COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on May 9, 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 p.m. 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. Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann also attended the meeting.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes from the April 11, 2018 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE, CABLEVISION & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Houtmann attended the meeting to discuss the 2018 road work which will primarily involve repaving all of Longpoint Lane, now that the Delcora sewer project is complete, plus minor surface patching elsewhere in the Borough. Matt reported that about 160 ten-foot-long sections of the concrete gutter curbing lining Longpoint Lane, which was built circa 1958, need to be replaced. Well over half of these sections are at driveways where the weight of vehicles crossing the gutter tends to cause cracking and deterioration over time. When these driveway gutters are replaced, about six feet of the driveway within the Borough right-of-way will also need to be replaced. Roughly three-quarters of the houses on Longpoint Lane have had asphalt placed over their gutter curbing when their driveways were repaved over the years. This interferes with the functionality of the gutters and should not be allowed, but people do it to smooth out the bumpiness of the gutter valley. When the driveway gutters are replaced, some residents may not like the return of the inevitable bump they create. Matt also noted that State liquid fuels money cannot be used to repair gutters. Matt estimated the cost of repaving Longpoint Lane and replacing about a quarter of the concrete gutters at $203,168 with $121,100 of this total related to the gutter and driveway work. Mr. Hale noted that the Borough has about $88,500 in the State Highway Aid Fund which can be used for the road paving, and about $418,000 in the Borough funded Road Improvement Fund which will cover the cost of the gutter work. He also noted that the State contributes approximately $30,000 in liquid fuels money to the Highway Aid Fund each year and concluded that the Borough has sufficient funds for future road work. After much discussion, Council asked Mr. Houtmann to prepare the bids for the 2018 road work, advertise the project and request that the bids be delivered early in June so that the contract can be awarded at the June Council meeting.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that an Eagle Scout project removing invasives such as wine berry and Japanese knotweed from the flood plain of the Long Point Wildlife Preserve is scheduled for May 26 between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. This will fulfill part of the Growing Greener Grant requirements.
The EAC invasives workshop and plant sale is scheduled for May 12 between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon. The rain date is May 19.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Library’s May Fair is May 12. The Library Board continues to work on the HVAC project. Only two firms submitted bids for the project and the low bid was about 50% higher than anticipated. Funding for this project will come from different sources: state monies, the endowment fund and possibly a capital campaign. The Library will be changing over to a new software system to take out books near the end of June and staff and volunteers are getting trained on it.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi visited the State Police barracks and was successful in obtaining Police Reports for February, March and April. The reports cited the following incidents:

For February: 4 false alarms; responses to one disabled motor vehicle on 2/7/18 and two more on 2/17/18 during a snow storm; and a motor vehicle accident on 2/23/18.

For March: 8 false alarms; a report of criminal mischief on 3/9/17 at 9 Rabbit Run; a report of shots fired on 3/10/18 reported by 14 N. Long Point Lane; a theft on 3/23/18 reported by 63 Todmorden Drive.

For April: 5 false alarms; and a DUI on 4/9/18 at Brookhaven and Rose Valley Roads.

The Fire Report showed a response to a fire alarm at the School in Rose Valley on 4/20/18.

Fire Marshall Jim Ortoleva reminds everyone that open burning is prohibited in Rose Valley except for dry wood and the fire must be attended to at all times with a water hose available. The fire company had to respond to a grass fire on May 1 where an individual was doing some yard clean-up burning and the fire got away from him.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Reports for the month of April. Mr. Hare went over the April Status of Funds. Mr. Neilson reviewed the May Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of $32,614.44 from the General Fund and $.14 from the Highway Aid Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PLANNING

Penn Design students in the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania in Professor Pamela Hawkes Fall 2017 Historic Preservation Studio prepared a report entitled: "Rose Valley, PA, A Community Rooted in the Arts and Crafts Movement". The report had various suggestions regarding how Rose Valley could better protect its historical and
natural resource assets. Copies of the report will be distributed to the members of the Planning Commission for review and discussion at the next Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission will then make recommendations to Council regarding the various suggestions.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Plummer informed Council that there will be a Memorial Day flag raising ceremony at the Veterans’ Memorial at the corner of Old Mill Lane and Rose Valley Road on Monday, May 28, at 9:00 am. All residents are invited to attend.

The Twenty-first Annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, July 4th. Participants will meet at the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station at 1:30 pm for parade staging, the parade to Rose Valley Swimming Pool will start promptly at 2:00 pm, followed by ceremonies at the Pool and opening of the picnic food line at 4:00 pm. Many volunteers are needed for this event and Council members are encouraged to plan to be in town to provide assistance.

Mr. Plummer conducted the 15th Annual School in Rose Valley Bird Walk. It was a big success.

Tim also noted that a Bon Voyage party will be held for Barbara and Dan Sheehan on Monday, May 21st at the Old Mill from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in recognition of all they have done for Rose Valley over the years and to wish them well on their move to Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on the appeal of the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District to the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas regarding the decision of the Del. Co. Board of Assessment to reduce the property assessments on the two Sigismondi properties on Brookhaven Road. All parties agreed to settle this matter by agreeing that the two assessments be somewhat increased. Mr. Smith asked that Council approve authorization for him to sign the legal papers regarding this appeal on behalf of the Borough. This request was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary