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

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

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

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

Thank you.

(Moment of Silence.)

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: Here.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.
MR. HALLINAN: Here.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Nardozzi.
MR. NARDOZZI: Here.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.
MR. MCHALE: Here.

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

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

MR. VERRASTRO: Where are you looking at?

MR. MCHALE: The summary.

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

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

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

MR. VERRASTRO: Business license is something that I pay as a businessman. I believe it's 100. If you have a business in the Borough of Dunmore you pay a licensing fee to have a business. That's how they keep track of who has a business and what they are doing.
with it, the wage taxes and stuff like that.

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

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

MR. ROGATO: Contractor --

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

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

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

MR. MCHALE: Employee benefits.

MR. ROGATO: What is it?
MR. MCHALE: Employee benefits -- health benefits and so on, life insurance.

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

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

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

MR. MCHALE: Yes.

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

MR. MCHALE: Anybody else on agenda items tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number five is a motion to approve the Lackawanna County Hazard Mitigation Plan as updated required by FEMA. I believe you passed this in --
addressed this in July and you'd like a vote this evening.

MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make that motion.

MR. NARDOZZI: 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, CDBG authorization to utilize funds for low to moderate income purposes. This basically parts the money for the allowed purposes until Council votes on the same.

MR. NARDOZZI: I'll make that motion.

MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a second. On the question.
MR. VERRASTRO: On the question, I just want to -- can we check with them to see what the status is on the Laurel Street Project. I believe it was supposed to start this year.

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

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Tom.

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 presentation 2016 budget, a motion to advertise the same. It should be a synopsis, not the entire budget presentation.

MR. MCHALE: Can I have a motion?

MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make a motion.

MR. NARDOZZI: Second.

MR. MCHALE: On the question.
Quickly I'll go through some of the highlights of the budget. Revenue has grown. I'm sure the Scranton Times will write that the majority of that is from the landfill revenue so get that out of the way.

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

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

CHIEF MARCHESE: Yeah.

MR. MCHALE: Two weeks, I'm sure. Every time I ask Sal it's two weeks from now. We did budget right now for a couple of
packers. That's not saying we're going to go get them. They are $170,000 a piece. But our current ones are small. And they are starting to deteriorate. So we're just trying to plan ahead with our capital budget and trying to do this more on a five year basis rather than get hit with a 300, 400, $500,000 expense like we have in the past.

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

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

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

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

MR. MCHALE: Yeah, there's --

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

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

Now, we still live on a very lean budget. You know, the landfill money that we got, oh, we have so much money. We gave every penny of that back to the taxpayers -- every penny. So we didn't get any new money. Everybody including the taxpayers as we are as
well got the money. Gave it all back. As much as we got criticized for it, it all went back to the taxpayers.

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

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

Anything else? You know if anybody comes up with questions, I'll surely try to address them as best I can at this point. 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: The next is actually eight and nine are reversed. Public comment on nonagenda items.

    MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address Council tonight?

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

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

    MR. MCHALE: Quite honestly, Gary, we hadn't called a meeting because some of the things that happened over the past two weeks.
So we're going to get together soon. I think everybody may have had the opportunity to review all the resumes. We'll get together and try to decide what we're going to do next. It's all part of the budget as well.

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

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

You could see in the photo. It looks like somebody cut a -- almost like they gouged out an area in the back of that parking lot. So every time it rains and we get high rains, everything is coming down through that gouged out area. It goes right on the lady's
sidewalk. And the water comes down Barton Street or heads down Tripp Street towards Delaware. And I want to bring it up now because winter is coming.

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

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

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

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

MR. MCHALE: One of the new parking
lots, Gary, that they've made?

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. DUNCAN: Maybe 50 feet down. I don't even know if it would be 50 feet. Tom, thank you. I'm sure the neighbors will appreciate it. Even if you just take a drive
by and see the runoff. It's brutal in there. That lady's sidewalk is a disaster. One of the other big things that we wanted to talk about -- and I'm glad Tom is here -- Tom Hallinan. The bank parking lot was the big thing.

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

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

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

I know from previous conversations they are going through looking at all the lights again, the lady that came to the meeting never got me the N number but she said she
would. Warren Street we talked about it at the last meeting. And I know Didge is here. I had to come down that way the other day. I had a patient over in that neighborhood. The speed bump are not repainted. There's the two speed bumps. Come down Warren Street by the cemetery there, the paint is faded, even the crosswalk is washed out. I thought at the last meeting we said maybe the Borough would paint those speed bumps down by the school.

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

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

MR. DUNCAN: The speed bumps are there.

MR. MCHALE: The painting.

MR. JUDGE: We can paint them, yes.

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

MR. DUNCAN: All right. Because one of the folks last week brought that up. Ferguson Place I did go down there because the people came and had a concern about Ferguson
Place and Adams. And 5 Ferguson Place is an abandoned property. Somebody next door because it was cleaned up that property, they're now taking their stuff and putting it on the back porch of 5 Ferguson place.

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

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

MR. KEARNEY: No.

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

MR. KEARNEY: The ducts were clean. The problem with the heating thing in there is that it's programed to start heating at 9:00 in the morning. If you recall on Election Day it got up to 70 degrees that day. And the air --
the temperature outside was not going to blow
any hot air in because of the thing. And the
circulation in there -- so we actually had to
go and stop it because it was blowing cooler
air in.

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

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

And the other question is and I'm
going to step down now is, if there is a way
that we can get the minutes from the
Neighborhood Watch Meetings on the website and
if you folks got them -- I don't want to go
through the rest of them, my five minutes is up. But if you could take a look at it and follow up. We don't have a Borough Manager and I'm just trying to get as much resolved.

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

MR. DUNCAN: Yes. Always.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Gary.

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

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

We have to have a series of four public budget hearings, which were held the week after that. And the Commissioners have their two readings of the budget in November
which were passed this year at two
commissioners' meetings in the month of
November.

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

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

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

All of the Economic Development
Programs what we've seen funded will continue
to be funded. That includes SBA Loan Fee
Waiver Program, our Community Reinvestment Grant Program and our Construction and Permit and Fee Waiver Program. We've seen great success here on this property with the Reinvestment Program and in the Borough with the SBA Fee Waiver Program.

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

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

I'm sure you've seen some of those
things in the media the last few weeks. I could just say from that perspective of the present day, the surplus has helped us a great deal with regard to the state budget stalemate.

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

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

Just going down the rest of the sheets, total General Fund budget this year comes in at just over 110 million dollars. The total of all county funds budgeted comes just over 180 million dollars. Again, we follow the basic blueprint. It's worked well. And I hope to see it continue to work well in the future.
If there is any particular questions on the budget I'd be happy to take them or if the public has any, I'll be around after the meeting. You could always find me at the office or here at the meetings. And the whole budget is online. We've got the whole -- it's about 150-some pages in pdf format. It's fully reviewable for the public.

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

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

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

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

MR. NARDOZZI: Gotcha. Thank you.

MR. HETMAN: Anything else?

MR. VERRASTRO: If you could check
on that you mentioned the Laurel Street Project.

MR. HETMAN: Yeah, I wrote that down.

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

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

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

MR. MCHAILE: No, go ahead.

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

MR. MCHAILE: Thank you, sir.

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

The dates also of the Lackawanna Heritage Santa train is next Saturday. And then Santa on the trolley runs through late
November and December at the Trolley Museum. There's a bunch of dates for that. So thank you guys. Appreciate the time.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

I don't have the front or back page.
But it looks pretty old. I think there is a newer one. To piggyback on what you're doing, the reason we're here tonight is there's an organization up in Moscow -- well, it's really Covington Township called Theresa's Angels.

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

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

I don't want to be paid for it. I'm retired from police. I was a police chief for 20 years. I wrote a lot of things down, kind of a to do list. It's a bucket list of
everything I have here. And I would like to piggyback with the -- I'm sorry, I had a little mini stroke. Your department, sir? The Neighborhood Watch. I would like to piggyback with you also, not trying to reinvent the wheel just put a little rubber band around it to make it run a little bit smoother.

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

MR. MCHALE: Tom?

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

MR. MCHALE: I'll answer in private.

MR. ROGATO: Okay. I did submit it late but I did speak with the current Borough Manager who is working part time. He said because I was in the hospital that I would be
able to be interviewed. So that's why I was asking.

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

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

MR. MCHALE: Pardon me?

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

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

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

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

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

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.
MR. MCHALE: Mr. Dempsey, would you like to lead us off tonight?

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

MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Michael.

MR. DEMPSEY: That’s it.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

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

I don't think there's too many towns on the east coast that could say. And I'm pretty proud to be a part of that. And also, I just want to remind everybody November 29th a
couple of the girls and businesses up at the Dunmore Corners are having a holiday tree lighting from 1 to 6 p.m. And it's the inaugural which I hope goes forever every year. You could have fun with your Council candidates here -- members because they will be handing out free hot chocolate that day from 1 to 6 p.m. And that's all I have. Have a nice holiday everybody.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Nardozzi.

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

MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

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

It's a culmination of a lot of years where we are slowly but surely getting our
heads above water. And we all appreciate your efforts there too, Mike. And like Mr. Dempsey said, you being here tonight just shows what you -- what kind of a person you truly are.

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

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

MR. JUDGE: Monday.

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

MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you. Michael, I just want to say how very sorry I am for the
loss of your mother.

    MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

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

    MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

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

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

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

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

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

    MR. BURKE: No, for the street.

    MR. JUDGE: I don't know. I don't
know where they're at with it or what's up with it.

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

CHIEF MARCHESE: I'll see.

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

CHIEF MARCHESE: Yeah.

MR. BURKE: Thanks, Sal. As far as the street lights, does our guys -- does anybody know is our company started with the street lights?

MR. MCHALE: He told me -- Tom, interrupt me if I'm wrong that he was actually starting Monday. They were going to change all the lights that were out this week but the plan was that they were going to start on Monday -- today. What am I saying? My days are running together. Forgive me. Today. So I don't know
if they did. They may be a day or two late. But it's imminent.

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

MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Mr. Burke.

Mr. Verrastro.

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

MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

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

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

MR. VERRASTRO: You'll see there's a lot of stuff in it. Michael, thank you. With
what you were going through with the strain of
having put it together for us is remarkable
that you were able to not be frazzled. I'm
sure you probably were but we just didn't see
it. So thank you for that.

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

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

MR. MCHALE: Christmas.

MR. VERRASTRO: Yeah, Christmas.

I'm jumping ahead -- Thanksgiving. And also
just for the record everybody that keeps saying
that the DPW is the getting first day of
hunting season off, they actually swapped one
of their paid holidays. I believe it was
Election Day that they get off for this day. So they worked Election Day picking up garbage to take the first day off. So have a good night everybody.

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

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

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

But, you know, working with the six people to my left and right make it that much easier. So we do think it's a good start. It's probably 80 percent done. As Sal said, some things, Didge needs three trucks. That
may be swapped out to get one, two, and get
other things and/or pave some roads. There's a
lot of hit lists. We want to pay our debt
down, so on and so forth.

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

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

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

So it means a lot. It meant a lot
to my family. And I just want to thank
everybody for their support over the last
couple of days. I'll look for a motion to adjourn.

MR. NARDOZZI: So moved.

MR. BURKE: Second.

MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned.
CERTIFICATE

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

__________________________
Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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