, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all. Councilman Moyer recommended noting the installation of the little libraries in the Spring newsletter.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Borough received correspondence from Service Electric Cablevision notifying the Borough of upcoming product updates and rate adjustments.

Mayor Musser reported that he has been the Borough’s representative to the Central Keystone COG as a voter and questioned whether Council wanted to have him remain as the Borough’s representative. Council agreed to have the Mayor serve as representative to the Central Keystone COG as a voter.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Resolution 2024-3, Police Pension – A resolution that waives the uniform employee contribution to the Police pension fund for the 2025 year only. A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to adopt Resolution 2024-3, Police Pension Plan, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

Resolution 2024-4, Non-Uniform Pension – A resolution that establishes the non-uniform employees withholding to the pension plan from the required 4 1/2 % to 3% for the 2025 year only. A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to adopt Resolution 2024-4, Non-Uniform Pension Plan, seconded by Councilman Moyer, and approved by all.

Kyle Alexander, DJ, Payment Approval – Councilman Bingaman requested payment approval of the balance of \$200.00 to be paid to DJ-Kyle Alexander for the Second Annual Spook's in the Park Event. A motion was made by Councilman Moyer to approve payment for the balance in the amount of \$200.00 to be paid to DJ Kyle Alexander, seconded by Councilwoman Bailey, and approved by all.

OPEN BUSINESS:

Fire Company, Lease – Solicitor Slivinski reported that the lease was sent to Dr. Michael Dunigan.

Flood Mitigation – President Benner mentioned that the state is reviewing the evaluation of flood protection and will send the findings of the report to Council by the end of October.

Council Member and Mayor Compensation/Salary – No comment currently.

MAYORS REPORT:

The Police Chief reviewed the September police report.

- The 2020 Ford SUV Police Vehicle was involved in a crash early September, while attempting to initiate a traffic stop in the borough. The 2020 SUV was out of service for a few weeks and is back in service.
- Councilwoman Roberts questioned whether the utility work that created a traffic backup on Routes 11/15 could have been handled better in the future. Police Chief Bremigen answered that it was a communication issue. Manager Hovenstine stated that PENNDOT was not notified appropriately of the utility work. The Police Chief stated that if the Borough is notified, then moving forward there will be a procedure in place as far as communication.
- The police department will conduct a seminar on fraud situations with Borough residents.
- Operation Safe Stop Program – The police department follow the school bus and place an officer on the school bus (ride along) as an outreach to the children in October.
- The Police Chief will be writing and enacting several new policies.

MANAGERS REPORT:

2025 Police Vehicle Update – The vehicle was delivered on August 9th and anticipate having it fully equipped and in service later this month.

2024 Streets Program-Baldwin Blvd – New Enterprise completed the 2024 streets program the week of September 30th. The Manager reported that a tree service, less than twenty-four hours after completion, parked equipment and drove a skid steer over the roadway and to fix the damage would be at least \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00. Council agreed not to repair the damage.

2024 Golf Tournament Check Presentation – The check presentation was held on September 6, 2024, in the amount of \$9,350.00, deposited into the recreation checking account. The grand total contribution through this event (16-year beneficiary) equals \$192,913.00, which was used for the creation of the dog park, updates, and maintenance.

Volunteer Fire Relief – The 2024 state aid allocation in the amount of \$10,035.96 was deposited on September 18th, these funds are sent to the Shamokin Dam Fire Co-Relief Association.

Pension State Aid – The pension state aid, in the amount of \$75,498.66 was deposited on September 25, 2024, these funds are sent to PMRS to help aid in the 2024 Municipal Pension Obligation, and the remaining amount of \$26,162.34 is paid from the general fund.

Pension GSAB 68 Reports as of 2022 – Non-Uniform pension is funded 100.61 % and the Police Pension is funded 101.55%.

2025 Liquid Fuels – The estimated allocation amount from PENNDOT for year 2025 would be \$53,721.89.

Green Light Go Grant – PENNDOT voided the agreement for the project at Eleventh Avenue since the Royal Farms project was cancelled. This work is not scheduled until year 2027. PENNDOT will attend a future Council meeting to discuss the grant process.

Water Treatment Plant – The yearly mandated filter inspection is scheduled for October 9th at a cost of \$2,960.00. The FPPE inspection was completed in the beginning of June, DEP reviewed the full report on September 9th, and the Manager is in the process of responding to the findings of each issue, which are some minor operational items to address, nothing major.

Main Reservoir Compartment Inspection and Washout – Manager Hovenstine reported that the inspection and washout was conducted on September 23rd, the roof inspection was completed on September 24th, and the entire reservoir was back in service on September 27th. The interior reports will be delivered as soon as the company completes the reports. The proposal in the amount of \$3,350.00 is for minor necessary repairs to the roof and caulking on the structural corners.

WTP Surge Valve Rebuild – The 4” pressure surge relief valve was rebuilt on September 30th.

Investments – Two certificates of deposit are available for renewal: one in the general fund in the amount of \$150,000.00 and one in the water/sewer fund in the amount of \$150,000.00. Council tabled the subject.

Fish Ladder – DCNR is offering to reimburse the Borough for reconstructing and repaving the existing paved portion of the road from the Old Trail to the bottom of the hill on the river side of the abandoned railroad bed that was destroyed by the fish ladder construction project. Manager Hovenstine will be submitting budgetary numbers, and the project would be done next spring, which would be a good time to replace the wooden posts with new as part of the project.

Healthcare Renewal – The healthcare plan renews on December 1, 2024, so a decision will be made at the November Council meeting. Current plan is Capital Blue, partial-self-insured type plan, the proposed premium increase averages 9.6%. Council forwarded this discussion to the Workshop meeting scheduled on Thursday, October 17, 2024.

Internal Control Financial Statement Monitor – Manager Hovenstine reported that there is an interested candidate to perform the internal control financial statement monitoring deficiency that has been noted by the auditor in the last few audits. This position would be a paid vendor type position. President Benner forwarded the subject to the Workshop meeting and Councilwoman Bailey suggested getting at least three quotes from interested parties. Councilwoman Roberts suggested surveying nearby municipalities on procedures. The Manager proposed a range of \$600.00 to \$800.00 per year's salary.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

A Planning Commission meeting will not be held in October.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

President Benner presented the updated committee member listing.

Finance Committee – A workshop will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM to discuss the proposed 2025 Budget.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General Fund bills in the amount of \$124,326.55, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$10,265.06, 111 W 11th Avenue Fund in the amount of \$7,147.99, Fire Protection Fund in the amount of \$13,953.34, and PLGIT Recreation Fund in the amount of \$336.26, were presented for payment. A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Bailey, and approved by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council adjourned to executive session at 8:05 PM to discuss personnel issues; reconvened at 9:20 PM. Council instructed Solicitor Slivinski to draft a police chief contract for Mayor Musser to present to Police Chief Bremigen. Council stated that the longevity pay for the patrolmen begins after five years of service to be paid at the first pay after a patrolman's anniversary date: Officer Hassenplug would be paid \$1,350.00 for year 2024 and Officer Shipman would be paid \$600.00 for year 2024, however Officer Shipman was paid incorrectly in the amount of \$1,200.00, so therefore an amount of \$600.00 will be deducted from Officer Shipman's payroll.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel
Borough Secretary