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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, August 10th, 2020

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 DEMPSEY, President - absent

THOMAS HALLINAN, Vice President

CAROL SCRIMALLI - absent

VINCE AMICO

JANET BRIER

ELIZABETH ZANGARDI

MICHAEL P. PERRY, Esquire, Solicitor

TIMOTHY BURKE, Mayor

VITO RUGGIERO, Borough Manager

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Dempsey. Mrs.

4 Scrimalli. Mrs. McDonald Zangardi.

5 MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

6 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Ehnot.

7 MR. EHNOT: Here.

8 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Hallinan.

9 MR. HALLINAN: Present.

10 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Amico.

11 MR. AMICO: Here.

12 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. Brier.

13 MS. BRIER: Here.

14 MR. RUGGIERO: Mayor Burke.

15 MAYOR BURKE: Here.

16 MR. RUGGIERO: Number three is

17 public comment on agenda items.

18 MR. HALLINAN: Anybody want to make

19 any public comment on agenda items only?

20 Seeing none. We'll move on.

21 MR. RUGGIERO: Number four is a

22 motion to approve the minutes.

23 MR. HALLINAN: I'll look for a

24 motion to approve the minutes.

25 MS. BRIER: I'll make it.

1 MR. HALLINAN: I need a second.

2 MR. AMICO: I'll second.

3 MR. HALLINAN: All in favor?

4 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 MR. HALLINAN: On the question, I'm

6 sorry.

7 (No response.)

8 MR. HALLINAN: All in favor?

9 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. HALLINAN: Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. HALLINAN: None.

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

15 MR. HALLINAN: I'll look for a
16 motion, please.

17 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that
18 motion.

19 MR. HALLINAN: A second?

20 MR. EHNOT: Second.

21 MR. HALLINAN: On the question?

22 MR. AMICO: Yeah, I was wondering
23 what Bucktown Truck --

24 MR. BURTON: Bills to pay for DPW
25 trucks, maintenance issues. It's maintenance

1 for several different invoices. The biggest
2 one was the DPW trucks.

3 THE REPORTER: Vince, what was it?

4 MR. AMICO: Bucktown Trucks Sales
5 and Service.

6 MR. HALLINAN: I have a motion and a
7 second. On the question? Any other questions?

8 MS. BRIER: I just have one. The
9 \$22,000 for Norris Sales --

10 MR. BURTON: That is the repair for
11 the Bunker Hill bridge.

12 MS. BRIER: Oh, okay --

13 MR. HALLINAN: Mark, would you
14 please address Maria so she knows who you are?
15 When you're speaking, just say -- this is our
16 Treasurer Mark Burton. Mark, she needs it for
17 the official record.

18 MR. BURTON: There's -- water
19 barriers for the Bunker Hill Bridge.

20 MR. HALLINAN: Pull your chair up
21 closer in case there's any more questions,
22 okay? All in favor?

23 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

24 MR. HALLINAN: Against?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. HALLINAN: Unanimous.

2 MR. RUGGIERO: Number six is the
3 Treasurer and Financial report, Mr. Burton? So
4 you're coming up anyway.

5 MR. HALLINAN: There you go.

6 MR. BURTON: Good evening, Council.
7 In the back we have a detailed report on the
8 Profit and Loss through --

9 MR. HALLINAN: You have to talk
10 louder.

11 MR. BURTON: -- through July and
12 it's a comparison of last years' numbers
13 compared to this years' numbers. At first
14 glance it may look like we're in really good
15 shape as far as last year.

16 But there's also some underlying
17 extraordinary items that were on last year's
18 numbers and weren't on this. The TAN payment,
19 our TAN. And, of course, the capital
20 expenditures that we made for last year. And
21 then years' budget we did get a portion of the
22 TAN which was -- paid down the MMO from the
23 prior year.

24 Long story short, it may look as if
25 we're 299,000 ahead of last year, but in

1 actuality, we're about \$94,000 behind. That
2 could be attributed to several different
3 factors.

4 I think the most -- the one that
5 sticks out the most is the decrease in the
6 landfill revenue. That's about \$150,000 off
7 than it was the prior year. And other than
8 that, bills are up-to-date. The debt service
9 is up-to-date. 2020 TAN is paid in full.

10 We'll continue to monitor
11 collections as far as the COVID, the impact
12 that that's going to have. Berkheimer in our
13 package as well determined that we may possibly
14 lose 30 thousand dollars per month because of
15 COVID lack of collections from the virus, not
16 people not working. We'll keep an eye on that
17 for the most part.

18 MS. BRIER: I have a question about
19 that. This is in our packet. Is this new
20 information or is this the same information?

21 MR. RUGGIERO: That's the same
22 information.

23 MS. BRIER: They said you would get
24 an update.

25 MR. RUGGIERO: No, that's the same

1 one. I did -- they're in everybody's packet.

2 MS. BRIER: Okay. In this document
3 we would get an update but --

4 MR. BURTON: We just didn't get it
5 because the quarter was closed out for June.

6 MS. BRIER: Okay (inaudible.)

7 MR. BURTON: We just didn't get it.
8 I would imagine we would see something in the
9 near future. But again, in summary we're not
10 doing great. We're not doing terrible. We're
11 kind of like right in the middle. We're paying
12 our bills, making payroll. So I guess we're
13 probably in better circumstances than other
14 boroughs.

15 MR. AMICO: Are you saying we're
16 down on our revenue from Keystone?

17 MS. BRIER: Yeah.

18 MR. HALLINAN: How can that be?

19 MR. BURTON: I guess that was due to
20 the new contract.

21 MS. BRIER: They didn't --

22 MR. RUGGIERO: The tonnage is down
23 per quarter.

24 MR. AMICO: Okay.

25 MR. BURTON: It's approximately

1 \$150,000 from this time last year to this time
2 this year. But again, we're paying bills.
3 We're making payroll. We'll continue to
4 monitor the situation.

5 MR. HALLINAN: Anybody have any
6 questions for Mark? Thank you, Mark. Have a
7 good day.

8 MR. RUGGIERO: Number seven is
9 public comment starting with Mr. Duncan from
10 the Dunmore Neighborhood Watch.

11 MR. DUNCAN: Nice crowd tonight, 117
12 Barton Street. I only have two questions for
13 tonight. My mask keeps slipping, sorry about
14 that. Dunmore Neighborhood Watch, people that
15 -- when we were stilling have live-time
16 meetings, believe it or not I still get
17 questions from time to time if and when we
18 could ever have an in-person neighborhood
19 watch.

20 I talked to Chris Kearney at one
21 point. And I know other than Head Start we had
22 the Planning Commission meeting here and
23 obviously the last Council meeting. Any policy
24 or anything in place when I could tell them
25 maybe September, October we can have a

1 live-time meeting or, you know, whatever --
2 and, you know, I understand the CDC guidelines.

3 MR. HALLINAN: I think Vito could
4 probably look into that and we'll get you an
5 answer for that, okay?

6 MR. RUGGIERO: If I heard you, and I
7 apologize, about having a meeting?

8 MR. DUNCAN: Yeah, a Dunmore
9 Neighborhood Watch meeting live-time.

10 MR. RUGGIERO: What we ask -- what I
11 asked the seniors was to submit a plan for
12 Council to review and okay, i.e., social
13 distancing, how you're going to monitor that,
14 so on and so forth. So that's kind of what
15 we're looking for and I asked Head Start --

16 MR. DUNCAN: Do you want me to
17 submit something to you formally in writing?

18 MR. RUGGIERO: Yes, please.

19 MR. DUNCAN: I will.

20 MR. RUGGIERO: And then I asked Head
21 Start for the same thing so at least we have it
22 all documented. Council gets to review it and
23 then approve what they're going to do.

24 MR. DUNCAN: All right. Maybe I'll
25 send you something tomorrow. And if it's a

1 no-go, we get that too. You know, but a couple
2 people said when will we have a live one. It's
3 like a council meeting. It's a big difference
4 face to face, you know? Okay. Thanks a lot
5 for that.

6 And the other thing is, Miss
7 Zangardi. Miss Zangardi, I'll ask you. I know
8 there was a thing in the paper today about the
9 Sewer Authority. It looked like an August 26th
10 timeline. I know things have been fluctuating.
11 Did Mr. Shrive ever get back to us from the
12 Sewer Authority? I know you've been talking to
13 him.

14 MS. ZANGARDI: I did talk to him
15 last week and he did mention that there was
16 going to be that article in the paper but we're
17 still ongoing because of the -- it's going to
18 proceed as it is because of the 36 open --

19 MR. DUNCAN: Yeah, the article in
20 the paper still looks like -- it's been looking
21 a little better --

22 MS. BRIER: Did you find out of
23 those 36 people that didn't sign, if any of
24 them were in Dunmore?

25 MR. DUNCAN: Yeah, there were I

1 believe there was two or three from Dunmore. I
2 think it was only two or three from Dunmore
3 because I used to go to the Sewer Authority
4 meetings.

5 MS. BRIER: No, there was like 60.

6 MR. DUNCAN: Prior to the pandemic I
7 thought they said (inaudible.)

8 MS. BRIER: That's not true.

9 MS. ZANGARDI: I can't really hear
10 you that well. A few that I think out of the
11 36 that are left open, I think they're Wheeler
12 Avenue, smaller ones. But I think there are
13 larger businesses. Is that what you're asking
14 Janet?

15 MS. BRIER: Yeah, when you first got
16 on the Board, I asked you how many were from
17 Dunmore that were, you know, and you said that
18 when you looked at the list you said there was
19 around 60?

20 MS. ZANGARDI: Originally?

21 MS. BRIER: Yeah.

22 MS. ZANGARDI: Probably around 60
23 that are left open for Dunmore.

24 MS. BRIER: From Dunmore. So now
25 we're down to 36 people who didn't sign

1 (inaudible.)

2 MS. ZANGARDI: I will look into
3 that. I'll get an answer but I don't have a
4 definite answer.

5 MR. DUNCAN: Yeah, that's really it.
6 Thank you. I just wanted to know where we're
7 at with that because we've been bouncing around
8 like a basketball.

9 MS. ZANGARDI: Right.

10 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

11 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll let everybody
12 know.

13 MR. RUGGIERO: Public officials.

14 MR. HALLINAN: Public officials,
15 Mayor Burke, do you have any anything?

16 MAYOR BURKE: Yes, just a recap on
17 the Jake brake situation. I talked to Tommy.
18 I talked to Vito and Joe Talutto and what we
19 were looking for the first time, which I didn't
20 see was going uphill speeding the neighbors
21 complained to me.

22 We have an ordinance written up from
23 south and north of Scranton to the tank. And
24 Vito is looking for some guidance on what to do
25 and needs Council's permission to get these

1 specs and work with Joe Talutto on either
2 putting the ones up there that were approved
3 and I'm asking Council if we can ask Joe
4 Talutto for the same thing going north to south
5 after we found that the people are speeding up
6 the road too on the same street which they
7 shouldn't be speeding anyway with that kind
8 truck.

9 But that's what we found out they
10 were using the Jake Brakes also. We didn't
11 think it was a worry at first because it's all
12 downhill. When I used the Jake brake, I used
13 it going downhill or in an emergency situation.
14 But obviously we have people breaking the speed
15 limit.

16 They use it going uphill which we
17 noticed a couple weeks ago. So I'm just asking
18 if Council gives Vito permission to talk to Joe
19 Talutto and get up the signs now, it was
20 already approved by Council and Joe Talutto
21 and if we can have an amendment to get in
22 contact with PennDOT and ask for the same thing
23 going south to north -- I mean north to south.

24 MR. HALLINAN: If I -- Micky, can we
25 just amend the amendment or do we have to do a

1 whole other amendment -- another ordinance.

2 ATTY. PERRY: You have to pass a new
3 amended ordinance.

4 MR. HALLINAN: We have to do south
5 to northbound?

6 MR. RUGGIERO: And it's got to
7 go -- it's got to be advertised.

8 ATTY. PERRY: Same process.

9 MR. RUGGIERO: Same process. I
10 guess on the question, if we implemented the
11 signs from the ordinance that we passed and if
12 Council so chooses to go the other way, would
13 it be an addendum to the existing ordinance if
14 we would have to advertise or should the whole
15 thing be stopped until --

16 ATTY. PERRY: You passed the
17 ordinance. So it's in effect.

18 MR. RUGGIERO: Right.

19 ATTY. PERRY: So you'd have to
20 rescind --

21 MR. RUGGIERO: Oh, rescind the first
22 one and then redo the second one.

23 ATTY. PERRY: Same process.

24 MAYOR BURKE: So it's my
25 understanding, Mick, so we cannot use this

1 first ordinance then?

2 ATTY. PERRY: I'm sorry, Tim?

3 MAYOR BURKE: I'm sorry. We cannot
4 use this first ordinance that Council
5 approved --

6 ATTY. PERRY: Sure you can.

7 MR. RUGGIERO: Yeah, you can use
8 that one. We can't just go the opposite -- the
9 other way like you were suggesting.

10 MAYOR BURKE: We can never do that
11 again is that what you're suggesting?

12 ATTY. PERRY: No, you would need
13 a --

14 MAYOR BURKE: Because I didn't
15 suggest that.

16 ATTY. PERRY: You would need a new
17 ordinance.

18 MR. RUGGIERO: You would need a new
19 ordinance to go --

20 MAYOR BURKE: That's what I'm asking
21 Council tonight to make a new ordinance going
22 the opposite direction and I'm asking Vito to
23 talk to Council ask if he could start putting
24 up the signs we already got approved for.

25 MR. RUGGIERO: But my question I

1 guess to the Solicitor is if Council is going
2 to choose to do a new ordinance like you're
3 asking, the signs that I'm putting up will be
4 frivolous because that first ordinance has to
5 be rescinded and then a new ordinance has to be
6 implemented with both sides. Is that how I'm
7 understanding it?

8 ATTY. PERRY: No, you wouldn't have
9 to rescind the ordinance. But you would have
10 to pass a new ordinance.

11 MR. RUGGIERO: To amend the first
12 one.

13 ATTY. PERRY: You wouldn't
14 necessarily have to amend it. It could just be
15 a new ordinance for the opposite direction.
16 You could put the signs up.

17 MAYOR BURKE: That's all I was
18 asking.

19 MR. RUGGIERO: I'll get the signs
20 made and we'll put them up.

21 MAYOR BURKE: Okay, so I could tell
22 the neighbors that --

23 ATTY. PERRY: Yeah, that ordinance
24 was passed. You could put the signs --

25 MAYOR BURKE: Right. That's what I

1 figured. I'm not a lawyer but I figured I had
2 to get Vito to talk to --

3 ATTY. PERRY: You just have to pass
4 a new ordinance if you want to travel in the
5 opposition direction to be prohibited from
6 using the Jake brake.

7 MAYOR BURKE: Right. Okay. So I'm
8 asking Council if they would consider doing it
9 in the opposite direction -- the same thing
10 that we had done and approved already.

11 MR. HALLINAN: I think we have to
12 take that under consideration right now. I
13 don't think we could vote on that now, Mick,
14 could we?

15 ATTY. PERRY: No, you can't.

16 MR. HALLINAN: No. No.

17 ATTY. PERRY: You can't vote now.
18 You have to advertise.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

20 MAYOR BURKE: No, I was asking
21 consider doing it. That's all.

22 MS. BRIER: We could advertise it,
23 right?

24 MAYOR BURKE: Yeah, I'm asking for
25 Council to advertise. And it's the same

1 ordinance on the same street, the same distance
2 one to the other --

3 THE REPORTER: Tim, I can't hear
4 you.

5 MAYOR BURKE: I'm sorry. What I'm
6 asking if Council will --

7 MR. HALLINAN: I don't think we
8 should vote on this right now. I think we got
9 to -- we'll let Micky kind of get back to us
10 and tell us the whole routine. It's just not
11 as simple as you're making it out to me. We
12 might have to rescind. We might have to
13 advertise. We might have to do things the
14 right way to do it right, okay?

15 MAYOR BURKE: That's what I'm
16 asking.

17 MR. HALLINAN: So I don't -- yeah.

18 MAYOR BURKE: Micky just explained
19 the right way. And I'm just asking can we do
20 that.

21 MR. HALLINAN: I don't think anybody
22 has a problem considering it. But I don't
23 think anybody is going to vote on to do it
24 tonight, if I'm right. Right, Mick?

25 ATTY. PERRY: No, you can't.

1 MR. HALLINAN: You can't. We can't
2 vote on it, okay? Do you have anything else,
3 Mayor?

4 MAYOR BURKE: No -- the police
5 report on the ATV since it's been brought up
6 about that ordinance, they told me on each
7 shift has told me it seems that it's gone down
8 traffic-wise with the ATVs. So either they're
9 taking them on trucks or they're going to
10 different routes or different places.

11 We still obviously have the problem.
12 But the police -- all three shifts told me that
13 they seen a decrease from ATVs on our streets
14 since this ordinance Dunmore passed. So that's
15 a good thing.

16 MR. HALLINAN: Yes.

17 MAYOR BURKE: And then I want to
18 thank Council for passing this Jake brake
19 ordinance too. And that's all I have tonight.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you, Mayor.
22 Didge, do you have anything this evening?

23 MR. JUDGE: No.

24 MR. HALLINAN: Janet?

25 MS. BRIER: I'm good.

1 MR. HALLINAN: Vince?

2 MR. AMICO: I'm good tonight.

3 MR. HALLINAN: Vito?

4 MR. RUGGIERO: Nothing.

5 MR. HALLINAN: Mr. Perry?

6 ATTY. PERRY: I have nothing.

7 MR. HALLINAN: Beth?

8 MS. ZANGARDI: I'm good.

9 MR. HALLINAN: Mr. Ehnnot.

10 MR. EHNOT: I'm good. Thank you.

11 MR. HALLINAN: I would like to thank
12 Mr. Duncan for coming out tonight and
13 Mr. Zangardi. I'll look for a motion to
14 adjourn.

15 MR. EHNOT: Make a motion.

16 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

17 MR. HALLINAN: All in favor.

18 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Good night. Thank
20 you for coming.

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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
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