COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2018

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on October 10, 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 Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Controller John Neilson was absent.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the September 12, 2018 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE, CABLEVISION & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee opened the one snowplowing bid received in response to the advertisement in the Swarthmorean on September 17, 2018. The bid received was from R. C. Marland. Mr. Marland has been plowing the Borough roads for many years and his prices remained the same as last year. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, R. C. Marland was awarded the 2018 - 2019 snowplowing contract for the Borough.

Aqua would like to replace the old water lines on Vernon Lane, Applebough Lane, Valley View Lane and Chestnut Lane. All the residents living on these lanes were invited to a meeting with Aqua which was held on October 8 at the Old Mill with approximately 30 residents attending. Mr. Alan Roth from Aqua explained that the project will replace deteriorating waterlines installed in the 1920’s and 1930’s and answered questions. Aqua will need to obtain easements from the residents who live on private lanes, which are Applebough Lane, Valley View Lane, Chestnut Lane and the short section of Vernon Lane which is in Nether Providence.

The Longpoint Lane road resurfacing and gutter repair project is underway. Mrs. Healy will notify the Longpoint Lane residents informing them that the gutters must not be filled in with macadam during future driveway repaving, otherwise the macadam will have to be removed at the homeowner's expense.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Helen Kate Furness Library has had significant maintenance costs that have exceeded their budgetary estimates, such as the new HVAC system costing $157,000, approximately $55,000 more than anticipated, and an unexpected sewer problem costing $4,400 to repair. In addition, the Library has a strategic goal of hiring part-time staff in order to provide teen and tech support that is sorely needed.

HKF Library plans to ask Nether Providence Township to increase their $110,000 contribution to the Library by $25,000 next year. This will bring the per capita level of support in NP to $10.21.
For 2018, Rose Valley Borough is contributing $17,000 to the Library. This amounts to $18.62 per capita, substantially higher than for NP. However, the average per capita donation of Haverford, Media and Middletown to their libraries in 2017, the last year for which data is available, was $22.14. Judy requested that Council increase the 2019 contribution to the HKF Library to $20,000, which would bring our level of support up to $21.90 per capita. This would still be less than the contributions of other comparable municipalities to their free libraries. This request was granted later in the meeting during the budget discussion.

Mrs. Voet also mentioned the following Library issues:
- New library board members are needed for next year. The nominations committee is looking for interested people with expertise in publicity, fundraising, treasurer skills, and buildings and maintenance.
- The library will purchase increased access to RBDigital (which already provides access to Acorn) via Universal Class and Great Courses. This access is not available through the Delaware County Library System. It is only available free through HKFLibrary.org.
- The next Well Red Fundraiser is November 2nd at 7:00 pm. Buy tickets at $30 each at https://www.hkflibrary.org/wellred.
- There will be an Election Day Book Sale at HKF November 3-6.
- Save the Date: December 7 for a Donor Appreciation event.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported on the Growing Greener Grant activities. He is working on filling out the grant paperwork so the Borough can get reimbursed for its expenses before the end of the year. The second planting of trees and shrubs on Long Point will take place on Friday, October 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm as a corporate event, followed by the third planting on Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon as part of an Eagle Scout Project.

There are no numbers available yet regarding the deer hunt. Application has been made to the State Game Commission for permission to have a deer cull in January, 2019.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 6 false alarms; a report of theft on 9/5/18; a report of theft on 9/21/18; and a report of theft on 9/24/18. The Fire report showed 3 responses to automatic fire alarms. Fire Marshall Jim Ortoleva has officially retired and Matt Poissant has now taken over as Rose Valley Borough’s Fire Marshall.

Rose Valley Borough Ordinance 296 enables the Borough to fine residents for an excessive number of false alarms. The cost of responding to false alarms is borne by the State Police. The Borough has not been assessing fines in recent years because the State Police requested it not to do so because they planned to take over this task. However the State Police never implemented this plan. After some discussion, it was decided that residents with an excessive number of false alarms would be sent a letter alerting them of this and that the Borough would begin assessing fines again in 2019.
The Town Watch Program is progressing as usual. We are still waiting for the Borough's street lighting electrician to install the traffic speed monitoring devices.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for the month of September. Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Reports for September and the Bills for Approval for October and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the October Bills for Approval in the amount of $27,899.23 were approved.

Mr. Siwicki visited the Borough’s recycler, J. P. Mascaro, and took a tour of their facilities. He found it very interesting and discussed various problems faced by recyclers now that the prices paid for recycled materials have greatly decreased.

Mr. Siwicki presented to Council a draft proposed budget for 2019 and discussion of the various line items and adjustment followed. The adjusted budget calls for no increase in the millage rate, an increase in the contribution to the Helen Kate Furness Library from $17,000 in 2018 to $20,000 in 2019, and maintaining the contribution to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation’s Capital Campaign for repair of Thunderbird Lodge at $20,000, the same as in 2018.

The proposed 2019 budget must be approved at the November Council Meeting and then made available for public review and comment. Thirty days must elapse before final approval of the budget, therefore the budget cannot be approved at the regular December 12 Council Meeting. An additional Special Council Meeting will therefore be held on Monday, December 17, 2018 for final approval of the 2019 Budget. Mrs. Healy will arrange for the advertisement of the Special Meeting on December 17, 2018.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that there was a Planning Commission meeting on October 2, 2018. They discussed the creation of a demolition ordinance that would require property owners to get a permit before they demolished a structure and to obtain Borough Council review of plans for the demolition of a designated historic structure. This ordinance will not prevent the demolition of a historic structure but will delay a proposed demolition somewhat so that other alternatives can be explored. The Planning Commission will continue work on this ordinance at the next Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Office.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary