COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:
Thursday, December 8, 2014

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
PATRICK LOUGHNEY, MAYOR
THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

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

MR. NARDOZZI: Can you please remain standing for a moment of silence for Mrs. Madlyn Mecca who lost her life tragically last week in that house explosion.

(Moment of Silence.)

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: Here.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.

MR. MCHALE: Here.
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number three is public comment on agenda items.

MR. MCNADEL: Does anybody have any comments tonight on agenda items?

(No response.)

MR. MCNADEL: Seeing none.

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

MR. NARDOZZI: I'll make that motion.

MR. HALLINAN: I'll second.

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

(No response.)

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

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCNADEL: Opposed?

(No response.)

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

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

MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make that motion.
MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll second that.

MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a second. On the question. 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 on personnel matters to promote firefighter Todd Flaherty to the position of full-time status.

MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll second it.

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

MR. VERRASTRO: Yeah, just so that everybody is aware that in the middle of the year we made part-time firefighter Flaherty an active reservist. We worked with the union. We have a minimum Manning Clause of 15 men they say on the floor per their union. It's in their contract.
We're at 14 and one active reservist. They allowed us to use him as an active reservist to finish out the year, kind of -- just so when we started this year out we weren't going to have to worry about prorating stuff, things like that. And it was a little cheaper for us because we didn't have to start paying into his pension yet.

But technically he's supposed to be a full-time fireman, not an active reservist. So -- and I would like to thank the union for working with us and doing that. And it's -- part of the agreement is we would make sure it was done by the end of the year.

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: Item number seven
is a motion to approve the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Project that will add an additional lane to 1-81 North off-ramp onto Drinker Street for right and left turns.

In addition, the plan will add or improve crosswalks and a traffic signal at this intersection to help alleviate some of the congestion of vehicles coming off of 1-81.

Included in this project will be a slight realignment of Meade Street to better suit traffic flow coming on and off of Drinker Street.

MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that motion, Mr. Cummings.

MR. NARDOZZI: I'll second it.

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

MR. HALLINAN: On the question, I would like to just say I worked with PennDOT and this -- I think this is a big safety improvement for that area. If anybody knows coming off I-81 northbound, get-off ramp coming into Dunmore how frustrating it is to wait your turn to go left and everybody comes up the right and passes you and turns around in
Mr. Ehnot's yard.

It's a tragic -- it's a really bad area. And Mr. Burke also a neighbor there complained about how his vehicle has been hit several times during the last few years. So I think this is nothing but an improvement for that area and for I-81 and for the citizens of Dunmore.

MR. VERRASTRO: I agree with you, Hal. And I believe something needs to be done. And I personally think that being that it's a state road that they should either reimburse us later on when the warranty runs out or just pay for the upkeep of the sign -- the signal.

That's my concern about it.

That's the only reason why I don't want it is just for the expense of it, not the monthly expense of the electric bill but the maintenance expense. That's my only -- and I had -- I actually talked to Mr. Valvano here tonight about it. Hopefully he'll be able to work something with that.

MR. MCHALE: Quickly, I just add what Sal said. I agree with Sal wholeheartedly. For clarity purposes, the
contract that -- the work that's going to be
done on both ends of the bridge more or less is
going to be paid by PennDOT. What Sal is
talking about is the upkeep which I'm not happy
about either.

I think everybody now knows that all
of the O'Neill Highway will be redone as well
and a lot of that maintenance is going to fall
on us in future years which I really don't
understand. But it is state policy. They do
it everywhere, not just Dunmore.

So I struggle with this as well.
This is something that's been on our plate for
about a year. But I do think we need to move
forward because I have seen some horrific
accidents up there. I do think it's a death
trap that PennDOT believes this will take care
of it and I'm going to support it tonight.

Anybody else on the question?

MR. BURKE: Yeah, just for the
safety reasons I agree with you on that, Mike,
it's very dangerous there pulling out of there.
And that's why I'll agree with it. And I do
worry about Sal's concern too, but safetywise
I have to agree.
MR. MCHALE: Anybody else?

(No response.)

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

MS. SCRIMALLI: Aye.

MR. BURKE: Aye.

MR. NARDOZZI: Aye.

MR. HALLINAN: Aye.

MR. DEMPESEY: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

MR. VERRASTRO: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: I vote aye as well.

Tommy, 6-1.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Thank you. Mr. Hetman from Lackawanna County is running late. So he has asked for me to inform you that the Adopt An Angel Program which provides Christmas gifts for children in the care of Lackawanna County Office of Children and Family Services is seeking sponsors for the 2014 season.

Individuals, families, community groups, and businesses can sponsor one or more children in need. The office asks that one hundred dollars be spent per child for gifts.

In 2013 the program allowed more than 700
children in the care of Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services to receive Christmas gifts.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a child can contact Lee Dougherty by calling 947-5519 or by e-mail. And I'll have that after the meeting if anyone is interested and we can put it on the Borough site tomorrow if you so direct.

The other item is the Lackawanna County Emergency Services has recently installed a NextGen call handling system upgrade. Most of the upgrade is technical behind the scenes allowing calls to be processed in a quicker and more efficient fashion.

One large improvement is that users can now reach 911 via text messaging on the Lackawanna County system. To reach 911 in an emergency users simply need to text 911 and details of the emergency. Texts will be received by the dispatchers of 911 and they will act appropriately and accordingly.

I note that Mr. Valvano from Mr. Farina's office is here. Do you have anything
this evening?

MR. VALVANO: Yes, Representative Farina would like to thank the Borough, Borough officials for a smooth transition. The office is up and running. And we really appreciate all your efforts. And he also would like to invite all the Borough officials on December 19th at 6:00 for an open house.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

MR. VERRASTRO: What time?

MR. VALVANO: Six.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Duncan, anything on Neighborhood Watch before we commence with public comment?

MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton Street, Dunmore. Just briefly on the Dunmore Watch, did everybody get the e-mails? I sent everybody an e-mail -- a copy. But I know, Hal, you were nice enough to e-mail me back. Did anybody not get a copy? All right. I have extras.

MR. NARDOZZI: I didn't get it.

MR. DUNCAN: Paul, you didn't either?

MR. VERRASTRO: I don't think I did.
MR. DUNCAN: I thought I sent it out to everybody.

MR. VERRASTRO: When did you send it?

MR. DUNCAN: 11/18.

MR. VERRASTRO: Then I might have. MR. DUNCAN: They are buried somewhere in your account. Who did not get one on Council?

MR. VERRASTRO: I may have gotten it.

MR. DUNCAN: Check your e-mail account. Do me a favor if you did get it, can you just send me an e-mail back that you at least receive it? Otherwise -- or if you updated or changed your e-mail accounts if there is different ones than I previously had so we're able to still get them to you.

MR. NARDOZZI: The one you sent me might have went into Spam that deletes after a day.

MR. DUNCAN: After the meeting can you just verify the right e-mail?

MR. NARDOZZI: Absolutely.

MR. DUNCAN: After the meeting. I
don't want to leave anybody out. I know Vito
is over there in the corner. You and I will
talk tomorrow if we don't get inundated with
other things. But get in touch with me and
we'll both do these together.

The next Dunmore Neighborhood Watch
Meeting ironically is a week today 7 p.m., you
know, the same thing as always. Everybody is
more than welcome to come. Mayor Loughney is
here tonight. So it would be great if you want
to join us. We certainly welcome having you
then.

And I have one other question from
the last meeting and I know I spoke to
President McHale, the budget from the last
meeting, Mike, are we going to talk about that
tonight?

MR. MCHALE: Tonight?
MR. DUNCAN: Yeah.
MR. MCHALE: No. Next meeting we're
going to vote on the budget. Council is still
working on several items, health insurance
being the most major of those open items.

MR. DUNCAN: Okay. All right.
That's it for me. Thanks everybody. I hope I
see you all next Monday night at 7:00 right here in this room.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Next on the agenda is a presentation from Friends of the Forgotten.

MS. FAATZ: The Friends of the Forgotten are planning to erect a memorial for the Korean War veterans. We noticed that Lackawanna County has no memorial for the Korean Vets. We asked permission to Dunmore Borough about two years ago. We wrote a letter to Mayor Loughney.

But we need permission from Dunmore Council to erect this memorial. We plan on erecting it at the tank in Dunmore on the right-hand side. We spoke with Mr. Arnone who is very much in favor of it. We spent many hours refurbishing the tank in preparation for the memorial. We plan on -- I can't talk in front of people, I'm sorry.

MR. NARDOZZI: You're all right.

MS. SCRIMALLI: You're doing a great job.

MS. FAATZ: We want to also replace the lighting system. We want to place it
in-ground instead of up because of traffic situation because when traffic is coming towards that area towards Wheeler Avenue and Blakely Street with the lights, we want to put the lighting underground.

In future time we would also like to replace the flagpoles. We would like to put more flagpoles up to represent the six armed forces. The sixth one will be the Merchant Marines. And we would be willing to keep it up. And we ask Dunmore Borough to approve this project for us. And that's it. Do you want to know the dimensions and all of that?

MR. NARDOZZI: What were you planning on putting up, Dee?

MS. FAATZ: The memorial would include 2 and a half foot by 4 and a half foot by 8 inches granite base upon which a 2 foot by 4 foot by 12 foot tall black granite structure capped with a 2 and a half foot by 4 and a half foot by 6 inch -- sandblasted to white granite black.

The top of the structure would be a US soldier made of bronze. The soldier would have a green patina and stand approximately 30
inches tall. So it would stand approximately 7 feet tall.

Our organization has already obtained Steve Colley who is an artist in residence at Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock and he's also in residence at Marywood University. And he is the sculpture.

He is doing all of his work at Marywood University. He's doing the sculpturing. He's doing everything at the University. And we obtained Parise Monuments in Carbondale who is doing the base for the memorial.

Parise Monument has asked if Dunmore would possibly do the base for us -- the foundation for us. If Dunmore would approve that, it would save us a thousand dollars. So all we need is approval from Dunmore and we can begin our donation process.

We can't do anything unless we have your approval. So we ask that we get your approval tonight.

MR. MCHALE: Tom?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: I would suggest -- And I'm a hundred percent in favor but I would
suggest that you get a sketch drawing and a 
written description that we can reply on and 
carry into the future. And I suggest that you 
have the engineer review it with regard to the 
property, the metes and bounds of the property 
and the line-of-sight triangle so that the 
Friends of the Forgotten and the Borough of 
Dunmore are not held liable for anything that 
happens.

MR. MCHALE: Would it put you out if 
we did this in two weeks at our next meeting if 
we approved it at the next meeting? Would that 
be okay? I think we're all in favor. I could 
tell you if -- I'll secure a thousand dollars 
worth of donations for your base.

MS. FAATZ: Okay.

MR. MCHALE: So but the approval by 
Council if we can get those things just to make 
sure that we're okay and we'll approve it at 
the next meeting?

MS. FAATZ: Okay. What do you need 
now?

MR. MCHALE: Tommy, what exactly do 
you want?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: A sketch and then a
written description as you said it this evening.

MS. VERRASTRO: We need the specs for it.

MR. MCHALE: Just like a rough drawing --

ATTY. CUMMINGS: So we know where you want to put it.

MS. FAATZ: Well, the specs is in the letter that we sent to Mayor Loughney.

MAYOR LOUGHNEY: I have the letter here. They are looking for a schematic drawing of it.

MS. FAATZ: Okay. The only drawing I have is of the soldier. I could call Parise Monuments and have him draw --

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Do you have an idea where you want to put it on the site?

MS. FAATZ: It would be on the right side of the tank.

MR. HALLINAN: On the La Cucina side.

MS. FAATZ: We're going to move the one that's there on the left side. And we plan on putting the memorial on the right side.
MR. FAATZ: All the names would be on it. Everyone that had passed away from Korea.

MS. FAATZ: There is 57 casualties from the Korean War. We're going to have three sides of granite on the base which will list the names of all the Korean Vets that died in the Korean Casualty.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Perhaps contact the Code Office and that way they could define the clear line-of-sight triangle at the intersection so you could put it in the right place.

MR. VERRASTRO: I'm sorry, could you go up there for a minute so --

MS. FAATZ: He knows more --

MR. VERRASTRO: Ed, you have to say your name for the record for us, please.

MR. FAATZ: Ed Faatz, F-A-A-T-Z. I'm the President of the Friends of The Forgotten.

MR. VERRASTRO: What we're looking for if you could call the monument people that are doing it for you I'm sure they are familiar with the process. Ask them to give us the
size and the weight of the structure so that we can give it to our Code Office to make sure that it's not going to affect the line-of-sight for anybody coming up to try to get -- stuff like that.

And the only other thing is, we're going to need a placement because there is underground there. I know for a fact because I installed it. When we did the tank I donated all of that. So there is pipes under there.

And I have an idea and a memory where they are. I could lay those out for you because if you are going to dig a hole 4 feet, you're going to hit them. There is actually -- the black top is underneath that stone that is there.

This isn't going to be on the public utility side, all of those wires you're saying you're going to -- there is already underground there. I don't know what they did 20 years --

MR. FAATZ: We want to upgrade the electrical to current standards. If it was done two years ago, things change. We want to upgrade the electrical. Like Dee said, everything will be underground so it's not
blinding the drivers coming through.

And we can get better lighting on the flags and the tank and the memorial that way. Another possibility we have contact with someone who could provide a surface like an artificial surface like astro turf, something like that so it's safer to walk on than the rocks that are presently there.

So we want to take care of that.
The granite has already been ordered from India. There is only two places in the world where you could get the black granite. So we ordered that from India rather than from China.

It's the same granite that is used down at the Vietnam Memorial at Washington, DC.

Parise Monuments has countless structures throughout the nation. They're fabulous. And they will provide a site map and all of that, everything you need for it.

We're just hoping we can get, you know, at least a tentative approval so we can start the fundraising because it's going to take a while to raise the money for it. And we would like to dedicate this the Saturday after Memorial Day, 2015.
It's not going to be as heavy as people might think because rather than have one solid piece of black granite, there will be four walls that will be epoxied together. The face as you first look at it will have the main name plate, Korean Memorial for Lackawanna County.

And then the 57 names are going to be etched on the other three sides. They will be etched similar to the Vietnam Memorial in that you could take a paper and charcoal and get a rubbing off it of a name if somebody wants to.

We also plan to advertise throughout the media for any names that people have that maybe we don't have on our list. We don't want to miss anybody. But we're going to leave space. In case a name is missed, we can add it the future.

We tried to get everything done. But, you know, time is of the essence right now.

MR. VERRASTRO: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MR. MCHAILE: Please.

MR. VERRASTRO: I'd like to make a
motion tentatively that we -- we're going to allow the monument to be placed contingent upon Council's okay for the actual placement of the monument.

MR. NARDOZI: I'll second it.
MR. MCHALE: I have a motion --
MR. VERRASTRO: Is that worded properly, Tom?
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes.
MR. MCHALE: Tom, I have a motion and a second. I have to open it up to public comment?
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes.
MR. MCHALE: Would anybody like to comment on this?
(No response.)
MR. MCHALE: Seeing none, I could move forward with the vote, Tom?
ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes.
MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a second. 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.

MR. FAATZ: Thank you.

MS. FAATZ: Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: I wish you luck.

MR. VERRASTRO: Thank you.

MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Other public comment on non agenda items.

MR. MCHALE: Would anybody like to speak tonight?

MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson Avenue Dunmore. Just wondering since the last meeting is there any update on the host fee agreement with Keystone Sanitary Landfill, is it signed? Is it formal? Is it done?

MR. MCHALE: No.

MR. CLARK: Is there any status update on that?

MR. MCHALE: You reached out to me during the week. I did speak to our attorney who is -- I guess a letter has been sent from Keystone to Mr. Lorince as far as I know. And
they hope to answer by the end of the week.
That's all he said to me. He hasn't gotten
into it.

MR. CLARK: It's not a signed
agreement right now?

MR. MCHALE: I haven't got a copy.

Vito, is it --

MR. RUGGIERO: I haven't received
it.

MR. MCHALE: I haven't gotten it
back yet.

MR. CLARK: The contract is not
contingent upon anything with zoning. Is there
any other reason that it would not be signed
yet?

MR. MCHALE: Not that I know of, no.
It was signed by me.

MR. CLARK: Is there any anticipated
timeline from Keystone on this?

MR. RUGGIERO: I could check
tomorrow again. I guess it's when Keystone
wants to sign it. I don't have that answer for
you.

MR. MCHALE: It may have been and
the attorney might have it. He didn't answer.
I didn't get him today when I called back on my way home from work.

MR. CLARK: Since the last meeting have there been -- you said budget was next, right?

MR. MCHALE: Yep, two weeks.

MR. CLARK: Have there been any changes in the budget plan process since the last meeting in terms of expenses or revenue?

MR. MCHALE: No.

MR. VERRASTRO: We didn't have a meeting to discuss it yet.

MR. MCHALE: We haven't met as a Council yet to go through all that stuff. But I handled the budget and we haven't made anything now. I know what you're speaking of. We haven't done anything.

MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you.

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

MR. AMICO: Vince Amico, Adams Avenue, Dunmore. I guess my question is, maybe it was the elephant in the room last week or two weeks ago, but I still can't grasp what the rush was to sign two weeks ago.
You kind of said earlier in the meeting -- you did say earlier in the meeting it was in the paper that the landfill hasn't come to talk to us since 1999. Why were you in such a rush to knock it out last week? We didn't we -- you know, we had a room full of people for the last six weeks which we don't have tonight for obvious reasons.

You had a room full of people that voiced -- were a lot bigger than mine. I thought were a lot bigger than mine. And we seemed in a rush just to sign it. As soon as public comment was over, Mr. Nardozzi made a few comments and then, boom, you put the motion on the floor.

And I still can't wrap my head around it why we had such a rush. There was a lot of things that people brought up on environmental concerns, too much to even mention now. I'm just curious just really what the rush was.

MR. NARDOZZI: I don't think there was a rush at all. This was two months. In talking -- it wasn't that it was done in my opinion in one night. It's a culmination of
two months.

MR. AMICO: Maybe I'm crazy, I thought the way the process works is, you know, you listen to your constituents. You take what they have to stay at heart and sit on it a little bit. I feel it was almost like a dog and pony show last week or two weeks ago that we got up and we spoke as a town.

And it wasn't people just getting up and complaining saying we want more money, we want this. We had some pretty poignant concerns and that was it. And then all right, now we're voting and we're done. Now we're stuck for, you know, for 50 years or however long it might be.

And, you know, I asked earlier, I said why couldn't it be 10 years, 15 years. And Mr. Verrastro he said I don't want to be part of the Council that he leaves all of this money on the table. And I don't think to this day that you would have been part of that Council.

I'm sure there's a reason why the landfill came to you guys and/or came to the Borough and said we're willing to talk now when
they didn't want to talk for the last 30 years. There's a reason for that. And I think we let, you know, I think we kind of got duped. That's all I have to say.

MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Vince.

MR. NARDOZZI: Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody else like to speak tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none. Mr. Cummings.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Genovese, would you like to say anything tonight?

MR. GENOVESE: Nothing, thanks.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Ruggiero.

MR. RUGGIERO: No.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney.

MR. KEARNEY: Nothing.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Marchese.

CHIEF MARCHESE: No.

MR. MCHALE: Is Didge here? Mr. Judge, I'm sorry, I didn't see you.

MR. JUDGE: No.

MR. MCHALE: We'll start with Carol
tonight. I'm sorry, Mayor Loughney, I almost went right over you. I apologize.

   MAYOR LOUGHNEY: That's all right. I would just like to send my sympathy and condolences to the Mecca family and all of those that were displaced in the fire and explosion. It's a sad thing anytime anything happens like that around the holidays. It's just not right.

   I would also like to thank our police department, our fire department, and DPW and all the utilities that were involved and all the extra firefighters and EMTs from the surrounding areas that came down and helped and Chris Kearney for doing an outstanding job down here with the relocation of some of those residents. I would like to make that known. Thank you.

   MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just to quickly -- Carol, I don't mean to cut you off, to echo what you said Mayor. You know, you sit and think of the tragedy that happened up there and how bad it could have been. And God rest Mrs. Mecca's soul.

   But there were cops up there and
firefighters up there a couple minutes before that happened evacuating everybody. And if they didn't use their professionalism and do their duty to get those people out of there, just think of how many people could have lost their lives.

I know Billy Jordan was there. I know Gars was there. Mike Igo, Bon was there. The firefighters that was on I think the A shift was on. Just thinking about how bad it was, how bad it really could have been -- and you know, you often think about having a full-time fire department, a full-time police department.

And, jeez, did it pay off in spades the other night. And I thank them for the service they do. It usually is a thankless job. But, you know, I thank you again. And Chris Kearney and Vito who both got the call 3:00 in the morning and were speaking to me at 11:00 that night as the last two people left this room to get into a hotel.

So hats off to you guys as well and you don't look for praise but you deserve it. So to anybody that I missed as well, Didge,
that ice that was up there, to get your guys
up there in short order to -- I know the
firefighters and the police were sliding all
over the place.

Hats off to everybody on a tragedy
that could have been a lot worse and thank you
to all of your guys. Carol, I'm going to turn
it back over to you. I apologize.

MS. SCRIMALLI: No, no, no, that's
okay. Actually I just would echo your exact
words and also, Mayor, you couldn't have said
it better. I just want to thank all of you who
did help at the scene of that horrificness.
Thank you so much.

My heart goes out to the Mecca
family and all the people that were displaced.
That's all I have.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: I would like to echo
what everybody else said too. And, Vito, I
know Vito and Chris were here because I was
with them to see the last four people off. Do
you know if Red Cross has found a home for the
people who went to the --

MR. RUGGIERO: I wasn't updated,
Tim, as far as Red Cross goes for placements of the residents that were -- the structure that burned. They said they would keep us updated. But I didn't receive a call, not as of yet.

MR. BURKE: You didn't hear anything yet?

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: We can't hear what you're saying. Speak into the mic. That's what you guys have them for.

MR. BURKE: Sorry about that. I was just asking the question if the other people that were here have gotten into a home if Red Cross found a placement. Can you give us an update on it tomorrow, Vito?

MR. RUGGIERO: I'll call the Red Cross. I only know as much as they tell me. I did speak with the gas company today, Dom Brominski who is the director of the Wilkes-Barre office will handle all of the operations up here. Just for clarity purposes, they camaraed the line.

They extracted the broken pipe -- the pipe that was there. They camaraed the rest of the line. They put a new piece in. That's the only status that's an ongoing
investigation within the gas company.

They have to send that piece of the pipe to a lab they told me. So it will probably be some period of time before they come up with a conclusion of what caused it.

MR. BURKE: Okay. Thanks, Vito. Vito was here. Thanks for all the work you did. I seen you in action and you were fantastic. And Chris staying here comforting these people and especially the Red Cross too.

The Red Cross had the food and gave them extra food. The police department taking up there and trying to make them feel as comfortable as they could be in this tragic situation. All the departments did a good job; Didge with the DPW, fire, police, everybody.

And we got to get answers too from the gas company as soon as possible because there are people afraid of this happening again. And it's a scarey situation. And I feel so bad for the Mecca family and anybody that had losses up there.

But we have to get to the bottom of this. And please advise us, Vito, as soon as they come up with a conclusion why this
happened and how we can prevent it from happening again. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Tim. And quickly, Nard, you're probably going to do this. Are you going to thank the people who donated? All the -- there's a lot of restaurants --

MR. NARDOZZI: Tons.

MR. MCHALE: Do you know them?

MR. NARDOZZI: Offhand, the Cara Mia's in Dunmore, the --

MR. MCHALE: Chris, you probably know too.

MR. KEARNEY: Cara Mia's really stepped forward. They served lunch here for all the people. And then they also donated tray of sandwiches for the first responders later in the evening.

Nina Macciocco from Nina's came and did a dinner for everyone. Drinker Pizza wanted to bring some stuff down. And unfortunately we had so much food we had to turn them down. Mrs. Hart brought stuff from the school over to keep people entertained.
Dr. Noto brought his veterinarian experience because we had some animals on the scene. He brought blankets and food and stuff for the dogs and the cats that were here. And we had to turn people away because of all the help. We suggested that they donate to the Red Cross who told us don't give it to the Red Cross, give it to Salvation Army.

So we had the Salvation Army here on Saturday morning taking them out. And I understand there is a fund-raising now up at the First National Community Bank. If people want to donate there, I think it's Friends of the Smith Street Explosion fund. That's all.

MR. NARDOZZI: And just to follow up a little on Chris, a lot of the food Nina brought from her restaurant and a lot of it was also made by Villa Maria in Scranton brought it over too, Joe Macciocco.

MR. MCHALE: So thank you to everybody. Okay. Sal, do you want to go next?

MR. VERRASTRO: I kind of want to echo what everybody was saying. I was at that fire scene. I showed up probably about five minutes after the house actually exploded.
What our fire department and police department did, the way it was run, they worked very well, all the other agencies, all the other departments that came they really did everything that they possibly could have for it.

It was a very tough situation. There was a water main break that night. The road was caving in. They were having trouble finding -- not finding. They recovered so quickly from the water problem. Water was being shut off while they were trying to put a fire out.

They had to relocate hoses from hydrants. It took them all of two minutes to do that to keep everything flowing. They had a debriefing last night. I was at the debriefing for about two hours, two and a half hours it was. PP&L was there.

UGI was there. The water company was there. They went over what was done, a couple things they would like to change to make it even easier for next time. They're going to have two other meetings on that.

UGI and the water company had
some -- were talking a little bit about what happened. Like Vito said, I don't want us to say where they were with that because they are still testing it. I don't want to put something in a direction it's not supposed to go, Timmy.

But we are on it. We're going to make sure we're getting all kinds stuff, information sent to Vito. And we're not going to just let it go. They did say that they retested everything before they started turning lines on in that neighborhood again.

It's a shame what happened. And my heart goes out to the Mecca family with it. And hopefully something like that will never happen again. But having a paid fire department probably saved a lot of lives that night because I got there -- and when I got there, that house on the left wasn't -- it literally went up in seconds.

It just -- when that blew up, there was stuff flying everywhere. And that building -- the adjacent building where all those tenants were that they are having the fund-raiser for -- and it is at FNCB. It went
out of control that fast. It was just like --
it happened and they really stayed on it.
Almost all of our firemen reported to it even
the off duties.

Other than that, I would also like
to wish the Bucks good luck on Saturday. And
thank you for coming. Have a good night.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Sal.

Attorney Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, I'm just going to
basically repeat what everybody else said which
is not a benefit of being at the end of the
list for once this week. But my sincerest
condolences to the Mecca family and also I want
to thank Dunmore Fire Department, you know, the
police department.

Chris Kearney, I came down in the
morning that day. You were running around. I
saw you. You were taking care of people,
taking care of dogs. You did a terrific job.
Vito as well did an outstanding job. Didge,
the DPW, thank, you know, all of the local
business that came together and got these
people food and clothing and, you know,
everything else.
And lastly I would just like to encourage everybody that can, to donate money, food, clothing, you know, these people lost everything. So if you can and are able to donate, I would encourage you all to do that.

And if you need any of that information, I'm sure one of us up here could direct you the right way to go. But that's all I have, Mike. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

MR. HALLINAN: I'm going to echo the same thing. But the Red Cross -- again, you know, I was down here to see Chris. He was cleaning up dog duty in the gymnasium. That was amazing. Vito, our -- our police and fire were outstanding.

They were professionals. It was amazing what, you know, how they explained to me what was going on when we were up there. And I didn't want to be in their way. I stayed behind the yellow tape. But just it was -- the comradery between them and the other -- even the other towns that came and helped was outstanding.

Tommy DePietro came down here
because of people that left their meds there
and came here -- and I mean, I don't want to
talk about the, you know, just the hometown
feeling of somebody that's in the neighborhood
coming down out of his day and says, what do
you need?

And he's offering free meds to these
people which is outstanding. And it's nice to
see. I've received it. I know what's it like.
And there's no better town. I know we have
issues sometimes, Mr. Clark. This town is
outstanding.

We pull together when we need to be
together. And somebody said to my wife Dunmore
stands strong for Dunmore. And it's no other
words are spoken. And I'm glad to see there's
an after-action, Sal.

I would like to be included on what
goes on with the different, you know, like
that. Obviously, they did an outstanding job.
I'm sure there is some things that should be
tweaked. And, God, we pray it never happens
again.

But at least we're doing things
to -- with a follow-up and an after-action
plan. Good luck with the Bucks. And like I said, we have a tragedy on one end and a couple days later we have the Dunmore Bucks that win. And it puts it in perspective when you lose a life. And, you know, I wish the Bucks well. That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. McHale.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Mr. Hallinan. Mr. Nardozzi.

MR. NARDOZZI: I echo what everybody else said. Unfortunately we lost a life last week, very unfortunate. And to the family, our condolences from this Council. It could have been a lot worse. I know Sal and I were up there early on not long after it happened.

I think the only reason you beat me, Sal, is because you live closer. But we got to see firsthand right at the beginning how our police and how our fire department operate and how they worked with other departments. And it's really good to know and see.

And we saw it for ourselves that night, Sal, and you'll agree with me how well they worked together. And like everyone else said, there were other lives that were saved. It wasn't mentioned here but I'll mention it
and Sal can back me up on it.

We had one of our police officers was in the car right in front of the house that blew up. We are very fortunate that nothing serious happened to him. And I believe there was some minimal damage to the car, but we're very fortunate that that officer who was in the car right in front of that house when it blew up -- I'll tell you what, I'm a police officer. I wouldn't want to have been in the car in front of that house when that happened. But -- and another officer was walking down the street half a block away Billy Bonavolgia who got pretty much blown over by the concussion from the explosion.

So I got to see your guys, Sal, worked marvelous everyone that was there; the fire department, Chris -- Chief DeNaples, and everybody that came to help our guys, the off duties, the other towns. It's good to know that in such a tragic moment that we are -- we're pretty much self-sufficient when it comes to public safety.

But sometimes we need help. And as much as we go to other towns and help them, the
other towns came here and helped us in our time of need. And we really appreciate the City of Scranton coming with their fire department. I believe Throop, Dickson City, and Olyphant were also here and Elmhurst they came with their tankers.

Aside from all of that, all the work, our DPW came right out. I know Sal called Didge. I know Didge had other plans for the day but he spent his day at Smith Street. There was other things he was going to do and I appreciate that, Didge.

MR. MCHALE: He was on vacation.

MR. NARDOZZI: He was on vacation and he spent his day up there on Smith Street helping out and doing whatever he had to do with his guys. Chris, what you did down here with everybody was phenomenal.

It was something that was needed. Thank God we have this facility that was able to handle it. And, Vito, what could I say, Vito put long tireless hours in. I know I was talking to Vito one morning at 6:30 in the morning and then 11:00 at night.

That's a pretty long day. So, Vito,
my hats off to you. You did a phenomenal job.
I want to recognize that. But again, it's
unfortunate we lost a life. But it could have
been a lot worse.

Secondly, obviously best of luck to
our Dunmore football team. What a fine example
these young men have presented for us. Who
would have thought that after week one loss to
Scranton Prep that we would even be in this
position today playing for the state
championship.

So I would just like to express to
Coach Henzes, staff, and players the very best
for Saturday. Hopefully instead of watching it
on TV, we'll all be in Hershey on Saturday.
Thank you very much.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you,
Mr. Nardozzi. You just add the Buck sentiment
and I wish them well as well, finer young men
and examples to our youth cannot be better
than these guys have. Best of luck to them.

And again, thank you everybody
involved in tragedy the other day. Look for a
motion to adjourn.

MR. VERRASTRO: So moved.
MR. NARDOZZI: Second.

MR. MCHAILE: We're adjourned.
CERTIFICATE

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