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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, February 14th, 2022

TIME:

6:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

- VINCE AMICO - President
- JANET BRIER - Vice President via speaker phone
- MICHAEL DEMPSEY
- THOMAS HALLINAN - absent
- ELIZABETH ZANGARDI
- WILLIAM O'MALLEY, III
- KATHERINE OVEN
- MICHAEL P. PERRY, Esquire, Solicitor
- VITO RUGGIERO, Borough Manager

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. McDonald

4 Zangardi.

5 MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

6 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. O'Malley.

7 MR. O'MALLEY: Here.

8 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Dempsey.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

10 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Amico.

11 MR. AMICO: Here.

12 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. Mackrell Oven.

13 MS. OVEN: Here.

14 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Hallinan. Mrs.

15 Brier. Mrs. Brier for the record I'm trying to

16 connect her via FaceTime. That's been

17 unsuccessful thus far. Mayor Conway.

18 MAYOR CONWAY: Here.

19 MR. RUGGIERO: Solicitor Perry.

20 ATTY. PERRY: Here.

21 MR. RUGGIERO: Number three on the

22 agenda is public comment on agenda items.

23 MR. AMICO: Does anyone from the

24 public have any public comment on agenda items

25 only, please?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. AMICO: Seeing none.

3 MR. RUGGIERO: Number four, motion
4 to approve the minutes.

5 MR. AMICO: Looking for a motion to
6 approve the minutes.

7 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that motion.

8 MR. AMICO: Do I have a second?

9 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

10 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
11 second. Anyone on the question?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. AMICO: Seeing none.

14 MR. RUGGIERO: All those in favor.

15 MR. AMICO: All those in favor?

16 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

17 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. AMICO: The ayes have it and so
20 moved.

21 MR. RUGGIERO: Number five is a
22 motion to approve and pay the open bills.

23 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
24 to approve and pay the open bills.

25 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll make a motion.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll second it.

2 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
3 second. Anyone on the question?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. AMICO: Seeing none. All those
6 in favor?

7 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

8 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. AMICO: The ayes have it.

11 MR. RUGGIERO: Number six is a
12 Resolution 2022-1 is a motion to authorize and
13 enter into a cooperation agreement with the
14 County of Lackawanna for the fiscal 2021
15 community development block grant also known as
16 the CDBG program administration.

17 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
18 to authorize us entering into the cooperative
19 agreement with the county of Lackawanna County.

20 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that
21 motion.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll second it.

23 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
24 second. On the question?

25 MR. RUGGIERO: On the question, Mr.

1 President, all this is doing the Borough
2 Council voted last year. We're a year behind
3 with this resolution. And that's how the
4 county works the CDBG grant money.

5 Council allocated the next few years
6 to do that stormwater project including
7 sidewalks and pave on Chestnut Street from Mill
8 Street all the way to Drinker Street minus the
9 roads that the Pennsylvania American Water are
10 digging up.

11 With that being said, this
12 resolution just authorizes the county to spend
13 our money that was already secured.

14 MR. AMICO: Thank you. All those in
15 favor?

16 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

17 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. AMICO: The ayes have it and so
20 moved.

21 MR. RUGGIERO: Number seven is a
22 motion to appoint the following board
23 positions. Mr. President, do you want me to
24 read them one by one and do a mass vote or a
25 vote individually?

1 MR. AMICO: A mass is fine.

2 MR. RUGGIERO: Okay. For the
3 Planning Commission Solicitor, Michael F.
4 Cosgrove, Esquire. For Planning Commission,
5 three members are needed. They're four years
6 terms, Mr. Gary Duncan whose term would expire
7 the 31st of December, 2025. Mr. Chris Massaro,
8 whose term would expire 31st of December, 2026,
9 and Mr. Tom Pichiarella whose term would expire
10 31, December, 2025.

11 We also need two members on our
12 Zoning Board which are five year terms, Mr.
13 Jerry Longo whose term would expire 31,
14 December, 2026; and Mr. Steve Yanisko whose
15 term would expire 31, December, 2026.

16 Civil Service Commission also needs
17 two members and its two alternate. Sorry about
18 the typo, Mr. Nick Morell whose term would
19 expire 31st of December, 2025; Mr. Leo Wentline
20 whose term would expire 31, December, 2025.
21 Alternate is Molly Callahan, whose term would
22 expire December 31, 2026; and the newest
23 addition who is also an alternate whose term
24 also would expire 31, December, 2026, is Greg
25 Zayac.

1 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
2 to approve all of these individuals to our
3 Planning Commission, Zoning Board, Civil
4 Service Commission and as our Planning
5 Commission Solicitor.

6 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that motion.

7 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll second it.

8 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
9 second. Anyone on the question?

10 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. President, on the
11 question, these boards weren't vacant. The
12 terms or the seats that some members here are
13 renewing were just their term expired the end
14 of last year or the end of this year. So we're
15 being proactive to replace them now.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: And just so the record
17 reflects, on the question, that we did, you
18 know, put this out for advertisement I think on
19 our borough web page and all our social media
20 outlets and did seek interest. We just didn't
21 pick these people out of a hat. I just wanted
22 the record to reflect that.

23 MR. AMICO: Anyone else on the
24 question?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. AMICO: All those in favor.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

3 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. AMICO: Seeing none, the ayes
6 have it.

7 MR. RUGGIERO: Excuse me one second.
8 I'm going to take Mrs. Brier's call one second.

9
10 (Ms. Brier joins meeting
11 telephonically.)

12
13 MR. RUGGIERO: All right. Number
14 eight is Treasurer financial report, Mr.
15 Burton.

16 MR. BURTON: Good evening Council.
17 I will be brief because quite frankly there is
18 it not a whole lot to report on this month.
19 Bottom line for the end of January 31st, 2022,
20 we had a net income of \$260,465. This was due
21 in part primarily for two factors.

22 The fourth quarter 2021 landfill fee
23 was received. That was in the amount of
24 \$754,000. And we also had a draw on the TAN of
25 \$175,000. That was due in part because of the

1 timing issue because of the first payroll of
2 the month came prior to us receiving the
3 landfill money.

4 So I fully expect to pay down the
5 175 that we borrowed on the TAN at the end of
6 this month or early next month at the latest.
7 As far as revenues again, landfill fee
8 \$754,000, draw on the TAN of 175 and light real
9 estate tax collections which was expected for
10 the first month of the year.

11 We expect that to ramp up the
12 beginning of February and March and we will be
13 back on track. As far as the expenses are
14 concerned, we did have one major expense,
15 \$112,000 that we paid as a 40 percent down
16 payment for our property and liability
17 insurances for the year and just the normal
18 run-of-the-mill expenditures as far as payroll
19 and health insurance, etc. Bottom line net
20 income of \$260,00 for the month of January.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks, Mark.

22 MS. ZANGARDI: Mark, what property
23 did we -- what did you say -- what was the
24 numbers on the property, please?

25 MR. BURTON: The property and the

1 liability insurance is 112,000 that 40 percent
2 down payment that we make and then we make four
3 installments during the course of the year.

4 MR. RUGGIERO: It's our insurance on
5 all the properties the borough owns.

6 MR. BURTON: Liability and general
7 liability for the borough.

8 MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you.

9 MR. AMICO: Thank you.

10 MR. RUGGIERO: Number nine, public
11 comment.

12 MR. AMICO: Would anybody from the
13 public like to comment this evening? We'll
14 start with Mr. Duncan, please.

15 MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton
16 Street. Just a few things tonight, first, I
17 want to obviously wish everybody a happy
18 Valentine's Day. Secondly, I want to thank
19 everybody that was involved with the
20 reappointment. I very much appreciate being on
21 the Planning Commission. So my sincere thanks
22 for the reappointment.

23 I told you a million times I go bed
24 in Dunmore. I wake up in Dunmore. I love
25 Dunmore. So I really appreciate the

1 opportunity to be on the Planning Commission.
2 It means a lot to me.

3 I want to thank Didge especially for
4 salting Barton Street for getting the guys out
5 there for picking up the Christmas tree. So
6 please pass that along to the guys. It is much
7 appreciated. People do notice, especially with
8 the amount of -- I'm part of that population,
9 especially with the number of elderly folks
10 that live on our block. So thanks for that.
11 Tell the guys, please.

12 The other thing is, I come here
13 tonight wearing a couple different hats. I'm
14 the Chairman for the Pennsylvania Council on
15 Ageing. I do have a letter in today's Scranton
16 Times. We have a nice crowd here tonight. And
17 so I just want to tell them a little bit about
18 the letter that's in the Scranton Times that I
19 would ask for your support after you hear what
20 I have to say.

21 Currently sitting in committee in
22 Harrisburg is a bill called OAPSA. It's an
23 acronym. It's the Older Adult Protective
24 Services Act. All house bills that come before
25 Congress get a number. This is House Bill

1 1681.

2 It's designed to protect -- to
3 provide necessary protective services for the
4 health, the safety, the welfare of our older
5 adults who are at risk of exploitation, of
6 neglect, of abuse, of abandonment.

7 And it provides updates to the
8 Protective Services Act, which is mandated by
9 law to protect Pennsylvanians elderly
10 population. And just to give you a little bit
11 of an idea just within the Commonwealth alone
12 first depending on what source you want to
13 reference, we're either the second or the third
14 largest geriatric demographic of the 50 states.

15 So our numbers are rising. They're
16 high. And they're rising on a daily basis. We
17 have issues with con artists, with scams. And
18 I say this and I said it in my letter and
19 unfortunately with not just caretakers but
20 family members who exploit them and exploit
21 their finances.

22 This bill currently sits in
23 committee in Harrisburg. It has sat there
24 since June. If the bill doesn't get moved on,
25 it will die. And that's literally what they

1 say. It dies in committee and it has to be
2 reintroduced later. And we have to go through
3 the entire process again. We have over 3
4 million people in Pennsylvania 60 years of age
5 or older.

6 So there's probably a few people in
7 this room 60 years of age or older. I'm one of
8 them. We literally have tens of thousands of
9 Pennsylvanians 85 years of age and older who
10 require increased support services just to stay
11 in their homes. And you think about how
12 traumatic that is.

13 So this is what I'm asking if you're
14 comfortable doing it. It's in the paper today.
15 Please contact your Pennsylvania house members.
16 We live in the 112th District. Our House of
17 Representatives member is Kyle Mullins. His
18 e-mail is RepMullins@pahouse.net. It's all one
19 word, rep Mullins @pahouse.net. His office
20 number is 570-383-9795.

21 Our members of the house know the
22 committee members. They know the people that
23 introduce the bill. They know the supporters
24 and the cosponsors of the bills. So even if
25 our rep isn't involved directly in a specific

1 bill, he certainly knows people that are either
2 sponsors or cosponsors.

3 So I would -- I am literally begging
4 you, please get in touch with Representative
5 Mullins. We have Representative Welby in the
6 113th. We have Representative Kosierowski who
7 is by trade an ICU nurse. Her dad was Dr.
8 Malloy. So she's got a vested interest in this
9 population as well.

10 Please contact them. Please ask
11 them to do their best to move along HB 1681,
12 the Older Adult Protective Services Act. I
13 thank you for your time.

14 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Gary. Would
15 anybody else like to address Council this
16 evening? Ma'am? Would you please state your
17 name for the record?

18 MS. SMITH: Sure. Dorothy Smith,
19 1631 Electric Street. So I was here in
20 December to talk about the Bunker Hill bridge.
21 And I'm back. I did a little bit of research.
22 And I was also wondering I mentioned when I was
23 here the loop light system. Has anyone reached
24 out to find out about the loop light system?

25 MR. AMICO: Mr. Hallinan did look

1 into -- and, Vito, were you involved with that
2 also?

3 MR. RUGGIERO: I was.

4 MR. AMICO: Yeah, they both did look
5 into it.

6 MS. SMITH: Do we know anything or
7 when Tom gets back will he be able to tell me?

8 MR. AMICO: He could probably speak
9 to it more I use the word eloquently than I
10 can. Mr. Ruggiero, I don't know if you want
11 to.

12 MR. RUGGIERO: Well, I can. In
13 conjunction with Mr. Judge, he and I sat down.
14 We actually have some of the pieces that we
15 need except the timing device. So the timing
16 device that would change on both ends we're
17 going to actually -- I just spoke to Didge.

18 And we're going to talk to Mr.
19 Hallinan about that timing in conjunction with
20 PennDOT. So if we can get that I believe -- am
21 I correct, Didge, that we have a lot of the
22 parts that we need?

23 MR. JUDGE: We have everything.

24 MS. SMITH: Oh, that would be great.
25 That would be great. I did mention that when I

1 was here I was going to try to get some
2 information. And I did obtain some information
3 about the bridge. I'm sure that as officials
4 you received something from PennDOT when the
5 bridge was inspected a year ago.

6 And it's due to be inspected again
7 March of 2021. The words through that report
8 were pretty sad. You know, it was serious
9 condition. It was spalling which means the
10 breaking of concrete into large pieces.
11 Another word was delaminations. It's a failure
12 of material. So it's just the whole thing is
13 entirely crumbling.

14 Janet isn't here. But she did reach
15 out to me. And she told me that she did some
16 homework for the borough. And the homework
17 that she found was that the borough is saying
18 that the bridge is not owned by the borough.
19 It's owned by the county. She spoke to county
20 members. I believe it was Brian Jeffers but
21 don't quote me. Janet will fill you in on
22 that.

23 And my concern is I don't care who
24 the bridge belongs to. It's in Dunmore. It's
25 our responsibility. I was told that it's

1 maintained by the borough. Okay. One of the
2 things I found in a report that I did my
3 homework on was that expansion joints were
4 paved over. That is scary. Right, Didge? You
5 have to admit that has to be scary.

6 The depth drainage, all of the
7 drainage is blocked or was paved over. Now,
8 who paves? Is it the borough that did that?

9 MR. JUDGE: No, the county paved it.
10 We never paved that bridge. I'm here 35 years.
11 We never paved that bridge.

12 MS. SMITH: It was paved by the
13 county?

14 MR. JUDGE: The county.

15 MS. SMITH: Okay. So instead of
16 sitting here and boring all of you with
17 everything that I found, we know the bridge is
18 bad. We know it's in bad condition. I'm not a
19 Council member but I have a recommendation.
20 And my recommendation is to sit down with the
21 borough engineer, county engineer, PennDOT
22 engineers, whether it belongs to the borough,
23 the county, the state, it's in Dunmore.

24 Your constituents are driving over
25 it every day. It's safety for our children.

1 We talked about that before. Mr. and
2 Mrs. Finelli who couldn't make it tonight,
3 they had a fire in their home in Bunker Hill
4 about four weeks ago.

5 And her house and my mother's house
6 is about this close together (indicating.) And
7 it did -- I don't know if you were on duty,
8 Chris, or not, but they go the long way. And
9 thank God they had a fire extinguisher in their
10 house. That's what they used or that house
11 would have went up and my mother's too because
12 it's right next to it.

13 So, I mean, I understand we don't
14 have money. I know that. But we need to try
15 to -- do we have anybody who knows how to write
16 grants?

17 MR. AMICO: When you're done I'll
18 answer a few of your questions.

19 MS. SMITH: So in other words, my
20 thought is if we can get together with all of
21 these people the engineer, the county engineer,
22 PennDOT's engineer and, you know, share the
23 outcome of the information with the people of
24 Dunmore who are all very concerned about this.

25 It's got to be done sooner or later.

1 And it's only going to continue to get worse.
2 As long as it's, you know, it's just falling
3 apart.

4 MS. BRIER: Vito, can I address Mrs.
5 Smith?

6 MS. SMITH: Hi Janet.

7 MS. BRIER: Oh, hi. I could only
8 hear. Sorry, I can't see. I apologize. I
9 just wanted to, like, just clarify that I
10 spoke to Brian Jeffers. I spoke to our former
11 State Senator who nows works in Cartwright's
12 office, John Blake.

13 I met and sat down with Marty Flynn
14 our state -- our new State Senator regarding
15 the bridge. I gave that report that -- that
16 report to all three of them. I have not heard
17 back from any of them, you know, especially in
18 light of the fact that there is going to be
19 infrastructure money.

20 I mean, not going to be. There is
21 infrastructure money that we can -- that we
22 should be able to get to fix this bridge. I
23 agree with you completely that we need to sit
24 down with all of these people and Kyle Mullins
25 as well. I did not reach out to Kyle yet. I

1 will do that.

2 But I just -- I think your
3 suggestion is the best suggestion and the more
4 people, you know, if we can get them to meet
5 with us it's like -- you talk to them and you
6 think, you know, that they're engaged and then
7 nothing happens. So it's --

8 MR. AMICO: Janet, can I correct
9 you for a second, please?

10 MS. BRIER: It's very frustrating.
11 And I agree with you that it's a critical
12 situation. Sure, Vince.

13 MR. AMICO: Last week Vito and Max
14 did meet with representative -- they met with
15 Mr. Kyle Mullins.

16 MAYOR CONWAY: Vince, I -- do you
17 want me --

18 MR. AMICO: Yeah, why don't you --

19 MAYOR CONWAY: Miss Smith, so
20 obviously I'm new here. I wasn't at the
21 December meeting. But on Thursday, Vito and
22 myself, Joe Lorince, Rich Roman who is the
23 Executive Director of PennDOT for the
24 northeastern Pennsylvania area, Kyle Mullins,
25 Mary Flynn and the Director of Roads and

1 Bridges for the county sat down.

2 We are talking about different ways
3 to, you know, try to help out with the bridge.
4 Unfortunately that bridge has been a problem
5 since the 70s. And if you look at the Scranton
6 Times archives you could find article after
7 article talking about how, you know, it needed
8 extensive repairs even in the 70s.

9 It's a 115-year-old bridge. In
10 light of what happened out in Pittsburgh I
11 think everybody on Council made it a point to
12 really sit down and try to nail down and stop
13 kicking the can down the road as they say, not
14 to say anybody's at fault.

15 But unfortunately, it seems like the
16 cost could be upward, you know, 25 to 40
17 million dollars was the number that we got to
18 replace that bridge.

19 MS. SMITH: So the infrastructure
20 money could be -- maybe replacing the whole
21 thing is impossible.

22 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, so what we
23 talked about was potentially looking into
24 different grant opportunities to cover that
25 cost. But where the issue seems to come into

1 play and I think there's been some
2 communication between the county and our
3 borough as well is going to -- who takes
4 ownership of that bridge because it has been so
5 contested who actually owns it.

6 So when we sat down we did talk
7 about grant opportunities. And I know Rich
8 Roman is going to come in and talk to anybody
9 who -- Joe Lorince mainly to talk about because
10 even if we have a check for 40 million dollars,
11 that bridge can't get repaired in, you know, a
12 day or two.

13 It's going to take a long time. So
14 we're trying to figure, you know, alternate
15 routes in the case that that does happen again
16 where there is a fire that we can get our
17 trucks over there as soon as possible so we
18 have --

19 MS. SMITH: I don't know if you're
20 aware of how the trucks have to get there.

21 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, they have to go
22 down past Russell's and --

23 MS. SMITH: And when they have to
24 come Ash Street and they have to make a right
25 onto Sand Street --

1 MAYOR CONWAY: Right. So that's
2 what Rich Roman was talking about too trying
3 to, you know, give the trucks a place where
4 they can turn around. So I know that -- and
5 everybody on Council's aware and we sent
6 letters to Senator Casey, Congressman
7 Cartwright, Mullins, Marty Flynn and everybody.
8 So I know we are doing our best.

9 MS. SMITH: So letters went out to
10 all of them also.

11 MAYOR CONWAY: Yep. Yep. We sent
12 them letters along with -- so we are on it.
13 And I'm just as concerned as you are as well.
14 I know the limit is down to 5 tons of what can
15 go over that. And I have talked to Chief
16 Marchese about trying to enforce that a little
17 bit stricter as well.

18 MS. SMITH: I know you weren't here
19 in December. But I had said -- I don't live in
20 Bunker Hill. I live on Electric Street in
21 Dunmore. But my 83-year-old mother lives
22 there. And that is a concern. I travel that
23 bridge sometimes four times a week to get to
24 her house, you know, and the people that were
25 here --

1 MS. BRIER: And, Vince, maybe we can
2 give Mrs. Smith a copy of that letter.

3 MR. AMICO: We're going to have that
4 put on the website, Janet.

5 MS. BRIER: Okay. Thanks.

6 MR. AMICO: One thing I will just
7 chime in, I know you mentioned, you know, the
8 loop lights which are basically the same thing
9 you have on the Parker Street bridge. One way
10 or the other whether we have loop lights or
11 make it one way or whatever we have, the weight
12 limit is still not going to change.

13 So one way or the other, school
14 buses still aren't going over, emergency
15 vehicles. So I just wanted to make sure that
16 you guys were aware of that whatever -- I'm
17 going to use the word Band-Aid. Whatever
18 Band-Aid we have as far as diverting traffic or
19 limiting traffic, one way or the other buses --
20 I wouldn't want a bus going over that bridge.
21 I wouldn't want an emergency vehicle going over
22 the bridge. So until the bridge is replaced --

23 MS. SMITH: They have to go the long
24 way.

25 MR. AMICO: Correct. And again, I'm

1 just going to say this. If we put -- if we do
2 lights, stop sign, have a person waiving people
3 on for as many people that are going to be
4 thinking that's a great solution, there's going
5 to be that many people that are going to say
6 you're slowing down my day, which, you know, at
7 the end of day safety is most important issue.

8 MS. SMITH: So just so I walk away
9 understanding all of this, letters were sent
10 out to everyone and they are working on it.
11 And the infrastructure money from what I
12 understand is due within, like, the next six
13 months.

14 MR. AMICO: We don't know how much
15 money we're getting.

16 MS. SMITH: No, I understand that.

17 MR. AMICO: I will say this. I'm
18 willing to bet that's not going to be enough to
19 replace a bridge. But hopefully there's -- I
20 did see something recently that there's money
21 that's allocated for bridges, period. Again, I
22 just saw that from Representative Cartwright's,
23 like, a Facebook post he put out.

24 I didn't get anything official that
25 said, you know, we're allocated this amount of

1 money for bridges. So I don't know officially
2 if that exists.

3 MS. SMITH: So when you reached out
4 to Rick Relman, did you say?

5 MAYOR CONWAY: Richard Roman.

6 MS. SMITH: And he -- is going to
7 come to another meeting or is he going to have
8 a private --

9 MAYOR CONWAY: I could ask him.

10 MS. SMITH: Because I'm pretty
11 much -- I'm going to pretty much come every
12 month just to see what the status is and what's
13 going on. So I just -- I would like to be left
14 in the loop if I could. I mean, not privately.
15 I'm just saying if I come to the meetings if
16 somebody will just give me an update so we know
17 what's going on.

18 MAYOR CONWAY: You could just reach
19 me anytime if you have any other questions.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. AMICO: No problem.

22 MS. SMITH: Okay. All right. Thank
23 you very much.

24 MR. AMICO: Thank you. Anybody else
25 from the public like to address Council this

1 evening?

2 MR. WOLFF: Greg Wolff, Meade
3 Street, Dunmore. I just wanted to speak
4 briefly about it's been brought to my attention
5 members of Commonwealth Ambulance have been
6 coming to the meetings I guess pitching
7 their -- to work in the borough here.

8 I guess I would be speaking against
9 making any kind of changes. Pennsylvania
10 Ambulance does a fine job. I'm out with them
11 every day. We respond with them. Rarely are
12 they not there with us. They usually beat us
13 to the scene. This is despite, you know,
14 Covid, just everyone else is working with
15 manpower shortages.

16 And they are still -- I'm with the
17 fire department, I'm sorry. I should have said
18 that. Yes, I'm out with them every day. And,
19 you know, I would just urge Council to, you
20 know, hopefully not make any changes.
21 Pennsylvania does a great job but as good as
22 anyone is going to do despite all the -- like I
23 said the Covid manpower shortages, they're
24 still out there. Rarely, rarely are they not
25 right there with us if not before us. That's

1 all I just wanted to say just quickly.

2 MR. AMICO: Thank you.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: That's great to hear,
4 Greg. Thanks for bringing that to our
5 attention.

6 MS. OVEN: Thank you.

7 MR. AMICO: Would anyone else like
8 to address Council this evening?

9 MR. FARLEY: Hi Council, Joseph
10 Farley, 1301 Prescott Avenue, Dunmore -- newer
11 resident of Dunmore for the past two years. I
12 came from the south side of Scranton. So
13 congratulations to Max and the new Council
14 members and current Council.

15 I live on 1301 Prescott Avenue. I
16 come down Grove Street and Riccardo's every
17 day. I've never seen a mess in northeastern,
18 PA like that street in my life. From the
19 Riccardo's all the way down to Act Out Theater
20 Company is disgusting.

21 The potholes, the mess, the blight,
22 it's embarrassing. Seeing my Godson -- his
23 visiting team from Carbondale come down and
24 have to go down Prescott Avenue, all those
25 teams visiting that beautiful field is truly

1 embarrassing.

2 All of this work ripping up the
3 streets, filling it with dirt, why do they
4 allow this work to continue over winter? Why
5 doesn't the borough mandate to use cold patch
6 over these excavations overnight? I believe
7 Scranton where I came from they have to at
8 least replace the dirt -- I'm sorry, at least
9 replace the black top and not just dirt.

10 And assuming that we can do that,
11 why aren't street sweepers or any kind of dust
12 and debris being cleaned up? Trip has reached
13 out to me numerous times. Max has been up
14 there measuring the holes. I came to this area
15 for a better life to Dunmore.

16 And it's truly sad what I'm seeing
17 from Riccardo's down. I live across from a
18 blight property that is a fire hazard. And I
19 came home last week to a cat pretty much frozen
20 to death on my porch. I hear cats screaming at
21 night fighting. It's like the forgotten area
22 of Dunmore.

23 It's totally embarrassing to have
24 people over to sit out on your porch in the
25 summer and I know Max is helping. Trip is

1 helping. But I just wanted to bring this to
2 your attention and see if there is any updates
3 on this mess.

4 MR. AMICO: We do have one update,
5 sir. Joe Lorince, our code enforcement
6 individual contacted Jeremy Nelson who is the
7 engineer in charge of the project and said --
8 and this is from Mr. Nelson that by week's end
9 they'll have cold patch and milling done to at
10 least to alleviate some of the major issues.

11 And again, you're absolutely correct
12 as far as the project going on in the winter.
13 Hopefully in the spring that will be on the top
14 of their list to be squared away.

15 MR. Farley: I appreciate it. I
16 really like this city. I'm glad of the change
17 that I made. But it's got to be better. I
18 mean, Riccardo's even just going to shop there
19 having to see the poor elderly drive in those
20 conditions. It's sad and I want change for
21 this city.

22 MS. OVEN: Thank you.

23 MR. AMICO: Thank you. Anybody else
24 have -- anybody like to address Council this
25 evening?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. AMICO: Seeing none.

3 MR. RUGGIERO: Public officials.

4 MR. AMICO: All right. Public
5 officials. Vito, anything?

6 MR. RUGGIERO: No, I think, Mr.
7 Amico, you touched on the road problem. You
8 know, the borough apologizes with what you have
9 to deal with. Just so you're aware, that hill
10 coming down Prescott, that was bid out last
11 year.

12 And the borough awarded a contract
13 to Conte Paving to repair that. But it stopped
14 because they were still doing that project in
15 front of Dunmore Lumbar all the way through.
16 So we didn't want them to destroy what we're
17 going to put down. So they're going to tie
18 that in in the beginning of the spring.

19 As Mr. Amico said, we spoke with
20 Jeremy Nelson today. And they are going to do
21 that. The problem that they had was they were
22 waiting for parts. They had a leak and they
23 had to replace the leak again. So that's been
24 since the middle of last summer until now.

25 So that project goes from Scranton

1 all the way up with that whole new main.
2 Another problem is the Riccardo's area from
3 Wheeler Avenue to the second entrance of
4 Riccardo's and the car wash that's across the
5 street, the borough doesn't own that road.
6 That's private property. So the water company
7 had to get an easement from Mr. Manderano and
8 Mr. Riccardo in order to fix that area.

9 They're going to pave that as part
10 of the easement deal. That's why that looks
11 like that. But the borough does not own that.
12 So hopefully we can get that done soon. If you
13 want to call the Borough Building I'll give you
14 updates.

15 But you should see something over
16 the next -- by the week's end. I saw a roller
17 over there I think today that they're going to
18 start leveling that out. So our apologies for
19 that.

20 MR. AMICO: Thank you. Chief
21 DeNaples?

22 CHIEF DENAPLES: I have nothing.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. AMICO: Thanks, Chief.
25 Mr. Judge?

1 MR. JUDGE: Nothing.

2 ATTY. PERRY: I have nothing.

3 MR. AMICO: Mayor Conway.

4 MAYOR CONWAY: Joe, again, sorry for
5 what you're going through. I know we've been
6 in touch. I know Joe Lorince is on it. And
7 Vito is on it. We're doing the best we can to
8 get that corrected.

9 MR. FARLEY: I appreciate it. I
10 really do appreciate it. I came here for a
11 change and just a very sad thing the past two
12 years and just the decline in that area with
13 the blight. It's not far.

14 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, it's
15 frustrating. And also thanks to Vito for
16 helping me out with my pet project of the safe
17 transfer zone that's going to be up at the
18 Borough Building in the next couple of weeks
19 hopefully where if you're doing online
20 transactions with Craig's list or Facebook
21 Market Place, instead of meeting somewhere in a
22 dark parking lot you could meet now at the
23 Borough Building right outside the police
24 station in a safe spot. Thank you. That's all
25 I have.

1 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mayor Conway.
2 I'll start with Mrs. Oven this evening.

3 MS. OVEN: I don't have anything.
4 Thank you. Thank you, Didge, for all the hard
5 work with the icy roads, greatly appreciate it.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. AMICO: Janet, can you hear us?

8 MS. BRIER: Yeah, I can hear.

9 MS. AMICO: Your turn. Do you have
10 anything to say this evening, please?

11 MS. BRIER: I was just wondering two
12 weeks ago our fire trucks were dispatched to a
13 home that (inaudible) 911 calls people
14 complaining are very, very worried about
15 (inaudible) basements, etc.

16 I was just wondering if we had any
17 idea of, you know, I guess we dispatched two
18 fire trucks that night to people's homes in
19 Dunmore because they had a terrible smell in
20 their basement and if there was any follow up
21 to that.

22 And this is why I ask, Vince. I
23 received -- I apologize. Again, I'm not at
24 home. I'm pretty far away. But I have been
25 getting calls from constituents, especially on

1 Wednesday of last week that they were also
2 experiencing horrible smells again.

3 So I don't think our fire trucks
4 were dispatched. But I know they were
5 dispatched a couple weeks ago. And I was just
6 wondering if there was any followup to that.

7 MR. AMICO: Chief DeNaples, did you
8 hear anything about that?

9 CHIEF DENAPLES: We had a call last
10 week on Larch Street for the smell of gas,
11 reported smell of natural gas. We got up there
12 in that area, Janet. There was no smell of gas
13 when we got there. We checked the surrounding
14 area.

15 We took readings. We were at five
16 gas meters. And there was nothing evident that
17 was found if that's the call that you were
18 talking about. I believe it was -- it may have
19 been Wednesday of last week, Wednesday or
20 Thursday.

21 MS. BRIER: It just seems it's an
22 ongoing situation with these smells that people
23 are really worried about.

24 CHIEF DENAPLES: So anything that
25 we've had with odors nothing has been found as

1 far as the determining exactly what it is.

2 MS. BRIER: Okay. Thanks, Chief.

3 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Janet.

4 Janet, anything else?

5 MS. BRIER: No. Thanks, Vince.

6 MR. AMICO: Okay. Thank you, Janet.

7 Ms. Zangardi?

8 MS. ZANGARDI: A couple things, Joe,
9 we know there's a feral cat problem that
10 Katherine Oven and I are trying to work on it
11 and come up with a solution that works for
12 everybody. Regarding 201 Grove Street, we are
13 doing -- addressing numerous blighted
14 properties now.

15 We just took care of two of them.
16 One actually closed and sold. So we're onto
17 the next. And that's going to be a few of
18 them, quite a few of them actually. We hope to
19 get four or five of them. And the other one is
20 a big shoutout to the Dunmore Police Department
21 for the catalytic converter issue over at
22 Dunmore Appliance.

23 I think it's important for all
24 properties, especially borough properties to
25 lock your homes, lock your garages, lock your

1 properties, keep our materials and our
2 equipment safe. And I think it's a great
3 shoutout to the Dunmore Police Department. But
4 I think the borough and everyone in it needs to
5 be diligent. That's all I have. Thank you.

6 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mrs.
7 Zangardi. Mr. O'Malley.

8 MR. O'MALLEY: First of all,
9 Mr. Farley, thank you for coming tonight. Just
10 I travel over there a little bit. And I see it
11 so I know exactly what you're talking about. I
12 know how frustrating it is. Every time I drive
13 by, it's just like frustration. But hopefully
14 we'll get that resolved soon.

15 Mr. Duncan, thank you for coming in
16 and telling us about the HB 1681. I'll be sure
17 to call Representative Kyle Mullins tomorrow.
18 And I want to say thank you to Mr. Judge and
19 the DPW with last week's ice storm and
20 yesterday's unexpected snow.

21 They're out there patching potholes
22 throughout the borough. So I appreciate all
23 the hard work that you and your guys are doing.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. AMICO: Thanks, Mr. O'Malley.

1 Mr. Dempsey?

2 MR. DEMPSEY: I don't have anything
3 tonight. Thank you.

4 MR. AMICO: Okay. I just have a few
5 things. First off, Gary, I'd just like to
6 thank you very much for being an advocate to
7 not only the elder and ageing community in
8 Dunmore but throughout the state. I think your
9 heart's in the right place. And you work
10 tirelessly for that population.

11 And as you said, we have a few of
12 those members of that population in this room
13 and rest of us are getting there quicker than
14 not. Second, to the individuals that will be
15 serving on our planning and zoning and civil
16 commissions and to Mr. Cosgrove to be our
17 solicitor, I'd like to personally thank you on
18 behalf of the borough to stepping up and
19 serving.

20 It's really easy to be, you know, in
21 the audience and be, you know, a word I like to
22 use is a you oughta person, someone that, you
23 know, comes and says you guys oughta do this
24 and you should do that. But to actually step
25 up and serve your community and, you know, give

1 of your time means a lot. And I sincerely
2 thank those individuals for stepping up and
3 serving the borough.

4 And finally, Mrs. Smith, we are
5 actively trying to find a solution to the
6 bridge problem. Unfortunately, it's -- it
7 seems like it's going to be one of those things
8 that nobody's going to say, you know, I own it.
9 And you're absolutely right. It is -- at the
10 end of the day it doesn't matter if it's the
11 state, you know, the county.

12 It's in the borough and that's why
13 it's, you know, more important to us than to,
14 you know, people down the road. I think one
15 thing we can do again, is collectively continue
16 to pester. Pester, you know, not only us,
17 which is what needs to happen but, you know,
18 the county officials, state officials, federal
19 officials, so on and so forth.

20 Money should not always be going to
21 Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. It should be
22 coming, you know, here also. And our
23 representatives have to know that because on
24 election day, they're there asking for your
25 support. So with support, they need to help

1 out.

2 And that's all I have for this
3 evening. Thank you again everybody for coming
4 and for spending your Valentine's Day with us
5 here at the borough. I appreciate ti. With
6 that, I'll look for a motion to adjourn.

7 MR. DEMPSEY: Motion.

8 MR. AMICO: Second?

9 MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

10 MR. AMICO: So moved. All those in
11 favor.

12 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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