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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, March 14th, 2016

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

TIMOTHY BURKE

CAROL SCRIMALLI

THOMAS HALLINAN

MICHAEL DEMPSEY

VINCE AMICO

THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCOOL, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. MCHALE: Will everybody please remain standing for a moment of silence for a fallen colleague.

(Moment of silence.)

MR. MCHALE: I'm going to do things a little out of order tonight guys. It's obviously not an easy night for anybody sitting up here or who used to sit up here, friends and family in the audience. I don't have anything prepared to say, but I'll do my best to try to get through what I can.

Obviously we lost a huge portion of this board a couple days back. And I have been morning ever since. I lost a -- not only a colleague, my right-hand man literally on Council but a truly good friend that I'll never replace.

It's a guy that would take his shirt off his back literally to help you. Come down your house 10:00 at night to help you, help you do something at your house or my mom's house or

1 anybody's house.

2 You know, not even knowing you that  
3 well you would never get a bill. You would  
4 just get a smile and a handshake. I still  
5 can't believe this is real. We sat up here --  
6 when I first got on Council, I didn't know Sal  
7 other than his name that well. I remember  
8 walking into his garage. He took my hand and  
9 told me -- I wasn't running with him or with  
10 his support or anything like that.

11 But he told me anything you need he  
12 would be there. He'd answer any questions.  
13 And he did. We sat and had a beer in his  
14 garage not even knowing me. And that's the  
15 type of guy Sal I know and I love and I'll  
16 forever remember.

17 He turned into not only a great  
18 Councilman in my eyes, a great president, but  
19 truly one of my best friends. We spoke every  
20 day. I often kidded him that I spoke more to  
21 him than I did my wife. To know Sal is to know  
22 that we had our long conversations.

23 But all the time it was how are we  
24 going to do things to make things better in  
25 Dunmore. You know, we've taken -- he and I and

1 others on this board have taken a lot of  
2 criticism. But every decision that the two of  
3 us and everybody up here made I could defend  
4 until the end and he would too.

5 He's looking down on us right now  
6 saying don't make a big deal of me -- of this.  
7 And, you know, I truly can't tell you how hard  
8 it is to not have his support. You know, often  
9 times over the past couple of days I'm waiting  
10 for the phone to call.

11 Mr. Cummings told me today that my  
12 voicemail was full. And as I was trying to get  
13 rid of them, there was a voicemail from Sal. I  
14 spoke to him a couple hours before he passed.  
15 So I apologize for rambling. But this is truly  
16 one of the hardest things I ever had to do to  
17 say good-bye to a true friend like this at a  
18 young age and see his family who I've grown to  
19 know and love and to try to move on.

20 You know, I told my wife on the way  
21 to the funeral home that it's time for me to  
22 step aside. And she told me that he'd kill you  
23 if you did it. So we're going to keep trying  
24 to do what Sal would want to do as long as we  
25 can and hopefully make him proud of us.

1                   You know, I've known -- for before I  
2                   lose it, there was one thing that I would like  
3                   to and I spoke to Council about this. We're  
4                   going to dedicate the new firehouse in honor of  
5                   Sal when it's completed. We'll have a plaque  
6                   put up in his honor.

7                   He was the one who wanted it. He's  
8                   the one that went and got the grant. He's the  
9                   one who designed it. He's the one that donated  
10                  a ton of his time that nobody knows about,  
11                  nobody talks about to get it done and he'd be  
12                  up there right now finishing up some electrical  
13                  work on his own time if he was still here with  
14                  us because that's the true gentleman and true  
15                  great guy that he was.

16                  Dunmore lost a monster tonight -- a  
17                  couple weeks ago I should say. And we're going  
18                  to feel his loss for a long, long time. So  
19                  with that, does anybody else want to say  
20                  something now or later? I'm going to ask Dave  
21                  Verrastro, you guys wanted to say something.  
22                  Why don't you come up now and address the crowd  
23                  before we start the meeting because he's up  
24                  there right now telling us start the meeting  
25                  and let's move on.

1 MR. VERRASTRO: Thank you. For  
2 those of you who don't know me, Sal is my older  
3 brother. Great guy. Truly honored what you  
4 just said, thank you. It will be an honor to  
5 have the fire department.

6 But on behalf of the Verrastro  
7 family, I would like to truly -- our family  
8 would like to thank the Dunmore Fire  
9 Department, Police Department, and DPW  
10 Department, even the SWAT team. I know they're  
11 county, but there's guys from Dunmore here who  
12 was on SWAT. They did a lot for us. Mayor  
13 Loughney, Council, you guys and ladies,  
14 Mr. Cummings, Dave Valvano, and Frank Farina,  
15 all of you. Honestly, it was truly an honor to  
16 see the outpouring of respect and love to our  
17 family.

18 Sal would have been honored by that.  
19 He would have been embarrassed. But he would  
20 have been honored. But on behalf of the  
21 Verrastros, Jordans, and Burgett family, we  
22 would like to say thanks for everything, thank  
23 you to everybody for the support and love. We  
24 really appreciate it. Thank you so much.

25 MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Dave. We're

1 never going to forget him. We're never going  
2 to fill his shoes. But like I said, he's  
3 looking down on us right now telling me to at  
4 least move the meeting on. So with that, Tommy  
5 I'll ask for the roll call.

6 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.

7 MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.

8 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.

9 MR. BURKE: Present.

10 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Amico.

11 MR. AMICO: Present.

12 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.

13 MR. HALLINAN: Present.

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 agenda items tonight?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

24 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve  
25 the minutes.

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

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

3 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion. Do I  
4 have a second?

5 MR. BURKE: Second.

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

8 (No response.)

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

11 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

12 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

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

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

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

19 MR. BURKE: Motion.

20 MR. HALLINAN: Second.

21 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a  
22 second. On the question.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor  
25 signify by saying aye.



1 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

2 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so  
5 moved.

6 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six is  
7 personnel matters, if any.

8 MR. MCHALE: Does anybody have any  
9 personnel matters tonight?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none. Number  
12 seven, Tom.

13 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number seven,  
14 is a motion to accept and file Department of  
15 Auditor General Report AG-385, Certification of  
16 Fire Protection and Certification of Full-time  
17 Employees participating in municipal plans.  
18 The form states that 96 percent of the fire  
19 protection by the Borough of Dunmore is by paid  
20 firefighters and 4 percent is by volunteer  
21 firefighters.

22 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that  
23 motion.

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: Item number eight  
11 is public comment on nonagenda items.

12 MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address  
13 Council tonight? Dave, do you have anything  
14 tonight?

15 MR. VALVANO: I just want to add  
16 from Representative Farina who is in  
17 Harrisburg, he wanted to extend again his  
18 condolences to the Verrastro family, to the  
19 Borough, and to Council. It's a huge loss,  
20 Sal's loss.

21 I know Frank and myself spoke to Sal  
22 weekly. And, you know, we really -- in a year  
23 and a half's time, really got to be good  
24 friends. And it is a big loss and our  
25 condolences.

1                   And Representative Farina also wants  
2                   to send good luck to the Lady Bucks as they  
3                   play tomorrow night in the semifinals. And  
4                   that's all I have.

5                   MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir.  
6                   Anybody like to address Council tonight?  
7                   Please state your full name for the record, I'd  
8                   appreciate it.

9                   MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson  
10                  Avenue, Dunmore. I just wanted to for the  
11                  Borough and for Council, there is a meeting at  
12                  the Radison Hotel. It's next Monday the 21st  
13                  at 6 p.m., being hosted by the Friends of  
14                  Lackawanna relating to the -- Senator Casey's  
15                  Trash Act. And a bunch of officials will be  
16                  there, DEP Secretary Quigley, State Senator  
17                  Blake, Lois Gibbs, and Steven Lester, a  
18                  scientist of toxicology will be there. I  
19                  wanted to extend our invite to everyone on  
20                  Council and everyone in the Borough as well.  
21                  It's at 6:00 at the Radison this upcoming  
22                  Monday. Thank you.

23                  MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Pat.  
24                  Anybody else like to speak tonight?

25                                   (No response.)

1 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

2 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

3 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Judge, do you have  
4 anything tonight?

5 MR. JUDGE: Nothing, Mike.

6 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney.

7 MR. KEARNEY: No.

8 MR. MCHALE: Captain, do you have  
9 anything for the police department in the  
10 Chief's absence?

11 CAPTAIN BARTH: No, I don't.

12 MR. MCHALE: Tommy?

13 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Nothing, sir.

14 MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli, would  
15 you like to lead us off tonight?

16 MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you. I want  
17 to say a few words concerning Sal. And,  
18 Mr. Chairman, you said it perfectly a lot of  
19 things that I would want to have said. But I  
20 did want the family to know he will forever be  
21 in our hearts. And it's just a void that we'll  
22 never be able to fill as our Chairman said.

23 Sal was the first person to come to  
24 my house the day after I was first elected in  
25 the morning and congratulated me. He came up

1 on his motorcycle. And I looked out the window  
2 and I said who is coming on his motorcycle?  
3 It's Sal. And I went out there and he  
4 congratulated me. He just changed my life. I  
5 will tell you he's a life changing person.

6 He was wiser than his years. And he  
7 will always be in our hearts. That's all I  
8 could say. And I'm so sorry for your loss.  
9 That's all I have.

10 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

11 MR. BURKE: Yes, the Neighborhood  
12 Crime Watch Gary is off sick. He asked me to  
13 announce the next meeting will be the 21st at  
14 7:00 here. And what can I say about Sal? Mike  
15 said it great. He was my best friend on  
16 Council and outside of Council.

17 He's just -- I'm sorry, nobody was a  
18 harder worker than Sal. And I could honestly  
19 say that. He was just a great man, a great  
20 family, Dave, Mr. Verrastro, and Sal Jr., there  
21 I see there. It was an honor to have called  
22 your dad Sal a friend. I loved the guy and one  
23 of the nicest guys I ever met.

24 And like Mike said it great, he  
25 would do anything for anyone. And it's just an

1 honor to be his friend. And that's all I have.

2 MR. MCHALE: Thanks Tim. Mr. Amico.

3 MR. AMICO: Kind of tough to follow  
4 the three speakers that spoke before me. So  
5 I'm just going to be very brief. I believe Sal  
6 was a true gentleman. And to kind of mimic  
7 what Carol said, after the May primary election  
8 in November, literally the first person that  
9 called me and left a message was -- I don't  
10 even think I was out of the Community Center  
11 and Sal called and congratulated me.

12 And when I called him back the next  
13 day and he said, Vince, you know, whatever you  
14 need I'm more than willing to help you out  
15 along the way. And I took him up on that a  
16 couple times. I stopped by his house. And he  
17 was, you know, a wealth of information and a  
18 true gentleman in every sense of the word. And  
19 I was honored to have known him.

20 You know, I wish he was around to,  
21 you know, to get to know better because like I  
22 said, he was a wealth of information. And he's  
23 going to be truly missed. And I appreciated,  
24 you know, the friendship I had with him. So  
25 I'm very sorry for your loss. Thank you.

1 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

2 MR. HALLINAN: It's a terrible loss.  
3 I mean, I didn't think I -- I don't even know  
4 what to say as far as -- I know what I said in  
5 the newspaper about having a drink and that was  
6 the truth. The man just came to me and said,  
7 you know, listen, we're never going to agree on  
8 everything. And I know everybody knows that  
9 story if you read the paper.

10 But the credit that he's due, him  
11 and Mike -- and I say this when I'm out a  
12 million times. And I just keep thinking this  
13 town was broke seven years ago. Nobody -- I'm  
14 sorry if I'm losing it. But we were flat  
15 broke. There was nothing here. We're shutting  
16 the doors.

17 And Sal and Mike, and a few other  
18 people here took the bull by the horns and made  
19 some really tough decisions. This was without  
20 the landfill money, all those other arguments.  
21 They saved this town. And for that we're  
22 living and we're probably jealous -- other  
23 towns are jealous of what we have.

24 We have our arguments of, you know,  
25 what everybody thinks what direction we should

1           be going in. But it's not a bad Borough to  
2           live in. It's very nice here. We have some  
3           great people. And I know first hand and just  
4           like the Verrastros learned, when you have an  
5           issue, people step up. And they are there for  
6           you.

7                         It's like maybe to fight with your  
8           brother, you know, the next day you give him a  
9           big hug. And I think that is how Dunmore is.  
10          Just -- I'm going to miss Sal and I didn't even  
11          know him as well as you people. But just like  
12          Vince and Carol, the first guy to call what do  
13          you need.

14                        We're not going to agree on  
15          everything, but when this meeting is over,  
16          let's go have a beer, you know, and don't make  
17          it personal. And I don't think any truer words  
18          were spoken by that gentleman. I'm just glad  
19          to know him as much as I did. I'm sorry, thank  
20          you. And good luck to the Lady Bucks tomorrow.  
21          I know in the grand picture it's --

22                        MR. MCHALE: Attorney Dempsey.

23                        MR. DEMPSEY: I hate going last  
24          following up on everybody else. I didn't know  
25          Sal long. But Mike said, take that shirt off



1           your back. That's true. Many times at least  
2           three times I called him with electrical  
3           problems at my house, right first thing in the  
4           morning right there fix it in a half hour and  
5           went off to his job. Begged him to take money,  
6           anything, wouldn't do it.

7                        I learned a ton from him in two  
8           years. If I ever had a question he was right  
9           there. And I'm going to miss him. And the  
10          Borough is going to miss him because, say what  
11          you want, he did everything what he thought was  
12          best for this town and huge loss. That's all I  
13          have.

14                      MR. MCHALE: I obviously spoke a  
15          little earlier. Quickly, I'm going to miss him  
16          more than that I could tell you. I'm just  
17          going to say good-bye my friend. And we're  
18          going to adjourn for the evening. Thank you,  
19          everybody.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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  
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