COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:
Monday, January 9th, 2017

TIME:
7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:
DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
MICHAEL MCHALE, President
MICHAEL DEMPSEY, Vice President
TIMOTHY BURKE
CAROL SCRIMALLI
THOMAS HALLINAN
VINCE AMICO
SAL VERRASTRO
THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCool, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
(Pledge of Allegiance.)

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.
MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.
MR. BURKE: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Verrastro.
MR. VERRASTRO: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Amico.
MR. AMICO: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.
MR. HALLINAN: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.
MR. DEMPSEY: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.
MR. MCHALE: Here.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number three is public comment on agenda items.
MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to comment on any agenda items tonight?
(No response.)
MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number four is a motion to approve the minutes.
MR. BURKE: I'll make that motion.
MR. VERRASTRO: I'll second it.

MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a second. On the question.

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so moved.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number five is a motion to approve and pay the open bills.

MR. MCHALE: I'll look for a motion.

MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll second it.

MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and second. On the question.

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

(No response.)
MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so moved.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six is a motion add Daiqwon Buckley to the part time police department roster pending successful completion of graduation of the Lackawanna College Act 120 Program Municipal Police Academy Training.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that motion.

MR. BURKE: Second.

MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a second. On the question.

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so moved. Tom, one second. Six is usually personnel. Do we have any other personnel matters to address tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number seven
is public comment on non agenda items.

MR. MCHAILE: Anybody like to address Council tonight? Please come forward and state your name for the record.

MR. MCGRAW: Jim McGraw, Delaware Street, Dunmore. Last month I brought up questions to the body here to find out information on the impact fee on the drilling that's done by the gas company and the residue that came from many of the drillings up there up in the Dunmore dump.

And the trucks coming into Dunmore use Dunmore roads and probably Reeves Street and maybe the dump road that's disabled now that they have blocked off. And there's one article is here, almost a billion dollars collected into that fund. And the money goes out not only the drilling areas but to many counties in the state.

And it's very loosely written law that they have that it spreads out over where some of the counties were spending it on playgrounds, spending it for picnics, and circuses, just about everything under the sun and not really used for infrastructure impact
when they ruined the road. Maybe there is water hazards, air hazards, all of these complaints should fall under this law.

    And DePasquale our Auditor General, he came in and he investigated a lot of the bookwork on these municipalities. And about one-fourth of it, maybe over 200 million dollars has been spent in his opinion incorrectly, not up to snuff.

    But it's so loosely written that, you know, it's a broad brush. And right now with us having a problem on the dump road that I don't know how much it's going to cost you to fix it, and the damage done on Reeves Street, if the money's out there and they're using it other than impact, then I think we should be open to receive some of that money if we investigate it and get ahold of Kevin Haggerty and maybe Senator Blake and find out if we're not getting any why aren't we.

    It would be worth investigating because the money is already collected. I don't expect the state to pass any severance tax on the natural gas. So I think this money is available and we should look into it. And
the other project that I think we should look
into is the O'Neill Highway crosswalk. You
know, that's my favorite.

I checked with Kevin Haggerty. And
when they were drawing up plans for this road,
there should be some crosswalks I believe at
the Dunmore Corners, maybe at Apple Street,
Harper Street, and down on Green Ridge and
Potter that are put in of a permanent material
that they are not two lines across the roadway.

They can more or less put heat to
them and they apply right to the surface. And
I believe they call them permanent. So out
here we have, what, a multimillion dollar
gymnasium. And you go out on Green Ridge
Street, and it's very hard to see the
crosswalks.

We have two lines. And it's a state
roadway. And the state should put in proper
crosswalks. There's been three people I
believe killed in Scranton. There's been two
kids hit over at the high school with cars.
You know, it's not a hidden thing. There's a
lot of careless drivers.

And if you don't have proper signs,
I think the state should have signs for each one. If they could have a deer crossing sign for deer, they certainly should have it for pedestrians and children. That's all I have to say.

And they also have the off ramps and they lead to nothing. You know, the federal, the funding on a lot of the ramp over at Rite Aid is a disgrace. They have been working there since May. And it's still impassable. And across the street it's dug up. I know you have problems on construction. But it doesn't appear to me that anybody is seeing that, you know, they move along and get it done because the top of my street they have been digging enough for three months.

And they are digging up on the crosswalk, kids are walking down further and it's actually a hazard to the children. So I think somebody from the Council or committee should work with PennDOT and get the people up to snuff what's going on, what the projected time of completion is.

And in the meantime, have the sidewalks cleared at 4:00, not every month.
And that's all I have to say. Good luck.

Mr. Hallinan, do you have an answer on that?

MR. HALLINAN: Yeah, well, I was going to say that the project isn't finished. So and when it will be completed, you're right, they will put in -- they're not permanent. But they are -- it's thermal plastic. They call them California blocks.

They will last about four, five years. And that's what we want in there. And I'm not sure when they scope the project they'll be put back in when the project is completed. And I'm sure what the problem is up there I don't know. But I'm sure it's tied in with all the utilities and all the work they have to work with them.

And I'm with you. I wish this project was done last year. I'm sure it's still ongoing. And I hate to see another year go by.

MR. MCGRAW: It's projected to be completed around May or June if, you know, the projection comes through. In the meantime, there is certain things that we as a borough should be looking out for, especially the
children and the pedestrians because there's people that don't have cars and they walk over to Rite Aid. So thank you for your time. Thank you. Here I'll give you this.

Mr. Hallinan: Thank you.

Mr. Dempsey: Thank you.

Mr. McHale: Mr. Hetman, I apologize.

Mr. Hetman: I always yield to any citizens that wish to speak. It's not a problem. Anytime. I'm just a guest here. It's their meeting and your meeting. So with that said, good evening, ladies and gentlemen, Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's Community Relations Department.

As we head into the new year and it's our second year now with the current administration, we plan on offering the same range of programs, activities, and events that we brought to you over the last five years.

At the moment we only have one thing coming up and this is actually tomorrow night. And it's a new program. I'll just read you the first few lines from our release about it. The Lackawanna County Land Bank will host a
community outreach presentation on Tuesday, January 10th, 6 p.m., in the Community Room at the Good Will of North Gerald T. Langan apartments, 1539 North Main Avenue, Scranton, also known as the former North Scranton Jr. High School if your dad went there as mine did.

The presentation will outline Lackawanna County Land Bank's history, mission, and discuss blight in neighborhoods. The presentation is free and open to the public and will be followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the land bank.

Of course, the land bank has been in the news over quite a bit over the last two years. It's a program that lots of folks, commissioners and many of the people who work in our offices and apartments are excited about it. And we plan to see it hopefully make a great impact in our communities over the next several years.

So this is a free opportunity open to the public any officials from Council or the Borough or any interested citizens you want to come out and learn more about it, please join us. That's all we have for now. If anything
else comes up, I'll let you know as the year progresses. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks, Gerard.

MR. HALLINAN: Thanks, Gerard.

MR. MCHALE: Thanks. Anybody else like to address Council tonight?

MR. HOGAN: Bob Hogan, Hill Street, Dunmore. I have one question. How's the planning for the storm water management being developed? Who's taking care of it and when is it going to come into being?

MR. MCHALE: The storm water management, there is a plan done by the Sewer Authority years ago. It included Dunmore. Now you're talking about storm management that may come down the line in the future that we don't know really what the rules are going to be.

Dunmore is a little more advantageous in the storm water area that we don't have a lot of issues stand-alone storm water issues outside of the combined sewer system. The combine system was sold to Pennsylvania American Water as you know.

So any issues that are there are now borne by them. But on an ongoing basis, we as
a borough used to handle all storm water issues. So anything outside of the combined system will come back on us. And the falsehood that's out there that it didn't cost -- the Scranton Times I think had it in the paper today the storm water didn't cost us -- or the maintenance of storm water didn't cost us anything because the Scranton Sewer Authority did is totally false.

Because if the Sewer Authority is maintaining it, who's paying for it? Dunmore and Scranton taxpayers through our rates. So does it shift back to us? We don't think it's a big impact in Dunmore. We're looking into that and possibly hiring a consultant to study that more.

But there is a study done by the Scranton Sewer Authority already that Mr. Cummings I know is reviewing. And we're going to continue to look at different phases. I think at the last meeting -- and forgive me, Mr. Hogan, I don't know if you were here or not. We did acquire a new street sweeper that allows us to clean basins, storm water basins, our basins.
Again, ours, they always were ours because the Sewer Authority helped us out. So brand new street sweeper is with us. We have the best DPW Department in the world who used to maintain all the storm water systems and the basins even.

And they will again if, in fact, they need to we can call on them and Pennsylvania American Water has offered their help as well. Obviously the combined sewer system is their issue. But if we do have issues, we have a friend in them as well.

MR. HOGAN: In other words, it's not mandated the separation should occur between sanitary and storm.


MR. HOGAN: If it does occur, who then will be responsible for the storm water?

MR. MCHALE: Pennsylvania American Water.

MR. HOGAN: Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody else like to address Council tonight?

MS. NARO: I'm so sorry I was late.
I had a funeral. I apologize.

MR. MCHALE: No, please.

MS. NARO: I'm just catching the end. Melanie Naro, I'm sorry, I thought everybody knows me by now -- 305 East Drinker Street. The concern I have, Mike, is something similar to this gentleman about now that the sewer system has been purchased, what is Dunmore going to do with the 16 million dollars hopefully you're going to receive and the whole issue of the storm water not being part of that agreement -- the system itself.

A lot of it has been separated from what I thought and, Burkie, you may know a little bit better about that. I thought that was part of the upgrade over the years. So it is a concern because it was an editorial in today's newspaper for those of who you who read it.

And I think it's really important because this is an opportunity if that happens that we are going to be responsible for the storm water for Dunmore to take a lead in doing something environmentally new about rain gardens, about, you know, there's all
these -- they do it out in California. They have very few rainfalls, but when they do, people have them at the end of your gutters you put a barrel. It collects the -- and you could use the water in your garden, to water your grass, and things like that.

So I really implore the seven of you to really think out of the box. And this is a great opportunity for Dunmore to do something environmentally sound with what's going on. My concern -- and I'm sorry again, of, you know, what's happening, like, do we have to be part of what Scranton is doing?

MR. MCHALE: No. We don't want to be actually. I'm not being wise.

MS. NARO: Thank you. That was going to be my next comment.

MR. MCHALE: I'm not -- I'm being serious. Their issues are much greater than ours as you know.

MS. NARO: Right. But one of my concerns is too every time we have a huge downfall, you know, rainfall since I was a kid and even though there's been upgrades, upgrades, with the sewer system and the storm
water, Blakely Street is always a mess when you have a bad rain storm.

And Cindy Morgan's parents' house was destroyed by the runoff of the water this past year. So is Dunmore going to be responsible for stuff like that in the future if the water is not controlled? I really do have a concern.

MR. MCHALE: I a million percent agree with you. As a matter of fact, the areas that you are pointing out are part of the combined sewer system that they bought. So I'm not saying that we're pushing the issue off on them. But it was a major issue that's going to cost major dollars. That's -- if, in fact, is done correctly.

And it's -- as you know, it's an antiquated system. In a lot of cases it's a hundred years old. But again, the combined system itself is --

MS. NARO: Their problem.

MR. MCHALE: Problem, I hate to say that. But it's now with them. The separated system -- already separated system to Mr. Hogan's point is our issue.
MS. NARO: How much of Dunmore is separated?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: We took title to one storm water retention pond connected to a storm swale in Swinick. Our DPW garage is an area that is monitored because of the salt. But the bulk of the combined -- the bulk of the storm water collection systems throughout the Borough, you know, be a tank underneath the parking lot or storm water detention pond say at St. Joseph's, that they eventually go into the combined storm system.

So it's separated at the site for storage purposes but then is introduced into the combined system. And the title of the combined system reads everything affixed thereto. So under that reading, a fair interpretation is we're only responsible I think for five or six items within the Borough currently.

The caveat is, you know, we discussed at prior meetings that the federal regulations will continue to unfold as they did with the Chesapeake regarding the CSOs. It may be extremely expensive and a lot of it is
environmentally good because now people are finally thinking of separate storm water. I know in a conversation with Mr. Barrett over the weekend we reviewed about 10 years of plans of the Scranton Sewer Authority and Dunmore have reviewed for rain gardens, not using impervious surface, you know. Anymore the trend now is to pave some but then gravel the --

MS. NARO: And put grass also and make sure you have flowers and things like that which Dunmoreans love to just -- when I want to do something, let me just pave because it's cheaper. It's easier. I don't have to take care of it. But it hurts the environment.

I was going to suggest someone that you may want to talk to and she wrote grants in the past is Joyce Hatalla whom you know. And she's excellent in the environment. But that is an expertise of hers, rain gardens and things of that nature.

She's very busy because of her work. But I implore the seven of you -- you're not going to get 16 million dollars handed to you again. Be very cautious what you do with it.
MR. BURKE: Melanie, personally, I would like to see it go into escrow because I do believe there's going to be big costs and it will be taxed on the ratepayer. The water problems, Mr. Morgan's, I don't think the Sewer Authority will take care of that at all.

I think that will be us the taxpayers that will take care of that. One of the things porous driveways we should implement that into our zoning where any new projects -- we have a new one coming up on Meade Street if everything now be put porous, that will help naturally the flow of the water go back into the ground.

Rain barrels, I already have one. I had them for years. We will all be taxed on this eventually because the storm water will have to be treated because of salt -- naturally there's going to be salt on the road. Who will pay for that? Maybe if we put that money in escrow, we can ease the burden on the taxpayer, the rate payer for that storm water fee which is coming. There's no doubt about that.

MS. NARO: Live off the interest.

If you put 16 million dollars in the bank, you
MR. BURKE: And if we do our own work, Melanie, you buy an excavator, you're talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars for just one excavator to do this work. Bodies of water like Mr. Hogan, he sees it coming down. You're close to Drinker Street. And you see it. Anybody that lives in Dunmore sees it, the problems Mr. Rutkowski{sic} has up there on Drinker Street there.

Sewer Authority did a project maybe 12, 13, 14 years ago. Didn't work. He still gets flooded. That will still happen until Dunmore does something about it. I don't believe the Sewer Authority will get involved. They said they're not to get involved with the storm water. That is us now. So that 16 million will go like that, believe me. And it still won't solve all the problems. That's my opinion. We can try to implement laws with our zoning. And even building has to be porous driveways.

MS. NARO: Even sidewalks. People pave their sidewalks, mind blowing to me. And, you know, they don't put grass out in front at
the curb. And they just pave right to the street.

MR. BURKE: I have two rain barrels, one in the back of my house --

MS. NARO: Maybe you should give the lesson for the Borough. You should do a little greeting, have a little meeting about how to do with the rain barrel. I mean, those are the things that we really as a community have to be thinking.

MR. BURKE: I think people with rain barrels will be equated into the bill, people with rain barrels will be charged cheaper on -- like I said, this is going to have to be treated. This might be going -- this water from our storm water might eventually -- well, it will be going somewhere and eventually be treated. Most likely it will be going to American Water that bought the Sewer Authority because who else is closer to us. So there is bills coming on this.

MR. HOGAN: May I make a comment on the rain barrels?

MR. MCHALE: I'll let you go back up to the -- Mr. Hogan, if you would. We're on
the record. I apologize for making you go up.

MR. HOGAN: I understand that. On the rain barrels -- Bernard McGurl through the Lackawanna River Corridor Association, he offers a program for that. Rain gardens are offered through Lackawanna County through the extension services. As far as pervious sidewalks. Pittsburgh already implemented that many years ago.

And when you addressed Oregon, that's 15 years old. And all they did was they paid -- they went out -- it's not Portland. I forget the township it was in in Oregon. They gave an incentive to the homeowners to disconnect downspouts to go either into a rain garden or a rain barrel. And it was borne by the municipality in which they resided. So there are initiatives that can be taken by the Borough itself should they so desire.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Mr. Hogan. You actually took one -- one out of my mouth. I was going to say Mr. McGurl as well. Real quick, it might be a good opportunity to bring a couple misconceptions that have been out there to put a little fact to some of the stuff
that the Sewer Authority numberswise. We keep throwing 16 million. Just so you guys -- to give you an idea what is in the Borough coffers right now is $17,272,527. That is rounding to 27. That is made up of the initial deposit and there is a second deposit from the savings on bond and fees, not to bore you with some of that stuff.

There are three escrows. And this has been in the paper. There are three escrows that are outstanding at 12 million dollars for possible any legal cost and the easement and stuff like that that are ongoing that you've read about in several columns I'm sure.

A 5 million dollar for indemnity claims just -- I don't want to say just an in case escrow. But obviously you know what an indemnity claim is. And there is a separate 5.3 million dollars put aside for the SSA operation. We have to remain in operation for the next couple years -- possibly couple years until potential health issues with some of the employees, any litigation that could come up, any bills.

At the end of -- when you sold the
authority -- when you sell any type of
business, there is a cashout, used to call it a
capital adjustment where I'm going to tell you
that the outstanding payables are a million
dollars.

And if they come in at 2 million
dollars, well, cash has got to be trued-up one
way or the other. That's part of that. So in
total if nothing -- any of those escrows
balances were touched, our allocation would
come out to $21,732,000 and change.

The big misconception -- and I
wanted to explain this even though I didn't get
the question because -- in case one of the guys
who kills me specifically in the paper in
comments just to be clear, this deal was 195
million dollars.

And Mr. Cummings will tell you, I
shook my head many, many times prior to myself
becoming Chairman for the last year. 195
million was negotiated by Loop Capital. It's a
Chicago based firm. I believe the guy was the
Mayor of Cleveland. Was a very, very well
known company firm. And they, you know, when
we initially thought that this was going to be
sold, it was going to be sold for a couple million dollars literally. So when they came in with 195, obviously everybody thinks the world.

In this 195 -- and I've never seen anything like this. And I'll tell you from my heart, 195 million included $38,340,626 in cash. Okay? So take that net. Obviously if I'm buying something 195, you're getting cash. So really it's whatever it is, 160 just for argument sake.

Which in it of itself is kind of dumb saying 195 million. Where they got the 38 million dollars -- and Tom will attest, I asked especially when I became Chairman for them to prove where that number came from. I have balance sheets from the authority dating back to when I got on and up until today up until I should say two weeks ago, didn't come close to that number.

So when everybody says we lost 12 million dollars, I'm not quite sure where they got the 38. And I said it doesn't matter. Why they say that is because the difference would have to be made up in the sales price.
That's their explanation. Yes, from the time the 195 was agreed to, cash had to be spent whether it be on project, you know, day to day items, inevitably costs that were associated with the transaction. There is significant costs there. And it's in the millions.

So the difference between what the 96 and 24 that we were suppose d to get that was in the papers was adjusted. Now this 38 million again, the numbers I have show 35 million, 32 million, when I got on when I became Chairman, 31 million, 30 million.

So it's a 5, 6, 7 million dollar difference in this placeholder that this guy got. And it's obviously from somewhere. It's into the pennies. But he couldn't figure out why. He said it really didn't matter again because it was adjusted at the end in the cash price.

Now, some of the comments that were there that, well, if that cash was used for a capital expenditure it remains on the balance sheet as well -- not to bore you again -- but remains on the balance sheet. Hundred percent
right. That wasn't in the agreement though. So if the cash was used for something and stayed on the balance sheet it was 195 less the cash balance. So I made the argument and Tom made the argument that just stop spending money.

Well, we have Chesapeake mandates that we're borne to -- had to pay. And a lot of those that the 38 million that he's talking about were funds that we borrowed to pay for these improvements. So it's a misconception and reasonably so that people are questioning why it came a different number.

It came a different number because the guy who negotiated had 195 and he put a placeholder in there that it was false. I don't want to say false. That's a bad word -- that was high. You know, I'm an accountant. I got to prove things out. I couldn't prove it out.

It was off 7 million dollars there. And then the costs associated with the running the business and the costs associated with closing this transaction were significant. That's where the 12 million dollar difference
came. I felt I needed to at least address that because again, with my background I continually get questioned on how I didn't say something. And Tom will tell you and Mr. Hogan will tell you, we hardly ever get anybody at the Sewer Authority meetings and I do a lot of the talking. So just to clarify some of that.

The thought process and my thought process not speaking for the seven members sitting here. We had a preliminary discussion on what to do with this money. And quite honestly it's a good thing we don't have an idea what to do with it.

Yes, do we want to put it away for a rainy day, live off the interest, pave some roads off the interest. We don't know if the landfill will be around forever. That revenue we can't count on. The increase that possibly could come from a storm tax. That's the Scranton Times verbiage. But you never know. We can mitigate those costs with this revenue.

We're in an enviable position that we don't have to pay off pensions, pay off debt. Our debt is in the 2, 3 percent. It's not in the 7, 8 percent. Our pensions are 80,
85 percent funded. They are in pretty good shape. We've invested in our infrastructure, in our fire department, in our DPW, in our police all have new cars and buildings. And we're very, very proud of that, not raising taxes on that as well.

And when we hear that the landfill money did do that, yes, we gave that back. We took criticism for doing that too. But all of that extra money went back to the taxpayers as well. We're not going to -- well, I should say I'm not going to vote for using this money anywhere really other than the interest right now unless it mitigates an increase in the taxes and/or an increase in the rates that the -- that if we were with the Sewer Authority that our rate payers in Dunmore would have paid.

So that's where I think it should go to. There's been speculation on this board 10 different reasons on how to use that. And I think all of us really want to just use it for the best to keep our taxes low, keep our town safe, keep our property values up, maybe invest a little bit in our parks.
But we've done that outside of this money. We're going to continue to do so. So I think that's it. But I did want to get across the whole 195 compared to this 38 million that was out there and that difference was undefined. And really is made -- the difference is made up of running the business for the year and doing a ton of capital improvements and the inevitable cost of doing a major transaction as it was.

I'm not saying I supported it. This board has said it many, many times that we didn't know really -- we knew that it was going to happen. But we tried to hang on and get as much as we can for Dunmore. And in that regard that man right there has done an unbelievable amount of hours to achieve at least what we did.

Do we think that Pennsylvania American is going to be a good partner, yes, we do. The agreement calls for keeping the rates intact. We think it will be much lower than if they were under the Sewer Authority's own running as we did. At least that's what every study by national companies have told us.
And too, the employees were all rehired by Pennsylvania American Water too. So again, are we happy that we have this money? We're looking at it as, you know, it's a rainy day fund right now. And we're going to use it to the best to keep our rates and our taxpayers rates low because we know that we have to govern from an overburdened taxpayer perspective.

So with that, I didn't shut off -- but does anybody else want to address Council before we close?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none, sorry for the long dissertation, guys. Public officials, Tom. Do you have anything tonight?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: No, sir.

MR. MCHALE: Is Mr. Judge back there?

MR. JUDGE: No.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney.

MR. KEARNEY: No.

MR. MCHALE: Chief DeNaples?

CHIEF DENAPLES: Two items tonight. One, we're doing another smoke detector
installation with the American Red Cross on Monday, January 16th. That's Martin Luther King day. So this time we're concentrating from South Apple Street all the way up to East Drinker Street and 380, depending on how many volunteers we get to help with that.

So the American Red Cross recruits volunteers. We have it posted on our Facebook page. We have some fliers set out near the agendas for the Council meeting tonight. And anybody that's interested we'll do a meeting point at St. Mary's Church at 325 Chestnut Street at 9 a.m., on the 16th.

So if anybody knows anybody that would be interested, we do like a briefing with the American Red Cross. And there's no set amount of smoke detectors. So if your house needs five smoke detectors, we install five smoke detectors and do a little fire safety talk with the residents and move onto the next residence.

So it's a really good program. Without the American Red Cross we would never be able to do this. The last time we did an install, in eight hours we had almost 400 smoke
detectors installed. So we hope to do another one later on in the year. Like I said, anybody is welcome to help out that is interested.

One other thing, firefighter Chris Cichocki just applied for a grant that comes out every year through the Pennsylvania American Water Company. It's a nonmatching grant so the Borough if we were awarded it, wouldn't have to put anything in.

So we applied for two items with that grant. One is an injection system for detergent for our gear washer. It actually injects the proper amount of detergent to wash our gear which is something that's been quite needed for quite a while. It was something that wasn't purchased that we needed to spend money. And the grant came along and it was a good thing.

And the other thing is a software system to upgrade our patient care reports for any ambulance assists for the new standards for the Department of Health. So those were the two things we're looking at using the monies for if we're awarded that grant which will probably be awarded sometime at the end of
February. That's all I have for tonight.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Chief.

Mr. Amico, do you want to lead us off?

MR. AMICO: Yeah, two things. First of all, Gary Duncan reached out and said he couldn't make tonight's meeting. It's his daughter's birthday. And he just wants to remind everybody that his meeting the Neighborhood Watch meeting will be next Monday at 7:00 in this room.

And the second thing is for Mr. McGraw as for the impact fee question that you had, Mr. Ruggiero did look into that last week or at the end of last meeting and this is the information that he provided to us. It said impact fees are paid out solely based on the number of wellheads in the county.

The only wellheads that we have in Lackawanna County are in Benton. I guess an example, Susquehanna County has quite a few wellheads. That's why they received millions of dollars and Lackawanna County we don't receive anything.

So regardless of the impact on our roads, our monies that we think we should get
based on things that are deposited here, we're not eligible for any impact fee money. So I just wanted to let you know that. Mr. Ruggiero again reached out to us at the end of -- after the last meeting and gave us that information. So that's all I have tonight, Mike. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

MR. HALLINAN: I just have one thing. Me and Mr. Ruggiero again were talking. And we wanted to come up with some kind of, like, just as we brought up -- and that would be the perfect example like to notify our citizens through a text or somehow. It was funny that Jermyn did it like a month later.

But we were talking about somehow some kind of system almost like our call system for the school district or something where we can hit certain areas and say, hey, listen. Don't be afraid. There's going to be firemen in that area putting in smoke alarms so you have this alert and you know what's going on.

Or, you know, a road is shut down or we have a water main break or something on that effect. So we're looking into that. And that is a perfect example and other things. That's
all I have, Mr. McHale. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Attorney Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: I don't have anything tonight, Mike. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Verrastro.

MR. VERRASTRO: I have nothing.

Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: Nothing.

MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli.

MS. SCRIMALLI: I just wanted to ask, Didge, are we pretty much set for tomorrow in case it gets a little sloppy in the morning?

MR. JUDGE: Yeah, we're ready to go.

MS. SCRIMALLI: And I just wanted to thank Mr. Cummings and our Chairman. Thank you for all of your hard work on the sale of the Sewer Authority. You put many extra hours in. So we appreciate that very much. And that's all I have tonight. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: I think I probably said enough. So I'll look for a motion to adjourn.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that motion.

MR. MCHALE: I have a motion. Do I have a second?
MR. HALLINAN: Second.

MR. MCHALE: All those in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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