The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on June 10, 2015 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Other Councilmembers present were: Councilpersons Dave Firn, Bob Giorgianni, Al Meyer, Stephanie Middleton, Penny Sass and Bob Siwicki; Mayor Tim Plummer; Controller Cheryl Haze Luehrs; Solicitor G. Guy Smith; and Secretary Paula Healy. Treasurer Jennifer Rimerman was absent due to the death of her mother.

Guests attending the meeting were Nancy Townsend and Scott Laughlin.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the May 13, 2015 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Ms. Townsend and Mr. Laughlin stated that they were attending the meeting to voice their concerns about the automobile related business activity being conducted by the neighbors at 213 Possum Hollow Road. Mr. Laughlin explained that he is planning to purchase Ms. Townsend's property. Mr. Smith noted that the Borough Zoning Code permits a no-impact home-based business as an accessory use provided it meets certain restrictions and standards, including the requirement that there shall be no outside appearance of business. He also noted that the Borough had discussed these restrictions with the residents of the subject property several years ago and that they had agreed to comply. Mr. Smith will address the situation.

PLANNING

Mr. Hale reported that he had heard there had been an enquiry regarding the Old Union United Methodist Church property, but that the party had lost interest when they learned the church could not be enlarged due to lack of the required zoning setback from Brookhaven Road.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & CABLEVISION

Mr. Meyer reported that two bids had been received for the 2015 Borough Road Work Project in response to the advertisements in the Delaware County Daily Times on May 21 and 28, 2015. The bids were from A. F. Damon - $71,342.00 and Gessler - $62,740.00. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Gessler, the lower bidder, was awarded the 2015 Rose Valley Borough Road Work Project. Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann will be notified to make the arrangements with Mr. Gessler.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that Roger Latham, Chairman of the EAC, is pursuing a grant application with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through the Growing Greener Program. The application deadline is July 10, 2015. The grant would fund a project to stabilize
the stream bank along a 165-foot long section of Ridley Creek in the Saul Wildlife Preserve and restore approximately 2.5 acres of riparian forest habitat currently overrun by Japanese knotweed in the Long Point Wildlife Preserve. The stream bank would be stabilized by removing existing invasive vegetation and installing rows of fascines of silky willow in trenches, with brush mattresses of dogwood installed above the fascines. The knotweed would be treated with aquatic herbicide over 2-3 years with the area subsequently replanted with native trees and shrubs. The project is designed to improve water quality by decreasing sedimentation of Ridley Creek. The Borough intends to contract with the Chester Ridley Crum Watershed Association to manage the project.

A resolution stating that the Borough of Rose Valley requests a PA DEP Growing Greener Grant as passed on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved. A letter to the Delaware County Planning Department outlining the project and requesting a letter of support for the grant application was also approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. The grant is expected to pay for 85% of the project. Dr. Latham is confident that the remaining 15% could be funded by a Tree Revitalization Grant.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Sass reported that the next Well Red fund raiser will be on November 6. Annual appeal funds are coming into the Library, but not as quickly as last year. The Media Library is closing for ADA compliance renovations which may impact the Helen Kate Furness Library. Circulation continues to rise. A marketing report is being prepared by Mary Halloran.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Giorgianni reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report listed the following incidents: 3 burglaries, 1 collision and 1 incident of theft by fraud and forgery. There were no incidents listed on the Fire Report for the month of May.

The Town Watch program is progressing as usual.

The speed device is working well.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Status of Funds and Income Reports for the month of May. Ms. Haze Luehrs reviewed the Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amount of $19,063.45 were approved.

MAYOR’S REPORT

As discussed at the May Council meeting, the Olmsted family has moved out of Thunderbird Lodge and that the Trustees under the Will of Mildred Scott Olmsted are now looking for a suitable non-profit or municipal entity to accept a gift of the property and maintain it as an historic landmark in perpetuity. The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation (RVCF), a 501.c.3 non-
profit entity, is exploring the possibility of accepting the gift of the property. Mr. Plummer, who also serves as President of the RVCF, requested that Borough Council approve a resolution stating that should the RVCF at some point in the future cease to exist or become unable to fulfill its obligation to maintain the property as an historic landmark in perpetuity, the Borough agrees to take over ownership of the property and the obligation to maintain it as a historic landmark in perpetuity. Mr. Smith noted that maintaining the property as a historic landmark would essentially require ensuring that the building not be torn down. After some discussion, a resolution to this effect was passed on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Mayor Plummer mentioned that planning for the 18th Annual Fourth of July Parade and Pool Party Celebration was underway and encouraged everyone on Council to attend.

Mr. Plummer also reminded Council that Flag Day is June 14, and noted that the flag will be raised at the Rose Valley Borough Veterans’ Memorial to commemorate the occasion.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported that the Rose Valley Swimming Pool has been successful in having their real estate tax assessment reduced. It will happen in two stages. For 2015, the assessment will be reduced from $218,060 to $118,000; for 2016 and beyond, the assessment will be reduced from $118,000 to $78,000. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, Mr. Smith was empowered to approve this settlement on behalf of the Borough.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary