COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:
Monday, March 14th, 2016

TIME:
7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:
DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MICHAEL MCHALE, President
TIMOTHY BURKE
CAROL SCRIMALLI
THOMAS HALLINAN
MICHAEL DEMPSEY
VINCE AMICO
THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

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

MR. MCHALE: Will everybody please remain standing for a moment of silence for a fallen colleague.

(Moment of silence.)

MR. MCHALE: I'm going to do things a little out of order tonight guys. It's obviously not an easy night for anybody sitting up here or who used to sit up here, friends and family in the audience. I don't have anything prepared to say, but I'll do my best to try to get through what I can.

Obviously we lost a huge portion of this board a couple days back. And I have been morning ever since. I lost a -- not only a colleague, my right-hand man literally on Council but a truly good friend that I'll never replace.

It's a guy that would take his shirt off his back literally to help you. Come down your house 10:00 at night to help you, help you do something at your house or my mom's house or
anybody's house.

You know, not even knowing you that well you would never get a bill. You would just get a smile and a handshake. I still can't believe this is real. We sat up here -- when I first got on Council, I didn't know Sal other than his name that well. I remember walking into his garage. He took my hand and told me -- I wasn't running with him or with his support or anything like that.

But he told me anything you need he would be there. He'd answer any questions. And he did. We sat and had a beer in his garage not even knowing me. And that's the type of guy Sal I know and I love and I'll forever remember.

He turned into not only a great Councilman in my eyes, a great president, but truly one of my best friends. We spoke every day. I often kidded him that I spoke more to him than I did my wife. To know Sal is to know that we had our long conversations.

But all the time it was how are we going to do things to make things better in Dunmore. You know, we've taken -- he and I and
others on this board have taken a lot of criticism. But every decision that the two of us and everybody up here made I could defend until the end and he would too.

He's looking down on us right now saying don't make a big deal of me -- of this. And, you know, I truly can't tell you how hard it is to not have his support. You know, often times over the past couple of days I'm waiting for the phone to call.

Mr. Cummings told me today that my voicemail was full. And as I was trying to get rid of them, there was a voicemail from Sal. I spoke to him a couple hours before he passed. So I apologize for rambling. But this is truly one of the hardest things I ever had to do to say good-bye to a true friend like this at a young age and see his family who I've grown to know and love and to try to move on.

You know, I told my wife on the way to the funeral home that it's time for me to step aside. And she told me that he'd kill you if you did it. So we're going to keep trying to do what Sal would want to do as long as we can and hopefully make him proud of us.
You know, I've known -- for before I lose it, there was one thing that I would like to and I spoke to Council about this. We're going to dedicate the new firehouse in honor of Sal when it's completed. We'll have a plaque put up in his honor.

He was the one who wanted it. He's the one that went and got the grant. He's the one who designed it. He's the one that donated a ton of his time that nobody knows about, nobody talks about to get it done and he'd be up there right now finishing up some electrical work on his own time if he was still here with us because that's the true gentleman and true great guy that he was.

Dunmore lost a monster tonight -- a couple weeks ago I should say. And we're going to feel his loss for a long, long time. So with that, does anybody else want to say something now or later? I'm going to ask Dave Verrastro, you guys wanted to say something. Why don't you come up now and address the crowd before we start the meeting because he's up there right now telling us start the meeting and let's move on.
MR. VERRASTRO: Thank you. For those of you who don't know me, Sal is my older brother. Great guy. Truly honored what you just said, thank you. It will be an honor to have the fire department.

But on behalf of the Verrastro family, I would like to truly -- our family would like to thank the Dunmore Fire Department, Police Department, and DPW Department, even the SWAT team. I know they're county, but there's guys from Dunmore here who was on SWAT. They did a lot for us. Mayor Loughney, Council, you guys and ladies, Mr. Cummings, Dave Valvano, and Frank Farina, all of you. Honestly, it was truly an honor to see the outpouring of respect and love to our family.

Sal would have been honored by that. He would have been embarrassed. But he would have been honored. But on behalf of the Verrastros, Jordans, and Burgett family, we would like to say thanks for everything, thank you to everybody for the support and love. We really appreciate it. Thank you so much.

MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Dave. We're
never going to forget him. We're never going
to fill his shoes. But like I said, he's
looking down on us right now telling me to at
least move the meeting on. So with that, Tommy
I'll ask for the roll call.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Amico.

MR. AMICO: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.

MR. HALLINAN: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.

MR. MCHALE: Here.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public comment on

agenda items.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to comment
on any agenda items tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve
the minutes.
MR. MCHALE: I'll look for a motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that motion.

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

MR. BURKE: Second.

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

(No response.)

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

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

(No response.)

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

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

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

MR. BURKE: Motion.

MR. HALLINAN: 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 is personnel matters, if any.

MR. MCHALE: Does anybody have any personnel matters tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none. Number seven, Tom.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number seven, is a motion to accept and file Department of Auditor General Report AG-385, Certification of Fire Protection and Certification of Full-time Employees participating in municipal plans. The form states that 96 percent of the fire protection by the Borough of Dunmore is by paid firefighters and 4 percent is by volunteer firefighters.

MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

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

(No response.)

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

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

(No response.)

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

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number eight is public comment on nonagenda items.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address Council tonight? Dave, do you have anything tonight?

MR. VALVANO: I just want to add from Representative Farina who is in Harrisburg, he wanted to extend again his condolences to the Verrastro family, to the Borough, and to Council. It's a huge loss, Sal's loss.

I know Frank and myself spoke to Sal weekly. And, you know, we really -- in a year and a half's time, really got to be good friends. And it is a big loss and our condolences.
And Representative Farina also wants to send good luck to the Lady Bucks as they play tomorrow night in the semifinals. And that's all I have.

MR. MCHAILE: Thank you, sir.

Anybody like to address Council tonight? Please state your full name for the record, I'd appreciate it.

MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson Avenue, Dunmore. I just wanted to for the Borough and for Council, there is a meeting at the Radison Hotel. It's next Monday the 21st at 6 p.m., being hosted by the Friends of Lackawanna relating to the -- Senator Casey's Trash Act. And a bunch of officials will be there, DEP Secretary Quigley, State Senator Blake, Lois Gibbs, and Steven Lester, a scientist of toxicology will be there. I wanted to extend our invite to everyone on Council and everyone in the Borough as well. It's at 6:00 at the Radison this upcoming Monday. Thank you.

MR. MCHAILE: Thank you, Pat.

Anybody else like to speak tonight?

(No response.)
MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Judge, do you have anything tonight?

MR. JUDGE: Nothing, Mike.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney.

MR. KEARNEY: No.

MR. MCHALE: Captain, do you have anything for the police department in the Chief's absence?

CAPTAIN BARTH: No, I don't.

MR. MCHALE: Tommy?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Nothing, sir.

MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli, would you like to lead us off tonight?

MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you. I want to say a few words concerning Sal. And, Mr. Chairman, you said it perfectly a lot of things that I would want to have said. But I did want the family to know he will forever be in our hearts. And it's just a void that we'll never be able to fill as our Chairman said.

Sal was the first person to come to my house the day after I was first elected in the morning and congratulated me. He came up
on his motorcycle. And I looked out the window and I said who is coming on his motorcycle? It's Sal. And I went out there and he congratulated me. He just changed my life. I will tell you he's a life changing person.

He was wiser than his years. And he will always be in our hearts. That's all I could say. And I'm so sorry for your loss. That's all I have.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: Yes, the Neighborhood Crime Watch Gary is off sick. He asked me to announce the next meeting will be the 21st at 7:00 here. And what can I say about Sal? Mike said it great. He was my best friend on Council and outside of Council.

He's just -- I'm sorry, nobody was a harder worker than Sal. And I could honestly say that. He was just a great man, a great family, Dave, Mr. Verrastro, and Sal Jr., there I see there. It was an honor to have called your dad Sal a friend. I loved the guy and one of the nicest guys I ever met.

And like Mike said it great, he would do anything for anyone. And it's just an
honor to be his friend. And that's all I have.

MR. MCHALE: Thanks Tim. Mr. Amico.

MR. AMICO: Kind of tough to follow the three speakers that spoke before me. So I'm just going to be very brief. I believe Sal was a true gentleman. And to kind of mimic what Carol said, after the May primary election in November, literally the first person that called me and left a message was -- I don't even think I was out of the Community Center and Sal called and congratulated me.

And when I called him back the next day and he said, Vince, you know, whatever you need I'm more than willing to help you out along the way. And I took him up on that a couple times. I stopped by his house. And he was, you know, a wealth of information and a true gentleman in every sense of the word. And I was honored to have known him.

You know, I wish he was around to, you know, to get to know better because like I said, he was a wealth of information. And he's going to be truly missed. And I appreciated, you know, the friendship I had with him. So I'm very sorry for your loss. Thank you.
MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

MR. HALLINAN: It's a terrible loss. I mean, I didn't think I -- I don't even know what to say as far as -- I know what I said in the newspaper about having a drink and that was the truth. The man just came to me and said, you know, listen, we're never going to agree on everything. And I know everybody knows that story if you read the paper.

But the credit that he's due, him and Mike -- and I say this when I'm out a million times. And I just keep thinking this town was broke seven years ago. Nobody -- I'm sorry if I'm losing it. But we were flat broke. There was nothing here. We're shutting the doors.

And Sal and Mike, and a few other people here took the bull by the horns and made some really tough decisions. This was without the landfill money, all those other arguments. They saved this town. And for that we're living and we're probably jealous -- other towns are jealous of what we have.

We have our arguments of, you know, what everybody thinks what direction we should
be going in. But it's not a bad Borough to
live in. It's very nice here. We have some
great people. And I know first hand and just
like the Verrastros learned, when you have an
issue, people step up. And they are there for
you.

It's like maybe to fight with your
brother, you know, the next day you give him a
big hug. And I think that is how Dunmore is.
Just -- I'm going to miss Sal and I didn't even
know him as well as you people. But just like
Vince and Carol, the first guy to call what do
you need.

We're not going to agree on
everything, but when this meeting is over,
let's go have a beer, you know, and don't make
it personal. And I don't think any truer words
were spoken by that gentleman. I'm just glad
to know him as much as I did. I'm sorry, thank
you. And good luck to the Lady Bucks tomorrow.
I know in the grand picture it's --

MR. MCHALE: Attorney Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: I hate going last
following up on everybody else. I didn't know
Sal long. But Mike said, take that shirt off
your back. That's true. Many times at least three times I called him with electrical problems at my house, right first thing in the morning right there fix it in a half hour and went off to his job. Begged him to take money, anything, wouldn't do it.

I learned a ton from him in two years. If I ever had a question he was right there. And I'm going to miss him. And the Borough is going to miss him because, say what you want, he did everything what he thought was best for this town and huge loss. That's all I have.

MR. MCHALE: I obviously spoke a little earlier. Quickly, I'm going to miss him more than that I could tell you. I'm just going to say good-bye my friend. And we're going to adjourn for the evening. Thank you, everybody.
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