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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, May 9, 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

MICHAEL DEMPSEY, Vice President

VINCE AMICO

TIMOTHY BURKE

CAROL SCRIMALLI

THOMAS HALLINAN

SAL VERRASTRO

THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. MCHALE: Roll call.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Miss 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. McHale.

MR. MCHALE: Here.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public comment on
agenda items.

MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to speak
on agenda items tonight?

(No response.)

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve

1 the minutes.

2 MR. BURKE: I'll make a motion.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

4 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
5 second. On the question.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
8 signify by saying aye.

9 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
13 moved.

14 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Motion to approve
15 and pay the open bills.

16 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make a motion.

17 MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

18 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
19 second. On the question.

20 (No response.)

21 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
22 signify by saying aye.

23 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

24 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
2 moved.

3 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six is
4 a resolution to approve the purchase of two
5 pickup trucks for the Department of Public
6 Works in accordance with the Commonwealth of
7 Pennsylvania's Cooperative Purchasing Program
8 also known as COSTARS.

9 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that
10 motion.

11 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

12 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
13 second. On the question. Quickly just for
14 disclosure sake, these are just two pickups
15 that if anybody sees some of the trucks that
16 drive around they are obviously very aging and
17 Didge is putting together with duct tape and
18 gum at times.

19 This is just replacing some of the
20 fleet for the guys who do the -- some of the
21 paving and things like that. These are
22 literally just work pickup trucks. So that's
23 it. I have a motion. Anybody else on the
24 question.

25 (No response.)

1 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
2 signify by saying aye.

3 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

4 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Personnel matters,
7 if any.

8 MR. MCHALE: Anybody have any
9 personnel matters? I don't think so.

10 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Number eight,
11 public comment on nonagenda items.

12 MR. MCHALE: Anybody have comments
13 that they would like to address counsel
14 tonight? Please, Mr. Duncan.

15 MR. DUNCAN: 17 Barton Street,
16 Dunmore. Just a quick a 30 seconds or less,
17 there's a Dunmore Neighborhood Watch Meeting a
18 week tonight 7:00, just a reminder. And I know
19 nobody got back to me. Sal, I sent you the
20 minutes from the last meeting. So I hope the
21 second time they came through.

22 MR. VERRASTRO: Yes, they did.

23 MR. DUNCAN: All right. Thanks
24 everybody. See you next Monday.

25 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Gary.

1 Anybody else like to address Council tonight?

2 MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson
3 Avenue, just a quick question, guys, on one or
4 two weeks ago you were looking for ideas on
5 sewer proceeds if it happens and planning and
6 stuff like that. I was wondering is there an
7 outline or a format for what are you guys are
8 looking for in details so I can do work on
9 that?

10 MR. MCHALE: Pat, honestly, we don't
11 know. And I don't mean to be dismissive in
12 that comment. We really didn't put the cart
13 before the horse. And I don't mean disrespect
14 by that, Pat. It's really -- we base our
15 decisions not on the money. So when the money
16 comes, I don't want to say it's a good problem
17 because it's not. But we want to put it in the
18 right place.

19 So we're looking to professionals
20 like yourself and residents who are going --
21 we foresee possibly having a public meeting or
22 something to that effect or forming a committee
23 to advise, you know, no ideas outlandish but at
24 the end of the day we want this money to
25 support the taxpayers and keep taxes down for

1 the long run. At least that's my --

2 MR. CLARK: There's no formal
3 process or policy.

4 MR. MCHALE: Not yet. We're open to
5 ideas, Pat.

6 MR. CLARK: Is there a time limit on
7 it?

8 MR. MCHALE: When it closes -- and I
9 guess the expected closing at this point is
10 still October, November.

11 MR. CLARK: So sometime prior to
12 that have a plan in place at that time.

13 MR. MCHALE: Well, even when if we
14 get the money, Pat, it would obviously go into
15 an account and we could decide after that. But
16 yeah, I mean, the sooner the better we get it
17 rolling. If, in fact, the sale goes through.
18 And it's still an if.

19 MR. CLARK: I'd love to help you.

20 MR. MCHALE: We'd love to have you.
21 Absolutely. We'd love to have you.

22 MR. CLARK: Thanks, Pat.

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

25 (No response.)

1 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none. Public
2 officials. Do you want to lead us off,
3 Attorney Cummings?

4 ATTY. CUMMINGS: I have three items.
5 The first we had discussed at prior meetings
6 the paving of the alleyway off of Larch Street.
7 I think it's been in excess of the last three
8 paving periods where this project has been
9 skipped over. So this is a cooperation
10 agreement by and between the County of
11 Lackawanna and Borough of Dunmore for engineer
12 to design the project and to let the county
13 proceed with the bid process. That will
14 require a motion.

15 MR. MCHALE: Are you looking for a
16 motion right now, Tom?

17 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes, sir.

18 MR. MCHALE: Do I have a motion to
19 accept, Tom?

20 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yeah. Motion to
21 approve the resolution.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: I make a motion to
23 approve.

24 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion. Do I
25 have a second?

1 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll second that.

2 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
3 second. On the question.

4 (No response.)

5 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

8 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
11 moved.

12 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Second item, there
13 was problem with the handicap ramp at the back
14 of the building. It could be resolved for
15 \$12,000 in which the Borough participate for
16 the amount of \$4,687.56. I need a motion to
17 approve the resolution.

18 MR. MCHALE: These are CDBG money,
19 Tom?

20 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes.

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

22 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that
23 motion.

24 MR. VERRASTRO: I'll second it.

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: And last, unless
11 you have questions I don't mean to steal
12 anybody's thunder -- and I'm sure Mr. Hallinan
13 and Mr. Kearney will discuss it. But I'm happy
14 to see that the smoking prohibition ordinance
15 is out for review and that the property has
16 been posted and that it will be enforced to the
17 full extent.

18 There was a comment that 20 to \$50
19 the first and second offense is relatively low.
20 It is. But that's plus costs. So the first
21 time you get nabbed with a cigarette, you're
22 probably looking at \$200. That's all I have.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney, do you
25 have anything tonight?

1 MR. KEARNEY: No, I just -- are we
2 ready to go on that, Tom?

3 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes, as we stand,
4 yes.

5 MR. KEARNEY: Because I know
6 Councilman Hallinan, did you tell me last week?

7 MR. HALLINAN: Um hum.

8 MR. KEARNEY: Okay. We're getting
9 the last of the signs put up tomorrow or
10 Wednesday.

11 MR. JUDGE: The stand will be put up
12 tomorrow.

13 ATTY. CUMMINGS: But it's
14 enforceable now.

15 MR. LORINCE: If you look out the
16 window, she's smoking right now.

17 MR. HALLINAN: Chief, if you could
18 have your guys walk through because this is --

19 MR. MCHALE: Especially at night.
20 This would be the prime time to put a cop down
21 there for at least a half hour. Do you have
22 anything further?

23 CHIEF MARCHESI: No.

24 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Judge.

25 MR. JUDGE: No. Thanks for the

1 trucks. We need them. Thank you.

2 MR. MCHALE: Absolutely. Chief
3 DeNaples.

4 CHIEF DENAPLES: Just that I want to
5 thank everybody on Council who stopped by at
6 the fire at 900 block of Mill Street. Thanks
7 for your support. It was a successful
8 operation at the end of the day.

9 That building posed a lot of hazards
10 for firefighters and responders. Luckily we
11 lucked out and there was no buildings in the
12 general vicinity. So, you know, we lucked out
13 in that particular component as far as, you
14 know, all the hazards that old structure could
15 have posed. There were zero injuries for the
16 responders and residents.

17 So everybody did a great job. We're
18 going to send out thank you letters to all the
19 agencies that assisted us in the next couple of
20 days. I just want to thank the police
21 department. They did a really good job with
22 crowd control and blocking some of the streets
23 off where we had our supply lines for the
24 hydrants.

25 And the only one other thing that I

1 have is we started doing our preplans for
2 commercial structures about two months ago or
3 so we sent out preplan questioners to all the
4 commercial buildings. We started to get them
5 back. They are broken down to each shift is
6 doing approximately 30 to 35. And what that
7 is, is we're going out to all the commercial
8 structures and entering information into our
9 notebooks, our electronic notebook and each
10 apparatus.

11 If we get a fire at these locations
12 we know where all the exits are, potentially
13 how many people are -- occupy them during
14 normal operations, electrical shutoffs,
15 utilities and that. So the community will
16 start seeing us out and about. We started them
17 about two weeks ago. And we'll probably be
18 wrapping them up in the next six to eight
19 months.

20 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Chief. Just
21 to go out of turn a little bit. I had the
22 opportunity. I was up there quite a while
23 yesterday. Chief called me early in the
24 morning when it was just starting -- I guess
25 just kicking back up. And you often take for

1 granted the work that the firefighters and the
2 police do.

3 But to see the amount of companies
4 come together, and it was like a well-oiled
5 machine. I offer my sincere thanks to all of
6 you. It was very well run. Everything was
7 very orderly. And again, in the position that
8 I've been in, I hadn't been at a lot of fires
9 other than just to quickly stop by and see if
10 anybody -- and I did stay around and watch what
11 happened.

12 And I was very, very impressed by
13 all of your men. And thanks to the Throop --
14 you saw all of these companies around Throop,
15 Scranton, Olyphant I think backfilled. I know
16 I'm missing -- Peckville, whatever. Just
17 really the coming together of all of these
18 companies towards a common goal and worrying
19 about each one of you was very, very
20 impressive.

21 And again thanks go out to -- you
22 know, it's tough when it comes to a fire to
23 make you thank the firefighters and the police
24 for what they do. But you really see it when
25 it comes to a thing like that. It didn't seem

1 like that big of a fire. And it just kept
2 coming and coming. And when they finally poked
3 a hole in it to let it burn, it was a huge
4 fire. But thank you and to all your men as
5 well. And thankfully no one was hurt, so
6 A-number one. Joe, do you have anything
7 tonight outside of what we spoke of?

8 MR. LORINCE: No.

9 MR. MCHALE: I'll move to Council.
10 Mr. Amico, do you want to lead us off tonight?

11 MR. AMICO: Yeah, Chief, just one
12 question. It was determined what started
13 that --

14 CHIEF DENAPLES: It's undetermined
15 up to this point. The State Police Fire
16 Marshal and as well as our fire marshal,
17 Captain Sohns were out today and they were out
18 yesterday also. Because of the demolition that
19 we had to do, it will be very, very hard to
20 determine the cause and origin of exactly what
21 caused that.

22 It's probably going to go
23 undetermined at this point. We're looking in
24 the process of getting surveillance video.
25 There's cameras in that general area.

1 MR. MCHALE: Vince, I don't mean to
2 cut you off. Chief, just with the rumor mill
3 that continually goes, your guys went in on the
4 third floor and deem it -- I mean, literally
5 floors were -- I'm not blaming you.

6 MR. AMICO: No, I was going to say I
7 stopped by yesterday morning and I talked to
8 Bobby Dee. And he said the floor was starting
9 to get spongy and, you know, it makes sense.
10 It's old timber frame building, you know,
11 wrapped in masonry. It's probably a tough
12 place to work.

13 CHIEF DENAPLES: That's what we had
14 to determine. It was too unsafe. We had to go
15 from an interior operation where we had
16 firefighters inside. We had to pull them out
17 and do a defensive operation. It was just too
18 unsafe to be inside after a certain point.

19 MR. AMICO: I was just curious if
20 kids were poking around in there.

21 CHIEF DENAPLES: It's -- at this
22 point, like I said, we have no concrete
23 evidence that that took place. Like I said,
24 there's a lot of speculation and rumor mill
25 going out there that I've heard also. You

1 know, concrete evidence of that, we have none
2 right now.

3 MR. AMICO: Thank you very much.

4 CHIEF DENAPLES: No problem.

5 MR. AMICO: Thanks, Mike.

6 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

7 MR. HALLINAN: I was up there early
8 this morning, yesterday morning. Great job. I
9 was impressed. I don't want to keep repeating
10 what everybody else already stated, but just to
11 watch and how you explained why it was
12 smoldering and how we brought in an excavator
13 and everyone kept saying we're waiting for it
14 to light because it's going to light.

15 And then when you got at it, it was
16 just -- it was like nine in the morning; it
17 just took off. It was just, you know, just
18 being a private citizen watching not
19 understanding what you do, you sit there why,
20 why, how come. And then when you see it, you
21 understand what you do.

22 And it's a very hazardous job. I'm
23 very thankful for you and your men and what
24 they do and all the other communities for
25 helping us out and thank you. And I see there

1 was a couple of drug busts that were done by
2 Reilly and our police force.

3 I'd like to thank you, Chief, and
4 keep Reilly fed. He's doing a great job.

5 And see if you could get a police
6 officer down here to patrol through here. This
7 is one of my pet peeves is with the smokers.
8 See if you have somebody that can walk through,
9 I'd appreciate it. That's about it. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. MCHALE: Attorney Dempsey.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll correct you. The
13 dog is a female. She.

14 MR. HALLINAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

15 MR. DEMPSEY: Chief, great job.
16 When I came down you told me and I remembered
17 it for whatever reason. I don't know who told
18 you. Risk a lot to save a lot. Risk a little
19 to save little. Risk nothing to save nothing.
20 You did the right thing obviously. Obviously
21 coming from me it doesn't matter.

22 CHIEF DENAPLES: Absolutely it does.

23 MR. DEMPSEY: But you guys did
24 great. I'm just happy that nobody was injured.
25 Thank you. Chief Marchese, great job with the

1 police down there. And obviously the continued
2 drug arrests that you guys make is again
3 nothing short of remarkable all the time. You
4 guys are doing that. So great job. That's it.

5 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Verrastro.

6 MR. VERRASTRO: Just to echo
7 everybody else. Thank the fire and police
8 departments. Everything going on was great.
9 That's all I have to say.

10 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, sir. Mr.
11 Burke.

12 MR. BURKE: The same too besides our
13 Dunmore fire and police, the surrounding towns
14 and volunteers. Thanks for their help. That's
15 it.

16 MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Tim. Carol.

17 MS. SCRIMALLI: Yes. I just want to
18 thank the fire department, did a great job. It
19 was I'm sure very emotional and very difficult.
20 And also to the police department, thank you
21 for all of your hard efforts as well. And DPW
22 great job. And that's it. Thank you all for
23 coming. I appreciate it.

24 MR. MCHALE: Thank you,
25 Mrs. Scrimalli. Real quick, I wasn't going to

1 say anything else. But, you know, Vince, I
2 don't want to steal your thunder. We got an
3 e-mail from Vince who's been working with the
4 website. And I know it's been -- I don't want
5 to say it's bone of contention with everybody.

6 We've been trying to do better and
7 Vince is really taking an active role in this
8 and even sent us screenshots today of doing an
9 App where we put our schedule on, our minutes
10 of the meeting, agendas, things like that.

11 So, Vince, thank you for everything
12 you have been doing there. I think that will
13 be a phenomenal addition to us, you know,
14 getting the word out more because, you know,
15 there's few of us trying to do everything. And
16 that would be a great thing to get the
17 taxpayers more informed and on board. So thank
18 you again for that. Continued good luck. I
19 will look for a motion to adjourn.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: Motion.

21 MR. MCHALE: Motion. Do I have a
22 second?

23 MS. SCRIMALLI: Second.

24 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor.

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. MCHALE: We are adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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