COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, March 13th, 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. Connor Cummings.

MR. CUMMINGS: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.

MR. MCHALE: Here. Never gets old, Connor, does it?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public comment on agenda items.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody have anything to discuss on the agenda tonight?
MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve the minutes.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that motion.

MR. BURKE: Second.

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

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

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

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

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve and pay the open bills.

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

MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make that motion.

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

MR. DEMPSEY: 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.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public comment on other items.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address Council tonight?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Duncan.

MR. DUNCAN: Just at the last neighborhood watch meeting -- well, first there's a neighborhood watch meeting next Monday. So certainly everybody is welcome to come.

At the last neighborhood watch meeting -- we don't have a police officer here tonight. There was a situation with the -- Vito, thank God you're here. Maybe you could get the word out for me. I know we're getting snow and everything else; but Tripp Street and
Barton Street, somebody is plowing.

They have a couple suspects. I don't want to say any more than that. But somebody plows all the snow at the back of the bank parking lot. And then what happens is, when it melts, we're getting the ice coming down Barton Street. And it's running down towards Tripp.

And, Tommy, I think you were at the meeting. I know the police will be plenty busy but they asked if the police could keep an eye on that. So I guess we'll just call if we see whoever is doing the plowing so they can at least tell them not to.

Lindsey Ramirez lives in the house next to the bank parking lot. And a lot of that stuff is going right down her sidewalk and just freezing over and all of the debris that goes with it. And that's really it.

MR. RUGGIERO: Tripp and Barton you said?

MR. DUNCAN: Right -- do you know where the Historical Society is? Right there. It comes straight down there. With the little bit of snow we had, whoever is piling it up --
it's quite high. And if we're going to get as
much as they're saying, you know, we'll
probably have 10 or 15 feet of snow piled up
there.

And I'll talk to you later. They
have an idea who it is. But I'll talk to you
later. And then if Joe could be at the next
neighborhood watch meeting just so that Council
is aware. And that's it.

MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Mr. Duncan.
Anybody else like to address Council? Please,
sir.

MR. MURRAY: My name is Leo Murray.
I'm from 711 Fifth Street. I want to give this
to the Council. It's a video tape of July
25th, storm of last year and February 25th,
storm of this year over at that intersection.

We were completely inundated with
water. This is an ongoing problem. Since I'm
there since August of 2007, I had the Scranton
Sewer Authority up there at least 15 times and
that's a conservative estimate of the times
that I had the Scranton Sewer Authority up
there regarding that particular problem.

Since they put the new sewers in
it's worse. The storm that came on the 25th of February inundated my basement. They left me without a sidewalk when they were putting the sewers in. I have no sidewalk on that side. I can't even shovel on that side. It's all gravel.

And my insurance company told me to put the Borough on notice that there is a huge problem over there. And this is what I'm doing tonight. I'm putting you on notice that there is a severe problem over there. Vito has a copy of the tape -- or the disc as does Mr. Lorince.

It's horrible. My neighbors were supposed to come today. But for some reason they're afraid of you guys. I'm speaking for all of my neighbors. We're tired of the problem. The Scranton Sewer Authority never fixed it.

And the guys that are putting the sewers in now, I believe they are sanitary sewers. They made it worse. I have never seen it as bad as I did on February 25th. Thank you very much.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir.
MR. BURKE: On Mr. Murray's problem, I think we should ask the American Water if they could come up and camera. Mr. Murray's told me about this problem many times. I went up. It seems like it did get worse. The last time Mr. Murray called me I went up and I talked to the worker there.

And I told them last time it was cameraed, one of our workers discovered that they had a larger pipe going into a smaller pipe which is wrong. And I asked them, of course, I can't leave my job and stay there and watch that they do it, but if we cameraed and find out if they corrected that problem, I'd like to know if they corrected that problem.

But he does have a worse problem. After all that work and I don't know how much money spent, he has a worse problem than --

MR. MURRAY: I lost irreplaceable stuff in that February 25th. All the other times I never took water in my basement. But February 25th I got killed.

MR. MCHALE: Vito, can you contact Pennsylvania American Water and Michael can you do the same?
MR. DEMPSEY: Yep.

MR. MCHALE: Okay. We'll do everything we can. I knew it was bad up that end. I didn't know it was that bad. We'll make our phone calls first thing tomorrow.

MR. MURRAY: Thank you very much.

MR. HALLINAN: Joe, is that project complete?

MR. LORINCE: No.

MR. HALLINAN: So it's still ongoing. Would you have the foreman of the job go talk to Mr. Murray please and explain that?

MR. MURRAY: No, they're denying anything that -- they said it's not their problem. They said it's the Borough's problem.

MR. MCHALE: Joe, you have to stay on that. This has been going on more than six months.

MR. HALLINAN: And I've seen what you put out there on social media. And it's really -- it's a problem. And it's got to be addressed.

MR. MURRAY: I put the video out because I wanted to draw attention to the problem.
MR. RUGGIERO: No, there's a problem there. Mr. Lorince did contact Pennsylvania American Water who was instructed to call the subcontractor which he did. And I know Mr. Murray had reached out as well. But we will get them the camera activity to see if that problem's rectified. And we'll reach out again, Mr. Murray to --

MR. BURKE: And another thing to watch out for, it's still not paved. So every time it does rain, we're going to get all that mud. The one storm basin is only maybe not only 2 feet deep the one across the street from you.

MR. MURRAY: We have two, one on each corner. There's one on the northeast corner and the northwest corner.

MR. BURKE: Right. So with the road not being paved, we're getting a lot of mud and debris get -- blocking that up very quick.

MR. MURRAY: If you look at that video, the sidewalk -- my sidewalk on Mill Street looked like a stream. It actually looked like a stream it came down so fast.

MR. BURKE: Right. The longer that
goes without pavement, all mud, the bigger problem you're going to have every time it rains. All of that mud is washing right into that because it's the lowest spot.

MR. MURRAY: With the Sewer Authority being sold to Pennsylvania American, I know they are only responsible for the sanitary part of it.

MR. BURKE: Actually they are still -- the combined system which is that is still part of the combined system, they are responsible for that too though. Those basins that are there in front of your house, they're responsible for them.

MR. MURRAY: Oh, okay. I appreciate it. I hate to bring --

MR. MCHALE: No problem.

MR. MURRAY: It's not an insignificant problem because I've been putting up with it since -- in fact, I found out after I bought the house like two years after I bought the house the people that live across the street from me told me the relator when they were showing my house it was flooded back then.
This was 2007 that they had to go in through the garage to get into the house to show the house. So that's going back ten years. That's a long time for a problem. The Sewer Authority they were nice. They came up and cleaned it out every once in a while but it's a repetitive problem.

MR. BURKE: Right. I believe a bigger pipe in that one across the street from you would help a lot. The pipe is only this wide. I don't know if it's 6 inches or 4 inches. But with the mud washing off Mill Street, that's going to block all of the time. You definitely need a bigger pipe. That's my opinion.

MR. MURRAY: Well, anything you could do is deeply appreciated by me and, of course, my neighbors who for some reason, they're afraid to come here.

MR. MCHALE: We're not that bad.

MR. MURRAY: I know.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Mr. Murray.

MR. HALLINAN: Timmy, the project when they go down by say La Cucina and they're going to put there, will that help out there
from the way it dumps through? Is that going to be on the same line as the sewers or the storm water?

   MR. BURKE: From the -- the pipes come past my house already which is supposed to ease the problem for Leo and anybody up in his area. And he has a worse problem now.

   MR. HALLINAN: But I thought they were supposed to put some kind of bigger holding tanks in by La Cucina, like dig that all up and --

   MR. BURKE: Well, what I'd like to see them do is go up by Leo's house, whatever size that pipe is, camera it. Camera that pipe all the way down to as far as they laid pipe so far and they find out if the pipe that they are going to lay down now at La Cucina is going to be bigger.

   Hopefully it's bigger than the pipe -- from what I understood, the pipe across from Leo's house, they put a bigger pipe into a smaller type pipe which will block all the time.

   MR. HALLINAN: It's going to back up.
MR. BURKE: It should have been the same size pipe instead of -- yeah, you don't put a bigger into a smaller. I think we'll have to check to see what they did. It's nothing for them for a camera check to go down. Those lines are really big.

That will be the answer there. And then you could have maybe Joe check it out and see if -- go over the pictures of it and find out if they're doing that putting a bigger into a smaller.

MR. LORINCE: Timmy, who's the spokesman for the Sewer Authority now? Who is in --

MR. BURKE: I mean, you could call the same Sewer Authority number and you could ask for Mark Cross.

MR. MCHALE: And Michael will make calls as well. Anybody else like to address Council tonight? Come up, sir. Good seeing you again.

MR. HETMAN: You too. It feels like it's been last week. Good evening folks, Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County Commissioner's Office. First I just have to
introduce a special guest. This is Kayleigh Cornell, my new coworker. Kayleigh joining our department. She's not going to be doing this meeting. But she'll be attending other meetings around the county the same way I do with Dunmore here.

She's here observing me tonight to see how I do or what I don't do. So hopefully I do a good job.

MR. MCHALE: Welcome.

MR. HETMAN: Most of the items I have here in our packet for the month we covered the last time I was here. So just a few notes relating to the storm, I called Mr. Ruggiero today. We spoke on the phone. And we went over most of the information, which just as a refresher, all county offices will be closed tomorrow for business.

So the courthouse, the administration building, and, of course, 911 will be fully functional but all of the non essential or non emergency offices will be closed tomorrow. And, of course, the Commissioners and the other staff relating to EMA and other agencies will make a
determination later tomorrow based on Wednesday. So keep your eye on our social media accounts, Facebook and Twitter tomorrow whether we'll be open on Wednesday or not. So we'll keep you posted on that front.

I sent Mr. Ruggiero today a PDF copy of the document that our EMA agency has to have regarding a disaster declaration. If the Borough declares an emergency or a disaster due to the snow, we just have to have that signed and returned to us by fax. So he has all of that information.

And just lastly, we ask that the Borough keep track for hopefully possibly reimbursement purposes depending on what the state and federal agencies do. We just want to make sure we have all the totals regarding anything that was spent on the storm. So cost for fuel, cost for man hours, overtime, that type of stuff just try to keep track of it.

And again, if you hire any outside help to plow and clear the streets and the roads, that way hopefully when this is over we can get everything quickly. And some places are better than others. I think Dunmore has
been pretty good with that in the past.

But we're trying to get everybody on
the same page so when the storm is over, we can
get all the information. And if there is a
chance to apply for a disaster aid, we can do
that pretty effectively quickly. So that is
pretty much all we have for now.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you. Good seeing
you. Anybody else like to speak to Council
tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Amico, do you want
to start off tonight?

MR. AMICO: Sure. I have nothing.

Just stay warm and dry tomorrow. That's all I
have.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

MR. HALLINAN: No, nothing much.

But I'm sure just everybody try to be patient
with our plow drivers. It's going to be a
doozy today from what they're saying. And I
hope everybody stays safe. Stay off the roads.
And we'll get through this. That's all I have.
MR. MCHALE: Attorney Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: I don't have anything tonight.

MR. MCHALE: I'll go next real quickly. Didge and I spoke early today. We're going to suspend all the garbage pickup for tomorrow quite obvious I guess but nonetheless officially do that.

All of the DPW will be in whether it be in a truck with snow blowers, with shovels, everybody and anybody will be out there. We're going to see if we can get some private plowers as well. We do anticipate it will be a doozy, so kind of like all hands on deck.

So we're trying to do that as well. One thing outside in talking we have seven trucks. And that's a little bit more than we've ever had before out to do all the roads. But our inventory is relatively new with the exception of our two larger trucks. So, Vito, I'd like to go out and try to get a couple quotes to replace those big trucks from the COSTARS.

MR. RUGGIERO: International? I have one coming.
MR. MCHALE: Something similar and talk to Didge.

MR. RUGGIERO: I have one coming.

MR. MCHALE: Okay. And we can, you know, maybe plan on replacing those too. We have some capital funds in the budget. They have run well but they are 15 years old.

MR. JUDGE: At least 15.

MR. MCHALE: But they are bears. They run great for us. I think that's all I have. Mr. Verrastro.

MR. VERRASTRO: I have nothing tonight. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: Yes. Vito, I was wondering if you did find anything when Sharon pointed out Eddy's Creek the leakage from the landfill and Colleen Connolly said that she sent information to Dunmore. Did anything that Colleen Connolly say ever pop up? Did we ever get anything from what she said?

MR. RUGGIERO: I did. The e-mails -- and I did send an e-mail to Mrs. Cuff as well. I had correspondence from Mrs. Connolly, the DEP. And she is going to
send them electronic. What I did find out from the last time we did receive a hard copy. And the electronic copy came about 10 days after the hard copy.

So I don't know if that is the cart before the horse or vice versa. But it did come. So we're trying to get on the same page with that. But referencing Eddy Creek, the only thing that I found was the documentation that Mrs. Cuff had brought forward to Council. And that's the extent I know about it as well.

MR. BURKE: So everything was like after what she said though. Like, we didn't get it --

MR. RUGGIERO: Yes. She couldn't understand why she said we were carbon copied on it. But I explained to her that that doesn't mean anything unless I get the carbon copy. So that's why we kind of converted everything electronic.

And when I received it from DEP I immediately forwarded it to all of you guys on Council. So I'll keep doing that and to the website so the public could be made aware of it as well. So as soon as I receive it,
unfortunately I can't expedite her sending it to me. But anything I get here from the website goes on our social media and to Council.

    MR. BURKE: Okay. Thanks, Vito. And just on the storm, we met already on the storm. We went over the issues on the contractor and how much the DPW can handle and we're on top of that we talked in our executive session. So we -- just so you know, the DPW is ready. And I hope everybody else is ready. That's all I have. Thank you.

    MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli.

    MS. SCRIMALLI: I just want to thank Didge for the prior storm of February 25th for all the work that you did. That was a horrific storm. And I do think, you know, that this upcoming storm tomorrow just everybody stay safe. And thank you so much for coming. And that's all I have for tonight.

    MR. MCHALE: Mr. Cummings, do you have anything?

    ATTY. CUMMINGS: No, sir.

    MR. MCHALE: Vito?

    MR. RUGGIERO: No, I think you
touched on everything. I do have a question for Gerard. I did find a contact at WNEP -- saying as you said the county offices are closed. The municipal building will be closed as well tomorrow. As you heard President McHale say, we're suspending garbage in the second ward I believe tomorrow because of the storm.

Is there anything that I could forward to yourself or the county that can get it on your web page as well to get out just to more -- to reach out to more avenues to get the word out on behalf of Dunmore? Do you have some kind of municipal thing on there that municipalities can get information to you?

MR. HETMAN: The closest thing that we have, sir, would be our community calendar which normally just lists events that we have. But we could still possibly because it's special circumstances here if you send me kind of a blurb or some type of little informational item, we can look at some way to share that.

MR. RUGGIERO: That's what WNEP because they normally -- I tried to get us hooked up with the school closings so people
could see things on the bottom of the screen
and they told me I'm not a school.

MR. HETMAN: Okay. It will probably
be over Facebook and our social media posts.
So send me something and we'll try to do what
we can.

MR. RUGGIERO: It's tough because a
lot of people who don't follow Facebook or
social media or Twitter, they don't have that
information. And I know Council has talked
about different ideas to get some avenues out
there to get the information across to the
public.

But thank you. I appreciate that.
Didge, we have seven plows ready to go as
Council said, all new shoes on them, all new
blades on them.

MR. JUDGE: We just got five loads
of salt. That's where I just came from.

MR. RUGGIERO: We have a loaded
barn, so we're ready to go. We're going to
watch people on Tripp and Barton Street for
plowing the snow in the middle of the road.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Judge, do you have
anything else, buddy?
MR. JUDGE: No, that's it.
MR. MCHALE: All right. I'll look for a motion to adjourn.
MR. VERRASTRO: Motion.
MR. DEMPSEY: Second.
MR. MCHALE: All in favor?
ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned.
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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