COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:
Monday, January 12, 2015

TIME:
7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:
DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

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

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

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Cummings.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.
MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.
MR. BURKE: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Verrastro.
MR. VERRASTRO: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.
MR. DEMPSEY: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.
MR. HALLINAN: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Nardozzi.
MR. NARDOZZI: Present.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.
MR. MCHALE: Here.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Prior to number three, I'd like to announce we had an executive session this evening. Also at six personnel matters, there will be the singular issue -- there will be the issue of -- the initial issue of appointment of the Borough's representative to the Scranton Sewer Authority. Public
comment on agenda items.

MR. MCHALE: Is there any comments on agenda items tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number four motion to approve the minutes.

MR. NARDOZZI: I'll make that motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll 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: Item number five, a motion to approve and pay the open bills.

MS. SCRIMALLI: 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.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six personnel matters. The first being the Borough of Dunmore's appointee to the Scranton Sewer Authority for a five year term.

MR. HALLINAN: I'd like to make a motion that we appoint Mike McHale to the Sewer Authority.

MR. NARDOZZI: Second.

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

MR. HALLINAN: On the question, I'd like to just add that the reason I'm voting for Mike McHale for this is I think I see what he's done for the Borough. As you know, the Scranton -- Dunmore/Scranton Sewer Authority is
either going to be sold, leased, whatever. I just want to make sure that Mike McHale who understands the numbers knows what's going on down there to keep the Borough residents informed so we can make the, you know, our input be known on the Sewer Authority. So that's why I'm backing Mike McHale for this.

MR. VERRASTRO: This is a nonpaying job so everybody knows. He's doing this -- it's an additional duty he's going to take on. So thank you, Mike.

MR. NARDOZZI: Yeah, it's for a five year term. So I echo what Tommy said as far as what Mike has done here budgetwise financially. The other good part about having Mike McHale on the Sewer Authority is Mike instantly comes back and reports to all Council because he's a member of Council.

So it's more of a hands-on for him and for us. And we would be able to know pretty much every meeting what is going down in the Sewer Authority because obviously they're looking to do something down there. And I would be against -- and I'm just personally saying I would be against any sale or lease of
the Sewer Authority only because I think it will adversely affect our rates in Dunmore and Scranton.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody else 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: Other personnel matters.

MR. MCHALE: None.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Before public comment, Mr. Hetman from Lackawanna County.

MR. HETMAN: Are we on?

MR. MCHALE: We are.

MR. HETMAN: Great. Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's Community Relations Department. To begin this evening, I would just like to thank Council particularly
Solicitor Cummings for accommodating me last month on the conflict of schedule I had to attend another meeting on another matter at the same time that your meeting started.

I saw many of you as I walked in I think the meeting just concluded as I arrived. So my thanks to everyone for accommodating me in that situation particularly where the Solicitor who read my announcements. I appreciate that from all of you.

This month we have a few things as the year starts, some of which follow into the same department, first, Lackawanna River Corridor Association is doing their annual what they call Shiverfest. It's like a winter version of Riverfest. It's a winter, canoe races. It's going to be this Saturday, January 17th.

It accommodates both canoe and kayak racers. And there's a race in the morning. And then there's what they call Thaw Party in the afternoon. And it's again another good event run by the Lackawanna River Corridor Association. I know there are many Borough residents that are active in the organization
and who participate in the Riverfest. This is kind of the same way of thinking just a little bit colder.

Second program that we'll leave a flier for is what we call Learn to Ski and Ride. This a program that was run several years ago by Lackawanna County's Parks and Recreation Department when Montage Mountain Ski Resort was owned and operated by Lackawanna County.

As that's no longer the case even though it's under private ownership, Commissioner's Office and those of us who come to meetings still getting questions from folks that remember the old program. They say is there anyway we can get some type of lesson package like that the way it was a few years back.

So last year and now this year for the second ski season, the private ownership does offer basically the same package for roughly the same price as it had been. They just ask us to help promote it through the Parks and Recreation Department.

So we're just mentioning it here.
And we'll leave the flier for that. Lastly, the Penn State Extension Office in Lackawanna County and Luzerne County runs three programs at this time of the year.

The first Dining with Diabetes Program which helps those with type two diabetes learn how to prepare and cook meals that accommodate their special dietary needs. And then also they offer a series of strength training classes for older adults and their definition of older adults is 40 and up. It's not our office, it's the extension.

But it's a good program for anyone. I know several folks who've done it and it really helps them out a lot. And the older you go I think the more beneficial it is just with daily tasks, simple things like chores and housework, yard work. It's a great benefit to anyone who participates.

And then lastly, they run what they call -- I don't know if we have any commercial vegetable growers here in Dunmore Borough. Every year Penn State Extension runs a program for those in Lackawanna and Luzerne County with that type of business. Maybe if you do some
backyard gardening it could be useful also. But again, those all take place at different times, different places. All three of those programs run through Penn State Extension in Lackawanna County. We'll leave the fliers for all of those. So that's all we have.

MR. NARDOZZI: I have one question.

MR. HETMAN: Sure.

MR. NARDOZZI: Is the county going to run their golf program again this year?

MR. HETMAN: Yes, actually that just came out this week. And we can get that to you. I just didn't bring one this evening. I apologize for that.

MR. NARDOZZI: In the past they did the end of February?

MR. HETMAN: I think that is the same time frame. I apologize for not having that for you. We just got that sent to us actually at the end of last week.

MR. NARDOZZI: That's good. Thank you.

MR. HETMAN: Not a problem. That's all we have.

ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Gary Duncan,
Neighborhood Watch.

MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton Street, Dunmore. First, Happy New Year to everybody, especially on a night like tonight just to still come out and be a participant in the community. Just a few things, I hope everybody got their e-mails. Carol, I still have to get an updated e-mail account from you so I could get the information from the Neighborhood Watch out to you.

And I think everybody else got them from last month when I sent them. I know Vito is not here tonight. But I want to thank again the three Council members who attended our last meeting from December.

And I asked at our last Council meeting if Mr. Lorince could attend the Neighborhood Watch Meeting which will be happening next Monday night. It will be January 19th at 7:00 right here in the community room. Everybody that is here tonight is invited. But I would look forward to Mr. Lorince coming for some questions that the group had from the last one. That's all I have
tonight. Thanks very much.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

MR. DUNCAN: Does anybody need a copy of the minutes from the last meeting?

MR. NARDOZZI: Yeah, if you don't mind. I got the e-mail.

MR. DUNCAN: Anybody else?

MR. VERRASTRO: If you have extras I'll take it.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Is there any announcements from Representative Farina's office?

MR. VALVANO: Good evening, Council, David Valvano from Representative Farina's Office. Last month, Councilman Verrastro asked if there was any funding out there for the traffic light being -- the Borough has a pretty significant, you know, contribution when your traffic lights have to be maintained.

I contacted PennDOT. I got some information from George Roberts on some grant funding that is available and passed it along to Councilman Verrastro and to Vito he has a copy. I also just gave President McHale information on the DCNR Grant that's opening up
in two days, January 14th, for Parks and Recreation. So he has a copy of that. He could share it with the rest of the Council.

Also Representative Farina on the third Friday of every month is going to have an American Legion Service Officer here at our district office from 10 to 4 for anyone who has any type of veterans issue. Jeff Saunders will be here to help veterans with anything they need filling out any forms and whatnot.

We'll also have a Medicare rep here to answer any of the seniors' Medicare questions on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 1 to 4. And I'd also like to thank Council for the gentleman Mike Falzone who helped with our office and getting it set up. He did a fantastic job. He should be commended. And Happy New Year to everybody.

MR. NARDOZZI: Dave, one quick question, it's great to see you coming to our meetings because like for the same reason we put Mike on the Sewer Authority we can actually -- if something is going on we're going to know right here. Is that going to be a standard practice for the office?
MR. VALVANO: Yeah. You're stuck with me.

MR. NARDOZZI: There's nothing wrong with that.

MR. VERRASTRO: I'd like to thank you for the information.

MR. VALVANO: No problem.

MR. VERRASTRO: If we can get the full 50 percent or even 25 it will be a help to us.

MR. VALVANO: Right. An open line of communication we would like to see that continue as well. So thank you.

ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number seven, public comment on other matters.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address Council tonight?

MS. DEMPSEY: Michele Dempsey, Jefferson Township. I -- Happy New Year. I haven't seen everybody in a while. Just so -- just a quick question. It was stated at a prior meeting -- a prior council meeting that if the host municipality agreement passed that some of the funds be used towards an
environmental lawyer. And I was just wondering what the status of this might be.

MR. MCHALE: We as a Council last meeting said that we would put the equivalent of one cent of the tipping fees towards costs associated with the landfill which equates to about $25,000 a year.

MS. DEMPSEY: So that's not specific to an environmental lawyer?

MR. MCHALE: Nope. That's what Council voted on last week -- or last meeting I should say.

MS. DEMPSEY: Okay. I just thought at that one meeting that it was specifically towards an environmental lawyer.

MR. BURKE: I mentioned an environmental engineer. That's what Attorney Jones told me would be a good way to put the money.

MS. DEMPSEY: That's great. That's very helpful but different.

MR. VERRASTRO: It's for whatever is needed. If any question comes up, we're putting money aside to address whatever concerns we have that may come up.
MS. DEMPSEY: Just for the record, the money that one time we were told would be used toward environmental lawyer is not being used for an environmental lawyer.

MR. MCHALE: It's not yet.

MR. VERRASTRO: It could be an environmental lawyer but we're not going to limit it to just an environmental lawyer.

MR. MCHALE: We have an engineer's report that we're waiting on. I'm going to speak personally, that's what -- I would like to see what they say first and get their recommendations on where we go next personally, not Council.

MS. DEMPSEY: So that 25,000 would be if he needed an engineering fee and at the same time an environmental lawyer was needed, no more than 25,000 be expended in a year.

MR. MCHALE: You said that. I didn't say that.

MS. DEMPSEY: I'm just wondering.

MR. MCHALE: No.

MS. DEMPSEY: I'm just trying to clarify.

MR. MCHALE: It will be at the
majority of Council if they choose to move somewhere -- we've handled our finances well over the last several years. So if we need to expend funds where we want to expend funds we have a little bit of cushion.

MS. DEMPSEY: It's possible.

MR. MCHALE: Yep.

MS. DEMPSEY: But it's --

MR. VERRASTRO: We're talking about putting a minimum of that 25 -- approximately 25,000 per year into something so it's there. It may not be used for 10 years. It may have to be used in two weeks.

MS. DEMPSEY: So if -- okay, I'm just concerned especially with no sort of environmental protection in the agreement of not having a lawyer specifically designated because I thought that's what had been discussed. Okay. Thank you.

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

MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson Avenue, Dunmore. I want to follow up on Michele's question. So there's obviously been a bunch of people in the Borough concerned
about the landfill issue. Would it be all right to work with Council and have some kind of general framework that if there was an item we thought was worthy of the Borough's consideration for evaluation of using that money that there'd be like a kind of process we can use?

Like right now who would we -- how would we go about that, like, hey, this is something maybe the Borough -- would we e-mail, call? Can we come up with some kind of process so we know what is going on?

MR. MCHALE: I have no problem with that, Pat. I think every time you texted me or e-mailed me I answered you.

MR. CLARK: Yeah, just so it's formal so we know like, hey, this might be worthy if the Borough look at that money and use it for that.

MR. MCHALE: Of course, of course.

MR. CLARK: So we would have some type of resident or The Friends of Lackawanna saying here's a consideration for you guys to look at.

MR. MCHALE: Sure.
MR. CLARK: And then if the majority agrees that would be something you would look at.

MR. VERRASTRO: It's just like what you're doing. Being that it's going to be an expenditure we would have to come to a meeting and we would have to vote on doing it and --

MR. CLARK: Sure.

MR. VERRASTRO: -- so it's basically what we're doing now.

MR. CLARK: Okay. We can communicate and say here's the details, here's the resources we're looking for; yes or no and --

MR. MCHALE: I think -- and knowing you the short time that I do, I think you could say we haven't put a barrier on anything that you've asked for.

MR. CLARK: No. I just want to know the process going forward.

MR. MCHALE: Of course, we're open, Pat.

MR. CLARK: Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you. Anybody else like to speak tonight?
MR. MCHALE: Seeing nobody.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

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

MR. NARDOZZI: I just have one thing. I just want to remind everyone that next week, I believe Monday is Martin Luther King's federal holiday. And the DPW will be off so all collections will be one day behind schedule for everybody. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MCHALE: Quickly, before I forget -- not that I would forget, if you guys could keep -- Mr. Ruggiero is not here tonight. His son had major surgery and got out about a half hour ago. We're still waiting to hear how he's doing. But at 12 years old to have major reconstructive knee surgery, just keep him in your thoughts and prayers if you would.

On a much lighter note, tonight we did have the salt trucks go out at about 5:00, 6:00 when I texted you guys. And my road was pretty icy. So we just figured get them out tonight. We're going to try to get them out at
5 a.m. tomorrow as well, not that it's horrible out there, but it seems to be freezing as quick as we put it down. So the guys are out as we speak just so you guys know. Mr. Hallinan, would you like to go next?

MR. HALLINAN: Yeah, as you all know we as a Council for the -- we waived the $150 garbage fee this year. In no way was that amnesty because I have people asking me and I just want to clarify that for everybody. We are going to go after -- there is over 300 -- close to $300,000 in outstanding fees.

So as the Borough, it would be lax on our part to not go after this money. I mean, the people that paid it wouldn't be fair to them. So we're going to go after this and actively collect it. And, I mean, it's a lot of money $300,000 that, you know, should be here helping the Borough or whatever endeavors we're looking at.

And some people think they just don't have to pay. And again, we're not here to embarrass anybody. We're not going to, you know, do anything like that. But we're going to go after it and due process as we're led by
the Solicitor and Mr. Ruggiero will help us
with that. Correct, Tom?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes, sir.

MR. HALLINAN: Thank you. So that's
I just want you to know that's one thing. Vito
is in our prayers. His son's at CHOP, which I
lived there for two years. Let me tell you
it's a wonderful place. You pray you never
have to go there. And I hope everything is
good with young Frankie. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Hal. Attorney
Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: I don't have anything
tonight, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Verrastro, do you
want to go next?

MR. VERRASTRO: I like to thank
everybody for coming tonight. Also if possibly
we can do it if we can send a letter to Leonard
Verrastro thanking him for the service that he
gave the Borough for the last five years.

MR. MCHALE: Absolutely.

MR. VERRASTRO: I just think we
should do that. We always do anyway. I just
thought I'd bring it up. And thank you for
coming. Nothing else.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: I have nothing tonight, Mike.

MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Just tonight I'd like to thank everyone for coming, wish everyone a very Happy New Year. And regarding your appointment on the Scranton Sewer Authority, Mike, I do look forward to your input.

I think the changes that you could probably make would be very welcome. And I do want to thank Mr. Verrastro -- Mr. Leonard Verrastro for his years of service. And that's all I have tonight. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Real quickly let me follow up on what Carol said about the Sewer Authority. I did not seek that position, believe me. I do thank Leonard as well for his service. It's easy to take position. But the way that I look at this appointment is going to be a voice of this Council.

I think even though it's an independent body that, you know, you can do
what you want. I think it's the majority of Council who is going to dictate any way that I vote. And I could promise you that in public on the record.

So secondly and finally, there was an editorial by our Scranton Times over our backdoor dealings with getting a computer lab. Which it's tough. I don't want say much because last time I commented on the Scranton Times I got called a baby by the Scranton Times, not even the comments.

But to tell you the name of the family is Peter Sabia's family. I'm looking at you, Kyle, because I know you're going want to know this. His daughter Lisa came to us when Vito came up with the idea of the computer lab and offered their service.

They did not want to be known. But they did not want us to be dragged through the mud both by the printed media and I understand a radio host had an hour or two on it as well. Can't thank them enough. I hate to scare away people who like to donate to their hometown.

A lot of people do it without a lot of fanfare. These people did not want it. But
they gave us the authority to release their name and I thank them. Publicly there will be a plaque on the wall in there.

I think there's upwards of 15 to 20 computers going in there. As you walk out today it was recarpeted. This room will be recarpeted as well by the way this week. And the tables are in already. I don't know if they are in the room yet. Chris, are they in the room yet?

MR. KEARNEY: They're coming tomorrow at 8:00.

MR. MCHALE: Coming tomorrow at 8:00 to be delivered. It's all wired up. So thank you again for the Peter Sabia family and specifically daughter Lisa who is graciously giving the hardware and the upkeep of the machines. So did not want to be public but they allowed us to do so. And I thank them for it. That's all I have. Anybody else quickly?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Look for a motion to adjourn.

MR. NARDOZZI: So moved.

MR. MCHALE: Second?
MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned.
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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