The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on October 12, 2016 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. The meeting was called to order by President of Council Bill Hale. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Dave Firn, Bob Giorgianni, Al Meyer, Stephanie Middleton and Penny Sass; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith; and Secretary Paula Healy.

Councilperson Bob Siwicki was absent.

A guest attending the meeting was Martha Ralphe, 26 Vernon Lane, Rose Valley, Pa., representing the League of Women Voters.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the September 14, 2016 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Meyer opened the one snowplowing bid received in response to the advertisement in "The Swarthmorean" on September 28, 2016. The bid was received from R. C. Marland, with the same unit pricing as last year. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, R. C. Marland was awarded the 2016 – 2017 snowplowing contract for the Borough.

DELCORA

A Planning Commission Meeting was held on October 6 to inform residents of DELCORA's plans to close the Rose Valley Sewage Treatment Plant and build a new pump station at that location and discuss the Act 537 Plan Update. This pump station would pump the sewage through a new force main pipe up the driveway from the RV Treatment Plant, out South Longpoint Lane and then up East Knowlton Road about 1000 feet to tie into the Middletown Township Sewer Authority's piping system. The sewage would then flow through the Middletown system to the Chester Creek Pump Station, which would then pump the sewage to DELCORA's Regional Treatment Plant in Chester on the Delaware River. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 residents. DELCORA estimated that annual sewer fees would increase by approximately $300 per household from the current $517.58 per household. After much discussion, the Planning Commission voted to recommend that Borough Council approve the Act 538 Plan Update prepared by DELCORA, which serves as the Borough's Official Sewage Facilities Plan, at the October 6 meeting. Resolution 2016 - 4 was presented to Council to adopt and submit the Act 537 Plan Update to the Department of Environment Protection for their approval. This Resolution was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. A copy of this Resolution will be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection.
Mr. Neilson distributed to Council a draft 2017 budget. He explained that this budget showed a 2% decrease in real estate taxes, primarily due to increased real estate transfer tax receipts. Discussion followed regarding future road repaving work the Borough will need to do and the adequacy of current reserve positions. Mr. Neilson and Mr. Hare answered questions and received comments from Council members. This information will be taken into consideration and a 2017 preliminary budget will be presented at the November 9th Council meeting for approval. It then will be advertised for final approval at the December 14th Council meeting. Mr. Neilson thanked Mr. Siwicki for all his hard work on creating the budget.

Mr. Firn reported that he has heard nothing new regarding the Growing Greener Grant application. The Deer Hunt is underway. A Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Open Space (CORPOS) public meeting will be held to discuss the findings and recommendations of the draft plan prepared for Rose Valley, Nether Providence, Rutledge and Swarthmore. An Invasive Workshop will be on October 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Saul Wildlife Preserve. Mr. Firn asked for Council’s approval to apply for a Delaware County Conservation Mini-Grant. This approval was given on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mrs. Sass reported that as part of Library month, the Helen Kate Furness Library had a reception for local authors. It was well attended and one of the featured authors was Mayor Tim Plummer with his new book: Unnecessary Risks, a Memoir of Adventure. The Fall Well Red wine tasting fund raiser event will be held on December 2. There will also be a Spring Well Red in April, 2017 and a "Book It" 5 K walk/run between the Helen Kate Furness Library and the Swarthmore Library on April 1, 2017. The 2017 Budget is being worked on and should be completed shortly.

Mr. Giorgianni reviewed the Police Report. It cited the following incidents: 4 false alarms; one theft on 9/1/16 at 12 Chestnut Lane; one attempted burglary on 9/16/16 at 402 Woodward Road and one car accident on 9/30/16 at Rose Valley and Manchester Roads. The State Police also reported that there have been numerous thefts of items from unlocked motor vehicles and several thefts of unlocked vehicles with the keys left inside. Residents are reminded to never leave the keys inside your vehicle and always to lock your vehicle when left unattended.

The September Fire Report included a Fire Prevention Week educational visit to the School in Rose Valley and a response to a car accident with injury on 9/30/16. Mr. Giorgianni reported that he, Mayor Plummer, Mr. Hale, Mr. Neilson, Mrs. Healy and other residents of Rose Valley attended the South Media Fire Company’s Housing Ceremony for their new fire truck on October 8. Mayor Plummer gave a great speech.
Town Watch is proceeding as usual. Mr. Giorgianni thanked Les Zeitz, Long Point Lane Town Watch patroller, for his dedication to Town Watch.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds and income reports for September. Mr. Hare improved the format for the Status of Funds report by showing the General Fund Savings and Checking Accounts on separate lines.

Council approved the following transfers on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed: the transfer of $1,000 from the General Fund Savings account into the Anniversary Fund and the transfer of $200,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund into the Road Improvement Fund.

Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval for October and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amount of $21,594.89 were approved.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Plummer reported that he is trying to make his visits to welcome new residents but it is much more difficult than in the past because people either do not have land lines or do not answer them if they don't recognize the caller's identity. The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation is hard at work on improving Thunderbird Lodge and the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society will hold a Masquerade fundraising party at the Lodge on October 29.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Hare asked about the Kauffman County wide re-assessment case. Mr. Smith responded that the case has been heard and is now being considered by Judge Bur. The Judge will probably not render his decision for several months. Mr. Smith will keep Council updated on any new developments.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary