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1	COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE	
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3	HELD:	
4	Monday, February 8th, 2016	
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6	TIME:	
7	7:00 P.M.	
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9	LOCATION:	
10	DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER 1414 Monroe Avenue	
11	Dunmore, Pennsylvania	
12	COUNCIL MEMBERS:	
13	MICHAEL MCHALE, President	
14	MICHAEL DEMPSEY, Vice President	
15	SAL VERRASTRO	
16	TIMOTHY BURKE	
17	CAROL SCRIMALLI	
18	THOMAS HALLINAN	
19	VINCE AMICO	
20	THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor	
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22		
23		
24	MARIA McCOOL, RPR	
25	OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	

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1	(Pledge of Allegiance.)
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4	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Miss Scrimalli.
5	MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.
6	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.
7	MR. BURKE: Present.
8	ATTY. CUMMINGS. Mr. Verrastro.
9	MR. VERRASTRO: Here.
10	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Amico.
11	MR. AMICO: Here.
12	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.
13	MR. HALLINAN: Here.
14	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.
15	MR. DEMPSEY: Present.
16	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.
17	MR. MCHALE: Here.
18	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public comment on
19	agenda items.
20	MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to comment
21	on any of the agenda items tonight?
22	(No response.)
23	MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.
24	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve
25	the minutes.

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1	MR. BURKE: I'll make a motion.
2	MR. DEMPSEY: Second.
3	MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
4	second. On the question.
5	(No response.)
6	MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
7	signify by saying aye.
8	ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
9	MR. MCHALE: Opposed?
10	(No response.)
11	MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
12	moved.
13	ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve
14	and pay the open bills.
15	MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that
16	motion.
17	MR. MCHALE: I have a motion. I'll
18	look for a second.
19	MR. BURKE: Second.
20	MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
21	second. On the question. All those in favor
22	signify by saying aye.
23	ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
24	MR. MCHALE: Opposed?
25	(No response.)

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

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six is personnel matters.

MR. MCHALE: Do we have any personnel matters tonight?

MR. VERRASTRO: Yes, under personnel matters, we have in the fire department, I don't know, we spoke about it quite a bit in the past the Manning Clause of 15 men. We have full time fire fighters on the floor. We had a firefighter retire.

So we have one that is on active reserve right now that would just be moving -- he would be working the same hours he's basically be putting to full-time status. The only thing difference between where he is now and the full-time status is I believe a couple of sick days and he's now entitled to a pension under the contract. So we have to put the 15th guy in to meet our requirements.

MR. MCHALE: Are you going to make a motion?

MR. VERRASTRO: With that, I'd like to make a motion to move firefighter Paul Kwiec

from active reserve to full time status. 1 2 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll second that 3 motion. 4 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a 5 On the question. second. 6 (No response.) 7 MR. MCHALE: All in favor signify by 8 saying aye. 9 ALL MEMBERS: Aye. 10 MR. MCHALE: Opposed? 11 (No response.) 12 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so 13 moved. Any other personnel matters? 14 (No response.) MR. VERRASTRO: I have none. 15 16 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none. ATTY. CUMMINGS: 17 Item seven is 18 public comment on nonagenda items. 19 MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address 20 Council tonight? Please come up to the podium, 21 state your name for the record. 22 MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton I want to thank Joe Lorince for coming 23 24 to the last Neighborhood Watch meeting. 25 pretty much went through all of the concerns

with me already tonight so I just want to give
Joe a shout-out. And he already told me he's
going to be at next Monday's meeting. And that
was the other thing I just want to remind
everybody. We do have a Neighborhood Watch
meeting next Monday at 7. With that said, I
hope everybody had a good new year. How about
that Super Bowl?

MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Mr. Duncan.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you, Gary.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody else like to address Council tonight? Please.

MS. NARO: Thanks. Melanie Naro, 305 East Drinker Street. I have two things. One -- and it's only what I have been reading in the newspaper which is very limited. So -- and I can't always make meetings. So I know that publically the President of Council who is also the Chairman of the Sewer Authority has spoken out against the deal.

And I'm not sure if this board has taken a poll or has taken a stance as a board of how they stand with the sewer deal being sold to Pennsylvania American Water.

MR. MCHALE: Melanie, real quick. I

have come out to say that I'm not against the deal. I haven't really gone either way. But to tell you that my first and foremost concern any deal that was presented would be to save the taxpayers money. If a deal is more beneficial to the taxpayers to save the money in the long run, I would back that. If not, I wouldn't back it, period, end of story.

We discussed the Sewer Authority
deal every week. And I bring everybody
up-to-date. And obviously anybody is free to
speak to you as well. But we're still in the
information gathering stage even though a, you
know, we're negotiating with one party right
now the Sewer Authority. We're still getting
information as a group on a weekly basis.

MS. NARO: So has the Borough
Council taken a stance yet or you're still
gathering information as a board to --

MR. VERRASTRO: May I? I don't mean to interrupt you, I'm sorry. Finish.

MS. NARO: No, to take a position because you're the governing body.

MR. VERRASTRO: What we've been doing, Melanie, so far is -- and correct me if

somebody doesn't think that this is what we've been doing is when we put Michael there as our representative it was because we wanted Council because of the way some talks were going in the past about maybe the sale and some other things, we wanted Council to have an actual say because, you know, once you have a representative, that representative technically is a separate affiliation.

And he could listen to Council but he doesn't have to do what Council asks him to because he his own vote -- its own entity. We had -- what we tried to do is -- and I hope I'm trying to make this -- to take some heat off Mike because there is constantly stuff here. As of right now unless he changes his mind -- which I don't think he will, is Mike is going to vote the way that the seven people up here as a majority vote to go whether it's 7-0, 4-3.

So his final vote after we get all our information on is going to be what we asked him to vote for us.

MS. NARO: And will you be doing that at a public meeting voting or allowing public comment about it or what is the feeling

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of the board?

MR. MCHALE: As you know, public comment is every meeting. And we will correct at a minimum -- I don't think we -- Tom, correct me if I'm wrong, I'm sure we don't have to take a formal public vote because it is an independent agency.

But everybody will have the opportunity to discuss exactly where we are.

And you'll know because my vote will be speaking for the majority.

MS. NARO: Okay. I would just like to make a comment to all of you. I was a solicitor of an ad hoc committee which Mr. Burke was also on and various other members after the debacle when the lease that we don't have to pay back -- the 1.6 million dollars and guess what? You're still paying back the 1.6 million dollars and all the refinancing that you had to do because we had to pay back whatever it was calling American Angelical or something peculiar like that.

So it sounds like a really good deal because, oh, we're going to be getting maybe 20 million dollars up front, wow, what could we do

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with that money. But in the long run at what expense? And if you do decide as a board or as an individual as a member -- a representative of Dunmore, I suggest that you really think about putting that money away and living off the interest and not doing what they did 10 years ago of hiring a whole bunch of people and spending, spending, spending.

You as a board have gotten our taxes down a little bit. Hopefully in the future they'll be more. But just don't go if you get the money spend, spend. The other thing that I would like to address -- and again, I'm not sure if this was brought up by any other taxpayer.

But in the past, Councils have done a paving program. And unfortunately the roads haven't been sealed. And what's happening is the roads -- all cracks, water goes in them and form potholes and our streets in Dunmore need to be repayed again. It was about 15 years ago when the paving program started.

And every year we did so many. Every year we did so many. The county took care of some with the county money in the low

income areas. So I would ask that you really look at starting that paving program because Dunmore's roads are starting to look like Scranton's again. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Miss Naro, just -- that has been at the top of our list for a long, long time. And as you could imagine you sat up here and tried the same. When money is available and we do think we're going to be able to do some this year, we will do so.

We're still paying for the sins of the past every day. So once we catch up, we've come a long way. But that's one that is still unfulfilled. We're looking to do it in the short term, not the long-term. And to discuss the money on the Sewer Authority the 20, 30 million dollars whatever it ends up being is putting the cart way before the horse.

This Council has never said that we're looking to get money out of that deal.

Again, number one, the only thing that's ever been discussed is to keep the rates low, whether that kicks off money in end. There's still many, many questions in regards to the rain water, the waste water that I still need

to address with me personally and then inform the board.

Mr. Cummings is knee deep in it as well. The money will be put aside for, you know, until there is a need for it. It will not be -- we've never since we -- since the majority has gotten here spent frivolously.

We as a matter of fact cut a ton of spending when I first got here. And that actually wasn't even me. That was Sal, Timmy, and the Council before us that took a hard line and cut a lot of unnecessary jobs that were existing. So we did make those hard cuts. We really haven't replaced a lot.

You see that we put on more cops and this and that. That is because we haven't replaced them in seven, eight years. We haven't gone to -- Chief Marchese will tell you he still thinks we need five more guys. Our budget just doesn't dictate that.

We're living within our means.

We're going to continue to do so even with the

25 million dollars cash infusion if and when it

ever comes. We're not going to spend that. So

anybody else like to address Council tonight?

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(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Cummings.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Nothing sir.

Public officials.

MR. MCHALE: Do you want to speak, Mr. Valvano?

MR. VALVANO: Yes. Just a couple things tonight real quick. The local share again for 2016 will be coming up in June. As I told Councilman Dempsey and Councilman Hallinan, the Borough can apply for up to three projects each year when the money is available.

Councilman Hallinan had said about the signs that needed to be replaced. did speak with DCED and that is one of the things that the Borough could apply for for local share money to replaces signs and stop signs and such.

The Blakely Street project is on hold for winter. It's in their project. have a significant amount of concrete work that is coming up. And they built it into the project that they wouldn't do it because they need seven days and it was much cheaper for them just to do it during the summer

1 construction season so they wouldn't have to 2 eat the concrete. 3 So probably the end of March once 4 the weather breaks that will be ramping up 5 Tom Pichiarella said that, you know, he will either let myself or you know when they 6 7 are and we'll get a timetable again what their 8 construction timetable is for this construction 9 season. 10 And they didn't forget about the crosswalks at the tank. That is on their 11 12 priority. But again, that is weather 13 dependent. So once the weather breaks that's 14 on their list. And that's it. MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir. 15 16 Chief, do you have anything tonight? 17 CHIEF MARCHESE: No. 18 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Judge? MR. JUDGE: 19 No. 20 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney? MR. KEARNEY: 21 No. 22 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Amico, do you want 23 to start us off tonight? 24 MR. AMICO: Yeah, I just have 25 something very, very brief. In yesterday's

paper there was a little tid bit saying that tomorrow there is supposed be a meeting at the American Legion in Green Ridge for the Green Ridge Neighborhood Association. I realize it's Scranton. But representatives from the Department of Health are going to speak to the sewer issue that happened in September. That's cancelled.

So if anybody was planning on going, that's postpone because -- or due to, you know, impending weather. And that's all I have for this evening. Thank you very much.

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

MR. HALLINAN: A couple of things.

Melanie, you're reading my mind. We talked about a paving program. And obviously we determined there was no money at this time to move forward with that.

But I also wanted to maybe even look into some crack sealing which could save some of the not as travelled roads which is a better investment for our money to save the road and get a longer last out of it rather than, you know, repaying roads like that were done all at

once which is really -- I'm not a fan of that.

But, you know, yes, we do need a paving program when the money does appear. Maybe we can do something on that thing. The other thing I was looking at, Mr. Kearney, we've been getting a lot of calls -- at least myself and then even going through the, you know, asking you when a date is open or going through Sally and even for the taxpayers, I was going to wonder if -- I'm asking you to put a calendar together and then you could get it our to website and then, you know, it's out there what's available, what's not so people could look at it.

It's almost like advertising for us as a rental fee for like, you know, hey, look, let's look at Dunmore's Community Center, that date's open. Now they go through the motions instead of calling up and asking is that available, what's going on, I'll get back to you.

And if you could do that for all the Council members, give it to us and give it to -- especially to the website. I would really appreciate that maybe by the 20th of the

previous month put up the, you know, the future month's agenda what's going on over here, okay? I would appreciate that. That's all I have. Thank you.

MR. MCHALE: Quickly, Mr. Hallinan, just to reiterate what we're talking about in the paving program, you and I have talked about to -- everybody has talked about it for quite a while. There may be money available at the end of the year. We kind of run a budget -- a legitimate budget as opposed to sometimes in the past where we watch every penny.

There is a contingency in there.

But that is just that for a contingency just in this case, you know, something comes up. We do have construction at the firehouse and other things throughout the year. We settled -- two years ago we settled a large lawsuit that had occurred in the past and we didn't have insurance coverage.

So I do think, you know, fingers crossed that there will be contingency funds available. That's not the way to do a paving program, don't get me wrong. But that's the best we can do right now. So I'm hoping by the

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end of the year we can release some of those funds to do some of the more serious because Miss Naro is right.

There is some areas that need to be addressed. And Didge has paving crews out there right now and doing potholes and they've been keeping up pretty good this year. Like I said, it is towards the top of our agenda.

You know, when we were talking about the budget I didn't mean to put Chief on the spot in saying he needs five more guys. He and I kid each other every day. You know, he's right. We do need ten more guys. We just can't afford it.

MR. HALLINAN: And to add to your being frugal, are there places that need, you know, the total street paved, I'm sure. But I think to copy PennDOT, there's places where maybe just half the street needs to be paved or one lane rather than wasting the money and paving something that doesn't need to be paved. So that's what I was, you know, look at and we all spoke about.

MR. MCHALE: And Miss Naro probably remembers too that our DPW used to do a lot of

paving on their own. And we've kicked around the idea of maybe buying a paving machine, not a huge one but maybe to do alleyways or small sections to replace things like that. You know, and when Didge has three, four guys on a crew on a Friday we can knock off a few. Those ideas are floating around. And if we can afford them, we're going to do them.

MR. HALLINAN: And if you do it in-house, the guys would take more pride in doing their own work for their own neighbors.

MR. MCHALE: Sure.

MR. HALLINAN: And I'm sure of that.

MR. MCHALE: I digress. Mr.

Dempsey, anything tonight?

MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah, just real quick
I see Chief Marchese here and Captain Barth.
I just want to commend you guys for doing an
excellent job. Every day in the paper you guys
are reading something about somebody, you know,
another drug bust.

And I see that the ENRAD machine is ramped up. And I'm getting complaints about it, which is great which is a good thing. I'm telling you, people once they enter Dunmore,

they're going to start hitting their brakes.

The amount of citations is plenty. So you guys are doing an excellent job. I just wanted to commend you and pass that along to your guys.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Verrastro.

MR. VERRASTRO: Sure. I'll start with I don't know if you noticed the new fire truck outside. We received it on Friday. They brought it down specially for everybody tonight in case anyone wanted to take a look at it.

I believe we plan when the fire house is done to do an open house of some sort for everybody to look at everything that we've done in the last two years with everything.

But I'm thrilled that we finally got it because this particular piece of equipment is replacing two that we have now.

So in the past like especially when I first got on Council, I had people questioning me on why when the fire trucks go out are there three fire trucks going out. And when I didn't know the answer to that question and I asked the fire department, they said, well, our ladder truck don't have water on it and this truck is our rescue truck. And the

other truck has the rest of the ladders and it's a pumper.

So after years of trying to figure out what we needed and what we have to do and not have money and sitting down with -- and it started with Mike and I one night sitting down and we started talking about it.

Literally we can operate that with -- we don't want to operate it with as little as three men but we need three men to get out the door with it and it's putting our ladder for safety reasons in the front of the house with water and it actually has all the equipment on it to be a rescue vehicle also.

So it's really a good fit for our department for the amount of manpower we have right now. And I wish them a lot of luck with it. I hope we never have to use it. Again, the paving program I know we have been throwing stuff back and forth, Melanie. And we asked Joe -- there was a couple of things Joe that -- that Joe was going to get some bids on to throw prices around to see where we were going to be with a couple of streets that were real bad that never got attention in probably 15 years

or better.

And to just correct you, it wasn't 10 years ago we had the Sewer Authority problems. It was more like 15 with that at least just if you think back. It was before you were even there that they leased that out. The money had to be paid back when you were there.

The paying back of the money became your problem. The lease wasn't there. It was well spent before you were even there on that. So I don't plan on spending that money if we get it. I want to live off that interest and hopefully whatever -- if the time ever comes that we do decide to do this, maybe the Borough being able to keep our tax rates lower if your sewer rates go up, will at least balance that problem out for everybody because it is basically the same people it will be affecting.

So with that in mind thank you and have a good night. Thanks for coming and please take a minute and look at the new truck. They're dying to show it to somebody, trust me. They want to show you guys this truck. They're proud of it. They put a lot of work into it.

I believe it was Assistant Chief
Bobby Dee, firefighter Vince Sardo, and
firefighter Greg Kamla the three that were -the three main guys that were there for the
design and did all the legwork on that and put
it to where it's got to be right now for
everybody. So please take a look at it. Have
a good night everybody.

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: Yes, I agree with Mike too exploring the idea of having our DPW getting a machine because I know they could do the job. I would look forward to that if we can do that, I think that would be a great idea.

As far as, Mel, the Sewer Authority that's one of the reasons I ran for Council. I remember you fighting -- I know you were on television with me fighting years ago. It was probably closer to 20 years at the start of it. We failed but we had a vote. Council had a vote then. But now I was told that Council doesn't have a vote on it.

That was privatization. Now this is an outright sale. Tommy told us -- the lawyers

from Scranton told us we don't have a say on this as far as stopping it. So it's a totally different situation. Dunmore did spend that money the first year they got it because I was on Council -- I ran for Council because of that.

I won. We got the majority. And I had to lay those people off that they all promoted and hired. It was horrible because they got that money, spent it within a year, promoted, hired. It was gone the first year.

And then after the fifth year, it was Dunmore that dropped out of the contract that forced Scranton to drop out of the contract because you had to have three votes. And it was us because you were on the board. And there was four other Dunmoreans on the board.

And we voted to get out of the contract because it was cheaper to get out of the contract than stay in it in which we were successful and forced Scranton to get out of the contract -- Dunmore did because we were one of three votes. And it was -- it had to be three or a 3-0 vote or one vote could stop it

and Dunmore's one vote stopped it.

We stopped the contract you and I and the Dunmore board. But this is totally different situation. It's an outright sale that we don't have a say. Now, Mike's been bringing back info, info that I could never remember getting before when I was on Council. He's been very good with that bringing back being

on -- as president now we're getting a lot more info. We weren't really getting info before.

MR. MCHALE: I wasn't getting info before for the record. Timmy, I didn't mean to interrupt you. I apologize.

MR. BURKE: That's the truth. We're starting to get info now. If it does come back that it is sold, I for one would agree with Sal, I'd rather live off the interest off that. I would not want to spend a dime on anything else, live off the interest.

We don't know what's ahead with the storm water which could be very, very expensive if it ends up -- not taking the storm water.

That could be a very big bill for future. But our children, grandchildren could end up with a

huge bill. If it goes through living off the interest not touching it. If it does go through, that's what I would be for. That's all I have tonight.

MR. MCHALE: Thanks Tim.
Mrs. Scrimalli.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you. I just want to thank Chief Marchese and all the police of the work they're doing, fabulous job. And I also want to say, Didge, great job. The article in the Sunday paper was beautiful regarding winter operations of some of the areas of municipal DPWs. So great job there. And that's all I have tonight. And thank you all for coming.

MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Carol. Just real quickly, I spoke on both the paving and the Sewer Authority I think ad nauseam to this point. The one thing the fire truck, Sal touched on it. It is a proud day for me. And I know the three people on each side of me as well that we can sit here and afford a truck of that magnitude.

Not only does it put our residents in a more safe position to have something like

that. It also does to our firefighters which obviously is a huge concern to us as well. You know, a couple years ago we sat here, we're looking on figuring how to pay payroll less than five years ago trying to find ways to pay payroll at the end of the year and not pay our vendors and so on and so forth.

For the past four, five years, we paid every single one. We never raised taxes. And now we're starting to see the fruits of our hard work by being able to afford something like this that we desperately needed. Every truck that we have, you know, Sal, correct me if I'm wrong, I think the youngest one is 15 years old.

And those were demos that we all bought. We never bought a truck built for this town and for the safety of this town. So it is a proud moment that financially we turned the Borough around enough to be able to give the cops what they need, the cars and the -- you know, the guns that we've invested and a lot of investments with those guys in past two, three years and with the fire department putting up a new firehouse and with the help of state grants

and, you know, obviously the fire truck that 1 we're able to afford. 2 3 So it is a proud day. So please go out and take a look at it. We're going to have 4 5 an open house when the weather starts to cooperate and the fire house is finally done. 6 7 It is getting close to that point. So we'll wrap everything up and have a barbecue when 8 9 that's all completed and show off our goods. So we're very, very proud of it. 10 So with that, I'll look for a motion 11 12 to adjourn. MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make a motion. 13 14 MR. HALLINAN: Second. MR. MCHALE: On the question. 15 16 (No response.) 17 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor 18 signify by saying aye. ALL MEMBERS: Aye. 19 20 MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned. 21 22 23 24

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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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