

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, November 23, 2015

TIME:

7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER  
1414 Monroe Avenue  
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

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

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2  
3 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Would you remain  
4 standing for a moment for silent prayer for Mr.  
5 McHale's mother who we laid to rest today.  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 (Moment of Silence.)

9  
10 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.

11 MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.

12 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.

13 MR. BURKE: Present.

14 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Verrastro.

15 MR. VERRASTRO: Present.

16 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.

17 MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

18 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Here.

20 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Nardozzi.

21 MR. NARDOZZI: Here.

22 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.

23 MR. MCHALE: Here.

24 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public comment on  
25 agenda items.

1 MR. MCHALE: Any comment on agenda  
2 items tonight? Sir, if you could come up,  
3 place your name so we have it on record and  
4 your address.

5 MR. ROGATO: Ralph Rogato, 703 Smith  
6 Street, Dunmore, PA. Can you tell me what the  
7 difference between -- in the Dunmore working  
8 budget it says licenses and permits versus  
9 business license and permit what the definition  
10 between the two of them?

11 MR. VERRASTRO: Where are you  
12 looking at?

13 MR. MCHALE: The summary.

14 MR. ROGATO: One says 600 and the  
15 other says --

16 MR. MCHALE: Is it revenue you're  
17 talking about, Mr. Rogato?

18 MR. ROGATO: No, it's just -- I was  
19 just wondering what --

20 MR. VERRASTRO: Business license is  
21 something that I pay as a businessman. I  
22 believe it's 100. If you have a business in  
23 the Borough of Dunmore you pay a licensing fee  
24 to have a business. That's how they keep track  
25 of who has a business and what they are doing

1 with it, the wage taxes and stuff like that.

2 MR. ROGATO: So the licenses and the  
3 permits the one above it for \$600, that's for  
4 like building permits like --

5 MR. VERRASTRO: No, if you're a  
6 contractor in the Borough of Dunmore that's a  
7 separate license.

8 MR. ROGATO: Contractor --

9 MR. VERRASTRO: Yeah, say like if  
10 you're a contractor in the Borough of Dunmore  
11 depending on the type -- like you don't need a  
12 license to do most residential work anymore  
13 because of the PA State Law. Say you're going  
14 to do work at Price Chopper, you need to get a  
15 commercial license in order to work in the  
16 Borough of Dunmore if you don't --

17 MR. MCHALE: Licenses and permits,  
18 the 600 bucks you're talking is solicitors  
19 permits are allowable but we haven't done one  
20 in years. That's why it's only 600 bucks. All  
21 the other licenses are down below on the 229.

22 MR. ROGATO: Okay. And what does  
23 EMP benefits stand for under --

24 MR. MCHALE: Employee benefits.

25 MR. ROGATO: What is it?

1 MR. MCHALE: Employee benefits --  
2 health benefits and so on, life insurance.

3 MR. ROGATO: Okay. And where it  
4 says police station expenses and building plan  
5 expenses, those are total expenses for  
6 everything?

7 MR. MCHALE: There's many different  
8 tranches that they are in. But there's a much  
9 more detailed budget we'll have at the -- I put  
10 out a summary just of the captions -- there's a  
11 much more detail budget that will explain in  
12 much more detail. Yes, the police station  
13 budget there's clean -- you know -- I --

14 MR. ROGATO: Detail budget will be  
15 available, correct?

16 MR. MCHALE: Yes.

17 MR. ROGATO: Thank you. That's all.

18 MR. MCHALE: Anybody else on agenda  
19 items tonight?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

22 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number five is  
23 a motion to approve the Lackawanna County  
24 Hazard Mitigation Plan as updated required by  
25 FEMA. I believe you passed this in --

1 addressed this in July and you'd like a vote  
2 this evening.

3 MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make that  
4 motion.

5 MR. NARDOZZI: Second.

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

8 (No response.)

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

11 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

12 MR. MCHALE: Opposed.

13 (No response.)

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

16 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six,  
17 CDBG authorization to utilize funds for low to  
18 moderate income purposes. This basically  
19 parts the money for the allowed purposes until  
20 Council votes on the same.

21 MR. NARDOZZI: I'll make that  
22 motion.

23 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

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

1 MR. VERRASTRO: On the question, I  
2 just want to -- can we check with them to see  
3 what the status is on the Laurel Street  
4 Project. I believe it was supposed to start  
5 this year.

6 ATTY. CUMMINGS: I'll have  
7 Mr. Lorince call them tomorrow.

8 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Tom.  
9 Anybody else on the question?

10 (No response.)

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

13 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

14 MR. MCHALE: Opposed.

15 (No response.)

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

18 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number seven,  
19 is a presentation 2016 budget, a motion to  
20 advertise the same. It should be a synopsis,  
21 not the entire budget presentation.

22 MR. MCHALE: Can I have a motion?

23 MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make a motion.

24 MR. NARDOZZI: Second.

25 MR. MCHALE: On the question.

1           Quickly I'll go through some of the highlights  
2           of the budget. Revenue has grown. I'm sure  
3           the Scranton Times will write that the majority  
4           of that is from the landfill revenue so get  
5           that out of the way.

6                     The expenses, you know, are  
7           relatively locked. I say that because most of  
8           the -- all of the union -- the four unions that  
9           we deal with are contractual and the raises are  
10          contractual as well. Some of the highlights we  
11          did invest in a lot of infrastructure over the  
12          last several years with the fire department  
13          still ongoing. There is some in there for  
14          that, the police department with their  
15          vehicles.

16                    And Sal got some new equipment for  
17          the guys. A lot of that was this year and paid  
18          for with this year's budget meaning '15. So  
19          you'll see an increase a little bit in the  
20          police budget for the new cars that are coming  
21          five of which are still waiting, correct, Sal?

22                    CHIEF MARCHESE: Yeah.

23                    MR. MCHALE: Two weeks, I'm sure.  
24          Every time I ask Sal it's two weeks from now.  
25          We did budget right now for a couple of

1 packers. That's not saying we're going to go  
2 get them. They are \$170,000 a piece. But our  
3 current ones are small. And they are starting  
4 to deteriorate. So we're just trying to plan  
5 ahead with our capital budget and trying to do  
6 this more on a five year basis rather than get  
7 hit with a 300, 400, \$500,000 expense like we  
8 have in the past.

9 But this Council has invested in the  
10 infrastructure. So, you know, we hadn't done  
11 in so long, it was sorely needed so we have  
12 done so with the police, the fire. You can see  
13 it in the firehouse going up. We have a  
14 million dollar fire truck coming, all in the  
15 budget, all was budgeted for.

16 And you could see even if you have  
17 the synopsis, we have a healthy surplus,  
18 projected surplus going into this year or for  
19 2016. I caution this isn't final. This is a  
20 preliminary budget. Council just got it this  
21 week. We're going to work through it and see  
22 what we can afford, what we can't afford and  
23 work from there.

24 I'm trying to think if there is  
25 anything else that really sticks out. Our

1           personnel, we did hire a new DPW person, of  
2           course, the five new cops. And our fire  
3           department is contractual how many guys they  
4           have. So once one leaves we replace them at a  
5           similar salary starting off slower but it  
6           gradually gets back up to a similar salary.  
7           I'm trying to think of anything else. Anything  
8           else that you want to speak of?

9                     MR. VERRASTRO: We were looking at  
10           some stuff like street sweepers.

11                    MR. MCHALE: Yeah, there's --

12                    MR. VERRASTRO: There's more instead  
13           of just the packers.

14                    MR. MCHALE: Yeah, Didge's been  
15           begging for -- we've been begging and borrowing  
16           a lift truck to do the signs and the lights and  
17           all the stuff that these guys need to do.  
18           Thankfully we have some good friends to do  
19           that. All of these things are on a wish list.

20                    Now, we still live on a very lean  
21           budget. You know, the landfill money that we  
22           got, oh, we have so much money. We gave every  
23           penny of that back to the taxpayers -- every  
24           penny. So we didn't get any new money.  
25           Everybody including the taxpayers as we are as

1 well got the money. Gave it all back. As much  
2 as we got criticized for it, it all went back  
3 to the taxpayers.

4 So this budget you see is based on  
5 the tax rates from last year and we're still  
6 running a surplus that we're pretty proud of.  
7 And again, I shouldn't even say again; but the  
8 revenues are based very, very conservatively.  
9 The expenses are to me on the high end. That's  
10 where we start off.

11 And when we need to cut, whether it  
12 be part time work or so on and so forth, that's  
13 where we work from there. Thankfully the last  
14 couple of years because of the things we've  
15 done, we haven't had to do that too much. I  
16 beat up on Sal all the time over the  
17 part-timers and so on. But, you know, our  
18 police are the best in the area. So -- and I  
19 saw that today by the way.

20 Anything else? You know if anybody  
21 comes up with questions, I'll surely try to  
22 address them as best I can at this point.  
23 Anybody else on the question?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor

1 signify by saying aye.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

3 MR. MCHALE: Opposed.

4 (No response.)

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

7 ATTY. CUMMINGS: The next is  
8 actually eight and nine are reversed. Public  
9 comment on nonagenda items.

10 MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address  
11 Council tonight?

12 MR. DUNCAN: Same thing, Gary  
13 Duncan, 117 Barton Street, Dunmore. Did  
14 everybody -- was everybody able to open the  
15 attachments that I sent in the e-mail? Okay.  
16 Good.

17 I sent a photo in that attachment I  
18 hope the photo came through in that e-mail.  
19 First let me just back up. I'll ask a couple  
20 questions and then we'll go with the  
21 attachments. The Borough Manager -- anybody --  
22 how are we progressing with that?

23 MR. MCHALE: Quite honestly, Gary,  
24 we hadn't called a meeting because some of the  
25 things that happened over the past two weeks.

1           So we're going to get together soon. I think  
2           everybody may have had the opportunity to  
3           review all the resumes. We'll get together and  
4           try to decide what we're going to do next.  
5           It's all part of the budget as well.

6                   MR. DUNCAN: With that said, I just  
7           wanted -- because we don't have a Borough  
8           Manager, usually Vito gets back to me. I just  
9           want to bring up some of the concerns that were  
10          brought up at last week's Neighborhood Watch  
11          Meeting real quickly because we have a lot of  
12          department heads here tonight.

13                   One of the things was one of the  
14          neighbors on Tripp Street who lives adjacent to  
15          the -- there's a dirt parking lot that First  
16          National Bank owns. That was the picture I  
17          sent through. I know it wasn't the best  
18          quality. But there is little or no grading in  
19          the dirt parking lot.

20                   You could see in the photo. It  
21          looks like somebody cut a -- almost like they  
22          gouged out an area in the back of that parking  
23          lot. So every time it rains and we get high  
24          rains, everything is coming down through that  
25          gouged out area. It goes right on the lady's

1 sidewalk. And the water comes down Barton  
2 Street or heads down Tripp Street towards  
3 Delaware. And I want to bring it up now  
4 because winter is coming.

5 Last year if anybody went over Tripp  
6 Street when the bank plows that dirt parking  
7 lot it looks like the alps out there. Last  
8 year the snow pile was probably a good 15 feet  
9 high. So you're going to have just a  
10 continuous melt with icing conditions when the  
11 temperatures drop again at night.

12 But I don't know, the lady that owns  
13 the house apparently spoke to the bank, was  
14 frustrated and got nowhere -- I'm being polite  
15 with the response that she got. I don't know  
16 if Council could do anything about it but  
17 certainly Didge or somebody --

18 MR. VERRASTRO: Gary, I don't mean  
19 to interrupt you. You just said First  
20 National. In here you're telling us it's the  
21 Fidelity. I wanted to double-check with you.

22 MR. DUNCAN: If I said that in the  
23 e-mail, I apologize. But the minutes of the  
24 meeting it should say First National Bank.

25 MR. MCHALE: One of the new parking

1           lots, Gary, that they've made?

2                   MR. DUNCAN: Yeah, do you know where  
3           Traditional Home Health is? They have a paved  
4           parking lot. There was a house there. And  
5           they never completed it. If you came up Barton  
6           Street, Sal, if you go straight you would go  
7           right into if you could break through the chain  
8           link fence. That's the parking lot.

9                   ATTY. CUMMINGS: That should be  
10          referred to Mr. Lorince immediately for code  
11          compliance.

12                   MR. MCHALE: Would you take care of  
13          it, Tom?

14                   MR. MURRAY: Where they just ripped  
15          the house down next to Nardozzi's?

16                   MR. DUNCAN: No. No. There's an  
17          alley. There's a parking lot and there's Tripp  
18          Street. And that's right where this is.

19                   MR. MCHALE: It's right where the  
20          H & R Block used to be or Jack Ruddy Real  
21          Estate, right to the left of that.

22                   MR. DUNCAN: Maybe 50 feet down. I  
23          don't even know if it would be 50 feet. Tom,  
24          thank you. I'm sure the neighbors will  
25          appreciate it. Even if you just take a drive

1 by and see the runoff. It's brutal in there.  
2 That lady's sidewalk is a disaster. One of the  
3 other big things that we wanted to talk  
4 about -- and I'm glad Tom is here -- Tom  
5 Hallinan. The bank parking lot was the big  
6 thing.

7 Tom, the tank over by Short Street  
8 and everything, the crosswalks there, that was  
9 brought up again last week. Do we have any  
10 update on the progress where we're at with  
11 that?

12 MR. HALLINAN: I'll find out  
13 tomorrow for you. I was up there last week.  
14 If they won't do it, we might have to step in  
15 and do it.

16 MR. DUNCAN: All right. Just thanks  
17 a lot. And that came up at the meeting last  
18 week. I know usually you're there. Over on --  
19 Buenzli Court area, I don't have an N number  
20 but Williams Street, North Irving Avenue, that  
21 street light is out again.

22 I know from previous conversations  
23 they are going through looking at all the  
24 lights again, the lady that came to the meeting  
25 never got me the N number but she said she

1 would. Warren Street we talked about it at the  
2 last meeting. And I know Didge is here. I had  
3 to come down that way the other day. I had a  
4 patient over in that neighborhood. The speed  
5 bump are not repainted. There's the two speed  
6 bumps. Come down Warren Street by the cemetery  
7 there, the paint is faded, even the crosswalk  
8 is washed out. I thought at the last meeting  
9 we said maybe the Borough would paint those  
10 speed bumps down by the school.

11 MR. MURRAY: That's a school  
12 district issue.

13 MR. JUDGE: They're the school's.  
14 We can't put speed bumps in.

15 MR. DUNCAN: The speed bumps are  
16 there.

17 MR. MCHALE: The painting.

18 MR. JUDGE: We can paint them, yes.

19 MR. MCHALE: I said at your  
20 convenience whenever you guys have an extra guy  
21 or a couple guys.

22 MR. DUNCAN: All right. Because one  
23 of the folks last week brought that up.  
24 Ferguson Place I did go down there because the  
25 people came and had a concern about Ferguson

1 Place and Adams. And 5 Ferguson Place is an  
2 abandoned property. Somebody next door because  
3 it was cleaned up that property, they're now  
4 taking their stuff and putting it on the back  
5 porch of 5 Ferguson place.

6 So if you got the minutes, please  
7 take a look at them. One of the other big  
8 things that came up and the -- one of the  
9 ladies that come to the meetings, she's one of  
10 the election judges said on Election Day -- I  
11 guess the Election Bureau had to bring heaters  
12 up for the Community Center. It needed it  
13 because it was so cold.

14 So I guess the concern was -- and  
15 then what we were told last week at the meeting  
16 was the ducts are actually blocked.

17 MR. KEARNEY: No.

18 MR. MCHALE: Chris, you shouldn't be  
19 going back and for but it's Chris Kearney.  
20 Gary, ask us, please. We'll ask them.

21 MR. KEARNEY: The ducts were clean.  
22 The problem with the heating thing in there is  
23 that it's programmed to start heating at 9:00 in  
24 the morning. If you recall on Election Day it  
25 got up to 70 degrees that day. And the air --

1           the temperature outside was not going to blow  
2           any hot air in because of the thing. And the  
3           circulation in there -- so we actually had to  
4           go and stop it because it was blowing cooler  
5           air in.

6                        So I know -- it's just the  
7           strangeness of the day -- of the weather of  
8           that day. And plus they were in there at 6:00  
9           in the morning. The doors all opened. So I  
10          mean it was cold in the morning but then it got  
11          warm so --

12                       MR. DUNCAN: Can I have one more  
13          minute just to go through three more things,  
14          then I'll be done quickly. The next Dunmore  
15          Neighborhood Watch Meeting we're still going to  
16          hold December the 21st. And then the last  
17          question was on the website, the minutes and  
18          the agendas. I know we asked about that. I'm  
19          still hoping we could get the agenda minutes on  
20          the website.

21                       And the other question is and I'm  
22          going to step down now is, if there is a way  
23          that we can get the minutes from the  
24          Neighborhood Watch Meetings on the website and  
25          if you folks got them -- I don't want to go

1 through the rest of them, my five minutes is  
2 up. But if you could take a look at it and  
3 follow up. We don't have a Borough Manager and  
4 I'm just trying to get as much resolved.

5 MR. NARDOZZI: Gary, quick question,  
6 7 p.m. on the meeting?

7 MR. DUNCAN: Yes. Always.

8 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Gary.

9 MR. HETMAN: Good evening as always  
10 guys. Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's  
11 Community Relation's Department. When I was  
12 here last month, it was a few days before we  
13 released what was the tentative 2016 Lackawanna  
14 County budget.

15 So I don't think I mentioned  
16 anything in my last remarks to Council, but if  
17 I did and I have deja vu, just stop me and I'll  
18 back off. I'd like to give everyone a copy of  
19 our budget summary for 2016. Commissioners  
20 every year are required to present a tentative  
21 budget for public review by October 15th.

22 We have to have a series of four  
23 public budget hearings, which were held the  
24 week after that. And the Commissioners have  
25 their two readings of the budget in November

1           which were passed this year at two  
2           commissioners' meetings in the month of  
3           November.

4                        So the summary that you see there on  
5           the bottom sheet is something that we have to  
6           put together to be in accordance with the Home  
7           Rule Charter the double-sided sheet that says  
8           budget summary. The top sheet is just the  
9           graph that we do every year.

10                      The easiest way to sum this up is  
11           the graphic hasn't changed much over the last  
12           three budget cycles because this budget really  
13           mirrors many of the things that were introduced  
14           in 2012 going into 2014 budget cycle. The  
15           budgets follow the same basic blueprint over  
16           the next three cycles here including 2016.

17                      So really simply, the big blue  
18           bubble on the top on the top line on the budget  
19           message feed is the most talked about item  
20           which is the tax rate stays the same, 57.42  
21           mils so there is no change for the previous  
22           three budgets.

23                      All of the Economic Development  
24           Programs what we've seen funded will continue  
25           to be funded. That includes SBA Loan Fee

1 Waiver Program, our Community Reinvestment  
2 Grant Program and our Construction and Permit  
3 and Fee Waiver Program. We've seen great  
4 success here on this property with the  
5 Reinvestment Program and in the Borough with  
6 the SBA Fee Waiver Program.

7 We appreciate those programs being  
8 used. And we've seen some good ones here in  
9 Dunmore. Just going down a little bit, the  
10 bottom of the budget message and top of the  
11 next page on the budget message page on the  
12 bottom bubble on the summary sheet match up  
13 with financial stability, describe many of the  
14 steps the Commissioners have taken to practice  
15 good financial management, particularly in  
16 pursuant of the investment rate credit rating  
17 for the county.

18 Having our audit done on time for  
19 four straight budget cycles in terms of  
20 bonding, conserving into a surplus which the  
21 surplus is something we get a lot of heat over  
22 sometimes. It's something that we get  
23 suggestions on, some polite and some not so  
24 polite on how it should be spent.

25 I'm sure you've seen some of those

1 things in the media the last few weeks. I  
2 could just say from that perspective of the  
3 present day, the surplus has helped us a great  
4 deal with regard to the state budget stalemate.

5 We've seen right now the last figure  
6 last week was about 5 million dollars in terms  
7 of fully reimbursable revenue the state will  
8 pay us back for but that we had to spend out of  
9 the surplus to keep many of our human services  
10 functions going, Children and Youth, Area  
11 Agency on Ageing.

12 It prevents us from being in a  
13 situation like you see maybe in Luzerne County  
14 now where you're looking at either a severe  
15 disruption of services or borrowing to keep  
16 them going. We've been able to continue those  
17 things pretty much unfettered without having to  
18 borrow and reduce services.

19 Just going down the rest of the  
20 sheets, total General Fund budget this year  
21 comes in at just over 110 million dollars. The  
22 total of all county funds budgeted comes just  
23 over 180 million dollars. Again, we follow the  
24 basic blueprint. It's worked well. And I hope  
25 to see it continue to work well in the future.

1                   If there is any particular questions  
2                   on the budget I'd be happy to take them or if  
3                   the public has any, I'll be around after the  
4                   meeting. You could always find me at the  
5                   office or here at the meetings. And the whole  
6                   budget is online. We've got the whole -- it's  
7                   about 150-some pages in pdf format. It's fully  
8                   reviewable for the public.

9                   MR. NARDOZZI: I have a question.  
10                  Is the county budget process the same as our's  
11                  like we just passed a tentative budget tonight?  
12                  Is it kind of --

13                  MR. HETMAN: It's tentative when  
14                  they introduce it, yes. And then they have to  
15                  have two readings of it at a public meeting.  
16                  So this year unless there's special changes,  
17                  normally they read it at the two meetings in  
18                  November which is the case this year.

19                  MR. NARDOZZI: So it's fair to say  
20                  the final passage will be in December?

21                  MR. HETMAN: No, it was passed last  
22                  Wednesday.

23                  MR. NARDOZZI: Gotcha. Thank you.

24                  MR. HETMAN: Anything else?

25                  MR. VERRASTRO: If you could check

1 on that you mentioned the Laurel Street  
2 Project.

3 MR. HETMAN: Yeah, I wrote that  
4 down.

5 MR. VERRASTRO: Okay, great. If you  
6 let me know, I'd appreciate it.

7 MR. HETMAN: Who is the best to --  
8 you?

9 MR. VERRASTRO: Mike is the Council  
10 President. I not going to jump over --

11 MR. MCHALE: No, go ahead.

12 MR. HETMAN: Okay. Great. Thank  
13 you guys.

14 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. HETMAN: I'll leave the rest of  
16 the announcements -- the big one is the Adopt  
17 an Angel Program that the Office of Youth and  
18 Family Services runs that provides gifts for  
19 children that are under their care. Last year  
20 it helped over 700 kids. A lot them wouldn't  
21 have the advantage of a Christmas season  
22 without that.

23 The dates also of the Lackawanna  
24 Heritage Santa train is next Saturday. And  
25 then Santa on the trolley runs through late

1 November and December at the Trolley Museum.  
2 There's a bunch of dates for that. So thank  
3 you guys. Appreciate the time.

4 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir.

5 MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you.

6 MR. ROGATO: Once again, Ralph  
7 Rogato, 703 Smith Street, Dunmore, PA. I had  
8 some health issues recently and I had a lot of  
9 time on my hands. I'm only sleeping about  
10 three hours a night so I had a lot of time to  
11 read.

12 MR. NARDOZZI: Ralph, excuse me,  
13 just so you know, you have a five-minute time  
14 limit so you're aware.

15 MR. ROGATO: Excuse me, you're using  
16 up my time.

17 MR. NARDOZZI: You'll have a little  
18 extra time. I'm just letting you know.

19 MR. ROGATO: Thank you. I asked for  
20 a bunch of public records. And I spoke with  
21 the attorney earlier. I'm going to review my  
22 list because it's amazing. You'll find this  
23 information interesting to read. This is the  
24 Borough Code.

25 I don't have the front or back page.

1 But it looks pretty old. I think there is a  
2 newer one. To piggyback on what you're doing,  
3 the reason we're here tonight is there's an  
4 organization up in Moscow -- well, it's really  
5 Covington Township called Theresa's Angels.

6 She also raises through Amazon dot  
7 com -- do you need a drink of water? Okay.  
8 She also raises toys, clothing, shoes for  
9 children. She needs a place to do this out of.  
10 If there's not a place in the county, I was  
11 going to look at Price Chopper in Dunmore, but  
12 that's taken care of. That's already been  
13 cleaned out.

14 Spaces available, I'm looking for  
15 some help to obtain that building to do that  
16 out of. I would also like to start a youth  
17 program in that building also. I have a lot of  
18 people that would like to back it. So I'd like  
19 some help from Borough Council in the  
20 development in that. I'm willing to volunteer  
21 my time.

22 I don't want to be paid for it. I'm  
23 retired from police. I was a police chief for  
24 20 years. I wrote a lot of things down, kind  
25 of a to do list. It's a bucket list of

1 everything I have here. And I would like to  
2 piggyback with the -- I'm sorry, I had a little  
3 mini stroke. Your department, sir? The  
4 Neighborhood Watch. I would like to piggyback  
5 with you also, not trying to reinvent the wheel  
6 just put a little rubber band around it to make  
7 it run a little bit smoother.

8 I have a digital camera I'd like to  
9 give -- to donate through Mr. Find It. RACME  
10 is Ralph, Amy, Christina, and Mark Enterprises,  
11 my children. That's what it's all about, the  
12 children of the community. Paul's been  
13 involved a lot with police. I'm sorry to see  
14 him go, but certain things have to happen. Did  
15 you guys get my application for the Borough  
16 Manager's job?

17 MR. MCHALE: Tom?

18 ATTY. CUMMINGS: That would be a  
19 personnel issue. You could answer in private  
20 if you wish.

21 MR. MCHALE: I'll answer in private.

22 MR. ROGATO: Okay. I did submit it  
23 late but I did speak with the current Borough  
24 Manager who is working part time. He said  
25 because I was in the hospital that I would be

1           able to be interviewed. So that's why I was  
2           asking.

3                   MR. MCHALE: That will be up to  
4           Council. There's many, many applicants. We'll  
5           sit and decide.

6                   MR. ROGATO: A heard a lot of the  
7           names so --

8                   MR. MCHALE: Pardon me?

9                   MR. ROGATO: I heard a lot of the  
10          names.

11                   MR. MCHALE: I don't care if you  
12          know the names, I'm telling you --

13                   ATTY. CUMMINGS: I would not get  
14          into a discussion at this point on the matter.

15                   MR. ROGATO: Okay. Sir, if you  
16          would like to speak to me after the meeting I  
17          would like to speak to you or if the paper  
18          would like to speak to me, I would like to  
19          speak to the paper. Thank you. Have a nice  
20          evening.

21                   MR. MCHALE: Anybody else like to  
22          speak to Council tonight?

23                   (No response.)

24                   MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

25                   ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

1 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Dempsey, would you  
2 like to lead us off tonight?

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Just real quickly,  
4 Michael, sorry for the loss of your mother.  
5 Real quickly I just want to say you sitting  
6 here today shows your true dedication to this  
7 town. So I appreciate you being here. You  
8 don't always get the credit you deserve. But  
9 you being here shows that you are truly  
10 dedicated to this town. So we appreciate it.  
11 Thank you.

12 MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Michael.

13 MR. DEMPSEY: That's it.

14 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

15 MR. HALLINAN: Again, I'm very sorry  
16 about your mom, Michael. And again, this  
17 budget I think if -- reflects the hard work  
18 that Council has done to try to make this town.  
19 We reduced taxes. We have a full-time police  
20 department, fire department, DPW, and reduced  
21 taxes.

22 I don't think there's too many towns  
23 on the east coast that could say. And I'm  
24 pretty proud to be a part of that. And also, I  
25 just want to remind everybody November 29th a

1 couple of the girls and businesses up at the  
2 Dunmore Corners are having a holiday tree  
3 lighting from 1 to 6 p.m. And it's the  
4 inaugural which I hope goes forever every year.

5 You could have fun with your Council  
6 candidates here -- members because they will be  
7 handing out free hot chocolate that day from  
8 1 to 6 p.m. And that's all I have. Have a  
9 nice holiday everybody.

10 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Nardozzi.

11 MR. NARDOZZI: Thank you, Mr.  
12 McHale. Mike, again from myself and my family,  
13 and I'm sure from everyone else, our  
14 condolences at the loss of your mom.

15 MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

16 MR. NARDOZZI: I knew your mom for a  
17 long time. She was by far a sweetheart. The  
18 tentative budget that we have like Tommy said  
19 reflects all the hard work that's been done and  
20 in particular by Mr. McHale. Mr. McHale has  
21 been the heart of soul of doing the budget,  
22 you know, along with Vito too but mostly Mike  
23 the last few years.

24 It's a culmination of a lot of years  
25 where we are slowly but surely getting our

1 heads above water. And we all appreciate your  
2 efforts there too, Mike. And like Mr. Dempsey  
3 said, you being here tonight just shows what  
4 you -- what kind of a person you truly are.

5 You mean what you say. And you are  
6 totally dedicated to this town because I don't  
7 think too many people in this room would have  
8 been here today considering the circumstances  
9 of the last few days.

10 Just a reminder for the folks of  
11 town, the DPW is off on Thursday. I have to  
12 say it because believe it or not people will  
13 ask. Any collections will be moved to Friday.  
14 And, Didge, Monday off, right?

15 MR. JUDGE: Monday.

16 MR. NARDOZZI: Yeah, DPW is off this  
17 coming Monday for opening day of Buck Season so  
18 everything will be one day behind all next  
19 week. And last but not least, I would just  
20 like to extend my best of luck to the Dunmore  
21 Bucks Friday night in their first round state  
22 championship game. Thank you, Mr. McHale.

23 MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli.

24 MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you. Michael,  
25 I just want to say how very sorry I am for the

1           loss of your mother.

2                   MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

3                   MS. SCRIMALLI: And I just want to  
4 wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. And that's  
5 all I have tonight. Thank you.

6                   MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

7                   MR. BURKE: Same thing, Mike, I'm  
8 very sorry about your mom. And for all the  
9 hard work you did on this budget with the  
10 situation you're in and the hard time you're  
11 going through and still did a great job like  
12 always on the budget.

13                   So, Didge, I was wondering if you  
14 had a chance to talk to Anthony about leaves on  
15 Ferguson if you would be able to get the kids  
16 to work on the leaves down there.

17                   MR. JUDGE: I brought it up to him  
18 down at the office today. I don't know what  
19 they came up with.

20                   MR. BURKE: You brought it up to  
21 them though?

22                   MR. JUDGE: I know it's private  
23 property. We never did that lot.

24                   MR. BURKE: No, for the street.

25                   MR. JUDGE: I don't know. I don't

1 know where they're at with it or what's up with  
2 it.

3 MR. BURKE: Sal, would you be able  
4 to talk to -- Anthony at one time had kids  
5 clean up down there down on Ferguson Place. It  
6 was brought up at the crime watch meeting.  
7 That area there we're still trying to find out  
8 who owns the property. It's been vacant. It's  
9 covered with leaves there. And Anthony at  
10 times had kids go down and clean up down there.

11 CHIEF MARCHESE: I'll see.

12 MR. BURKE: Would you be able to get  
13 back to me on that?

14 CHIEF MARCHESE: Yeah.

15 MR. BURKE: Thanks, Sal. As far as  
16 the street lights, does our guys -- does  
17 anybody know if our company started with the  
18 street lights?

19 MR. MCHALE: He told me -- Tom,  
20 interrupt me if I'm wrong that he was actually  
21 starting Monday. They were going to change all  
22 the lights that were out this week but the plan  
23 was that they were going to start on Monday --  
24 today. What am I saying? My days are running  
25 together. Forgive me. Today. So I don't know

1 if they did. They may be a day or two late.  
2 But it's imminent.

3 MR. BURKE: Thank you. Good job on  
4 the pothole down on Ferguson there, Didge,  
5 thank you, and on the basin. I want to wish  
6 everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

7 MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Mr. Burke.  
8 Mr. Verrastro.

9 MR. VERRASTRO: Yes, thank you.  
10 Again, I'm sorry for your loss of your mom. I  
11 know you were close and a close family so I'm  
12 sure it's a big void now for you guys to have  
13 to work through.

14 MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

15 MR. VERRASTRO: Also I'd like to  
16 obviously thank everybody that comes to a lot  
17 of these meetings. When you see the budget it  
18 will be up at the Borough Building for  
19 everybody -- the breakdown of it. We'll have  
20 it for a couple of weeks, correct?

21 ATTY. CUMMINGS: It will be  
22 advertised. It will be available during  
23 regular business hours.

24 MR. VERRASTRO: You'll see there's a  
25 lot of stuff in it. Michael, thank you. With

1           what you were going through with the strain of  
2           having put it together for us is remarkable  
3           that you were able to not be frazzled. I'm  
4           sure you probably were but we just didn't see  
5           it. So thank you for that.

6                        You'll see in it like Mike was  
7           saying that we have a bunch of stuff that we're  
8           trying to do. And that stuff may even swap out  
9           at some point during the year. Maybe we'll see  
10          where we need some roads done compared to maybe  
11          some equipment. There is so many things that  
12          the Borough's needed in the past years that  
13          it's -- we're going to probably be fixing.

14                       Obviously we can't fix them all  
15          overnight. So we'll decide what we're going  
16          to -- how we're going to address it and work  
17          from there. I want to wish everybody a Merry  
18          Christmas.

19                       MR. MCHALE: Christmas.

20                       MR. VERRASTRO: Yeah, Christmas.  
21          I'm jumping ahead -- Thanksgiving. And also  
22          just for the record everybody that keeps saying  
23          that the DPW is the getting first day of  
24          hunting season off, they actually swapped one  
25          of their paid holidays. I believe it was

1 Election Day that they get off for this day.  
2 So they worked Election Day picking up garbage  
3 to take the first day off. So have a good  
4 night everybody.

5 MR. MCHALE: I was remiss -- does  
6 any of the departments have anything, Didge?  
7 Sal? You guys have anything for tonight?  
8 Chris? I apologize. Tom?

9 Quickly, on the budget again just to  
10 reiterate, it's a working budget. This is our  
11 first draft. Council just got it -- again, my  
12 days are running together three, four days ago.  
13 So there's a lot of backup to every single  
14 number.

15 You guys will see, you know, there's  
16 a lot more detail than just a summary. Quite  
17 honestly, I just printed that off thinking if  
18 someone wanted to see it and didn't print off  
19 any of the detailed ones. But there is a lot  
20 of work that goes into it.

21 But, you know, working with the six  
22 people to my left and right make it that much  
23 easier. So we do think it's a good start.  
24 It's probably 80 percent done. As Sal said,  
25 some things, Didge needs three trucks. That

1           may be swapped out to get one, two, and get  
2           other things and/or pave some roads. There's a  
3           lot of hit lists. We want to pay our debt  
4           down, so on and so forth.

5                        We have a lot of plans for this  
6           upcoming year that aren't even reflected in  
7           this budget that is going to be exciting for  
8           our taxpayers. So, you know, it's a start.

9                        And finally just to, you know, I  
10          want to thank everybody who sits to my left and  
11          right over the last couple of days and, you  
12          know, the taxpayers who've reached out, texted  
13          me, sent me letters, sent stuff to the house,  
14          you know, I got some good friends in this room.

15                       Probably more than half the people  
16          in this room came to my mom's funeral or wake  
17          yesterday. So just the -- I can't thank  
18          everybody enough. I truly have good friends in  
19          this town. And whether we have some  
20          differences so on and so forth, I know every  
21          one of these guys would be there again even  
22          after differences.

23                       So it means a lot. It meant a lot  
24          to my family. And I just want to thank  
25          everybody for their support over the last

1 couple of days. I'll look for a motion to  
2 adjourn.

3 MR. NARDOZZI: So moved.

4 MR. BURKE: Second.

5 MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy  
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
7 ability.

8  
9  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Maria McCool, RPR  
12 Official Court Reporter  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

22 (The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not  
23 apply to any reproduction of the same by any means  
24 unless under the direct control and/or supervision of  
25 the certifying reporter.)