The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on April 11, 2018 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Debra DeMasi, Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith; and Secretary Paula Healy.

Rose Valley Fire Marshall Jim Ortoleva and Luke Vacha, a Boy Scout from Troop 605 which meets at St. John Chrysostom Church in Wallingford, also attended the meeting.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes of the March 14, 2018 Council meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, with the clarification that the State of Pennsylvania also provides funding for the Helen Kate Furness Library.

Mr. Ortoleva then spoke to Council about his duties and activities as the Rose Valley Fire Marshall. Mr. Orteleva has over 50 years of experience in the area of fire protection. Until approximately three years ago, he was the Fire Marshall for both Nether Providence Township and Rose Valley Borough. He obtained convictions for arson in all five of the court cases in which he presented evidence for Nether Providence. Jim attended the National Fire Academy and is presently a member of South Media Fire Company. He encouraged all residents to make sure that they have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors appropriately located in their houses and that they are in good working order with fresh batteries.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that Eagle Scout candidate Matt Crawford cleared out the vegetation from inside the deer exclosure and from the adjacent comparison plot, and then replanted 20 woody plants and 75 perennials both inside and outside of the exclosure on April 7th. The second part of his project will involve clearing invasives, such as wine berry and Japanese knotweed, from approximately one and one-half acres of the Long Point floodplain in June. The planting of 65 trees and 200 shrubs will be done in the fall as part of two other Eagle Scout projects. The Native Plant Sale and Invasive Plants Workshop will be held on May 12 from 9:00 till noon, with the rain date May 19. Mrs. Voet asked that any plants not sold be taken to the Helen Kate Furness Library May Fair, also on May 12, for sale.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE, CABLEVISION & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee reported that due to delays in obtaining approval for the proposed road work from PennDOT, the 2018 Borough road work cannot yet be bid out. Mr. Houtmann is hoping to be able to open the road work bids at the May Council meeting.
Ms. Yee asked Council members to look at the existing Borough website and provide additional photos they may have and make suggestions for improving the content. She is continuing to explore how to open a municipal account with the community calendar website Burbio.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reminded Council that the Helen Kate Furness May Fair will take place on May 12. Anyone who would like to donate drinks that could be sold at the Fair is encouraged to drop them off at the Library. The Book-It 5K Run/Walk went well, although it was not as well attended as last year, probably due to the cold weather. The Library is starting its Annual Appeal to membership.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Fire Report which cited the following incidents: a false alarm on 3/6/18 at the School in Rose Valley due to a power failure; another false alarm on 3/8/18 at 1 Wychwood Lane due to a power failure; and an EMS assist on 3/25/18 at 71 W. Rose Valley Road. There was no Police Report for March because the State Police have yet to assign a new liaison officer for Rose Valley.

Mrs. DeMasi recommended everyone have any suspect trees on their property looked at by a tree professional. During the recent storms with high winds, many trees fell in the area with some hitting houses and vehicles. Mrs. DeMasi also alerted Council that round two of the flu season was coming around.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds. Mr. Neilson went over the Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amount of $28,675.57 were approved. Mr. Siwicki reviewed the income reports for March, 2018. The 2017 Audit Report was received from the Borough’s auditor, Fischer Cunnane & Associates. Mr. Siwicki reviewed this report and answered questions. The contribution to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation to be used at Thunderbird Lodge for specific repairs and improvements was discussed. Mayor Plummer indicated the Foundation plans to utilize the funds to repair a cracked chimney and make the bathroom in the first floor studio ADA compliant. The Foundation will provide the detailed plans for these projects, including the methods and materials to be used, when they have been finalized. Council will then perform a due diligence review of the Foundation's finances and consider final approval for the budgeted $20,000 contribution.

Discussion followed about other organizations requesting contributions from the Borough. It was noted that, as mentioned at the public budget meeting in December, the Borough does not contribute to non-profits, such as Hedgerow Theatre and the School in Rose Valley, which have a business income stream that sustains them, and that it only contributes to organizations whose activities are specifically focused on benefiting the residents of Rose Valley. Non-profits that believe they meet these criteria are welcome to come before Council and make their case.
PLANNING

To fill the remaining vacancy on the Planning Commission, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Resolution 6-2018 appointing Jim Kaufman to the Planning Commission was approved.

Council also approved the release of the remainder of the escrow account monies for the Traymore development to NVWS Associates in the amount of $5,000 on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that Large Trash Pick-up will be held on May 7 and 8. Notification will be sent to residents by e-mail and regular mail.

The owner of the Borough's building inspection company, Tim Durham, recently died. Linn Architects, which handles building inspections for Nether Providence, Middletown and many other neighboring municipalities, has agreed to take over as the building inspector for Rose Valley.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Plummer distributed copies of a report done by ten Penn Design students in the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania in Professor Pamela Hawkes Fall 2017 Historic Preservation Studio entitled: "Rose Valley, PA, A Community Rooted in the Arts and Crafts Movement". Tim asked Council members to review it for further discussion.

Resident Marilyn Bullock is coordinating a “Welcome Wagon” for new Rose Valley residents. She is in the process of updating the material in the "Welcome to Rose Valley" packet and has recruited volunteers from central Rose Valley, Todmorden and Long Point Lane to visit new residents.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith asked that an Executive Session be held after the Council Meeting to discuss legal matters.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary