COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:
Monday, May 9, 2016

TIME:
7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:
DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

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

MARIA McCool, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
MR. MCHALE: Roll call.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Miss Scrimalli.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Verrastro.

MR. VERRASTRO: 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 speak on agenda items tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve
the minutes.

MR. BURKE: I'll make a 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: Motion to approve and pay the open bills.

MR. HALLINAN: I'll make a 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 six is a resolution to approve the purchase of two pickup trucks for the Department of Public Works in accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Cooperative Purchasing Program also known as COSTARS.

MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that motion.

MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a second. On the question. Quickly just for disclosure sake, these are just two pickups that if anybody sees some of the trucks that drive around they are obviously very aging and Didge is putting together with duct tape and gum at times.

This is just replacing some of the fleet for the guys who do the -- some of the paving and things like that. These are literally just work pickup trucks. So that's it. I have a motion. 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.)

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Personnel matters, if any.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody have any personnel matters? I don't think so.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Number eight, public comment on nonagenda items.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody have comments that they would like to address counsel tonight? Please, Mr. Duncan.

MR. DUNCAN: 17 Barton Street, Dunmore. Just a quick a 30 seconds or less, there's a Dunmore Neighborhood Watch Meeting a week tonight 7:00, just a reminder. And I know nobody got back to me. Sal, I sent you the minutes from the last meeting. So I hope the second time they came through.

MR. VERRASTRO: Yes, they did.

MR. DUNCAN: All right. Thanks everybody. See you next Monday.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Gary.
Anybody else like to address Council tonight?

MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson Avenue, just a quick question, guys, on one or two weeks ago you were looking for ideas on sewer proceeds if it happens and planning and stuff like that. I was wondering is there an outline or a format for what are you guys are looking for in details so I can do work on that?

MR. MCHALE: Pat, honestly, we don't know. And I don't mean to be dismissive in that comment. We really didn't put the cart before the horse. And I don't mean disrespect by that, Pat. It's really -- we base our decisions not on the money. So when the money comes, I don't want to say it's a good problem because it's not. But we want to put it in the right place.

So we're looking to professionals like yourself and residents who are going -- we foresee possibly having a public meeting or something to that effect or forming a committee to advise, you know, no ideas outlandish but at the end of the day we want this money to support the taxpayers and keep taxes down for
the long run. At least that's my --

MR. CLARK: There's no formal

process or policy.

MR. MCHALE: Not yet. We're open to

ideas, Pat.

MR. CLARK: Is there a time limit on

it?

MR. MCHALE: When it closes -- and I

guess the expected closing at this point is

still October, November.

MR. CLARK: So sometime prior to

that have a plan in place at that time.

MR. MCHALE: Well, even when if we

get the money, Pat, it would obviously go into

an account and we could decide after that. But

yeah, I mean, the sooner the better we get it

rolling. If, in fact, the sale goes through.

And it's still an if.

MR. CLARK: I'd love to help you.

MR. MCHALE: We'd love to have you.

Absolutely. We'd love to have you.

MR. CLARK: Thanks, Pat.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody else like to

address Council tonight?

(No response.)
MR. MCHALE: Seeing none. Public officials. Do you want to lead us off, Attorney Cummings?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: I have three items. The first we had discussed at prior meetings the paving of the alleyway off of Larch Street. I think it's been in excess of the last three paving periods where this project has been skipped over. So this is a cooperation agreement by and between the County of Lackawanna and Borough of Dunmore for engineer to design the project and to let the county proceed with the bid process. That will require a motion.

MR. MCHALE: Are you looking for a motion right now, Tom?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes, sir.

MR. MCHALE: Do I have a motion to accept, Tom?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yeah. Motion to approve the resolution.

MR. DEMPSEY: I make a motion to approve.

MR. MCHALE: I have a motion. Do I have a second?
MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll second that.

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: Second item, there was problem with the handicap ramp at the back of the building. It could be resolved for $12,000 in which the Borough participate for the amount of $4,687.56. I need a motion to approve the resolution.

MR. MCHALE: These are CDBG money, Tom?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes.

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

MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that motion.

MR. VERRASTRO: I'll second it.

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: And last, unless you have questions I don't mean to steal anybody's thunder -- and I'm sure Mr. Hallinan and Mr. Kearney will discuss it. But I'm happy to see that the smoking prohibition ordinance is out for review and that the property has been posted and that it will be enforced to the full extent.

There was a comment that 20 to $50 the first and second offense is relatively low. It is. But that's plus costs. So the first time you get nabbed with a cigarette, you're probably looking at $200. That's all I have. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney, do you have anything tonight?
MR. KEARNEY: No, I just -- are we ready to go on that, Tom?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes, as we stand, yes.

MR. KEARNEY: Because I know Councilman Hallinan, did you tell me last week?

MR. HALLINAN: Um hum.

MR. KEARNEY: Okay. We're getting the last of the signs put up tomorrow or Wednesday.

MR. JUDGE: The stand will be put up tomorrow.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: But it's enforceable now.

MR. LORINCE: If you look out the window, she's smoking right now.

MR. HALLINAN: Chief, if you could have your guys walk through because this is --

MR. MCHALE: Especially at night. This would be the prime time to put a cop down there for at least a half hour. Do you have anything further?

CHIEF MARCHESE: No.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Judge.

MR. JUDGE: No. Thanks for the
trucks. We need them. Thank you.


CHIEF DENAPLES: Just that I want to thank everybody on Council who stopped by at the fire at 900 block of Mill Street. Thanks for your support. It was a successful operation at the end of the day.

That building posed a lot of hazards for firefighters and responders. Luckily we lucked out and there was no buildings in the general vicinity. So, you know, we lucked out in that particular component as far as, you know, all the hazards that old structure could have posed. There were zero injuries for the responders and residents.

So everybody did a great job. We're going to send out thank you letters to all the agencies that assisted us in the next couple of days. I just want to thank the police department. They did a really good job with crowd control and blocking some of the streets off where we had our supply lines for the hydrants.

And the only one other thing that I
have is we started doing our preplans for commercial structures about two months ago or so we sent out preplan questioners to all the commercial buildings. We started to get them back. They are broken down to each shift is doing approximately 30 to 35. And what that is, is we're going out to all the commercial structures and entering information into our notebooks, our electronic notebook and each apparatus.

If we get a fire at these locations we know where all the exits are, potentially how many people are -- occupy them during normal operations, electrical shutoffs, utilities and that. So the community will start seeing us out and about. We started them about two weeks ago. And we'll probably be wrapping them up in the next six to eight months.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Chief. Just to go out of turn a little bit. I had the opportunity. I was up there quite a while yesterday. Chief called me early in the morning when it was just starting -- I guess just kicking back up. And you often take for
granted the work that the firefighters and the police do.

But to see the amount of companies come together, and it was like a well-oiled machine. I offer my sincere thanks to all of you. It was very well run. Everything was very orderly. And again, in the position that I've been in, I hadn't been at a lot of fires other than just to quickly stop by and see if anybody -- and I did stay around and watch what happened.

And I was very, very impressed by all of your men. And thanks to the Throop -- you saw all of these companies around Throop, Scranton, Olyphant I think backfilled. I know I'm missing -- Peckville, whatever. Just really the coming together of all of these companies towards a common goal and worrying about each one of you was very, very impressive.

And again thanks go out to -- you know, it's tough when it comes to a fire to make you thank the firefighters and the police for what they do. But you really see it when it comes to a thing like that. It didn't seem
like that big of a fire. And it just kept coming and coming. And when they finally poked a hole in it to let it burn, it was a huge fire. But thank you and to all your men as well. And thankfully no one was hurt, so A-number one. Joe, do you have anything tonight outside of what we spoke of?

MR. LORINCE: No.

MR. MCHALE: I'll move to Council. Mr. Amico, do you want to lead us off tonight?

MR. AMICO: Yeah, Chief, just one question. It was determined what started that--

CHIEF DENAPLES: It's undetermined up to this point. The State Police Fire Marshal and as well as our fire marshal, Captain Sohns were out today and they were out yesterday also. Because of the demolition that we had to do, it will be very, very hard to determine the cause and origin of exactly what caused that.

It's probably going to go undetermined at this point. We're looking in the process of getting surveillance video. There's cameras in that general area.
MR. MCHALE: Vince, I don't mean to cut you off. Chief, just with the rumor mill that continually goes, your guys went in on the third floor and deem it -- I mean, literally floors were -- I'm not blaming you.

MR. AMICO: No, I was going to say I stopped by yesterday morning and I talked to Bobby Dee. And he said the floor was starting to get spongy and, you know, it makes sense. It's old timber frame building, you know, wrapped in masonry. It's probably a tough place to work.

CHIEF DENOAPLES: That's what we had to determine. It was too unsafe. We had to go from an interior operation where we had firefighters inside. We had to pull them out and do a defensive operation. It was just too unsafe to be inside after a certain point.

MR. AMICO: I was just curious if kids were poking around in there.

CHIEF DENOAPLES: It's -- at this point, like I said, we have no concrete evidence that that took place. Like I said, there's a lot of speculation and rumor mill going out there that I've heard also. You
know, concrete evidence of that, we have none right now.

MR. AMICO: Thank you very much.

CHIEF DENAPLES: No problem.

MR. AMICO: Thanks, Mike.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

MR. HALLINAN: I was up there early this morning, yesterday morning. Great job. I was impressed. I don't want to keep repeating what everybody else already stated, but just to watch and how you explained why it was smoldering and how we brought in an excavator and everyone kept saying we're waiting for it to light because it's going to light.

And then when you got at it, it was just -- it was like nine in the morning; it just took off. It was just, you know, just being a private citizen watching not understanding what you do, you sit there why, why, how come. And then when you see it, you understand what you do.

And it's a very hazardous job. I'm very thankful for you and your men and what they do and all the other communities for helping us out and thank you. And I see there
was a couple of drug busts that were done by Reilly and our police force.

I'd like to thank you, Chief, and keep Reilly fed. He's doing a great job.

And see if you could get a police officer down here to patrol through here. This is one of my pet peeves is with the smokers. See if you have somebody that can walk through, I'd appreciate it. That's about it. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Attorney Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll correct you. The dog is a female. She.

MR. HALLINAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. DEMPSEY: Chief, great job. When I came down you told me and I remembered it for whatever reason. I don't know who told you. Risk a lot to save a lot. Risk a little to save little. Risk nothing to save nothing. You did the right thing obviously. Obviously coming from me it doesn't matter.

CHIEF DENAPLES: Absolutely it does.

MR. DEMPSEY: But you guys did great. I'm just happy that nobody was injured. Thank you. Chief Marchese, great job with the
police down there. And obviously the continued
drug arrests that you guys make is again
nothing short of remarkable all the time. You
guys are doing that. So great job. That's it.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Verrastro.

MR. VERRASTRO: Just to echo
everybody else. Thank the fire and police
departments. Everything going on was great.
That's all I have to say.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir. Mr.
Burke.

MR. BURKE: The same too besides our
Dunmore fire and police, the surrounding towns
and volunteers. Thanks for their help. That's
it.

MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Tim. Carol.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Yes. I just want to
thank the fire department, did a great job. It
was I'm sure very emotional and very difficult.
And also to the police department, thank you
for all of your hard efforts as well. And DPW
great job. And that's it. Thank you all for
coming. I appreciate it.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you,
Mrs. Scrimalli. Real quick, I wasn't going to
say anything else. But, you know, Vince, I
don't want to steal your thunder. We got an
e-mail from Vince who's been working with the
website. And I know it's been -- I don't want
to say it's bone of contention with everybody.

We've been trying to do better and
Vince is really taking an active role in this
and even sent us screenshots today of doing an
App where we put our schedule on, our minutes
of the meeting, agendas, things like that.

So, Vince, thank you for everything
you have been doing there. I think that will
be a phenomenal addition to us, you know,
getting the word out more because, you know,
there's few of us trying to do everything. And
that would be a great thing to get the
taxpayers more informed and on board. So thank
you again for that. Continued good luck. I
will look for a motion to adjourn.

MR. DEMPSEY: Motion.

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

MS. SCRIMALLI: Second.

MR. MCHALE: All those in favor.

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
MR. MCHALE: We are 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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