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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, March 13th, 2017

TIME:

7:00 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 :

MICHAEL MCHALE, President

MICHAEL DEMPSEY, Vice President

TIMOTHY BURKE

CAROL SCRIMALLI

THOMAS HALLINAN

VINCE AMICO

SAL VERRASTRO

THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCOOL, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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(Pledge of Allegiance.)

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.

MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Verrastro.

MR. VERRASTRO: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Amico.

MR. AMICO: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.

MR. HALLINAN: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Connor

Cummings.

MR. CUMMINGS: Present.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.

MR. MCHALE: Here. Never gets old,  
Connor, does it?

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public comment on  
agenda items.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody have anything  
to discuss on the agenda tonight?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

3 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve  
4 the minutes.

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

6 MR. BURKE: Second.

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

9 (No response.)

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

12 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

13 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

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

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

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

20 MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make that  
21 motion.

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

24 MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

25 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a

1 second. On the question.

2 (No response.)

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

5 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

6 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

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

10 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public comment on  
11 other items.

12 MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address  
13 Council tonight?

14 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Duncan.

15 MR. DUNCAN: Just at the last  
16 neighborhood watch meeting -- well, first  
17 there's a neighborhood watch meeting next  
18 Monday. So certainly everybody is welcome to  
19 come.

20 At the last neighborhood watch  
21 meeting -- we don't have a police officer here  
22 tonight. There was a situation with the --  
23 Vito, thank God you're here. Maybe you could  
24 get the word out for me. I know we're getting  
25 snow and everything else; but Tripp Street and

1           Barton Street, somebody is plowing.

2                   They have a couple suspects. I  
3           don't want to say any more than that. But  
4           somebody plows all the snow at the back of the  
5           bank parking lot. And then what happens is,  
6           when it melts, we're getting the ice coming  
7           down Barton Street. And it's running down  
8           towards Tripp.

9                   And, Tommy, I think you were at the  
10          meeting. I know the police will be plenty busy  
11          but they asked if the police could keep an eye  
12          on that. So I guess we'll just call if we see  
13          whoever is doing the plowing so they can at  
14          least tell them not to.

15                  Lindsey Ramirez lives in the house  
16          next to the bank parking lot. And a lot of  
17          that stuff is going right down her sidewalk and  
18          just freezing over and all of the debris that  
19          goes with it. And that's really it.

20                  MR. RUGGIERO: Tripp and Barton you  
21          said?

22                  MR. DUNCAN: Right -- do you know  
23          where the Historical Society is? Right there.  
24          It comes straight down there. With the little  
25          bit of snow we had, whoever is piling it up --

1           it's quite high. And if we're going to get as  
2           much as they're saying, you know, we'll  
3           probably have 10 or 15 feet of snow piled up  
4           there.

5                       And I'll talk to you later. They  
6           have an idea who it is. But I'll talk to you  
7           later. And then if Joe could be at the next  
8           neighborhood watch meeting just so that Council  
9           is aware. And that's it.

10                      MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Mr. Duncan.  
11           Anybody else like to address Council? Please,  
12           sir.

13                      MR. MURRAY: My name is Leo Murray.  
14           I'm from 711 Fifth Street. I want to give this  
15           to the Council. It's a video tape of July  
16           25th, storm of last year and February 25th,  
17           storm of this year over at that intersection.

18                      We were completely inundated with  
19           water. This is an ongoing problem. Since I'm  
20           there since August of 2007, I had the Scranton  
21           Sewer Authority up there at least 15 times and  
22           that's a conservative estimate of the times  
23           that I had the Scranton Sewer Authority up  
24           there regarding that particular problem.

25                      Since they put the new sewers in

1           it's worse. The storm that came on the 25th of  
2           February inundated my basement. They left me  
3           without a sidewalk when they were putting the  
4           sewers in. I have no sidewalk on that side. I  
5           can't even shovel on that side. It's all  
6           gravel.

7                         And my insurance company told me to  
8           put the Borough on notice that there is a huge  
9           problem over there. And this is what I'm doing  
10          tonight. I'm putting you on notice that there  
11          is a severe problem over there. Vito has a  
12          copy of the tape -- or the disc as does  
13          Mr. Lorince.

14                        It's horrible. My neighbors were  
15          supposed to come today. But for some reason  
16          they're afraid of you guys. I'm speaking for  
17          all of my neighbors. We're tired of the  
18          problem. The Scranton Sewer Authority never  
19          fixed it.

20                        And the guys that are putting the  
21          sewers in now, I believe they are sanitary  
22          sewers. They made it worse. I have never seen  
23          it as bad as I did on February 25th. Thank you  
24          very much.

25                        MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir.

1 MR. BURKE: On Mr. Murray's  
2 problem, I think we should ask the American  
3 Water if they could come up and camera.  
4 Mr. Murray's told me about this problem many  
5 times. I went up. It seems like it did get  
6 worse. The last time Mr. Murray called me I  
7 went up and I talked to the worker there.

8 And I told them last time it was  
9 cameraed, one of our workers discovered that  
10 they had a larger pipe going into a smaller  
11 pipe which is wrong. And I asked them, of  
12 course, I can't leave my job and stay there and  
13 watch that they do it, but if we cameraed and  
14 find out if they corrected that problem, I'd  
15 like to know if they corrected that problem.

16 But he does have a worse problem.  
17 After all that work and I don't know how much  
18 money spent, he has a worse problem than --

19 MR. MURRAY: I lost irreplaceable  
20 stuff in that February 25th. All the other  
21 times I never took water in my basement. But  
22 February 25th I got killed.

23 MR. MCHALE: Vito, can you contact  
24 Pennsylvania American Water and Michael can you  
25 do the same?



1 MR. DEMPSEY: Yep.

2 MR. MCHALE: Okay. We'll do  
3 everything we can. I knew it was bad up that  
4 end. I didn't know it was that bad. We'll  
5 make our phone calls first thing tomorrow.

6 MR. MURRAY: Thank you very much.

7 MR. HALLINAN: Joe, is that project  
8 complete?

9 MR. LORINCE: No.

10 MR. HALLINAN: So it's still  
11 ongoing. Would you have the foreman of the job  
12 go talk to Mr. Murray please and explain that?

13 MR. MURRAY: No, they're denying  
14 anything that -- they said it's not their  
15 problem. They said it's the Borough's problem.

16 MR. MCHALE: Joe, you have to stay  
17 on that. This has been going on more than six  
18 months.

19 MR. HALLINAN: And I've seen what  
20 you put out there on social media. And it's  
21 really -- it's a problem. And it's got to be  
22 addressed.

23 MR. MURRAY: I put the video out  
24 because I wanted to draw attention to the  
25 problem.

1 MR. RUGGIERO: No, there's a problem  
2 there. Mr. Lorince did contact Pennsylvania  
3 American Water who was instructed to call the  
4 subcontractor which he did. And I know  
5 Mr. Murray had reached out as well. But we  
6 will get them the camera activity to see if  
7 that problem's rectified. And we'll reach out  
8 again, Mr. Murray to --

9 MR. BURKE: And another thing to  
10 watch out for, it's still not paved. So every  
11 time it does rain, we're going to get all that  
12 mud. The one storm basin is only maybe not  
13 only 2 feet deep the one across the street from  
14 you.

15 MR. MURRAY: We have two, one on  
16 each corner. There's one on the northeast  
17 corner and the northwest corner.

18 MR. BURKE: Right. So with the road  
19 not being paved, we're getting a lot of mud and  
20 debris get -- blocking that up very quick.

21 MR. MURRAY: If you look at that  
22 video, the sidewalk -- my sidewalk on Mill  
23 Street looked like a stream. It actually  
24 looked like a stream it came down so fast.

25 MR. BURKE: Right. The longer that

1 goes without pavement, all mud, the bigger  
2 problem you're going to have every time it  
3 rains. All of that mud is washing right into  
4 that because it's the lowest spot.

5 MR. MURRAY: With the Sewer  
6 Authority being sold to Pennsylvania American,  
7 I know they are only responsible for the  
8 sanitary part of it.

9 MR. BURKE: Actually they are  
10 still -- the combined system which is that is  
11 still part of the combined system, they are  
12 responsible for that too though. Those basins  
13 that are there in front of your house, they're  
14 responsible for them.

15 MR. MURRAY: Oh, okay. I appreciate  
16 it. I hate to bring --

17 MR. MCHALE: No problem.

18 MR. MURRAY: It's not an  
19 insignificant problem because I've been putting  
20 up with it since -- in fact, I found out after  
21 I bought the house like two years after I  
22 bought the house the people that live across  
23 the street from me told me the relator when  
24 they were showing my house it was flooded back  
25 then.

1                   This was 2007 that they had to go in  
2 through the garage to get into the house to  
3 show the house. So that's going back ten  
4 years. That's a long time for a problem. The  
5 Sewer Authority they were nice. They came up  
6 and cleaned it out every once in a while but  
7 it's a repetitive problem.

8                   MR. BURKE: Right. I believe a  
9 bigger pipe in that one across the street from  
10 you would help a lot. The pipe is only this  
11 wide. I don't know if it's 6 inches or  
12 4 inches. But with the mud washing off Mill  
13 Street, that's going to block all of the time.  
14 You definitely need a bigger pipe. That's my  
15 opinion.

16                   MR. MURRAY: Well, anything you  
17 could do is deeply appreciated by me and, of  
18 course, my neighbors who for some reason,  
19 they're afraid to come here.

20                   MR. MCHALE: We're not that bad.

21                   MR. MURRAY: I know.

22                   MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Mr. Murray.

23                   MR. HALLINAN: Timmy, the project  
24 when they go down by say La Cucina and they're  
25 going to put there, will that help out there

1 from the way it dumps through? Is that going  
2 to be on the same line as the sewers or the  
3 storm water?

4 MR. BURKE: From the -- the pipes  
5 come past my house already which is supposed to  
6 ease the problem for Leo and anybody up in his  
7 area. And he has a worse problem now.

8 MR. HALLINAN: But I thought they  
9 were supposed to put some kind of bigger  
10 holding tanks in by La Cucina, like dig that  
11 all up and --

12 MR. BURKE: Well, what I'd like to  
13 see them do is go up by Leo's house, whatever  
14 size that pipe is, camera it. Camera that pipe  
15 all the way down to as far as they laid pipe so  
16 far and they find out if the pipe that they are  
17 going to lay down now at La Cucina is going to  
18 be bigger.

19 Hopefully it's bigger than the  
20 pipe -- from what I understood, the pipe across  
21 from Leo's house, they put a bigger pipe into a  
22 smaller type pipe which will block all the  
23 time.

24 MR. HALLINAN: It's going to back  
25 up.

1 MR. BURKE: It should have been the  
2 same size pipe instead of -- yeah, you don't  
3 put a bigger into a smaller. I think we'll  
4 have to check to see what they did. It's  
5 nothing for them for a camera check to go down.  
6 Those lines are really big.

7 That will be the answer there. And  
8 then you could have maybe Joe check it out and  
9 see if -- go over the pictures of it and find  
10 out if they're doing that putting a bigger into  
11 a smaller.

12 MR. LORINCE: Timmy, who's the  
13 spokesman for the Sewer Authority now? Who is  
14 in --

15 MR. BURKE: I mean, you could call  
16 the same Sewer Authority number and you could  
17 ask for Mark Cross.

18 MR. MCHALE: And Michael will make  
19 calls as well. Anybody else like to address  
20 Council tonight? Come up, sir. Good seeing  
21 you again.

22 MR. HETMAN: You too. It feels like  
23 it's been last week. Good evening folks,  
24 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County  
25 Commissioner's Office. First I just have to

1           introduce a special guest. This is Kayleigh  
2           Cornell, my new coworker. Kayleigh joining our  
3           department. She's not going to be doing this  
4           meeting. But she'll be attending other  
5           meetings around the county the same way I do  
6           with Dunmore here.

7                         She's here observing me tonight to  
8           see how I do or what I don't do. So hopefully  
9           I do a good job.

10                        MR. MCHALE: Welcome.

11                        MR. HETMAN: Most of the items I  
12           have here in our packet for the month we  
13           covered the last time I was here. So just a  
14           few notes relating to the storm, I called Mr.  
15           Ruggiero today. We spoke on the phone. And we  
16           went over most of the information, which just  
17           as a refresher, all county offices will be  
18           closed tomorrow for business.

19                        So the courthouse, the  
20           administration building, and, of course, 911  
21           will be fully functional but all of the non  
22           essential or non emergency offices will be  
23           closed tomorrow. And, of course, the  
24           Commissioners and the other staff relating to  
25           EMA and other agencies will make a

1           determination later tomorrow based on  
2           Wednesday. So keep your eye on our social  
3           media accounts, Facebook and Twitter tomorrow  
4           whether we'll be open on Wednesday or not. So  
5           we'll keep you posted on that front.

6                        I sent Mr. Ruggiero today a PDF copy  
7           of the document that our EMA agency has to have  
8           regarding a disaster declaration. If the  
9           Borough declares an emergency or a disaster due  
10          to the snow, we just have to have that signed  
11          and returned to us by fax. So he has all of  
12          that information.

13                      And just lastly, we ask that the  
14          Borough keep track for hopefully possibly  
15          reimbursement purposes depending on what the  
16          state and federal agencies do. We just want to  
17          make sure we have all the totals regarding  
18          anything that was spent on the storm. So cost  
19          for fuel, cost for man hours, overtime, that  
20          type of stuff just try to keep track of it.

21                      And again, if you hire any outside  
22          help to plow and clear the streets and the  
23          roads, that way hopefully when this is over we  
24          can get everything quickly. And some places  
25          are better than others. I think Dunmore has



1           been pretty good with that in the past.

2                       But we're trying to get everybody on  
3           the same page so when the storm is over, we can  
4           get all the information. And if there is a  
5           chance to apply for a disaster aid, we can do  
6           that pretty effectively quickly. So that is  
7           pretty much all we have for now.

8                       MR. MCHALE: Thank you. Good seeing  
9           you. Anybody else like to speak to Council  
10          tonight?

11                      (No response.)

12                      MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

13                      ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

14                      MR. MCHALE: Mr. Amico, do you want  
15          to start off tonight?

16                      MR. AMICO: Sure. I have nothing.  
17          Just stay warm and dry tomorrow. That's all I  
18          have.

19                      MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

20                      MR. HALLINAN: No, nothing much.  
21          But I'm sure just everybody try to be patient  
22          with our plow drivers. It's going to be a  
23          doozy today from what they're saying. And I  
24          hope everybody stays safe. Stay off the roads.  
25          And we'll get through this. That's all I have.

1 MR. MCHALE: Attorney Dempsey.

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

4 MR. MCHALE: I'll go next real  
5 quickly. Didge and I spoke early today. We're  
6 going to suspend all the garbage pickup for  
7 tomorrow quite obvious I guess but nonetheless  
8 officially do that.

9 All of the DPW will be in whether it  
10 be in a truck with snow blowers, with shovels,  
11 everybody and anybody will be out there. We're  
12 going to see if we can get some private plowers  
13 as well. We do anticipate it will be a doozy,  
14 so kind of like all hands on deck.

15 So we're trying to do that as well.  
16 One thing outside in talking we have seven  
17 trucks. And that's a little bit more than  
18 we've ever had before out to do all the roads.  
19 But our inventory is relatively new with the  
20 exception of our two larger trucks. So, Vito,  
21 I'd like to go out and try to get a couple  
22 quotes to replace those big trucks from the  
23 COSTARS.

24 MR. RUGGIERO: International? I  
25 have one coming.

1 MR. MCHALE: Something similar and  
2 talk to Didge.

3 MR. RUGGIERO: I have one coming.

4 MR. MCHALE: Okay. And we can, you  
5 know, maybe plan on replacing those too. We  
6 have some capital funds in the budget. They  
7 have run well but they are 15 years old.

8 MR. JUDGE: At least 15.

9 MR. MCHALE: But they are bears.  
10 They run great for us. I think that's all I  
11 have. Mr. Verrastro.

12 MR. VERRASTRO: I have nothing  
13 tonight. Thank you.

14 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

15 MR. BURKE: Yes. Vito, I was  
16 wondering if you did find anything when Sharon  
17 pointed out Eddy's Creek the leakage from the  
18 landfill and Colleen Connolly said that she  
19 sent information to Dunmore. Did anything that  
20 Colleen Connolly say ever pop up? Did we ever  
21 get anything from what she said?

22 MR. RUGGIERO: I did. The  
23 e-mails -- and I did send an e-mail to  
24 Mrs. Cuff as well. I had correspondence from  
25 Mrs. Connolly, the DEP. And she is going to

1 send them electronic. What I did find out from  
2 the last time we did receive a hard copy. And  
3 the electronic copy came about 10 days after  
4 the hard copy.

5 So I don't know if that is the cart  
6 before the horse or vice versa. But it did  
7 come. So we're trying to get on the same page  
8 with that. But referencing Eddy Creek, the  
9 only thing that I found was the documentation  
10 that Mrs. Cuff had brought forward to Council.  
11 And that's the extent I know about it as well.

12 MR. BURKE: So everything was like  
13 after what she said though. Like, we didn't  
14 get it --

15 MR. RUGGIERO: Yes. She couldn't  
16 understand why she said we were carbon copied  
17 on it. But I explained to her that that  
18 doesn't mean anything unless I get the carbon  
19 copy. So that's why we kind of converted  
20 everything electronic.

21 And when I received it from DEP I  
22 immediately forwarded it to all of you guys on  
23 Council. So I'll keep doing that and to the  
24 website so the public could be made aware of it  
25 as well. So as soon as I receive it,

1           unfortunately I can't expedite her sending it  
2           to me. But anything I get here from the  
3           website goes on our social media and to  
4           Council.

5                         MR. BURKE: Okay. Thanks, Vito.  
6           And just on the storm, we met already on the  
7           storm. We went over the issues on the  
8           contractor and how much the DPW can handle and  
9           we're on top of that we talked in our executive  
10          session. So we -- just so you know, the DPW is  
11          ready. And I hope everybody else is ready.  
12          That's all I have. Thank you.

13                        MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli.

14                        MS. SCRIMALLI: I just want to thank  
15          Didge for the prior storm of February 25th for  
16          all the work that you did. That was a horrific  
17          storm. And I do think, you know, that this  
18          upcoming storm tomorrow just everybody stay  
19          safe. And thank you so much for coming. And  
20          that's all I have for tonight.

21                        MR. MCHALE: Mr. Cummings, do you  
22          have anything?

23                        ATTY. CUMMINGS: No, sir.

24                        MR. MCHALE: Vito?

25                        MR. RUGGIERO: No, I think you

1 touched on everything. I do have a question  
2 for Gerard. I did find a contact at WNEP --  
3 saying as you said the county offices are  
4 closed. The municipal building will be closed  
5 as well tomorrow. As you heard President  
6 McHale say, we're suspending garbage in the  
7 second ward I believe tomorrow because of the  
8 storm.

9 Is there anything that I could  
10 forward to yourself or the county that can get  
11 it on your web page as well to get out just to  
12 more -- to reach out to more avenues to get the  
13 word out on behalf of Dunmore? Do you have  
14 some kind of municipal thing on there that  
15 municipalities can get information to you?

16 MR. HETMAN: The closest thing that  
17 we have, sir, would be our community calendar  
18 which normally just lists events that we have.  
19 But we could still possibly because it's  
20 special circumstances here if you send me kind  
21 of a blurb or some type of little informational  
22 item, we can look at some way to share that.

23 MR. RUGGIERO: That's what WNEP  
24 because they normally -- I tried to get us  
25 hooked up with the school closings so people

1           could see things on the bottom of the screen  
2           and they told me I'm not a school.

3                       MR. HETMAN:   Okay.  It will probably  
4           be over Facebook and our social media posts.  
5           So send me something and we'll try to do what  
6           we can.

7                       MR. RUGGIERO:  It's tough because a  
8           lot of people who don't follow Facebook or  
9           social media or Twitter, they don't have that  
10          information.  And I know Council has talked  
11          about different ideas to get some avenues out  
12          there to get the information across to the  
13          public.

14                      But thank you.  I appreciate that.  
15          Didge, we have seven plows ready to go as  
16          Council said, all new shoes on them, all new  
17          blades on them.

18                      MR. JUDGE:  We just got five loads  
19          of salt.  That's where I just came from.

20                      MR. RUGGIERO:  We have a loaded  
21          barn, so we're ready to go.  We're going to  
22          watch people on Tripp and Barton Street for  
23          plowing the snow in the middle of the road.

24                      MR. MCHALE:  Mr. Judge, do you have  
25          anything else, buddy?

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MR. JUDGE: No, that's it.

MR. MCHALE: All right. I'll look  
for a motion to adjourn.

MR. VERRASTRO: Motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

MR. MCHALE: All in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned.



C E R T I F I C A T E

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2  
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy  
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
7 ability.

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