COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, March 9th, 2020

TIME:

7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MICHAEL DEMPSEY, President
THOMAS HALLINAN, Vice President - absent
CAROL SCRIMALLI
VINCE AMICO
JANET BRIER
ELIZABETH ZANGARDI
MICHAEL P. PERRY, Esquire, Solicitor
TIMOTHY BURKE, Mayor
VITO RUGGIERO, Borough Manager

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

MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. McDonald Zangardi.

MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. Scrimalli.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Here.

MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Ehnot.

MR. EHNOT: Here.

MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Hallinan. Mr. Amico.

MR. AMICO: Here.

MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. Brier.

MS. BRIER: Here.

MR. RUGGIERO: Mayor Burke.

MAYOR BURKE: Present.

MR. RUGGIERO: Number three, public comment on agenda items.

MR. DEMPSEY: Would anybody like to address Council with regard to agenda items only?

(No response.)

MR. DEMPSEY: Seeing none.
MR. RUGGIERO: Number four, motion to approve and pay the open bills.

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

MR. EHNOS: I'll make a motion to pay the open bills.

MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll second that.

MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a second. Anyone on the question?

(No response.)

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

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

(No response.)

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

MR. RUGGIERO: Number five is a motion to appoint Michael P. Perry, Esquire as Borough Solicitor.

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

MR. EHNOS: I'll make a motion to appoint Michael P. Perry, Esquire as Borough Solicitor.
MR. DEMPSEY: Do I have a second?

MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a second. Anyone on the question?

(No response.)

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

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

(No response.)

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

MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Chairman, would you like Attorney Perry to take over the meeting?

MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah, Attorney Perry, if you would please take the helm?

ATTY. PERRY: Thank you. Next we have item number six, personnel matters regarding part-time police officers Emily Wilk, Kerry L. Collins, Matthew Conforti, Donte Edwards.

MR. DEMPSEY: I will look for a motion to appoint those part-time police officers.
MR. AMICO: I'll make that motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: Do I have a second?

MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll second that.

MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a second. On the question. I'll go quickly on the question here. We're hiring four additional part-time officers to add to our part-time roster. We had two officers resign who got hired elsewhere.

Right now we don't know whether or not we're going to fill those positions with full time. But for now we do need to get more part-timers that we can count on to take any open shifts that result of those two officers leaving. Again, it doesn't cost the Borough much except for the training. Correct, Chief?

CHIEF MARCHESE: Correct.

MR. DEMPSEY: And these are all subject to your approval.

CHIEF MARCHESE: Correct.

MR. DEMPSEY: So with that being said, anyone else on the question?

(No response.)

MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor signify by saying aye.
ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. DEMPSEY: Ayes have it and so moved.

ATTY. PERRY: Item number seven, Finance Chairwoman Report, Janet Brier.

MS. BRIER: Hi everyone. Thanks for coming. Did everyone grab the three sheets out there? Do we need to distribute them to anyone? We wanted you to get them before the meeting. Do you want me to get them for you, sir?

Just to provide a little bit of background, we really haven't been distributing these -- this type of information to the public. And it's something that we really have -- we needed to do. Part of the reason is we haven't had a treasurer. We still don't have a treasurer. But we are going to be hiring a treasurer hopefully very soon.

We've already interviewed and talked to a couple guys. So we have a good idea. I just wanted to point out on the first one which is the January to December 19, this is for last
calendar year. It's this one. It says ordinary account expense at the first line. So as you could see, it's a very simple income statement. It's the revenue less the expenses. And then you either have, you know, a profit or a loss. In this case there is a 3 million dollar loss, 3.1 million dollar loss for 2019.

Now, I have to emphasize that this is a draft document. We are undergoing our annual audit as we speak here in the Borough. I think this is going to change.

I think it's going to go up, the deficit. But this is an unaudited financial statement. And I wanted to give folks so they have some idea of what happened in 2019 until we get our audit -- financial statements which will be probably in a month, six weeks.

So you as you could see the budget was a $57,000 positive figure. And the actual was a negative 3.1 million. And again, I think that will change. I just wanted folks to know that and see that.

The second sheet it tells you on January and February expenses so far. And it's
pretty much the same revenue pieces and then expenses in one column for January and one column for February. This doesn't tell us a heck of a lot.

What I would propose to do going forward once the treasurer is in place is to give you, you know, January 20 and then the next column would be the budget for January 20, and the third column would be 2019 actual. So we have some basis for an analytical review of the expenses. That's coming.

As soon as we get our treasurer in place we should be able to give you a more complete report every month of our financial situation. And the third one is just the expenses this month.

And again, that doesn't tell us anything because there is nothing to compare it to and, you know, there's just nothing -- there's no basis for comparison. So if anyone -- does anyone have any questions on these two? Yes, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: You started to answer mine --

MR. DEMPSEY: Wait. Hold on. Hold
on, Mrs. Brier.

MS. BRIER: I'm sorry. Not yet?

MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah. Please hold your questions until the public comment just -- obviously we have Maria here and we have to know who's speaking. I apologize. I don't want to cut you off.

MS. BRIER: Okay. Well, the purpose of this is just to let you know what's going on a little bit and to tell you that in the future, I'm hoping by next month we'll have a more complete, more accurate financial statement for everyone -- an income statement, revenue and expenses. Thanks so much.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mrs. Brier. Mick, before you -- does anyone from Council have any questions for Mrs. Brier regarding the financial report?

(No response.)

MR. DEMPSEY: Okay, hearing none.

ATTY. PERRY: Item number eight, public comment. Katelyn English, Lackawanna County.

MR. DEMPSEY: Katelyn, do you have something?
MS. ENGLISH: I do.

MR. DEMPSEY: I don't want to make you come up here if you --

MS. ENGLISH: Hi everybody. Katelyn English with Lackawanna County. We have a few events and dates we'd like to share. Lackawanna County has its 8th annual Job Fair scheduled for Thursday, May 14th located at the PNC Field's Geisinger Champion's Club; Lackawanna County has its Heritage Fair scheduled for May 27th to the 31st located at Montage Mountain. Interested exhibitors can e-mail KCORNELL at Lackawanna County Heritage Fair dot com.

Lackawanna Heritage Fair will also be holding a prize purse bingo on March 29th located at the St. Mary's Center in Scranton.

Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation has a few events coming up, Easter egg hunt will be April 4th at McDade Park. This event is open to all ages. Fishing derby on May 9th at McDade Park. There's two sessions, one for ages four through eight. And one for ages 9 through 12.

ADA Day on August 21st at McDade
Park. Penn State Extension is accepting strawberry sale order forms for strawberry plants. Cost for bundle is $13. Orders and payment are due by April the 27th.

And lastly, the Armed Forces have their Helping Hometown Heros 5K and one mile walk. This will be held on Saturday, May the 16th at Courthouse Square in Scranton and registration is required. Thank you so much.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

ATTY. PERRY: Thank you, Katelyn.

Gary Duncan, Neighborhood Watch.

MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton Street. I'll be real quick. All members of Council, you got the responses from the last monthly meeting for the neighborhood watch, correct?

MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.

MR. DUNCAN: Just so that everybody knows, Sheriff McAndrew from Lackawanna County Sheriff's Department is going to be at our meeting next Monday.

So he'll be here to address the public if anyone has any questions regarding the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff McAndrew
again, he confirmed he will here. So we should be good for that. Didge, you're here tonight. Can you do me a favor and tell your folks we said thank you for getting the signs up we had talked about at the last meeting. So I appreciate that.

And, Mrs. Brier, thank you very much for the update on the finances and everything. I sincerely appreciate that.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mr. Duncan.

ATTY. PERRY: The floor is open for public comment.

MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, sir.

MR. JOHNSON: David Johnson, 601 Shirley Lane. First of all, I want to thank Council for bringing the Treasurer's Report. It should have been done a while ago. I like the comment because I was going to ask you we need to see where we are against the budget each month.

And I'll go back one more. You still need a secretary's report at this meeting that must be reviewed and approved to be legal documents for your minutes. So you're on the right track on that. And I thank you.
MR. DEMPSEY: I appreciate your comments from last meeting. I hope you know we did take them to heart. We actually when I first started like six years ago we did have a treasurer. And she used to give us such detailed reports. And then she retired. And then we filled her with another treasurer that didn't work out. And, you know, we sort of got away from it. I'm glad they're back now.

MR. JOHNSON: Well, by doing it, you don't get caught with what you got caught with the last two years. You know, if everybody sees what's going on, you can monitor it a little bit better and I do appreciate you doing it.

MR. DEMPSEY: Same here. Thank you. Please.

MS. NARO: I have a couple comments. Mickey, congratulations.

ATTY. PERRY: Thank you.

MS. NARO: Your neighbor the late Tom Hennigan would be thrilled that you are sitting there. So congratulations.

ATTY. PERRY: Thank you.

MS. NARO: Secondly, a few -- I
think it was a January meeting. Very disappointed that you all decided not to have two meetings. When I was on Council we --

MR. DEMPSEY: Before you -- I don't want to cut you off.

MS. NARO: Okay. You can cut me off. You're the Chair.

MR. DEMPSEY: That was discussed. We're going to go back to two meetings. And I was going to address that in my public official comment.

MS. NARO: Very good. I'm glad to hear that. The next thing, I wasn't at last month's meeting. And I'm very concerned about this. I'm thrilled that you have someone at the realm to look at this. But were we deceived for years that we were in budget and weren't in budget?

If we're 3 million -- 3 and a half million dollars in the hole, our taxes are going to have to be raised. Are you going to be opening up the budget? Are you going to be laying off personnel? Like, what's the plan and what's the timeframe for us determine what you all are going to do?
It's scary you have two members up here that are brand new, you know, to Council. And I think it's scary for us. I see a lot of regulars in the audience who are here month in and month out. But these numbers -- I don't come all the time. These numbers are shocking to me because this isn't just $100,000 we can make it up some how.

This is 3 and a half million dollars. This is not going to be easy to make up. So I'm very concerned. Thank you.

MS. BRIER: We're very concerned as well. We are looking at, you know, solutions for this. I mean, this is obviously unsustainable. I don't know how many years it has gone on. I just looked at 2019. I can go back -- maybe we will go back. Part of the new treasurer's job will be to do a five-year strategic plan.

You know, we are talking about consolidating the debt and possibly paying part of it down with the Sewer Authority money. So there are some solutions that we're looking at because as you said, this is unsustainable. So thanks for your comments.
MR. DEMPSEY: Anybody else like to address Council tonight? Stay there and just please state your name and address for the record.

MR. COAR: John Coar. I live on Pine Street. I come with a concern about one of our neighboring schools the Jefferson -- or the Northeast. And the concern is this. They knocked down the house. They plowed down some trees. They put in a new parking lot. Wonderful. That alleviates some congestion.

But in doing so when you come to the stop sign on Willow Street, there is a parking spot there. There's a car there. It doesn't matter. It's an obstructed view. Now you have to pull part way out onto Pine Street to see.

And if there's cars parked across from you which there usually are during the day, if there's a car coming up trying to make a turn, it really creates a problem there. And I had called them in October because it was all dirt and they just -- and they were very cooperative.

They say, well, could you bear with us for a couple of weeks and we're going to
pave it and I said okay no problem. Maybe it was -- anyway they did so in December. And after a couple -- I come up. I'm looking at the sign. I said, wait a minute. They didn't line the spots this way which if you didn't park an SUV on the corner, no problem. You could see. They lined them parallel to Pine Street.

So now you come up. It doesn't matter whether it's an SUV or a regular car. You can't see anything. You really got to pull -- a stop sign, pull out another 10, 12 feet so the front end is almost out there. I saw -- I called them in January and spoke to the head of grounds up there. It was up in -- I forget Jessup, Valley View, someplace.

He said no problem we'll take care of it. And the only reason I'm here tonight is number one, there was several people that had -- that were not happy with it.

And I said, Jeez, just let me go up. We don't need a crowd. And nothing has happened. It's one spot. And it's an obstructed view. It's a hazard. And I don't know what we can do about it.
MR. EHNOT: Sal, can you send somebody up there? Is this all day, Mr. Coar?

MR. COAR: It's from 8:30 until 3 whenever they get out, 2:30. I don't know. It's the parking lot for the staff.

CHIEF MARCHESE: I know exactly where he means. I'll look at it tomorrow. I'll take Joe with me.

MR. COAR: Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Is there a contact person that you have there, sir?

MR. COAR: You know, they were all nice. Let me say this. They were all nice. And I have a feeling it was one of those things that, yeah, we'll take care of. And I think it's really something that just kind of slipped on them. It's not that I don't think they're doing it deliberately. It's a problem.

MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Lorince has that. He spoke to the gentleman on concerns on Chestnut Street as well. So he has that gentleman's name. I'll speak with him in the morning.

MR. COAR: Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Would anyone else like
to address Council tonight? Yes, sir.

MR. MALONEY: I was just going to say -- Tim Maloney. I just want to know if Council has any plans or if you don't to consider promoting participation in the Census because the more people we get in this Borough counted, the more money we're going to get.

MS. BRIER: You know, Timmy, I talked to Pat Tigue today. I don't know if you guys know Pat. He's from Dunmore. But he's the census guy for Dunmore, he told me. And he said he was going to come tonight and speak to us. And Vito had said that he came and spoke to Council before Beth and I were on Council.

MR. RUGGIERO: Yes, he did.

MS. BRIER: So we would like to speak to him again and get a plan because you're absolutely right. We need to count every head.

MR. MALONEY: Any head that goes uncounted costs us money.

MS. BRIER: Yeah.

MR. RUGGIERO: I have Mr. Tigue's contact information. I can reach out and see if he could come to one of our meetings.
MS. BRIER: Thank you. That's a really good point, Timmy.

MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone else like to address Council tonight?

MR. COAR: Yeah, let's wish the Lady Bucks.

MR. RUGGIERO: Your granddaughter and the rest of the team.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

ATTY. PERRY: Next item is Public Officials, number nine.

MR. DEMPSEY: Mrs. Zangardi, do you want to lead us off?

MS. ZANGARDI: Yes. The nonprofit Mosaic Project is doing a cleanup for Forest Hill Cemetery, April 24th. It's a Saturday. And they are looking for volunteers if anybody is interested -- no April 25th. It's a Saturday. They are looking for volunteers. If anybody is interested, I will take your name and number and we will get something drawn to have at the table. But we're looking for volunteers to beautify Forest Hill Cemetery.

MR. DEMPSEY: Is there times for
that?

    MS. ZANGARDI: Well, it's going to be that one Saturday between 9 and 12. However, I think it's going to take a few Saturdays. So that's the first one from 9 to 12 on April 25th.

    And the only second thing I have is thank you, Mary Walsh Dempsey, for helping us out and our solicitor and welcome aboard, Mr. Perry -- Attorney Perry. Appreciate it.

    ATTY. PERRY: Thank you.

    MR. DEMPSEY: Beth?

    MS. ZANGARDI: I'm good.

    MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mrs. Zangardi. Mrs. Scrimalli.

    MS. SCRIMALLI: I also want to welcome, Attorney Perry.

    ATTY. PERRY: Thank you.

    MS. SCRIMALLI: And I want to thank Mary, for all your time. It was great. We appreciate you. And, Didge, I want to thank you for doing some of the roads, filling some of the spots that were badly needed. Thank you. And that's all I have tonight. Thank you all for coming.
MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mrs. Scrimalli. Mr. Ehnot?

MR. EHNOT: I'm good. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Mr. Amico?

MR. AMICO: I'm fine. Thank you tonight.

MR. DEMPSEY: And, Mrs. Brier?

MS. BRIER: I just want to thank Mary too because that was -- you really jumped in at the 11th hour and did a wonderful job for us. And thank goodness they're still here as -- her firm is still here as our labor attorney. So we won't be saying good-bye to Mary, fortunately or unfortunately.

And welcome, Mickey. I've known Mickey -- he was my brother's very good friend since grade school so thrilled. And I think that's it. Thank you.

ATTY. PERRY: Thank you, Janet.

MR. DEMPSEY: Did you want to go up again, Carol?

MS. SCRIMALLI: Well, I could. I just want to mention just to let people know we're having some issues with leave collection. They're not taking plastic bags. So leaves
cannot go in or brush, no plastic bags and no paper bags. So we're asking just spread the word to put them in cans if you would, please. And that's all I have. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: If they're in bags --
MR. COAR: Did you say no paper bags for the --

MS. SCRIMALLI: No paper bags, no plastic bags. They have to go in a can. Like if you have leaves -- I know it's -- but they are not taking any plastic bags.

MR. AMICO: That's per the Recycling Center. New guidelines from the Recycling Center.

(A brief conversation was held off the record.)

MR. DEMPSEY: We can meet with Mr. Coar afterwards and tell you exactly what to do just because Maria is trying to take down everybody talking and she's looking at me with that evil eye.

Blood drives, we had a recent blood drive here at the Community Center for Jack
Callahan. It was a huge success. So I want to thank Molly Callahan and her husband who did it on behalf of their child. There is another blood drive coming up. Chris, what was the date on that?

MR. KEARNEY: I think June. Was this the one that Sally was talking about?

MR. DEMPSEY: Yes. Can you give us information on that, please?

MR. KEARNEY: June 5th. That's all I know. She told me this this morning. I didn't get anything else. I thinks it's Friday, June 5th.

MR. DEMPSEY: I just want to make sure everybody knows because it's important. So bear with me. On Friday, June 5th, 2020 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., there will be a blood drive in memory of Molly Conway. So June 5th, it's Friday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., here at the DCC. So please try to make it and get the word out so there's another huge turnout as there was this past weekend.

Next I would certainly like to wish our Lady Bucks the best of luck tomorrow as they take on I think Neumann Goretti from
Bethlehem Freedom High School at 6 p.m. So please try to make it and support them. They are absolutely -- they're extremely fun to watch how they play as a team. So I recommend anybody to go to that.

I think that's it. Oh, last thing I know that the -- I know everybody is complaining. I'm complaining. I live on one of the roads. The roads are in horrible, horrible condition as a result of all of this new piping going in.

All the roads that they are doing are getting paved curb to curb. So I just want everybody to be aware of that. Quincy Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, Delaware Street, Elizabeth Street, Corner Street, Center Street, Hill Street, Franklin Street and Terrace Street will all be getting paved curb to curb once they are all done with all of this.

MR. COAR: Pine Street is a disaster.

MR. DEMPSEY: It's not on this list but I'll inquire as to Pine Street.

MS. BRIER: You know, the one at the corner of Monroe and Delaware -- I mean,
everybody should be a little bit cautious of that. It's like -- it's a hole. I mean, all the roads are bad. But if you hit that, you're going to lose a tire.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: What roads did you say again?

MR. DEMPSEY: Quincy Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, Delaware Street, Elizabeth Street, Corner Street, Center Street, Hill Street, Franklin Street and Terrace Street.

MR. MALONEY: Can I just add one thing to it?

MR. DEMPSEY: Go ahead.

MR. MALONEY: They did Quincy Avenue. When they did my house, they put a water pipe. They put a gas pipe. They're going to pave the street. And then they're going to come back and dig up the new street and put the sewer in. Can they please, please coordinate it so that we're not paving streets digging them up and --

MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah, I'll have Joe make sure he follows up on that with some sort of letter.

MR. MALONEY: That should be a
requirement.

MR. DEMPSEY: You're not going to get an argument from me. Anybody else have anything? Mayor Burke?

MAYOR BURKE: Yes. I want to welcome Mick aboard. Thank you, Mary, for the great work you've done for us for a short period of time. And you kept us going. Thank you. And the new meters we're getting, Mike, right?

MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah.

MAYOR BURKE: So, Sal, if you could get the guys, make sure those -- empty those meters at the corners. And I want to wish the Lady Bucks and good luck tomorrow and Holy Cross boys good luck. And that's all I have. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Mayor, just on top I'll comment on the meters. We're not buying meters. Scranton has all of their leftover meters. And they have agreed to give them to us. So they have them all down at the warehouse. We just have to pick them and hook them up and get them operational. Once that is, we're going to start being a little bit
more conscientious about them at the corners.

MAYOR BURKE: Just one thing too I want to add, Mike. The streets that Mike named that are getting paved if you live on that street -- if you live there or you if you know somebody who lives there, just a reminder to take a picture before and after of the job, okay, because believe me, some of the contractors aren't -- you'll find out.

Just take a picture before and after because it took me forever to get corrections on my street forever. And if I didn't have pictures maybe I wouldn't of had it done, just advice.

( A discussion was held off the record.)

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mayor Burke. Vito, do you have anything?

MR. RUGGIERO: Nothing.

MR. DEMPSEY: Attorney Perry?

ATTY. PERRY: Just item number ten, adjournment.

MR. DEMPSEY: Chief -- I just have
to go to the -- Chief DeNaples, do you have anything?

CHIEF DENAPLES: I have nothing tonight. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Sal?

CHIEF MARCHESE: I'm good.

MR. DEMPSEY: Didge?

MR. JUDGE: Nothing.

MR. DEMPSEY: Mr. O'Malley, can you just --

MR. O'MALLEY: Did you say you're going back to two meetings a month?

MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, we are. I apologize. I thought I said that. But, yeah, we are going back to two meetings a month for this month April and May.

And then we'll do the summer schedule one meeting a month June, July, August and September then back to two meetings October, November and December. All right? With that I'll look for a motion to adjourn.

MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

MR. EHNOT: Second.
MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. DEMPSEY: Ayes have it and so moved. We're adjourned.

(Whereupon, meeting is 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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